

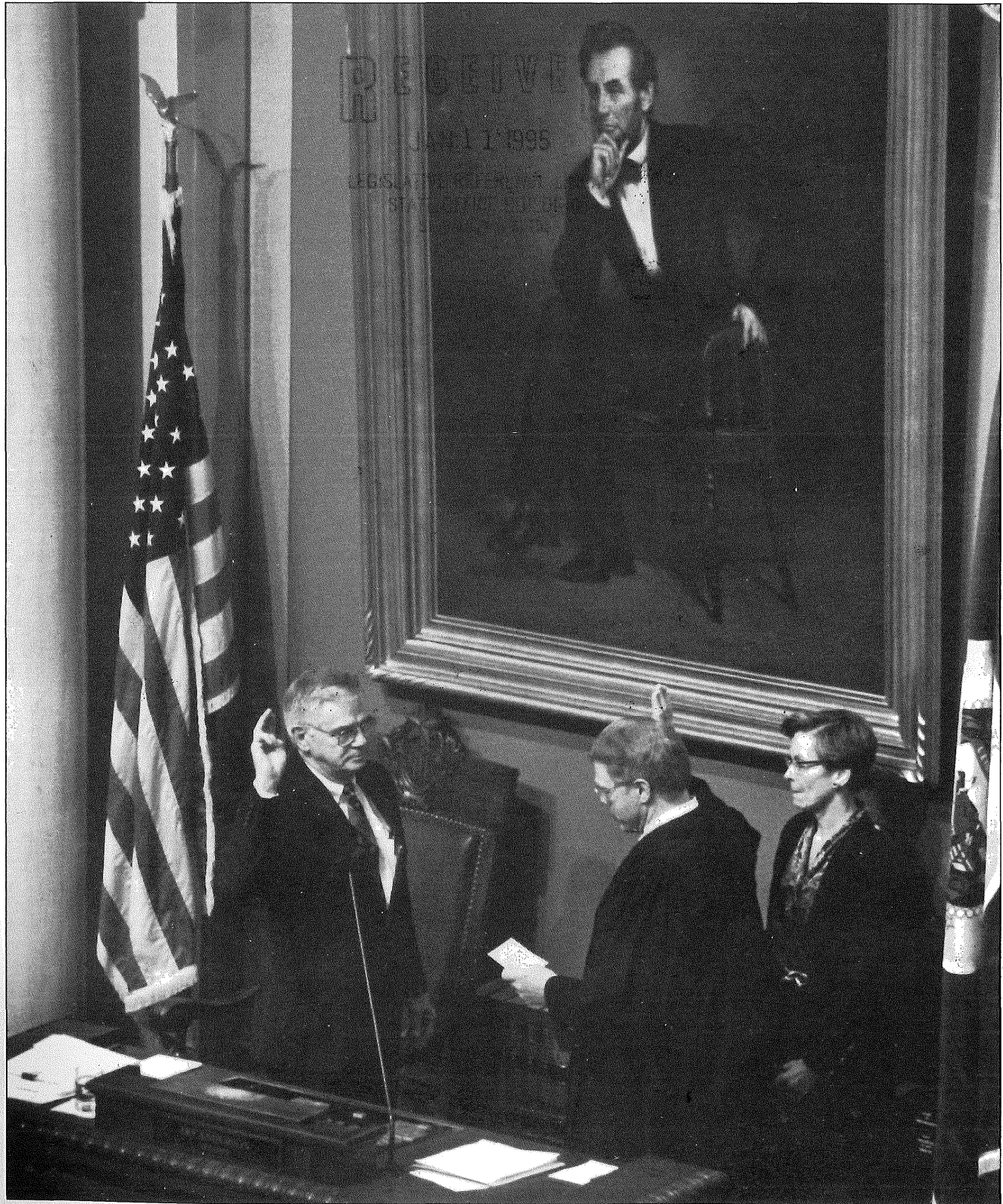
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# SESSION WEEKLY

A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ January 6, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 1





**Session Weekly** is a non-partisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1995-96 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. There is no charge for the publication.

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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • January 6, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 1

## Session Weekly

Welcome to the 79th Session of the Minnesota Legislature.

For the 12th consecutive year, the *Session Weekly* will bring you highlights of committee and floor action from the Minnesota House of Representatives. Each week of coverage begins and ends on Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.

In each issue of the *Session Weekly* you also will find the committee schedule for the coming week. It contains the information you will need to attend committee hearings, all of which are open to the public.

The section entitled "Bill Introductions" provides you with a continuing list of all the bills that are introduced in the House. Each entry includes the House File (HF) number, chief author's name, the name of the committee to which it was first referred, and a brief description of the content of the bill. During the last biennium, a total of 2,702 bills were introduced by both the House and Senate.

Early issues will carry a variety of informational articles about the Legislature and state government that will help you follow the legislative process. Other features will bring you insights into the history and "color" of the Legislature.

For the past several years, the *Session Weekly* also has published the unofficial bill tracking chart, detailing the status of each bill that was acted upon during a given week, and a cumulative listing of the latest bill action on all bills since the beginning of the session. We regret that we will be unable to provide this service for the 1995 session due to a reduction in staff. Our session-only temporary staff has been trimmed 44 percent — four positions — from 1994 levels.

We hope you like our legislative newsmagazine and will consider compiling a useful reference to the 1995 session by saving each issue. Each issue is punched to fit into a three-ring binder.

Please stop by or call if you have any suggestions for improving the *Session Weekly*, want answers to general questions, or need further help in following the Legislature. The House Public Information Office is in Room 175 of the State Office Building and the phone number is (612) 296-2146.

— The editors

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On the cover: Rep. Irv Anderson of International Falls is sworn in as speaker of the House Jan. 3 by Judge Peter N. Hemstad, also of International Falls. Secretary of State Joan Grove, right, presided over the 1995 session until Anderson was elected speaker.

— Photo by Laura Phillips



# Highlights

Opening day. . .

## Speaker stresses efficient, fat-free government

The opening of the 79th Session of the Minnesota Legislature began Jan. 3 with little fanfare, the first shouts of protesters from the Capitol rotunda, and the first round of partisan politics.

After the House's 134 members took the oath of office, they elected Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) speaker by a 70-to-63 margin over Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon). Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) abstained from voting.

In his acceptance speech, Anderson spoke of bipartisanship and the need to listen to voters and cut government waste.

"I want us to build a budget that stresses efficiency and the elimination of waste so no one can say there is fat in Minnesota government," Anderson said.

In an effort to demonstrate his desire "to open the windows and let a fresh breeze replace the stale stagnation of partisan posturing," Anderson announced the appointment of Rep. Teresa Lynch (IR-Andover) as vice chair of the powerful House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

Anderson's remarks were sometimes drowned out by shouts from welfare reform protesters one floor below in the Capitol rotunda. The demonstrators, carrying signs



Four generations of the Rest family came to the House chamber Jan. 3 for the opening of the 79th Legislature. Rep. Ann Rest, center, clings to grandson, Jakob Asplund, as she takes her oath of office. Rest was joined by her mother, Lillnette Hiller, left, and daughter, Susan Asplund, right.

such as "Save our children. No more cuts," were evidence of the budget tug-of-war ahead this session.

The first round of partisan politics occurred when IRs scolded the DFL majority

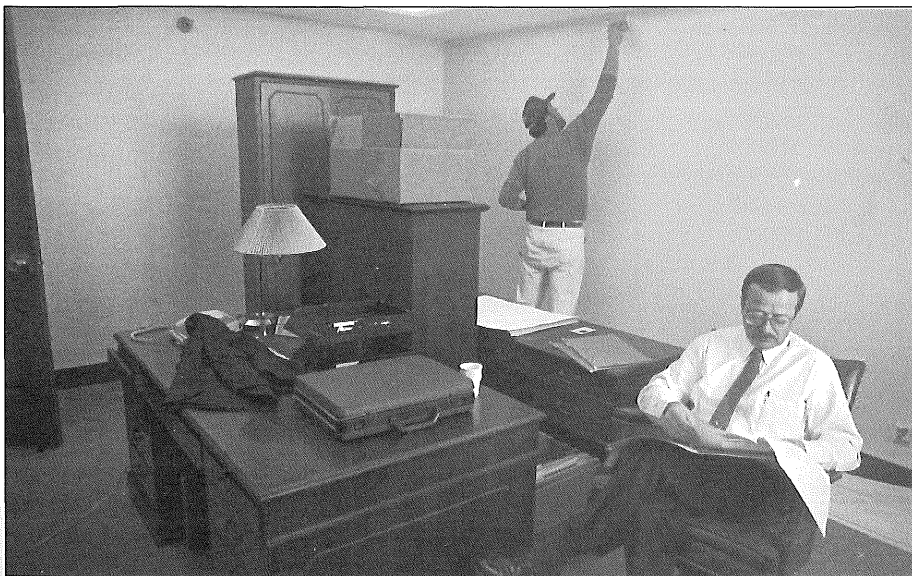
for increasing the number of committees and divisions to 37 — up from 30 during the 1994 session.

"At the very least we're misreading the people of Minnesota," Sviggum said, adding that citizens want less government, not more.

Majority Leader Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) countered by saying: "This is an attempt to open up the process." He explained that with more committees the House can distribute power so that even younger members of the body can hold committee leadership positions.

Each of the six first-term DFL lawmakers holds a vice-chair position in the new House committee structure.

This marks Anderson's second session as speaker. He served as speaker-designate in the fall of 1993, and was elected speaker for the 1994 session. The 71-year-old was first elected to the House in 1964. He served as majority leader from 1973 to 1978 and left the House in 1982. He returned in 1990 and, in 1993, served about six months as majority leader before becoming speaker-elect.



First-term Rep. Ken Otremba settles into his newly assigned office Jan. 5 while Steve McKenzie applies a fresh coat of paint to the walls.



## House File 1 . . .

# Legislature, governor seek welfare system reform

It's been about 10 years since the House and Senate have agreed on what the top bill should be during a legislative session. And this year, it appears that even the governor's office agrees.

The first bill introduced in both the House and Senate during the 1995-1996 Legislative Session seeks to reform Minnesota's welfare system. Another welfare reform bill, initiated by Independent-Republicans and Gov. Arne Carlson, also has been introduced in the House.

The 1983-1984 session marked the last time the House and Senate agreed on what should be House File 1 and Senate File 1. Back then, both bodies agreed that a proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the state Constitution should be blessed with *number one* status.

The House File 1 designation is usually given to a piece of legislation that the House leadership deems important. At the start of a session, House members jockey for the position.

"I've never had a House File 1 before," said Rep. Bob Anderson (DFL-Ottertail), chief sponsor of the welfare reform bill.

The importance House leadership has given the bill by assigning it House File 1 "reflects the mood of the electorate in the 1994 elections," said Anderson, who chairs the House Health and Human Services Committee.

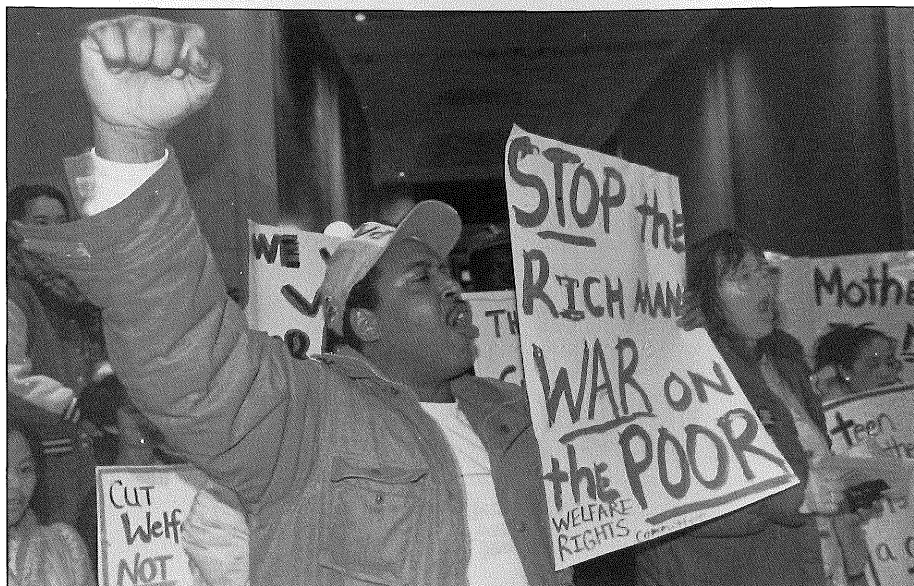
Rep. Kevin Goodno (IR-Moorhead) is carrying the Independent-Republican and governor-backed welfare reform bill as House File 15.

"I don't think this would have happened four years ago," said Goodno referring to the House, Senate, and governor's office pursuing the same top priority.

He said there are differences among all three bills but many similarities. "I'm very optimistic," said Goodno, adding he is not too distraught about his welfare reform bill not receiving the coveted House File 1 designation. The power to designate a bill as *number one* rests with the DFL leadership.

"It is always a hope, but we're in touch with reality around here."

Anderson's House File 1 appropriates \$8 million for welfare reform which includes \$5.6 million to help low- to moderate-income parents subsidize child care costs, thus removing a barrier to their going to work.



While legislators tended to official business Jan. 3, about 50 people from the Welfare Rights Committee and the Up and Out of Poverty Coalition gathered in the Capitol rotunda to voice their opposition to any reduction in welfare benefits. The subject of the first bill introduced in the 1995 session, HF1, is welfare reform.

House File 1 calls for the establishment of several programs to encourage welfare recipients to find work and requires all welfare recipients to participate in a state jobs-training program or lose their benefits. Individuals on public assistance for the first time would receive job training, subsidized jobs, medical care, and child support enforce-

ment instead of standard AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) benefits. The bill also would require pregnant minors to live at home and would eliminate federal rules that some argue discourage welfare recipients from finding work.

—K. Darcy Hanzlik

## House File 1 topics set legislative tone

Here's a list of House File 1's introduced during the past several legislative sessions:

**78th Session** (1993-94): eliminated several committee references in law, reflecting a marked change in the way finance committees were structured. That year the number of House committees decreased from 35 to 29.

**77th Session** (1991-1992): called for wetlands preservation areas and a program to prioritize wetlands.

**76th Session** (1989-1990): allowed six-member juries in non-felony cases.

**75th Session** (1987-1988): extended and financed the farm mediation and interest rate buy down programs.

**74th Session** (1985-1986): established the procedure to merge the cities of International Falls and South International Falls.

**73rd Session** (1983-1984): called for a Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment to the state Constitution.

**72nd Session** (1981-1982): called for payment of state school aid money that was not paid in fiscal year 1981 because of the governor's spending cuts.

**First Territorial Legislature** (1849): called for regulating grocery licenses.





Rep. Jim Tunheim, center, chairs an organizational meeting of the Transportation and Transit Committee Jan. 4.

Committee restructuring . . .

## Speaker Anderson aims to streamline government

House Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) in December announced a new House committee system designed to promote government efficiency and to improve legislative oversight of state agency spending.

There are now 37 standing committees and divisions in the House, up from 30 in the 1994 session. Anderson stressed that no additional staff would be hired.

During the 1991-92 biennium, there were 35 committees and divisions. The 1993 session began with 29 committees and divisions appointed by then-Speaker Dee Long (DFL-Mpls).

Throughout history, the number of committees has remained fairly constant, although there have been some ups and downs. In 1927, for example, there were 36 committees.

Many of the issues the new committees and divisions will address formerly were handled by House subcommittees. A division is a formal sub-unit of a full committee. Divisions meet regularly and have specific duties such as drafting finance bills in contrast to the temporary subcommittees that committee chairs sometimes appoint.

Member assignments for the 1995 session will reflect the ongoing policy of having each member serve on at least one finance or tax committee.

New committees and divisions under the plan include:

- the Government Efficiency and Oversight Division of the Ways and Means Committee, designed to promote government reform and create legislation to downsize state departments and agencies;
- the Property Tax and TIF Division and the

Sales and Income Tax Division of the Taxes Committee. (These issues were addressed primarily in the Property Tax and State Tax subcommittees during the 1994 session);

- the Business Regulation Division of the Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee;
- the Transportation Finance Division of the Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee. (Transportation funding previously was determined by the full Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee);
- the MinnesotaCare Division of the Health and Human Services Committee. (Issues relating to the MinnesotaCare program were formerly addressed primarily by the Health and Human Services Finance Division of the Health and Human Services Committee);
- the University of Minnesota Finance Division of the Education Committee. (U of M funding issues formerly were addressed primarily by the Higher Education Finance Division);
- the Gambling Division of the Governmental Operations Committee. (Gambling issues were addressed primarily in the Gambling Subcommittee of the former Governmental Operations and Gambling Committee);
- the Elections Division of the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Committee. (Elections issues were previously determined primarily by the full General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee); and
- the International Trade and Tourism Com-

mittee. (These issues were previously addressed by subcommittees of the former Commerce and Economic Development Committee).

Gone from last year's committee roster is the Health and Housing Finance Division of the Health and Human Services Committee. The Claims Committee, previously a joint subcommittee under the Legislative Coordinating Commission, now has full committee status. The Judiciary Finance Committee, formerly a division of the Judiciary Committee, also holds full committee status. The former Public Access Committee has also been eliminated.

The Commerce and Economic Development Committee is now the Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee "to better redefine its purpose and area of responsibility," Anderson said.

Anderson said the new structure will highlight the issues that seem most in need of attention and promote greater openness in the process by making it "more understandable and easier for the average citizen to follow."



1995 House profile. . .

## More business people, more IRs mark 79th session

The 79th Session of the Minnesota Legislature began Jan. 3 with 27 newly elected members and a gain of 13 House seats for the Independent-Republican Party (IR). But the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (DFL) still holds a 71-63 majority — down from its 84-50 advantage in 1994.

For the first time since 1987, the number of women members has actually decreased from the prior session. Thirty-two women now serve in the House, down from 34 in 1993.

(A total of 35 women were actually elected in 1992, but former Rep. Gloria Segal resigned in December before the session began, bringing the total to 34. A year later in December of 1993, Rep. Kathleen Blatz resigned and the number of women dropped to 33 in the 1994 session.)

And perhaps because of the significant electoral gains by the Independent-Republicans, the number of members who listed business as their primary occupation dramatically increased.

Business and educator are now tied for first place among member occupations, with 20 lawmakers each. Although educator was the top occupation in 1993, business was only

the fifth most common occupation (14) then.

Of the 20 members who listed business as their primary occupation, 15 are IRs and five are DFLers. Of the 20 members who listed educator as their primary occupation, 15 are DFLers and five are IRs.

But while business made gains as a leading occupation among members, the number of farmers in the House continued its downward slide. The Legislature convened with the fewest number of farmers in state history, breaking last session's low mark.

Members listing farming as their primary occupation slipped to 14 — down from 16 in 1993. That makes farming the fifth most common occupation in the House, down from third two years ago. As recently as 1991, farming was tied for the most common occupation in the House with 20 members.

This downward trend seems to mirror agricultural statistics compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau which show that the number of farms nationwide are at their lowest number since before the Civil War.

While the number of full-time legislators increased to 19 members — up from 17 in 1993 — the occupation remained in second place among members. And of those 19 mem-

bers, 17 are DFLers and two are IRs.

In third place this year are attorneys with 18 members — up from 16 in 1993 — when the occupation was tied for third. There are actually 20 House members who have graduated from law school, but two list full-time legislator as their primary occupation.

While the top five — business, educator, legislator, attorney, and farmer — changed places, they remain quite a distance from sixth place, now held by consultants (6).

Lawmakers truly do come from all walks of life. Free-lance artist, physician, fire captain, and custom picture framer were among other diverse occupations listed.

The educational level of members continues its upward trend, with 37 members holding a graduate degree. That's up from 32 in 1993, and 29 in 1991.

Those with some college increased to 24, up from 20 in 1993. The number of members holding a four-year undergraduate degree dipped to 41, down from 47 in 1993. But that's still significantly higher than the 31 members with a four-year degree in 1989.

The number of those holding a technical college degree increased to 11, up from six in 1993.

Currently, the largest class of lawmakers is composed of the 29 beginning their second term; 19 of the second-termers are IRs and 10 are DFLers. The next largest class is the 26 newly elected members who have never served in the Legislature; 20 of them are IRs and six are DFLers.

Ranking third in size are those members entering their fifth term with 20 members. Eighteen of the 20 are DFLers and two are IRs.

At 47.9\*, the average age of House members continues to rise. Since 1975, when the average stood at 40.8 years, the age has steadily increased to its present level. In 1993, the average age was 47.7 years; in 1991, 47.1.

In 1975, half the House members were no older than 38. Today, 103 members are over 40. Currently, the youngest House member is 28, and the oldest is 83.

— John Tschida



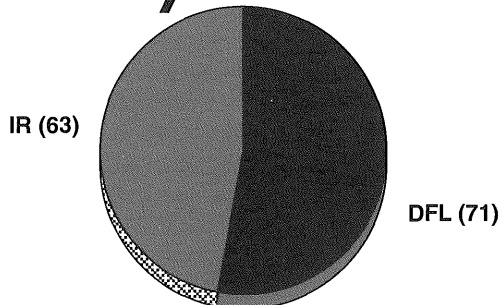
The oldest and youngest members of the Minnesota House: elder statesman Rep. Willard Munger, who will turn 84 this month, left, and Rep. Tim Commers, 28.

\* Average age is based on 129 members where exact birthdate information was available.

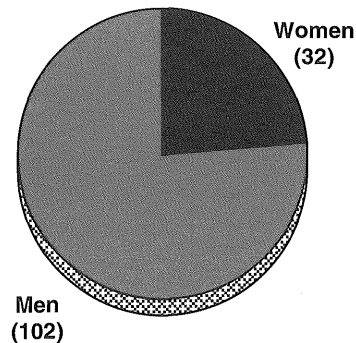


# 1995 House Profile

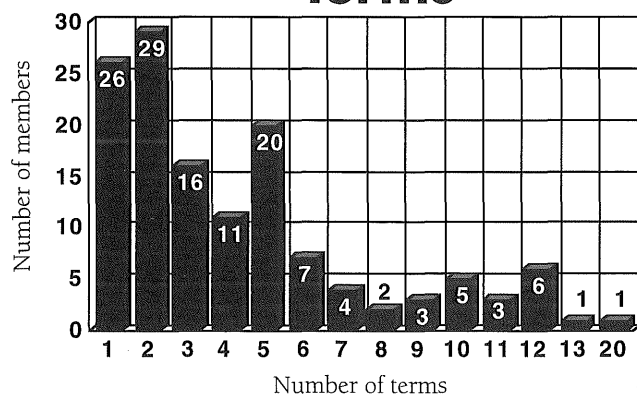
## Party Affiliation



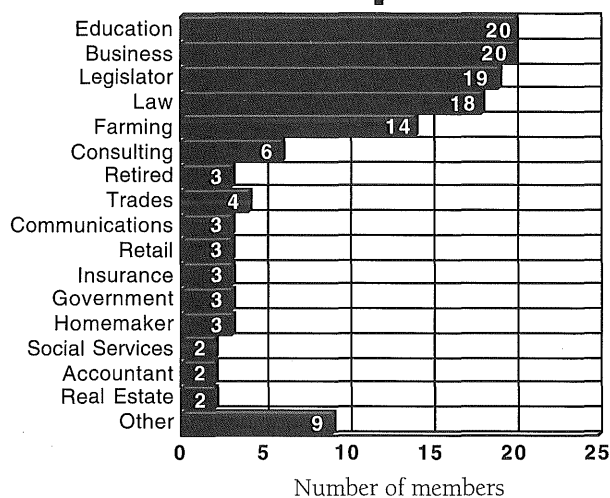
## Gender



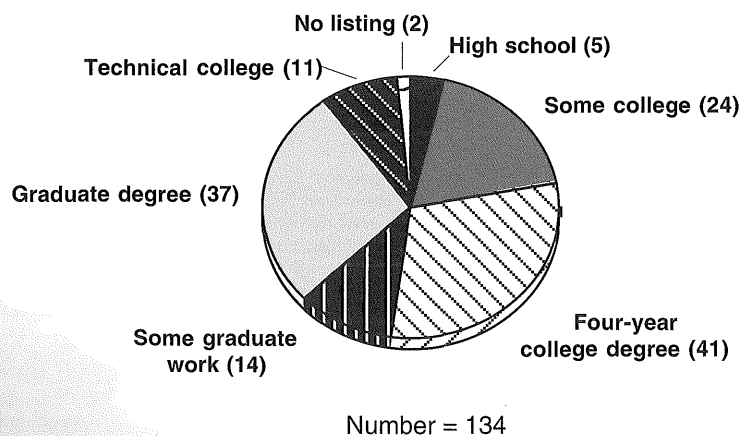
## Terms



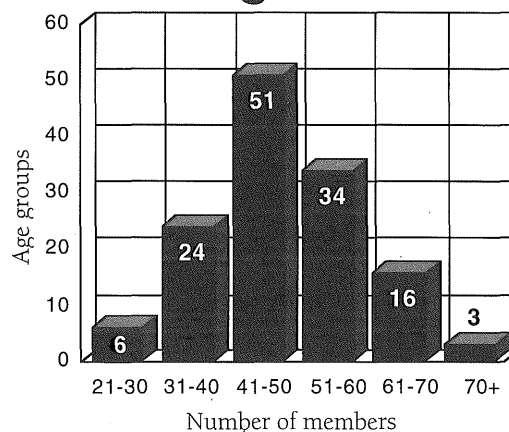
## Occupation



## Education Level



## Age







**Q. Who was the oldest member of the Minnesota House of Representatives? The youngest?**

**A.** The oldest Minnesota House member ever to have served is believed to have been 86-year-old Rep. John B. Hompe of Deer Creek in Otter Tail County.

Hompe, a Civil War veteran who enlisted at the age of 16, served in the House during the 1889 session; in the Senate during the 1891 and 1893 sessions; and again in the House during the 1915-1931 sessions.

A farmer, Hompe immigrated from Amsterdam, Holland, to the United States in 1849. He was born Feb. 4, 1846, and died in 1937, according to records from the Legislative Reference Library and the *Minnesota Legislative Manual*.

In 1891, he acted as president of the Senate due to the illness of then-Lt. Gov. G.S. Ives. A book on the 1927 Legislature said of Hompe: "He is still active and vigorous in both mind and body and is inclined to vote on the side of the plain common people."

Although Hompe is believed to be the oldest person to have ever served in the House, Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) is closing in on the record. Munger is now 83, but will be 84 later this month.

The youngest House member ever is still in politics today. Tad Jude, a former Hennepin County commissioner, was elected to the Minnesota House as a DFLer from Mound at age 20 and sworn in at age 21. Today he is an Independent-Republican and recently ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Congress. He left the Minnesota House in 1982.

Jude just missed being disqualified for the House when he was first elected in 1972. The Minnesota Constitution requires all House members to be 21 years old or older. Although Jude was 20 at the time of the November election, his birthday occurred in December, shortly before the January 1973 swearing in and session start date.

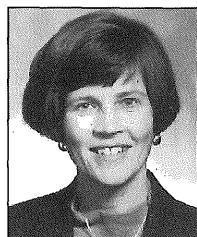


Rep. John B. Hompe

New members . . .

## Former IR party chair Sykora takes seat in House chamber

During her education at St. Paul's College of St. Catherine, Rep. Barb Sykora used to take a break some days and travel across town to watch her father at work.



Rep. Barb Sykora

She'd climb the State Capitol steps, head over to the Senate floor, and peer over the railing of the public gallery to watch Sen. John Zwach, then Senate majority leader (and later a U.S. representative from southwestern Minnesota).

"I was awfully proud," Sykora said. She was studying to be a school teacher then and hadn't thought much about politics.

Today, Zwach's daughter climbs the Capitol steps for a different reason — to represent the people from western Hennepin County in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Sykora, an Independent-Republican from Excelsior, isn't a new lawmaker in the traditional sense. She served as the state IR Party co-chair from 1987 to 1993. She recruited many of the IR lawmakers now in the Legislature to run for office, and she supported them during campaign trips and media swings around the state.

As the state IR party co-chair, "you're support service," Sykora said. Your top priorities are to train volunteers, recruit candidates, and win elections. As a lawmaker, she believes she will have more of a direct impact in changing state policy and be able to help her constituents more.

"I'm not as partisan as you'd think a former state party chair would be . . . I'd prefer to be a statesman. My motivation is for the next generation," said Sykora, 53, who most recently served as district director for former U.S. Rep. Rod Grams, now a U.S. senator.

"I've been tested under some stressful situations," Sykora said. During her tenure with the state party she had to help clean up a major budget deficit within the party's accounts and help handle Sen. Dave Durenberger's ethical issues.

But, she said, she knows she still has a lot to learn as a first-term lawmaker.

Sykora did try to use her knowledge and experience to gain an assistant minority leader's spot this session. She gave veteran IR lawmakers a run for their money when she lasted until the seventh ballot before drop-

ping out of the race.

She was encouraged to run for office in 1994 after Rep. Jerry Knickerbocker (IR-Minnetonka) announced he was retiring. "I had a strong interest in public policy and felt I could represent my community well," she said.

Sykora had four children to raise and lived in a district with strong incumbents who were difficult to challenge. She did try unsuccessfully to challenge then U.S. Rep. Gerry Sikorski for the sixth district congressional seat in 1986.

Portions of her legislative agenda directly stem from her children and their generation. She sees how difficult it is for young adults today to find good jobs and hopes she can provide help by improving Minnesota's business climate.

Education funding reform also is a part of her agenda. Minnesota's property tax system is based on a false premise that higher property value implies a greater level of income, she said. As a result, many metropolitan homeowners, especially seniors, are taxed out of their homes.

Sykora says money goes further in rural areas. The cost of living in a particular district should be included in the education funding formula.

Like many from her large Independent-Republican first-term class, Sykora said she also hopes to help reform the state's welfare and workers' compensation systems.

"There are lots of problems government can't solve," she said. "As citizens, we need to re-create an atmosphere that turns to the communities and individuals to solve problems rather than the government."

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

### District 43B

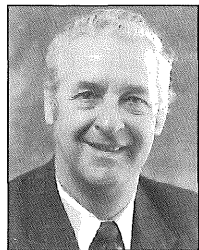
**Population:** 32,296  
**Distribution:** 100 percent in urban areas  
**County:** Hennepin  
**Largest city:** Minnetonka  
**Location:** west Metro  
**Unemployment rate:** 3.86 percent  
**Residents living below poverty level:** 2.08 percent  
**1992 presidential election results:**  
 Bush/Quayle ..... 39.79 percent  
 Clinton/Gore ..... 35.27 percent  
 Perot/Stockdale ..... 24.08 percent  
 Other: ..... 0.86 percent



New members . . .

## Pellow emerges after reprieve; returns for third term

A lot full of mangled and misfit automobiles may be an odd place to uncover an interest in politics. But out from under the heaps of metal arose Rep. Dick Pellow's law-making aspirations.



Rep. Dick Pellow

Pellow's childhood dreams never entailed wearing a tie, shaking hands on a campaign trail, or sitting through long debates on the House floor. Thoughts of fast cars, greasy engines, and socket wrenches filled his head.

"I was a greaser, a car nut. Growing up, I ate and slept cars," he said. At the age of 15, he repaired and painted his first car, a 1936 Ford four-door.

Today, Pellow has plenty of ties, lots of opinions about government, a desk on the House floor, literally tons of automobiles, and 20 antique cars.

The 63-year-old Independent-Republican from New Brighton realized his youthful wish. He owns an auto broker company that sells wrecked cars to salvage yards and another company that buys, sells, and repairs tow trucks.

But what he didn't know when he entered the auto broker business was that it would eventually lead him to the Capitol in St. Paul.

"I saw what government was doing to business," he said. "The taxes, the over regulation, the bureaucracy. I wanted to get involved."

In the early days, Pellow called himself a "typical businessman in politics."

He started out working on campaigns for fellow Republicans such as former Rep. Tony Bennett's run for a House seat in the late 1960s. Pellow, who was raised in a DFL/union worker household, was Bennett's yard sign chairperson.

"I never had time to run myself and make the commitment. I had my family and the business. But I knew that I couldn't change zip without becoming a lawmaker. You gotta come down here where the action is," said Pellow, who represented the New Brighton area (just north of St. Paul) from 1988 to 1992. He lost a re-election bid in 1992 only to come back again in 1994.

Pellow said he plans to continue where he left off in 1992. "I want to cut as much bureaucracy as we can cut.

Get government out of people's business and downsize the bureaucracy . . . Businesses have to hire accountants and bookkeepers just to keep track of the new government regulations."

He'd like to cut the Metropolitan Council and its 17 council members which plan and coordinate the development of airports, parks, roads, and other regional issues for the seven-county metropolitan area. The council's authority encompasses 100 cities and the council has a staff of about 150 employees.

Pellow said he'd like to have the metro area cities each have a volunteer representative on a regional planning board and use that board to make decisions and share resources.

Pellow said government gets involved where it shouldn't and wastes money. Two examples of that, he said, are the traffic lights on freeway ramps and the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Highway Helper Program, which is designed to help motorists who are stranded on the highway.

He said he also plans to reintroduce a bill that would cut the earnings of county commissioners in the state to match those of legislators. In 1994, state lawmakers earned \$27,979.

Hennepin County commissioners will earn about \$69,000 a year in 1995; Ramsey County commissioners, about \$41,000.

In addition to those issues, Pellow said he would also like to focus on two long-time IR priorities: cutting workers' compensation rates and lowering commercial and industrial property taxes.

With only eight members making up the difference between the majority (DFL) party and the minority (IR) party in the House, Pellow thinks the IRs have a good shot at getting their agenda to the House floor.

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

## It's a fact!

A portrait of Abraham Lincoln hangs in the State Dining Hall of the White House.

But that painting used to hang above the speaker's desk in the Minnesota House chamber.

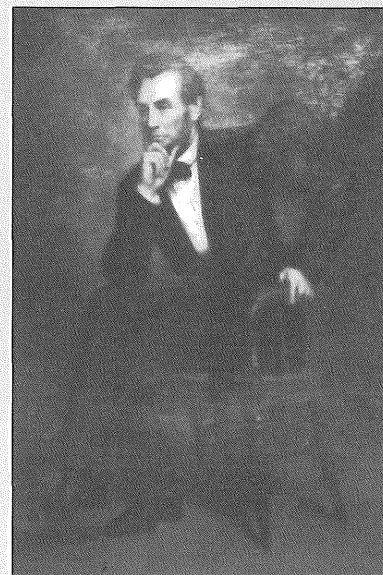
In 1864, President Lincoln sat for a portrait done by George P. Healy, an eminent artist of the time. A copy of the painting was given to Robert Todd Lincoln, and another to Elihu Washburn, an intimate friend of the president's.

Robert Todd Lincoln said they were the finest likenesses of his father ever painted.

The Washburn family later moved to Minnesota, and shortly after the existing State Capitol was completed in 1905, W.D. Washburn loaned the portrait to the state. It was placed above the speaker's desk, where it hung until 1932. At that time, heirs of the Washburns requested that the painting be sent to them in New York City. Later, Jacqueline Kennedy acquired the painting when she was redecorating the White House.

But before relinquishing the original, the state commissioned Edward Brewer of St. Paul to paint a replica of the portrait. The copy is so exact that some say experts can't tell the difference between it and the original.

Brewer's copy now hangs above the speaker's desk in the House chamber.



Abraham Lincoln, as painted by Edward Brewer of St. Paul

### District 52B

**Population:** 32,877  
**Distribution:** 100 percent in urban areas  
**County:** Ramsey  
**Largest city:** New Brighton  
**Location:** north Metro  
**Unemployment rate:** 4.15 percent  
**Residents living below poverty level:** 6.57 percent  
**1992 presidential election results:**  
Bush/Quayle ..... 31.98 percent  
Clinton/Gore ..... 44.20 percent  
Perot/Stockdale ..... 22.84 percent  
Other: ..... 0.98 percent



During an organizational meeting of the House Transportation and Transit Committee Jan. 4, Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), committee chair, asked members to introduce themselves and say a few words about their home districts.

Several members also expressed their pleasure at being named to the committee, which oversees policy issues related to state trunk highways, city streets, and town roads.

"I was named to this committee . . . because of my name," said Rep. Jim Rhodes (IR-St. Louis Park).

**Moments after Rep. Irv Anderson was elected speaker**, 10 seconds of tension filled the House chamber when his competition for the powerful post, Minority Leader Steve Sviggum, rose and asked to speak.

Anderson, a DFLer from Int'l Falls, hesitated and began to move on to the next order



of business, electing a House chief clerk.

Sviggum, an Independent-Republican from Kenyon, invoking a point of personal privilege, again asked to be recognized.

Anderson paused, looked at Sviggum, and began to say: "We're in the middle. . . ." He didn't get to finish.

"I was just going to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker," Sviggum said.

The speaker and all assembled laughed with some relief.

It was the first day of the 1995 Legislative Session, too early for the first partisan battle to begin.

That would come about five minutes later.

**Finding a vacant public parking space** near the State Capitol during a legislative session usually requires strategy, cunning, and a competitive edge. Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), however, has an idea that may make finding a parking spot less of a blood sport.

Kahn told fellow House members Jan. 5 that the public should have access to the most visible parking spaces around the Capitol, specifically, the dozens of spots directly in front of the steps to the Capitol's main entrance. There's just one problem—the spaces are currently occupied by state senators.

Kahn, who made the proposal just before the House approved a Senate resolution on parking for legislators and staff, said there is ample parking space for senators in lots near the Capitol such as the Judicial Center parking garage.

"The problem is senators do not want to enter the Capitol by the back door," Kahn quipped.

The pledge of "no new taxes" has fallen from the lips of many politicians in recent years, but it's been quite a while since anyone has upheld a promise to put the brakes on state government spending.

It happened in 1926 when Gov. Theodore Christianson, campaigning for re-election, promised that the amount of money spent by the 1927 Legislature would not exceed the amount allocated by the 1925 Legislature. No new programs, no inflationary increases were to be allowed.

His reasoning? The state's income was fixed, much like one's personal income, and the state had to live within its means.

"There is no good reason why the principle which pre-determines personal budgets should not pre-determine public budgets also," he said.

Christianson was re-elected by a wide margin.

In his 1927 State of the State address, Christianson said he considered his fiscal promise "an obligation as binding in

## Do you know?



Gov. Theodore Christianson honor as the most sacred of a man's covenants."

In a speech that could have been written today, he said, "I am convinced,

that under present conditions the voters do not want an increase — that they cannot bear an increase — in their tax burden. I feel that they expressed that conviction in their votes as definitely and emphatically as anything can be expressed in a popular election. Their decision has pre-determined the maximum of appropriations; for the total of appropriations cannot be increased without increasing the tax levy."

And while many thought he was bluffing, including those in his own Republican party, Christianson kept his word. There were no tax increases, and the governor vetoed all bills calling for salary increases, along with several million dollars worth of other appropriations. The 1927 Legislature spent no more than the 1925 Legislature.

There was no attempt to override the vetoes in either the House or the Senate. The people elected Christianson to a third two-year term as governor in 1928. He bested his closest opponent by a margin of nearly 3 to 1.

## It's a fact!

Some current legislative issues are, as Yogi Berra once said, "like déjà vu all over again."

Burgeoning classrooms in Minnesota's elementary schools drew the attention of Minnesota lawmakers as early as 1974. HF3633 of that year would have required at least one teacher's aide for every first and second grade class having more than 20 pupils.

The bill didn't pass, and at least one private organization, the Legislative Evaluation Assembly (LEA), thought it was a bad idea from the start.

"Several comprehensive and exhaustive studies have recently shown that there is no correlation between class size and learning over a wide range of class sizes," the LEA wrote in its 1974 *Annual Report on Minnesota Legislation and Legislators*. They added "there is little or no chance that this program would improve education."

The LEA labeled the bill an 'education WPA,' in reference to Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration, designed to improve the country's infrastructure and provide jobs during the Great Depression.

"Because of the declining national birth rate, those trained as teachers but currently not employed in teaching, should convert to other career fields, not seek make-work jobs in the schools at taxpayers' expense," wrote the LEA.

Lawmakers in recent years have wisely chosen to disagree with the LEA.

Recognizing the importance of smaller class sizes, Minnesota lawmakers spent more than \$100 million in 1993 (and an additional \$8.7 million in 1994) to reduce class sizes by hiring new teachers. School districts had to use the funds to attain a 17:1 student-teacher ratio in grades K-1, and then in subsequent grades as the revenue was available.

As for the LEA, their annual reports on the Legislature ended in 1974.



Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayer (IR-Princeton) and his wife, Carolyn, along with a panel of legislators and their spouses gave brief presentations on what life is like for House members and their families. A question and answer period followed the presentation, which took place Nov. 30 at the Riverwood Conference Center, Monticello, Minn.

### Orientation retreat . . .

## Former state senator urges more integrity, less bacon

A new member orientation retreat was held Nov. 30 - Dec. 2, 1994, at Riverwood Conference Center near Monticello, Minn.

The purpose of the conference was to help 27 newly elected lawmakers make a smooth transition to the role of being a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

The program included guest speakers, panel discussions, legislative workshops, staff presentations, and social activities.

Guest speakers included John Brandl, professor at the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, whose message was based on 12 years of legislative experience — eight as a Minnesota House member and four as a state senator.

Speaking on the "Ethics and Responsibility of a Legislator," Brandl said that a legislator's first responsibility is to the people of the state. If you take care of only "your corner of the state," or if you "dance with them that brung 'ya," the public interest will not emerge. You can easily convince yourself that you're doing God's work by "bringing home the bacon," rather than using good judgment in seeing to it that the money is doing the job for the benefit of all, he said.

Another responsibility is to "revive integrity," according to Brandl, who believes that there is a "link between private and public virtue." He warned the new lawmakers that politics can become a substitute for a normal life, and that it is easy to treat family members as appendages — stamp lickens and door knockers.

Brandl also discussed voting. He urged members to not back away from their stand on an issue because "you think you might lose your spot in the Legislature. Don't fall into the trap of not being able to imagine yourself doing anything else," he said.

Other speakers included former U.S. Rep. Vin Weber, who talked about the role of government, and former U.S. Rep. Tim Penny, who discussed leadership style.

Legislators also had a chance to "Meet the Press" by attending a session that featured Betty Wilson, former political writer for the *Star Tribune*; Karen Boros, freelance political writer; Eric Eskola, political reporter for WCCO Radio; and Dennis Stauffer, political reporter for KARE-11 News.

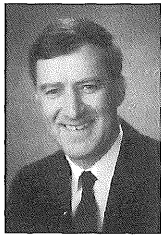
Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul), Rep. Hilda Bettermann (IR-Brandon), and former Rep. Peter Rodosovich co-chaired the event with the help of a committee made up of several House members and two staff facilitators.

An earlier orientation program was held shortly after the general election on Nov. 10. First-termers spent three-and-one-half hours hearing overviews of the operation of the House and the legislative process. The program ended with a tour of the State Capitol and the State Office Building.

*(Meet the 27 newly elected 1995 House members on the next three pages.)*



# Meet the new 1995 House members



**Anderson, Bruce (IR)** 19B  
281 State Office Building ..... 296-5063

**Home:** Buffalo Township  
\*3222 Aadland Ave. N.E. 55313 ..... (612) 682-1480  
**Business:** Maple Grove  
7555 Meridian Circle 55430 ..... (612) 493-8525  
**Born:** 3/12/50. **Married:** spouse Dottie, 5 children. **Occupation:** Federal Express/Air National Guard. **Education:** aviation electronics, USN; AA, agribusiness, Willmar Technical College; liberal arts, NHJC, Crown College. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**Daggett, Roxann (IR)** 11A  
225 State Office Building ..... 296-4293

**Home:** Frazee  
\*P.O. Box 154 56544 ..... (218) 334-3871  
**Born:** 3/10/47. **Married:** spouse Dave, 2 children. **Occupation:** Motivational Speaker. **Education:** BS, communications, Concordia College/University of North Dakota. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**Bakk, Thomas (DFL)** 6A  
429 State Office Building ..... 296-2190

**Home:** Cook  
\*2361 Retreat Road 55723 ..... (218) 666-5041  
**Business:** Virginia  
307 1st St. N. 55792 ..... (218) 741-6010  
**Born:** 6/8/54. **Family:** 2 children. **Occupation:** Labor Representative. **Education:** BBA, labor management relations, University of Minnesota-Duluth. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**Entenza, Matt (DFL)** 64A  
\*531 State Office Building ..... 296-8799

**Home:** St. Paul  
1622 Hague St. 55104 ..... (612) 647-1425  
**Born:** 10/4/61. **Married:** spouse Lois Quam, 3 children. **Occupation:** Attorney. **Education:** BA, environmental studies, Macalester College; law, Oxford University, England; JD, University of Minnesota Law School. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



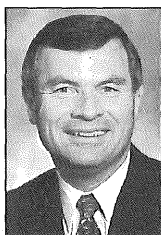
**Boudreau, Lynda (IR)** 25B  
327 State Office Building ..... 296-8237

**Home:** Faribault  
\*18166 Faribault Blvd. 55021 ..... (507) 332-7760  
**Born:** 3/9/52. **Married:** spouse Jim, 3 children. **Occupation:** Family Health Aide, WIC Clerical Staff. **Education:** Secondary; job-related coursework. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**Haas, Bill (IR)** 48A  
201 State Office Building ..... 296-5513

**Home:** Champlin  
\*215 Lowell Road 55316 ..... (612) 421-6153  
**Born:** 6/25/49. **Married:** spouse Joenie, 2 children. **Occupation:** Employee Benefits Broker, Consultant. **Education:** AA, math/biology, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**Bradley, Fran (IR)** 30A  
241 State Office Building ..... 296-9249

**Home:** Rochester  
\*4316 Manor View Dr. N.W. 55901 ... (507) 288-3439  
**Born:** 6/13/42. **Married:** spouse Mary, 4 children. **Occupation:** Computer Engineer/Manager. **Education:** BS, mechanical engineering, South Dakota State University; graduate work, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**Hackbarth, Tom (IR)** 50A  
313 State Office Building ..... 296-2439

**Home:** Cedar  
\*19255 Eidelweiss St. N.W. 55011 .... (612) 753-3215  
**Born:** 12/28/51. **Married:** spouse Mary, 3 children. **Occupation:** Automotive Parts. **Education:** North Hennepin Community College. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**Broecker, Sherry (IR)** 53B  
321 State Office Building ..... 296-7153

**Home:** Vadnais Heights  
\*4558 Birch Ridge Road 55127 ..... (612) 429-8269  
**Born:** 2/14/51. **Married:** spouse Jerry, 3 children. **Occupation:** Self-employed Custom Picture Framer. **Education:** art education, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.

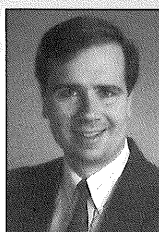


**Harder, Elaine (IR)** 22B  
277 State Office Building ..... 296-5373

**Home:** Jackson  
\*107 Parkside Ave. 56143 ..... (507) 847-3550  
**Business:** Jackson  
(507) 847-5547  
**Born:** 12/27/47. **Married:** spouse Ronald, 2 children. **Occupation:** Insurance Agent. **Education:** BS, secondary education, Mankato State University. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.

**Knoblach, Jim (IR)** 16B  
 215 State Office Building ..... 296-6316

**Home:** St. Cloud  
 1552 Prairie Hill Road 56301 ..... (612) 252-6179  
**Business:** St. Cloud  
 \*P.O. Box 7563 56302 ..... (612) 252-8871  
 Born: 11/57. **Married:** spouse Janet, 1 child. **Occupation:** Small Business Owner. **Education:** BS, economics/business administration, St. John's University; MBA, Harvard University; MA, American Government, Georgetown University, CPA. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**Marko, Sharon (DFL)** 57B  
 507 State Office Building ..... 296-3135

**Home:** Newport  
 \*121 10th St. 55055 ..... (612) 459-7757  
 Born: 3/2/53. **Occupation:** Communications Consultant. **Education:** BS, communications, Indiana University; graduate work, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**Kraus, Ron (IR)** 27A  
 279 State Office Building ..... 296-6746

**Home:** Albert Lea  
 \*2922 Campus Drive 56007 ..... (507) 373-1003  
**Business:** Albert Lea  
 408 S. Broadway 56007 ..... (507) 377-9225  
 Born: 5/13/56. **Married:** spouse Kathy, 2 children. **Occupation:** Business Owner. **Education:** business/political science, University of Minnesota-Duluth; St. Mary's College, Winona; Mankato State University. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**McElroy, Dan (IR)** 36B  
 259 State Office Building ..... 296-4212

**Home:** Burnsville  
 \*12805 Welcome Lane 55337 ..... (612) 890-2224  
**Business:** Long Lake  
 Travel Agency Management Services  
 P.O. Box 845 55356 ..... (612) 476-0005  
 Born: 7/15/48. **Married:** spouse Mary. **Occupation:** Management Consultant. **Education:** BA, history, University of Notre Dame. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**Larsen, Peg (IR)** 56B  
 \*311 State Office Building ..... 296-4244

**Home:** Lakeland  
 409 Quixote Ave. N. 55043 ..... (612) 436-5073  
 Born: 8/10/49. **Married:** spouse Thomas, 4 children. **Occupation:** Educational Assistant Special Needs. **Education:** BA, sociology, University of Slippery Rock, Slippery Rock, Penn.. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



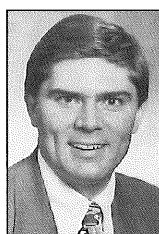
**Mulder, Richard (IR)** 21B  
 \*387 State Office Building ..... 296-4336

**Home:** Ivanhoe  
 Box A 56142 ..... (507) 694-1539  
**Business:** Ivanhoe  
 366 E. George St. 56142 ..... (507) 694-1232  
 Born: 5/8/38. **Married:** spouse Ruth, 4 children. **Occupation:** Family Physician. **Education:** BS, pharmacy, South Dakota State University; Associate degree, medicine, University of South Dakota; MD, University of Iowa. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**Leighton Jr., Robert (DFL)** 27B  
 527 State Office Building ..... 296-4193

**Home:** Austin  
 911 5th Ave. N.E. 55912 ..... (507) 437-9329  
**Business:** Austin  
 \*601 N. Main St. 55912 ..... (507) 433-8813  
 Born: 7/7/65. **Single.** **Occupation:** Attorney. **Education:** BA, economics, University of Minnesota; JD, University of California, Berkeley. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**Osskopp, Mike (IR)** 29B  
 329 State Office Building ..... 296-9236

**Home:** Lake City  
 \*1024 Lilac Lane 55041 ..... (612) 345-4693  
**Business:** Hastings  
 P.O. Box 215 55041 ..... (612) 437-1460  
 Born: 10/3/51. **Married:** spouse Monica, 2 children. **Occupation:** Radio Broadcast Journalist. **Education:** BA, journalism, Institute of Broadcast Arts; MA theology, Moody Bible Institute. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**Mares, Harry (IR)** 55A  
 239 State Office Building ..... 296-5363

**Home:** White Bear Lake  
 \*2592 Crown Hill Court 55110 ..... (612) 429-7189  
**Business:** White Bear Lake  
 3551 McKnight Road 55110 ..... (612) 773-6200  
 Born: 12/21/38. **Married:** spouse Geri, 7 children. **Occupation:** Teacher. **Education:** BA, political science, Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa; MS, education, Winona State University. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.

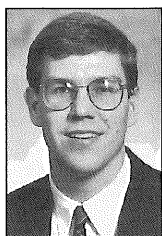


**Otremba, Ken (DFL)** 11B  
 545 State Office Building ..... 296-3201

**Home:** Long Prairie  
 \*Route 2, Box 17 56347 ..... (612) 732-6201  
 Born: 10/29/48. **Married:** spouse Mary Ellen, 4 children. **Occupation:** Farmer. **Education:** U.S. Navy Advanced Electronics School. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.







**Paulsen, Erik (IR)** 42B  
 \*221 State Office Building ..... 296-7449

**Home:** Eden Prairie  
 9158 East Staring Lane 55347 ..... (612) 949-8869  
**Born:** 5/14/65. **Married:** spouse Kelly, 1 child. **Education:** BA, mathematics, St. Olaf College. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**Sykora, Barbara (IR)** 43B  
 357 State Office Building ..... 296-4315

**Home:** Excelsior  
 \*4835 Highcrest Drive 55331 ..... (612) 474-3634  
**Married:** spouse Bob, 4 children. **Occupation:** Legislator. **Education:** BA, education, College of St. Catherine. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**Pellow, Richard (IR)** 52B  
 \*233 State Office Building ..... 296-0141

**Home:** New Brighton  
 1471 18th St. N.W. 55112 ..... (612) 633-7052  
**Business:** St. Paul  
 1280 Jackson St. 55117 ..... (612) 488-0581  
**Married:** spouse Jean, 5 children. **Occupation:** Business Owner. **Education:** Vocational/Technical. **Elected:** 1988. **Term:** 3rd (non-consecutive).



**Tuma, John (IR)** 25A  
 \*301 State Office Building ..... 296-4229

**Home:** Northfield  
 4597 Delancey Court 55057 ..... (507) 663-0013  
**Business:** Northfield  
 P.O. Box 168 55057 ..... (507) 645-4431  
**Born:** 9/25/62. **Married:** spouse Wendy, 1 child. **Occupation:** Attorney. **Education:** BA, political science, Mankato State University; JD, University of Minnesota Law School. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



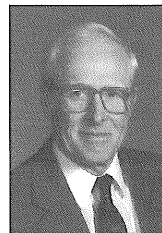
**Rostberg, Jim (IR)** 18A  
 323 State Office Building ..... 296-5364

**Home:** Isanti  
 \*26450 Terrace Rd. N.E. 55040 ..... (612) 444-9045  
**Born:** 5/28/56. **Married:** spouse Kathy, 2 children. **Occupation:** Veterans Service Officer. **Education:** AA, Cambridge Community College; public administration, Metropolitan State University. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



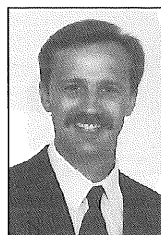
**Schumacher, Leslie (DFL)** 17B  
 413 State Office Building ..... 296-5377

**Home:** Princeton  
 \*18180 17th St. 55371 ..... (612) 662-2075  
**Business:** Santiago  
 16585 20th St. 55377 **Born:** 10/4/55. **Married:** spouse Byron, 2 children. **Occupation:** Freelance Artist. **Education:** Art/business, vocational/technical. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



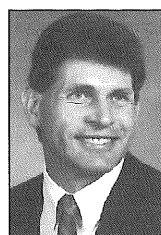
**Swenson, Howard (IR)** 23B  
 331 State Office Building ..... 296-8634

**Home:** Nicollet  
 \*Rural Route 2, Box 140 56074 ..... (507) 246-5125  
**Married:** spouse Jane, 5 children. **Occupation:** Farmer. **Education:** Secondary. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**†Ourada, Mark (IR)** 19  
 145 State Office Building ..... 296-5981

**Home:** Buffalo  
 1110 Innsbrook Lane 55313 ..... 682-5024  
**Business:** Buffalo  
 Hwy. 55 55313 ..... 682-1221  
**Born:** 4/28/56. **Married:** spouse Christi. **Occupation:** Lab technician. **Education:** St. John's University, Political Science. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.



**†Scheevel, Kenric J. (IR)** 31  
 129 State Office Building ..... 296-3903

**Home:** Preston  
 Route 2, Box 227 55965 ..... (507) 937-3433  
**Business:** Same  
**Born:** 7/7/56. **Married:** spouse Karen, 2 children. **Occupation:** Farmer. **Education:** BA, Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa; BSME, South Dakota State University. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 1st.

**†Elected, special election November 8, 1994.**

# Minnesota House of Representatives 1995-96

Unofficial list as of January 5, 1995

District/Member/Party			Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (612) 296-
District/Member/Party	Room*			District/Member/Party	Room*		
45A Abrams, Ron (IR)	209	9934		8B Lourey, Becky (DFL)	421	4308	
10A Anderson, Bob (DFL)	437	4946		47A Luther, Darlene (DFL)	525	3751	
19B Anderson, Bruce (IR)	281	5063		50B Lynch, Teresa (IR)	295	5369	
3A Anderson, Irv (DFL)	463	4936		37B Macklin, Bill (IR)	349	6926	
6A Bakk, Thomas (DFL)	429	2190		40A Mahon, Mark P. (DFL)	401	7158	
14B Bertram, Jeff (DFL)	571	4373		55A Mares, Harry (IR)	239	5363	
10B Bettermann, Hilda (IR)	243	4317		65B Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	403	9714	
30B Bishop, Dave (IR)	343	0573		57B Marko, Sharon (DFL)	507	3135	
25B Boudreau, Lynda (IR)	327	8237		55B McCollum, Betty (DFL)	501	1188	
30A Bradley, Fran (IR)	241	9249		36B McElroy, Dan (IR)	259	4212	
53B Broecker, Sherry (IR)	321	7153		54A McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	567	4342	
13A Brown, Chuck (DFL)	597	4929		39B Milbert, Bob (DFL)	579	4192	
46B Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	379	4255		35A Molnau, Carol (IR)	287	8872	
47B Carruthers, Phil (DFL)	459	3709		21B Mulder, Richard (IR)	387	4336	
61A Clark, Karen (DFL)	503	0294		7A Munger, Willard (DFL)	479	4282	
38A Commers, Tim (IR)	217	3533		8A Murphy, Mary (DFL)	557	2676	
15B Cooper, Roger (DFL)	549	4346		20A Ness, Robert "Bob" (IR)	335	4344	
11A Daggett, Roxann (IR)	225	4293		2B Olson, Edgar (DFL)	565	4265	
9B Dauner, Marvin (DFL)	581	6829		19A Olson, Mark (IR)	223	4237	
31B Davids, Gregory M. (IR)	371	9278		20B Onnen, Tony (IR)	273	1534	
65A Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	409	5158		16A Opatz, Joe (DFL)	377	6612	
14A Dehler, Steve (IR)	203	7808		64B Orenstein, Howard (DFL)	529	4199	
51A Delmont, Mike (DFL)	575	4226		60B Orfield, Myron (DFL)	521	9281	
29A Dempsey, Jerry (IR)	251	8635		29B Osskopp, Mike (IR)	329	9236	
24A Dorn, John (DFL)	533	3248		66A Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	585	4224	
64A Entenza, Matt (DFL)	531	8799		24B Ostrom, Don (DFL)	433	7065	
42A Erhardt, Ron (IR)	237	4363		11B Otremba, Ken (DFL)	545	3201	
67A Farrell, Jim (DFL)	423	4277		37A Ozment, Dennis (IR)	283	4306	
1B Finseth, Tim (IR)	253	9918		42B Paulsen, Erik (IR)	221	7449	
31A Frerichs, Don L. (IR)	247	4378		38B Pawlenty, Tim (IR)	231	4128	
63B Garcia, Edwina (DFL)	411	5375		52B Pellow, Richard (IR)	233	0141	
21A Girard, Jim (IR)	213	5374		32A Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	517	8637	
9A Goodno, Kevin (IR)	369	5515		57A Perl, Walter E. (DFL)	473	7807	
62A Greenfield, Lee (DFL)	375	0173		13B Peterson, Doug (DFL)	523	4228	
54B Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	553	5387		39A Pugh, Thomas (DFL)	583	6828	
48A Haas, Bill (IR)	201	5513		46A Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	443	4176	
50A Hackbarth, Tom (IR)	313	2439		44B Rhodes, Jim (IR)	309	9889	
22B Harder, Elaine (IR)	277	5373		58A Rice, James I. (DFL)	381	4262	
12A Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)	451	4333		18A Rostberg, Jim (IR)	323	5364	
66B Hausman, Alice (DFL)	449	3824		5A Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	471	0170	
56A Holsten, Mark (IR)	345	3018		59A Sarna, John J. (DFL)	563	4219	
26A Hugoson, Gene (IR)	289	3240		17B Schumacher, Leslie (DFL)	413	5377	
6B Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	569	2228		41A Seagren, Alice (IR)	315	7803	
49B Jacobs, Joel (DFL)	485	4231		52A Simoneau, Wayne (DFL)	365	4331	
7B Jaros, Mike (DFL)	559	4246		62B Skoglund, Wesley J. "Wes" (DFL)	477	4330	
58B Jefferson, Richard H. (DFL)	577	8659		34A Smith, Steve (IR)	353	9188	
18B Jennings, Loren (DFL)	537	0518		3B Solberg, Loren (DFL)	445	2365	
48B Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)	539	5510		28B Sviggum, Steven A. (IR)	267	2273	
4A Johnson, Bob (DFL)	551	5516		51B Swenson, Doug (IR)	255	4124	
32B Johnson, Virgil J. (IR)	207	1069		23B Swenson, Howard (IR)	331	8634	
59B Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	367	4257		43B Sykora, Barbara (IR)	357	4315	
26B Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	543	4240		5B Tomassoni, David (DFL)	593	0172	
44A Kelley, Steve (DFL)	417	3964		36A Tompkins, Eileen (IR)	245	5506	
35B Kelso, Becky (DFL)	415	1072		67B Trimble, Steve (DFL)	491	4201	
4B Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony" (DFL)	453	2451		25A Tuma, John (IR)	301	4229	
40B Knight, Kevin (IR)	307	4218		1A Tunheim, Jim (DFL)	509	9635	
16B Knoblach, Jim (IR)	215	6316		34B Van Dellen, H. Todd (IR)	291	5511	
17A Koppendrayar, LeRoy (IR)	389	6746		15A Van Engen, Tom (IR)	359	6206	
27A Kraus, Ron (IR)	279	8216		23A Vickerman, Barb (IR)	211	9303	
53A Krinkie, Phil (IR)	303	2907		63A Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	439	4200	
56B Larsen, Peg (IR)	311	4244		49A Weaver, Charlie (IR)	261	1729	
27B Leighton Jr., Robert (DFL)	527	4193		61B Wejcman, Linda (DFL)	431	7152	
45B Leppik, Peggy (IR)	393	7026		12B Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	487	4247	
2A Lieder, Bernie (DFL)	515	5091		22A Winter, Ted (DFL)	407	5505	
33B Limmer, Warren (IR)	351	5502		41B Wolf, Ken (IR)	317	5185	
33A Lindner, Arlon (IR)	227	7806		28A Worke, Gary D. (IR)	229	5368	
60A Long, Dee (DFL)	591	0171		43A Workman, Tom (IR)	337	5066	

Note: Room numbers are still subject to change.

\*All rooms are in the State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155



# Minnesota Senate 1995-96

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-
66 Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)	G-27 Cap.	5537	54 Marty, John (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5645
26 Beckman, Tracy L. (DFL)	301 Cap.	5713	33 Special election to be held†		
41 Belanger, William V., Jr. (IR)	113 SOB	5975	49 Merriam, Gene (DFL)	122 Cap.	4154
13 Berg, Charles A. (DFL)	328 Cap.	5094	39 Metzen, James P. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4370
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	4261	2 Moe, Roger D. (DFL)	208 Cap.	2577
14 Bertram Sr., Joe (DFL)	323 Cap.	2084	44 Mondale, Ted A. (DFL)	309 Cap.	7-8065
48 Betzold, Don (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	2556	32 Morse, Steven (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5649
55 Chandler, Kevin M. (DFL)	111 Cap.	9307	29 Murphy, Steve L. (DFL)	226 Cap.	4264
8 Chmielewski, Florian W. (DFL)	325 Cap.	4182	25 Neuville, Thomas M. (IR)	123 SOB	1279
64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	5931	52 Novak, Steven G. (DFL)	322 Cap.	4334
28 Day, Dick (IR)	105 SOB	9457	43 Oliver, Edward C. (IR)	121 SOB	4837
20 Dille, Steve (IR)	103 SOB	4131	34 Olson, Gen (IR)	119 SOB	1282
4 Finn, Harold R. "Skip" (DFL)	306 Cap.	6128	19 Ourada, Mark (IR)	145 SOB	5981
62 Flynn, Carol (DFL)	G-29 Cap.	4274	65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	G-27 Cap.	1802
23 Frederickson, Dennis R. (IR)	139 SOB	8138	37 Pariseau, Pat (IR)	109 SOB	5252
50 Hanson, Paula E. (DFL)	328 Cap.	3219	27 Piper, Pat (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	9248
24 Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	G-29 Cap.	6153	59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809
5 Janezich, Jerry R. (DFL)	328 Cap.	8017	57 Price, Leonard R. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7-8060
15 Johnson, Dean E. (IR)	147 SOB	3826	63 Ranum, Jane B. (DFL)	325 Cap.	7-8061
6 Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL)	205 Cap.	8881	46 Reichgott Junge, Ember D. (DFL)	205 Cap.	2889
18 Johnson, Janet B. (DFL)	322 Cap.	5419	40 Riveness, Phil J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	7-8062
35 Johnston, Terry D. (IR)	117 SOB	4123	45 Robertson, Martha R. (IR)	125 SOB	4314
67 Kelly, Randy C. (DFL)	122 Cap.	5285	53 Runbeck, Linda (IR)	107 SOB	1253
30 Kiscaden, Sheila M. (IR)	143 SOB	4848	11 Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	7-8063
16 Kleis, David (IR)	151 SOB	6455	12 Samuelson, Don (DFL)	124 Cap.	4875
36 Knutson, David L. (IR)	133 SOB	4120	31 Scheevel, Kenric J. (IR)	129 SOB	3903
47 Kramer, Don (IR)	131 SOB	8869	7 Solon, Sam G. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188
51 Krentz, Jane (DFL)	235 Cap.	7061	60 Spear, Allan H. (DFL)	G-27 Cap.	4191
58 Kroening, Carl W. (DFL)	124 Cap.	4302	17 Stevens, Dan (IR)	127 SOB	8075
56 Laidig, Gary W. (IR)	141 SOB	4351	1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	3205	42 Terwilliger, Roy W. (IR)	115 SOB	6238
10 Larson, Cal (IR)	153 SOB	5655	22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650
21 Lesewski, Arlene J. (IR)	135 SOB	4125	38 Wiener, Deanna (DFL)	303 Cap.	7-8073
3 Lessard, Bob (DFL)	111 Cap.	4136			

\*Capitol or State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

## Minnesota House and Senate Membership

<b>1</b> A • Jim Tunheim-DFL B • Tim Finseth-IR Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-DFL	<b>15</b> A • Tom Van Engen B • Roger Cooper-DFL Sen. Dean E. Johnson-IR	<b>29</b> A • Jerry Dempsey-IR B • Mike Oskopp-IR Sen. Steve L. Murphy-DFL	<b>43</b> A • Tom Workman-IR B • Barbara Sykora-IR Sen. Edward C. Oliver-IR	<b>57</b> A • Walter E. Perl-DFL B • Sharon Marko-DFL Sen. Leonard R. Price-DFL
<b>2</b> A • Bernie Lieder-DFL B • Edgar Olson-DFL Sen. Roger D. Moe-DFL	<b>16</b> A • Joe Opatz-DFL B • Jim Knoblich-IR Sen. David Kleis-IR	<b>30</b> A • Fran Bradley-IR B • Dave Bishop-IR Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-IR	<b>44</b> A • Steve Kelley-DFL B • Jim Rhodes-IR Sen. Ted A. Mondale-DFL	<b>58</b> A • James I. Rice-DFL B • Richard H. Jefferson-DFL Sen. Carl W. Kroening-DFL
<b>3</b> A • Irv Anderson-DFL B • Loren Solberg-DFL Sen. Bob Lessard-DFL	<b>17</b> A • LeRoy Koppendrayner-IR B • Leslie Schumacher-DFL Sen. Dan Stevens-IR	<b>31</b> A • Don L. Frerichs-IR B • Gregory M. Davids-IR Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel-IR	<b>45</b> A • Ron Abrams-IR B • Peggy Leppik-IR Sen. Martha R. Robertson-IR	<b>59</b> A • John J. Sama-DFL B • Phyllis Kahn-DFL Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-DFL
<b>4</b> A • Bob Johnson-DFL B • Anthony G. "Tony" Kinkel-DFL Sen. Harold R. "Skip" Finn-DFL	<b>18</b> A • Jim Rostberg-IR B • Loren Jennings-DFL Sen. Janet B. Johnson-DFL	<b>32</b> A • Gene Pelowski Jr.-DFL B • Virgil J. Johnson-IR Sen. Steven Morse-DFL	<b>46</b> A • Ann H. Rest-DFL B • Lyndon R. Carlson-DFL Sen. Ember D. Reichgott Junge-DFL	<b>60</b> A • Dee Long-DFL B • Myron Orfield-DFL Sen. Allan H. Spear-DFL
<b>5</b> A • Tom Rukavina-DFL B • David Tomassoni-DFL Sen. Jerry R. Janezich-DFL	<b>19</b> A • Mark Olson-IR B • Bruce Anderson-IR Sen. Mark Ourada-IR	<b>33</b> A • Arlon Lindner-IR B • Warren Limmer-IR Sen.	<b>47</b> A • Darlene Luther-DFL B • Phil Carruthers-DFL Sen. Don Kramer-IR	<b>61</b> A • Karen Clark-DFL B • Linda Wejoman-DFL Sen. Linda Berglin-DFL
<b>6</b> A • Thomas Bakke-DFL B • Thomas Huntley-DFL Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-DFL	<b>20</b> A • Robert Ness-IR B • Tony Onnen-IR Sen. Steve Dille-IR	<b>34</b> A • Steven Smith-IR B • H. Todd Van Dellen-IR Sen. Gen Olson-IR	<b>48</b> A • Bill Haas-IR B • Alice M. Johnson-DFL Sen. Don Betzold-DFL	<b>62</b> A • Lee Greenfield-DFL B • Wesley J. "Wes" Skoglund-DFL Sen. Carol Flynn-DFL
<b>7</b> A • Willard Munger-DFL B • Mike Jaros-DFL Sen. Sam G. Solon-DFL	<b>21</b> A • Jim Girard-IR B • Richard Mulder-IR Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski-IR	<b>35</b> A • Carol Molnau-IR B • Becky Kelso-DFL Sen. Terry D. Johnston-IR	<b>49</b> A • Charlie Weaver-IR B • Joel Jacobs-DFL Sen. Gene Merriam-DFL	<b>63</b> A • Jean Wagenius-DFL B • Edwina Garcia-DFL Sen. Jane B. Ranum-DFL
<b>8</b> A • Mary Murphy-DFL B • Becky Lourey-DFL Sen. Florian W. Chmielewski-DFL	<b>22</b> A • Ted Winter-DFL B • Elaine Harder-IR Sen. Jim Vickerman-DFL	<b>36</b> A • Eileen Tompkins-IR B • Dan McElroy-IR Sen. David L. Knutson-IR	<b>50</b> A • Tom Hackbarth-IR B • Teresa Lynch-IR Sen. Paula E. Hanson-DFL	<b>64</b> A • Matt Entenza-DFL B • Howard Orenstein-DFL Sen. Richard J. Cohen-DFL
<b>9</b> A • Kevin Goodno-IR B • Marvin Dauner-DFL Sen. Keith Langseth-DFL	<b>23</b> A • Barb Vickerman-IR B • Howard Swenson-IR Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-IR	<b>37</b> A • Dennis Ozment-IR B • Bill Macklin-IR Sen. Pat Pariseau-IR	<b>51</b> A • Mike Delmont-DFL B • Doug Swenson-IR Sen. Jane Krentz-DFL	<b>65</b> A • Andy Dawkins-DFL B • Carlos Mariani-DFL Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-DFL
<b>10</b> A • Bob Anderson-DFL B • Hilda Bettermann-IR Sen. Cal Larson-IR	<b>24</b> A • John Dorn-DFL B • Don Ostrom-DFL Sen. John C. Hottinger-DFL	<b>38</b> A • Tim Commers-IR B • Tim Pawlenty-IR Sen. Deanna Wiener-DFL	<b>52</b> A • Wayne Simoneau-DFL B • Richard Pellow-IR Sen. Steven G. Novak-DFL	<b>66</b> A • Tom Osthoff-DFL B • Alice Hausman-DFL Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-DFL
<b>11</b> A • Roxann Daggett-IR B • Ken Oltremba-DFL Sen. Dallas C. Sams-DFL	<b>25</b> A • John Tuma-IR B • Lynda Boudreau-IR Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-IR	<b>39</b> A • Thomas Pugh-DFL B • Bob Milbert-DFL Sen. James P. Metzen-DFL	<b>53</b> A • Phil Krinkie-IR B • Sherry Broecker-IR Sen. Linda Runbeck-IR	<b>67</b> A • Jim Farrell-DFL B • Steve Trimble-DFL Sen. Randy C. Kelly-DFL
<b>12</b> A • Kris Hasskamp-DFL B • Stephen G. Wenzel-DFL Sen. Don Samuelson-DFL	<b>26</b> A • Gene Hugoson-IR B • Henry J. Kalis-DFL Sen. Tracy L. Beckman-DFL	<b>40</b> A • Mark P. Mahon-DFL B • Kevin Knight-IR Sen. Phil J. Riveness-DFL	<b>54</b> A • Mary Jo McGuire-DFL B • Mindy Greiling-DFL Sen. John Marty-DFL	
<b>13</b> A • Chuck Brown-DFL B • Doug Peterson-DFL Sen. Charles A. Berg-DFL	<b>27</b> A • Ron Kraus-IR B • Robert Leighton Jr.-DFL Sen. Pat Piper-DFL	<b>41</b> A • Alice Seagren-IR B • Ken Wolf-IR Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-IR	<b>55</b> A • Harry Mares-IR B • Betty McCollum-DFL Sen. Kevin M. Chandler-DFL	
<b>14</b> A • Steve Dehler-IR B • Jeff Bertram-DFL Sen. Joe Bertram Sr.-DFL	<b>28</b> A • Gary D. Worke-IR B • Steven A. Sviggum-IR Sen. Dick Day-IR	<b>42</b> A • Ron Erhardt-IR B • Erik Paulsen-IR Sen. Roy W. Terwilliger-IR	<b>56</b> A • Mark Holsten-IR B • Peg Larsen-IR Sen. Gary W. Laidig-IR	

†—Special election for District 33 Senate seat will be held February 2, 1995. The primary election will be on January 19, 1995.

Unofficial list as of January 5, 1995



Hundreds of fairgoers visited the House and Senate exhibits each day of the 1994 Minnesota State Fair.

From lighthouses to potty parity. . .

## Citizens chat with House members at 1994 State Fair

A total of 45 House members volunteered to greet the public and answer questions in the House booth at the 1994 Minnesota State Fair.

The House exhibit in the Education Building attracted hundreds of fairgoers daily between Aug. 25 and Labor Day, Sept. 5.

Visitors were able to chat with members or try their hand at several computer games. The quizzes tested knowledge of laws passed by the 1994 Legislature, the origins of Minnesota's 87 county names, and obscure historical tidbits from Minnesota's past. (Did you know Ignatius Donnelly, a flamboyant Minnesota politician from the late 1800s, authored a book which argued that the lost City of Atlantis really existed?)

This marked the third consecutive year that the House and Senate operated their fair booths side by side. The arrangement allowed for greater cooperation and shared services between the two legislative bodies.

More than 120 fairgoers on the House side took advantage of the option to leave written messages for their legislators.

Most comments centered on health and human services concerns followed by those on government issues such as limiting terms and reducing the size of the Legislature.

Education and crime areas tied for third place. Education comments included: "We need more mandated services for gifted and talented students in Minnesota" and "Only people with kids should pay for their education." Crime issues centered on gun control,

the death penalty, and tougher sentencing.

Nine respondents advocated reducing taxes. A few were concerned about transportation: "We would like to find out what the speed limit really is!" An environmentalist wrote: "Split Rock Lighthouse needs to have trees, etc. trimmed to see the lighthouse. Thanx."

Other suggestions ranged from "Let's get rid of all gambling in Minnesota" to potty parity. "Look around this fair," one wrote. "Women stand in LONG LINES to use the bathrooms. Men do not. No real reason why three times the bathrooms could not be made available. It is a women's rights issue (and the

building contractors of Minnesota would thank you, too)."

The annual unofficial public opinion poll, prepared jointly by the House and Senate, was again popular with visitors. Roughly 8,000 fairgoers registered an opinion on taxes, gambling, welfare, health care, and other issues addressed by the poll.

According to the poll results, a majority of Minnesotans are satisfied with their health care coverage and most don't support off-track betting on horses. (See complete results on next page.)



Visitors were able to take computer quizzes that tested their knowledge of laws passed by the 1994 Legislature, the origins of Minnesota's 87 county names, and other governmental topics.



# Results of 1994 unofficial public opinion poll

1. Which statement best reflects your personal opinion regarding your own health care coverage?

I am very satisfied: 3,909 ..... 47.6%  
I am somewhat satisfied: 2,858 ..... 34.8%  
I am not satisfied: 998 ..... 12.1%  
Currently, I do not have health care coverage: 451 ..... 5.5%

2. Prior to 1973 the Legislature met every other year. Since then the Legislature has met every year. Should the constitution be changed so that the Legislature meets only once every two years? (Special sessions could still be called as needed.)

Yes: 3,704 ..... 44.9%  
No: 3,566 ..... 43.2%  
Undecided: 980 ..... 11.9%

3. Should the state provide financial assistance to a son or daughter who cares for an elderly parent in their own home?

Yes: 4,575 ..... 55.5%  
No: 2,185 ..... 26.5%  
Undecided: 1,489 ..... 18.0%

4. Do you think unmarried minor parents (those under age 18) should be required to live at home with their own parents, or in another type of supervised setting, in order to receive AFDC benefits?

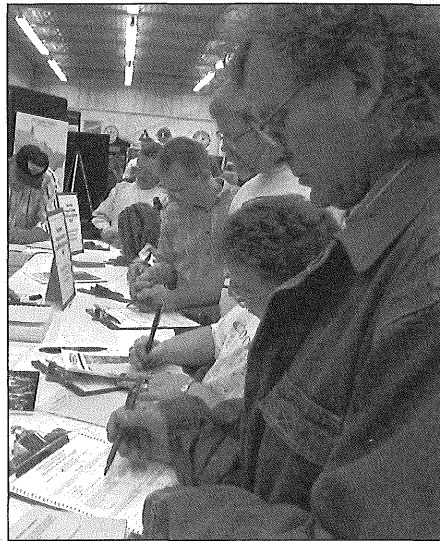
Yes: 5,687 ..... 69.4%  
No: 1,684 ..... 20.5%  
Undecided: 829 ..... 10.1%

5. Should the state take an active role in preventing professional athletic teams from leaving Minnesota?

Yes, if the cost to taxpayers is minimal: 2,639 ..... 31.7%  
Yes, regardless of the cost to taxpayers: 220 ..... 2.6%  
No: 5,076 ..... 60.9%  
Undecided: 397 ..... 4.8%

6. Do you support the compromise agreement reached by the Legislature allowing NSP to store up to 17 dry casks of spent nuclear fuel at the Prairie Island nuclear facility?

Yes: 3,692 ..... 44.5%  
No: 3,387 ..... 40.9%  
Undecided: 1,209 ..... 14.6%



Over 8,000 visitors completed the unofficial opinion poll designed jointly by the House and Senate.

7. Should the Twin Cities metropolitan area have more restrictive gun control laws than the rest of Minnesota?

Yes: 3,915 ..... 47.2%  
No: 4,013 ..... 48.4%  
Undecided: 368 ..... 4.4%

8. Would you support public funding of a community-based pregnancy prevention program based on sexual abstinence that is targeted at 12- through 14-year-olds?

Yes: 5,673 ..... 68.7%  
No: 1,879 ..... 22.8%  
Undecided: 702 ..... 8.5%

9. If Minnesota voters approve off-track betting for horse racing this November, would you favor:

Allowing any licensed bar or service club to have a betting booth: 1,431 ..... 17.7%  
Six or fewer large betting parlors across the state: 918 ..... 11.3%  
Regardless of what occurs, I don't support off-track betting: 4,740 ..... 58.6%  
Undecided: 1,000 ..... 12.4%

10. To reduce reliance on local property taxes for the funding of Minnesota's K-12 public schools, which of the following best reflects your sentiments?

Income taxes should be increased: 1,128 ..... 14.2%  
Sales taxes should be increased: 1,370 ..... 17.3%  
Both income and sales taxes should be increased: 1,010 ..... 12.8%  
No, don't change the way schools are financed: 2,773 ..... 35.0%  
Undecided: 1,635 ..... 20.7%

11. Do you drink milk which may come from a cow injected with an FDA-approved growth hormone (BGH) designed to increase milk production?

Yes, the use of BGH doesn't bother me: 2,272 ..... 28.1%  
No, I refuse to drink milk from cows injected with BGH: 2,279 ..... 28.2%  
I don't know if my milk might contain BGH: 3,086 ..... 38.1%  
Undecided: 457 ..... 5.6%

## 1994 House members who volunteered at the House booth:

Marc Asch (DFL-North Oaks)  
Brian Bergson (DFL-Osseo)  
Jeff Bertram (DFL-Paynesville)  
Hilda Bettermann (IR-Brandon)  
Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center)  
Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island)  
Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul)  
Steve Dehler (IR-St. Joseph)  
Jerry Dempsey (IR-Hastings)  
John Dorn (DFL-Mankato)  
Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton)  
Don Frerichs (IR-Rochester)  
Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls)  
Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville)  
Bob Haukoos (IR-Albert Lea)  
Gene Hugoson (IR-Granada)  
Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park)  
Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls)  
Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters)  
Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins)  
Stephanie Klinzing (DFL-Elk River)  
Rick Krueger (DFL-Staples)  
Harold Lasley (DFL-Cambridge)

Peggy Leppik (IR-Golden Valley)  
Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington)  
Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights)  
Carol Molnau (IR-Chaska)  
Connie Morrison (IR-Burnsville)  
Darrel Mosel (DFL-Gaylord)  
Pam Neary (DFL-Afton)  
Bob Ness (IR-Dassel)  
Mark Olson (IR-Big Lake)  
Dennis Ozment (IR-Rosemount)  
Walter Perl (DFL-Woodbury)  
Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul)  
Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope)  
Jim Rhodes (IR-St. Louis Park)  
Alice Seagren (IR-Bloomington)  
Kathleen Sekhon (DFL-Burns Township)  
Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley)  
Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey)  
Doug Swenson (IR-Forest Lake)  
Barb Vickerman (IR-Redwood Falls)  
Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls)  
Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda)

# 1995-96 House Standing Committee Schedule

## Committee

Chair ..... Phone  
Meeting Day ..... Room ..... Time  
(All rooms are in the State Office Building.)

## Agriculture

Wenzel ..... 296-4247  
Mon. .... 200 ..... 10 a.m.

## Capital Investment

Kalis ..... 296-4240  
Tues., Thurs. .... 500N .... 12:30 p.m.

## Claims

Olson, E. .... 296-4265  
Meets at the call of the chair

## Commerce & Consumer Affairs

Sarna ..... 296-4219  
Tues., Thurs. .... 10 ..... 12:30 p.m.

## Business Regulation Division

Jennings ..... 296-0518  
Mon., Wed. .... 500N .... 12:30 p.m.

## Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance

Rice ..... 296-4262  
Mon., Wed., Thurs. .. 300N ..... 8 a.m.

## Transportation Finance Division

Lieder ..... 296-5091  
Tues., Fri. .... 10 ..... 8 a.m.

## Education

Carlson ..... 296-4255  
Tues., Thurs. .... 200 ..... 8 a.m.

## K-12 Education Finance Division

Johnson, A. .... 296-5510  
Mon., Wed., Fri. .... 500N ..... 8 a.m.

## Higher Education Finance Division

Kinkel ..... 296-2451  
Mon., Wed., Fri. .... 300S ..... 8 a.m.

## University of Minnesota Finance Division

Kelso ..... 296-1072  
Mon., Wed., Fri. .... 400N ..... 8 a.m.

## Environment & Natural Resources

Munger ..... 296-4282  
Wed., Fri. .... 200 ..... 10 a.m.

## Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Brown ..... 296-4929  
Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.  
Bsmnt. Hrg. Rm. .... 8 a.m.

## Ethics

Olson, E. .... 296-4265  
Meets at the call of the chair

## Financial Institutions & Insurance

Simoneau ..... 296-4331  
Wed. .... 10 ..... 10 a.m.

## General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Osthoff ..... 296-4224  
Mon. .... 300N .... 12:30 p.m.

## Elections Division

Jefferson ..... 296-8659  
Thurs. .... 300N .... 12:30 p.m.

## Governmental Operations

Kahn ..... 296-4257  
Tues., Thurs. .... Bsmnt. Hrg. Rm. ... 10 a.m.

## Gambling Division

Dorn ..... 296-3248  
Fri. .... 500N ..... 10 a.m.

## State Government Finance Division

Rukavina ..... 296-0170  
Mon., Wed. .... 300N ..... 10 a.m.

## Health & Human Services

Anderson, Bob ..... 296-4946  
Tues., Thurs. .... 10 ..... 10 a.m.

## Health & Human Services Finance Division

Greenfield ..... 296-0173  
Mon., Wed. .... 10 ..... 8 a.m.  
Fri. .... 400S ..... 8 a.m.

## MinnesotaCare Finance Division

Cooper ..... 296-4346  
Tues., Thurs. .... 300S ..... 8 a.m.

## Housing

Clark ..... 296-0294  
Mon. .... 500S .... 12:30 p.m.

## International Trade & Tourism

Jaros ..... 296-4246  
Wed. .... 500S .... 12:30 p.m.

## Judiciary

Skoglund ..... 296-4330  
Mon., Wed. .... Bsmnt. Hrg. Rm. .... 10 a.m.

## Judiciary Finance

Murphy ..... 296-2676  
Tues., Thurs. .... 500N ..... 8 a.m.

## Labor-Management Relations

Johnson, B. .... 296-5516  
Mon. .... 200 ..... 12:30 p.m.

## Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Long ..... 296-0171  
Tues., Thurs. .... 200 ..... 12:30 p.m.

## Regulated Industries & Energy

Jacobs ..... 296-4231  
Mon. .... 10 ..... 10 a.m.

## Rules & Legislative Administration

Carruthers ..... 296-3709  
Meets at the call of the chair

## Taxes

Rest ..... 296-4176  
Tues., Thurs. .... 200 ..... 10 a.m.  
Fri. .... 200 ..... 8 a.m.

## Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing Division

Winter ..... 296-5505  
Mon., Wed. .... 200 or 500S .. 8 a.m.

## Sales & Income Tax Division

Milbert ..... 296-4192  
Mon., Wed. .... 500S or 200 .. 8 a.m.

## Transportation & Transit

Tunheim ..... 296-9635  
Wed. .... 10 ..... 12:30 p.m.  
Fri. .... 10 ..... 10 a.m.

## Ways & Means

Solberg ..... 296-2365  
Meets at the call of the chair

## Government Efficiency & Oversight Division

Orenstein ..... 296-4199  
Meets at the call of the chair



# House Standing Committee Schedule 1995-96

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

8 a.m.

10 a.m.

12:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m.

<b>Econ Dev, Inf &amp; Reg Fin</b> 300N <b>Envir &amp; Nat Res Fin</b> Bsmt K-12 Ed Fin Div 500N Higher Ed Fin Div 300S Health & Human Services Fin Div 10 U of M Fin Div 400N Tax Div 200 Tax Div 500S	Transportaion Fin Div 10 <b>Education</b> 200 <b>Env &amp; Nat Res Fin</b> Bsmt MN Care Fin Div 300S <b>Judiciary Fin</b> 500N	<b>Econ Dev, Inf &amp; Reg Fin</b> 300N <b>Env &amp; Nat Res Fin</b> Bsmt K-12 Ed Fin Div 500N Higher Ed Fin Div 300S Health & Human Services Fin Div 10 U of M Fin Div 400N Tax Div 200 Tax Div 500S	<b>Econ Dev, Inf &amp; Reg Fin</b> 300N <b>Education</b> 200 <b>Env &amp; Nat Res Fin</b> Bsmt MN Care Fin Div 300S <b>Judiciary Fin</b> 500N	K-12 Ed Fin Div 500N Higher Ed Fin Div 300S U of M Fin Div 400N Health & Human Services Fin Div 400S <b>Taxes</b> 200 Transportation Fin Div 10
<b>Agriculture</b> 200 <b>Judiciary</b> Bsmt <b>Reg Ind &amp; Energy</b> 10 State Gov Fin Div 300N	<b>Gov Op</b> Bsmt <b>Health &amp; Human Serv</b> 10 <b>Taxes</b> 200	<b>Financial Inst &amp; Ins</b> 10 <b>Judiciary</b> Bsmt State Gov Fin Div 300N <b>Environment &amp; Nat Res</b> 200	<b>Gov Op</b> Bsmt <b>Health &amp; Human Serv</b> 10 <b>Taxes</b> 200	<b>Trans &amp; Transit</b> 10 <b>Gambling Div</b> 500N <b>Environment &amp; Nat Res</b> 200
<b>Housing</b> 500S <b>Labor-Management Rel</b> 200 <b>General Leg, Vets &amp; Elec</b> 300N Business Reg Div 500N	<b>Capital Investment</b> 500N <b>Commerce &amp; Consumer Aff</b> 10 <b>Local Gov't &amp; Metro Affairs</b> 200	Int'l Trade & Tourism 500S <b>Trans &amp; Transit</b> 10 Business Reg Div 500N	<b>Capital Investment</b> 500N <b>Commerce &amp; Consumer Aff</b> 10 <b>Local Gov't &amp; Metro Affairs</b> 200 Elections Div 300N	
HOUSE IN SESSION			HOUSE IN SESSION	

Full committees appear in bold type.

Claims, Ways and Means, Government Efficiency & Oversight Division, Rules and Legislative Administration, and Ethics meet at the call of the chair.

Draft as of 1/6/95

# Bill Introductions

HF1-HF20

## Thursday, Jan. 5

**HF1—Anderson, R. (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Welfare provisions reformed and modified, and money appropriated.

**HF2—Johnson, A. (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**

Motor vehicle emission inspection requirements and fees modified.

**HF3—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

DWI electronic alcohol monitoring test pilot program established, and money appropriated.

**HF4—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
St. Louis County required to establish a polling place in Makinen.

**HF5—Anderson, R. (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Welfare reform provisions modified, and money appropriated.

**HF6—Anderson, B. (IR)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Betty Adkins bridge designated in Elk River on trunk highway Nos. 101 and 169 connecting Wright and Sherburne counties.

**HF7—Pawlenty (IR)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Term limits imposed on legislative, constitutional, and congressional offices, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF8—Onnen (IR)**  
**Taxes**

Fire truck collector vehicles allowed in lieu tax qualification.

**HF9—Pawlenty (IR)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Legislature to meet only in odd-numbered years, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF10—Lynch (IR)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Federal government memorialized to conform to the limits expressed by the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

**HF11—Paulsen (IR)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Initiative and referendum implementation act adopted, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF12—Sviggum (IR)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Term limits imposed on legislative, constitutional, county, and other local offices, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF13—Anderson, B. (IR)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Appropriations not to exceed growth in state's personal income, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF14—Jaros (DFL)**  
**International Trade & Tourism**  
Taiwan; United Nations urged to admit Republic of China on Taiwan as a full member.

**HF15—Goodno (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Human services public assistance eligibility provisions modified, programs detailed and established, and money appropriated.

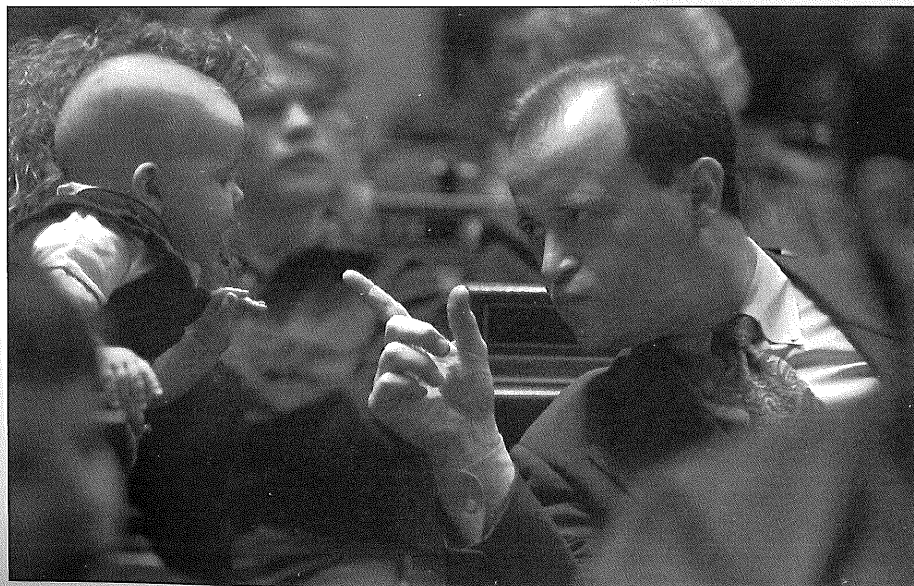
**HF16—Knight (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Motor vehicle emission control equipment inspection program abolished.

**HF17—Mares (IR)**  
**Education**  
School district noncompliance with unfunded state program mandates authorized.

**HF18—Bettermann (IR)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

**HF19—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Armor-penetrating polymer ammunition importation, sale, possession, and manufacture banned.

**HF20—Kraus (IR)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Compensation Council public official salary recommendations effective only upon enactment into law.



Six-month-old Samuel Weaver, son of Rep. Charlie Weaver, was humored by Rep. Warren Limmer in the House chamber Jan. 3.



Opening day is often a family affair for legislators. Rep. Jim Farrell is joined Jan. 3 by daughter Tessa, left. Rep. Howard Orenstein helps feed son Walker, while his wife, Barbara Frey, holds son Ross.



Coming Up Next Week . . . January 9 - 13, 1995

# Committee Schedule

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

## MONDAY, Jan. 9

8 a.m.

### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Overview and discussion of appropriation caps.

8:30 a.m.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Introduction of senior members of the Department of Human Services.

### MinnesotaCare Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** Overview of MinnesotaCare programs.

10 a.m.

### JUDICIARY

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

**Agenda:** Presentation on criminal justice expenditures by Dan Storkamp, Minnesota Criminal Justice Center, Minnesota Planning.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

**Agenda:** Overview of state regulation of public utilities: Department of Public Services, Kris Sanda, commissioner; Public Utilities Commission, Don Storm, commissioner. Office of the Attorney General, Residential Utilities Division, Eric Swanson, assistant attorney general; Department of Administration, Jim Beutelspacher, E 911 product manager.

12:30 p.m.

### GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

**Agenda:** Presentation from Joan Growe, secretary of state.

### HOUSING

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** Overview of Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Kit Hadley, commissioner. Overview of report on regional housing policy, Lyle Wray and Mary Anderson, Citizens League.

### LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Johnson

**Agenda:** Department overviews.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

After Session

### St. Paul Delegation

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

**Agenda:** Election of new delegation chair.

## TUESDAY, Jan. 10

8 a.m.

### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Overview and discussion of base budget levels.

### Transportation Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** Organizational meeting and overview of the Transportation Regulation Board.

10 a.m.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Review of committee jurisdiction. Presentation on history of gambling in Minnesota, John Williams, House Research.

### TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** The price of government law: Laura King, commissioner of finance; Matt Smith, commissioner of revenue; Bob Cline, director of research, Department of Revenue.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** Organizational meeting. (Advocates and lobbyists who wish to address the committee may contact Tim Adams at 297-1934 by 12 noon on Monday, Jan. 9.)

12:30 p.m.

### COMMERCE & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** Organizational meeting.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## WEDNESDAY, Jan. 11

8 a.m.

### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

400N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** Review committee procedures. Overview and discussion of 1994 Annual Performance Report, Terrence MacTaggart, chancellor, State University System.

### K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Review of K-12 education background information.

### University of Minnesota Finance Division/EDUCATION

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Review committee procedures. General overview, history, and basic funding information regarding the University of Minnesota, Nils Hasselmo, president; Ettore Infante, senior vice president for Academic Affairs and provost; Robert Erickson, senior vice president, and Richard

Pfutzenreuter, associate vice president, Finance and Operations.

8:30 a.m.

### Higher Education Board Candidate Advisory Council

225 Judicial Center  
Chr. Monica Manning

**Agenda:** Response from Gov. Carlson regarding the filling of HEB positions vacated prior to end of term. Subcommittee reports: Recruitment Process; Selection Process; Student Board Member Selection Criteria Liaison. Development of schedule of activities for 1995 recruitment and selection process.

10 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger  
**Agenda:** Organizational meeting.

### JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund  
**Agenda:** Overview of Department of Corrections. Statistical overview of crime in Minnesota by Dan Storkamp, Minnesota Criminal Justice Center, Minnesota Planning.

### State Government Finance Division/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina  
**Agenda:** Finance Division overview.

12:30 p.m.

### TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim  
**Agenda:** Preliminary draft of statewide transportation plan presented by Randall Halvorson, assistant director of transportation research and investment management, Minnesota Department of Transportation. Overview of department and divisions brief of initiatives, new driver licenses, re-engineering of Driver & Vehicle Services, Carolen Bailey, assistant commissioner, Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

## THURSDAY, Jan. 12

8 a.m.

### Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

400N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel  
**Agenda:** Discussion of 1994 Annual Performance Report: Greg Braxton-Brown, chancellor, Community College System; Carole Johnson, chancellor, Technical College System.

### JUDICIARY FINANCE

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy  
**Agenda:** Organizational meeting. Suggestions for committee rules. (Time will be granted to any citizen, representative, state department, government or non-profit agency at any level who anticipate making a request of funds from the Judiciary Finance budget. Self-introductions, statements of purpose and explanations to the committee of probable requests will be taken.)

### K-12 Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson  
**Agenda:** Review of general education formula allowance.

### University of Minnesota Finance Division/EDUCATION

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso  
**Agenda:** Discussion of 1994 Annual Performance Report: Robert Erickson, senior vice president for Finance and Operations; Richard Pfutzenreuter, associate vice president for Finance and Operations; Roger Paschke, associate vice president and treasurer for Finance and Operations.

8:30 a.m.

### MinnesotaCare Division/HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper  
**Agenda:** Overview of MinnesotaCare programs from Department of Human Services MinnesotaCare staff.

9 a.m.

### Governors Advisory Council on Gambling

318 State Capitol

10 a.m.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson  
**Agenda:** HF1 (Anderson, B.) Relating to welfare reform.  
(Anyone wishing to testify must contact Tim Adams at 297-1934 by 12 noon on Wednesday, Jan. 11.)

### TAXES

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest  
**Agenda:** The price of government law: Duane Benson, executive director, Minnesota Business Partnership; Art Rolnick, director of research, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Testimony from Moorhead area residents using interactive technology.

12:30 p.m.

### CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis  
**Agenda:** Orientation for new committee members.

### COMMERCE & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Sarna  
**Agenda:** Presentation from Commissioner Peter Gillette, Department of Trade & Economic Development.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dee Long  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

## FRIDAY, Jan. 13

8 a.m.

### Transportation Finance Division/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder  
**Agenda:** Overview of the Metropolitan Council transit operations.

10 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger  
**Agenda:** Overview of the Department of Natural Resources.

### JUDICIARY

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund  
**Agenda:** Tours of Stillwater and Oak Park Heights Correctional Facilities.

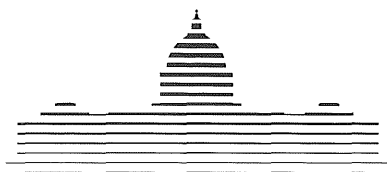
### Regent Candidate Advisory Council

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Tom Renier  
**Agenda:** Discussion and actions prior to applicant screening. Discussion of individual applicants voting for finalists.

### TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim  
**Agenda:** To be announced.





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

Speaker of the House: Irv Anderson  
Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

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Sources: Office of the Secretary of State, Minnesota House Public Information Office.



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95, Jan. 13

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P615

# SESSION WEEKLY

A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ January 13, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 2





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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • January 13, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 2

## Week at a glance

**Primary reform** — The Grove Commission on Electoral Reform wants to hold the primary election earlier in the campaign season with fewer names on the ballot. .... Page 3

**Juvenile court crisis** — Representatives from the Board of Public Defense say the state's juvenile court system will face a crisis come March 1. Why? A new state law entitles some serious juvenile offenders to legal counsel and a jury trial, and there aren't enough public defenders to go around. .... Page 4

**Reinventing performance** — Twenty-one state departments and agencies have completed their mandated performance reports, which lawmakers will use to help them adopt budgets for the next biennium. .... Page 4

**Taxing tobacco** — The Minnesota Health Care Commission wants to add an extra 40 cents to the price of a pack of cigarettes. They say it will reduce the number of Minnesota smokers and help fund the MinnesotaCare program, which is in need of additional funds to meet a 1997 universal coverage goal. .... Page 5

**MinnesotaCare revisited** — Lawmakers got a primer on the MinnesotaCare program, and some lawmakers want to make enrollees pay a little bit more for some of the services they receive. .... Page 5

**Housing injustice** — Current government housing policies contribute to the concentration of poverty in the inner portions of the metropolitan area, according to a Citizens League Report. The organization wants the Legislature to give the Metropolitan Council the authority to develop a regional housing policy. .... Page 6

**Better welfare?** — HF1 would require participants in a new welfare program to spend at least 32 hours per week (for up to eight weeks) searching for a job and, in most cases, teenage parents on welfare would be required to live at home with their parents or a supervising adult. .... Page 6

**Youth in Government** — Nearly 1,100 high schoolers descended upon the State Capitol for a hands-on look at the three branches of state government. .... Page 8

**Mayor Mares** — Former mayor and city council member Harry Mares has come to the House to help reform education policy. Specifically, he wants all unfunded mandates removed from state law. .... Page 16

**Travels with McElroy** — This travel agency management consulting firm owner also travels on the Internet to play bridge. He brings to the House an interest in workers' compensation, affordable housing, and transit issues. .... Page 9

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On the cover: Chuck Knandel, audit team leader for the Office of the State Auditor, climbs the stairs on the west side of the State Capitol following a Jan. 9 snowfall.

— Photo by Laura Phillips



# Highlights

## Electoral reform commission seeks 'system shakeup'

Minnesotans are accustomed to primary elections falling on a Tuesday in September and to lots of names appearing on the primary ballot.

But that ought to change, Secretary of State Joan Growe told the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee Jan. 9.

The Growe Commission on Electoral Reform wants to shorten the political infighting season by moving the primary to August, better control who appears on a primary ballot, and hopefully increase voter participation.

The 18-member commission focused on the primary election — where members of the same political party face off to determine who advances to meet candidates from an opposing party or parties in the November general election.

Primary elections have traditionally had low voter turnout. One faction holds that the political infighting which pits IR against IR or DFLer against DFLer turns voters off.

The Growe commission wants to hold the primary election earlier in the campaign season to give candidates more time to debate issues and voters time to explore the differences between general election candidates.

The commission, in a draft report, recommends that the Legislature pass laws in time for the 1996 state elections that would:

- Move primary election day to sometime during the first two weeks of August, on

either a Tuesday or a Saturday. Rep. Jim Rhodes (IR-St. Louis Park) suggested that Saturday would be a bad day for his constituents, many of whom are Jewish.

- Require major party candidates for state and federal offices to receive at least 20 percent of the vote on any ballot for that office at the party endorsing convention before their name could be placed on a state primary election ballot. If a candidate didn't receive the 20 percent, he or she could still make the ballot by submitting a petition signed by the number of eligible voters equal to 10 percent of persons voting on the nomination for that office at the last state primary.
- Rename the primary election the "party nominating election" so the public would better understand just what a primary election does.
- Produce a voters' guide for the public with information on where and how to vote, the candidates running for office, and constitutional amendments up for public vote. (A similar proposal failed in 1993.)
- Permit corporations to make tax deductible donations to the Office of the Secretary of State to promote voter participation in precinct caucuses and elections on a non-partisan basis.
- Move the date of precinct caucuses to the first weekend in April instead of in March and hold them during daytime hours so more people can participate.

The recommendations partially come out of concern for the decreasing — some would say dismal — number of people participating in Minnesota's grassroots precinct caucuses and district and state nominating conventions. Citizens involved in those processes decide which candidates receive the party endorsement and appear on the ballot.

Growe said she believes if candidates know they must garner 20 percent at the endorsing conventions, they'll encourage people to go to the precinct caucuses to root for them.

She pointed out that the commission is "not locked into anything," and that a June or July primary date might work as well as an August date. "We decided there was something wrong with every single month and every single day." But, she added, "we can't do a whole lot worse than where we're at now," referring to the September primary.

The commission was looking for a way to "shake up the system," Growe said. And during the process, "strengthen political parties." She pointed out that the recommendations do not touch any current laws regarding general elections.

Committee chair Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) and Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) both pointed out that precinct caucuses present a problem because most people have no desire to participate.

"Extreme groups are stacking each precinct," making it difficult for regular folks to offer ideas, Solberg said. "People have been



Voters cast their ballots at Fire Station No. 15 in Northeast Minneapolis during the 1994 general election.

turned off by who is showing up at [precinct caucuses and conventions] and what their agenda is.”

Osthoﬀ suggested that in odd years caucuses could be held to decide each party’s platform, leaving the election year caucuses just to deal with candidate selection.

The Growe commission suggestions are expected to be drafted into a bill and referred to the Elections Division of the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

## Primary election voter turnout

Year	Percentage of eligible voters voting
1950	32.86
1952	35.70
1954	34.22
1956	31.78
1958	31.96
1960	29.33
1962	28.47
1964	20.78
1966	38.28
1968	18.36
1970	31.59
1972	19.22
1974	20.66
1976	20.52
1978	29.35
1980	13.73
1982	30.63
1984	17.65
1986	25.37
1988	9.84
1990	23.94
1992	17.10
1994	26.80

Source: Office of the Secretary of State



## CRIME

### No lawyers for kids

A crisis is rapidly developing in the juvenile courts, say public defenders.

A 1994 law created a new category of young offender, the “extended jurisdiction juvenile.” Fourteen- to 17-year-olds who are repeat offenders or have committed serious crimes are now entitled to legal counsel and a jury trial. If found guilty, they could face adult sanctions — including prison — if they violate the conditions of a juvenile penalty.

A \$2.6 million appropriation to hire more public defenders to address an anticipated increase in juvenile caseloads was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson. Public defenders say this

situation could shut down the juvenile court system.

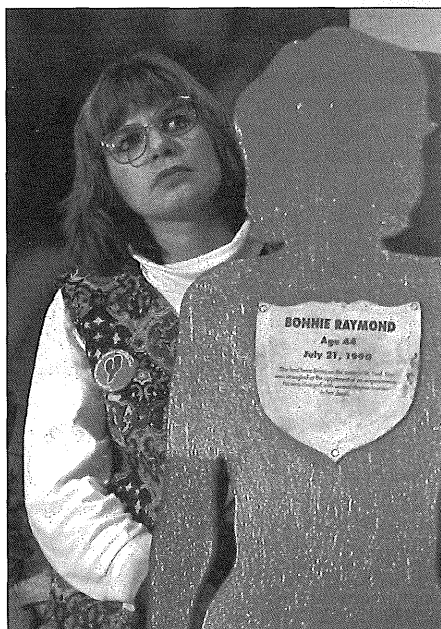
Amid introductions at the first House Judiciary Finance Committee meeting Jan. 12, John Stuart, state public defender, and Richard Scherman, chief administrator of the Board of Public Defense, made an urgent appeal for help.

“We are in very, very serious trouble throughout the state handling public defender cases in the juvenile area,” said Scherman. His agency has met with judges and court administrators and determined that by March 1 a “crisis will begin to occur.”

Stuart said that public defenders have begun doing legal “triage” — providing services to juveniles in detention and ranking other cases on a priority basis. He said the public defenders have been researching the legality of asking courts for continuances and postponements of cases. (Juvenile offenders, by law, are entitled to a jury trial within 30 days after they are arrested.)

Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul), who is on leave as a public defender in Ramsey County, said, “The system will just stop if there are not enough lawyers to defend people.” He explained that adults can often be persuaded to plead guilty to a crime and accept a lesser sentence, but “with juveniles it’s a lot more difficult because they’re scared, and you have parents involved. I can’t imagine what it’s going to be like now, saying, ‘Well, you have the right to a jury trial.’”

Both Farrell and Scherman said that a



Lisa Gaviglio of Brainerd, Minn., watched the 1994 memorial service for victims of domestic violence from behind a silhouette cutout of a woman who was killed in 1990. The rally, held in the Capitol rotunda Jan. 11, was sponsored by the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women.

backlog of cases will soon clog the system. The worst alternative, according to Scherman, is that “we can’t provide the service.” He said that a court could order the Department of Finance to appropriate the vetoed \$2.6 million in order to get the juvenile justice system back in working order.



## GOVERNMENT

### Reinventing performance

After nearly two years of preparation, 21 state departments and agencies are now ready to have their performance reports examined by members of the State Government Finance Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee. A 1993 Minnesota law requires the agencies to file annual performance reports detailing their purpose and goals.

Division members will spend January discussing the documents.

Lawmakers called for the performance reports in hopes of using them for information when passing laws and budgets pertaining to the agencies, said Deputy Legislative Auditor Robert Brooks. He addressed division members Jan. 11.

Lawmakers can look at the documents to find an agency’s goals, plans for how to reach those goals, and statements on how the agency is progressing toward them, Brooks said.

The 21 agencies range from the Minnesota Historical Society to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. At 416 pages, the Department of Human Services issued the longest report, Brooks said. The Office of the Legislative Auditor is currently reviewing the reports to ensure they’re in acceptable form and to tell agencies how they could improve them.

Last year, the division approved a \$250,000 expenditure for the Department of Finance to write a computer program that will help standardize the reports, Brooks said.

The performance reports are available to the public, he added.



## HEALTH

### MinnesotaCare review

Sometimes Minnesota Department of Human Services employees feel like they work at an insurance company, Helen Yates, the agency's assistant commissioner, told members of the MinnesotaCare Finance Division of the House Health and Human Services Committee Jan. 12.

Yates' agency coordinates and administers the complex MinnesotaCare program, which provides state-subsidized health insurance for "the working poor," as she called them.

So agency staff people are left to determine which low-income Minnesotans are eligible for Medical Assistance and General Assistance Medical Care, and which are eligible for MinnesotaCare.

Yates gave division members an overview of the program, which lawmakers will again revisit this year. The MinnesotaCare law has been amended each year since the program began in 1992.

Current law promises universal health coverage for all uninsured Minnesotans by July 1, 1997, but does not provide funding to meet the goal.

Current funding for MinnesotaCare comes from a 2 percent tax on health care providers, hospitals, pharmacies, and wholesale drug distributors which is funneled to a dedicated state fund. Additional revenue will come in January 1996, when health plan companies such as health maintenance organizations and Blue Cross-Blue Shield will begin to pay a 1 percent tax on the premiums they receive.

Program enrollees must have lived in the state at least 180 days and have been uninsured four months before receiving MinnesotaCare. They also have to prove they're not eligible for employer-subsidized insurance, Yates said.

Beginning last October, single people and members of families without children (with incomes less than 125 percent of federal poverty guidelines) became eligible for the program.

Currently, about 75,000 Minnesotans use the program, Yates said. Most enrollees pay a sliding-fee premium based on a percentage of their income. For example, a family of three with a monthly income of \$1,500 would pay a \$57 monthly premium. Co-payments are also charged for certain services.

Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) suggested increasing the number of health services requiring a co-payment.

But sometimes small co-payments, such as \$5, cost more than \$5 to process, said Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), who helped draft the original MinnesotaCare legislation. Low-income people may not even be able to make such a small co-payment, he added.

Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul), said she may support co-payments made on a sliding scale, though many of those co-payments would be small.

"A single person earning \$4.50 per hour isn't even eligible for MinnesotaCare, so people with lower incomes than that would have a hard time paying," she said.

A single person working full-time at such a wage would exceed the income limitation for program eligibility.

### Health care 'freeloaders'

Minnesotans will pay more to smoke their cigarettes, cigars, and pipes if a recommendation of the Minnesota Health Care Commission is adopted.

Increasing the tax on cigarettes by 40 cents per pack — and a comparable tax increase on other tobacco products — would reduce smoking by 10 percent (much more among adolescent smokers), and would pay for expanding MinnesotaCare health coverage, supporters said.

The summary of the commission's MinnesotaCare financing recommendations was presented at a Jan. 11 meeting of the Legislative Commission on Health Care Access.

The financing study suggestions coincided with the release of a report by the state Department of Health that found that health care costs associated with smoking came to \$470 million in 1992. That represents a 32 percent increase from the \$355 million in smokers' medical bills in 1990.

MinnesotaCare, the state's subsidized medical insurance program for low-income workers, calls for all Minnesotans to have some form of health insurance by July 1, 1997.

To help achieve that goal, the study also recommends penalties for some people — primarily young men — who presumably could afford health insurance but choose not to carry it.

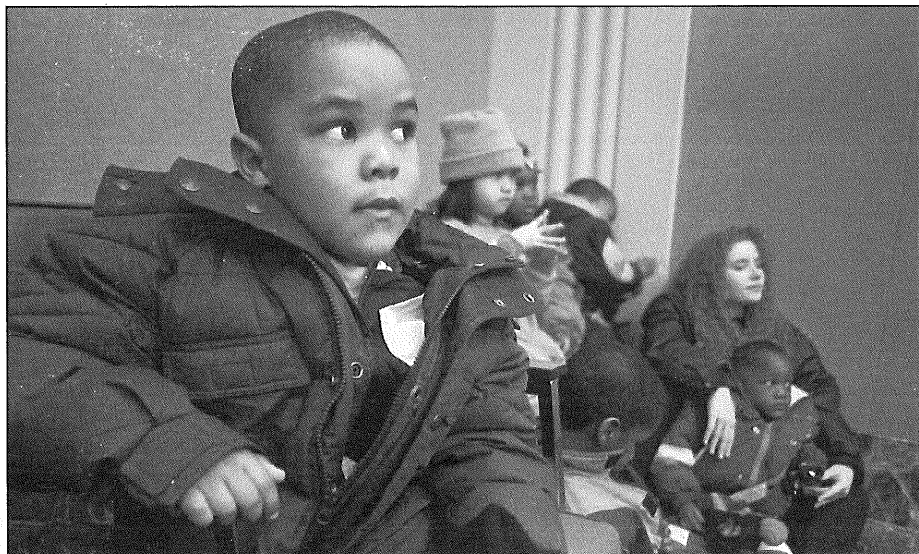
A "freeloader penalty" (\$500 for an individual or \$600 for a couple) is recommended as an incentive to encourage these people to obtain coverage, which would reduce premiums for those who already have health insurance.

Tom Swain, chair of the Minnesota Health Care Commission, said there are about 124,000 people in the state who are "voluntarily uninsured" — those who make more than 275 percent of the federal poverty guideline but choose not to purchase health insurance. People with insurance unwittingly subsidize the "voluntarily uninsured."

Money from the freeloader penalty would go to a community health insurance pool, which would then be used to pay health care providers for the costs of treating uninsured people.

A workable, affordable, state-subsidized health insurance program "boils down to the fact that everyone must be in the system and paying in," said David Haugen, acting interim director of the Minnesota Health Care Commission.

Swain explained that in 1997 people will



Four-year-old Davonte and his classmates from the Pica McKnight Head Start Program attended a press conference sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund Jan. 10. The group was voicing its opposition to cuts in children's programs such as Head Start and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program. Some congressional leaders have called for such cuts.



have to show proof that they have health insurance or face a fine.

While the 1994 MinnesotaCare law promised universal health coverage to all uninsured Minnesotans by July 1, 1997, the financing study recommends extending that deadline by two years.

The 1994 MinnesotaCare law mandated that the Minnesota Health Care Commission examine health care financing and tax systems, and make recommendations to the Legislature for development of a "stable, long-term funding system."



## HOUSING

### Regional housing policy

The Legislature should give the Metropolitan Council the authority for developing a regional housing policy in the metropolitan area, according to a Citizens League report unveiled before the Housing Committee Jan. 9.

Since the Twin Cities housing market spans the metro area, a process should be created by the Metropolitan Council "for devising the regional solutions that are so urgently needed," stated the report.

A precedent for the regional approach is the Metropolitan Land Use Planning Act of 1976, which empowered the Metropolitan Council to draw up a regional growth management strategy. Local units of government were required to devise their own compatible plans.

The report also suggested a number of goals to reduce poverty and to make housing more available across the metro region for low-income people.

Among ways to achieve the housing goal is the recommendation that "income and property tax policies that penalize low-income people and subsidize sprawl should be revised."

In the interest of economic equity, Minnesota should "phase out the preference for homestead property in the property tax code," and state income tax deductions for interest on home mortgages should be capped. The revenue gained from these measures would go to other forms of housing assistance based on financial need. The report urges the state to lobby Washington to likewise reduce tax benefits for home ownership and increase housing subsidies for the poor.

Current government housing policies "contribute to the concentration of poverty in the inner portions of the metropolitan area," according to the report.

Racial discrimination, city development

policies, federal income tax benefits for homeowners, and state property tax policy that "favors homestead property and penalizes rental property" have led to a shortage of affordable housing in the inner city.

"Public policies set the rules of the game," said Mary Anderson of the Citizens League. "The Twin Cities are feeling some of the ill effects of these policies now."

"What happens in Burnsville is related to what happens at Franklin and Chicago [avenues] in Minneapolis."



## HUMAN SERVICES

### Working on welfare

A welfare reform bill that would require some new Minnesota welfare recipients to take part in a tough new jobs program and mandate that all teenage moms on welfare live at home, was heard in the House Health and Human Services Committee Jan. 12.

About 200 people attended the hearing, many of whom objected to what they considered the punitive tone of the bill and its

underlying assumption that people on welfare are lazy.

People "will take initiative when given the opportunity," said K.J. Jakobson of Winona, Minn., a single mother.

Patricia Gradine, a former welfare recipient who went to school and worked her way off public assistance, explained why she needed government help in the first place. She explained how her husband announced he was leaving her as she lay in a hospital bed shortly after giving birth to her second child. Since then she said she has received no child support.

"Make males who walk out responsible," Gradine said.

A major component of HF1 would establish a Work First pilot program. The new program would set out tough penalties, such as losing benefits, if participants don't stick to a contract to search for a job and accept work. The bill does not specify which counties could operate the program.

Only people not receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) or other welfare could participate. They would receive medical assistance, child care assistance, and help in enforcing child support orders.

The new program would require participants to begin a job search within seven days, and require that they spend at least 32 hours per week (for up to eight weeks) searching for a job.

Participants could not refuse any job offer that met their physical or mental abilities so long as the job pays minimum wage and meets government health and safety standards.

After eight weeks searching for a job, individuals who fail to land work (for at least 32 hours per week), or fail to earn a net income equal to their traditional welfare benefits, would be required to work in a public service job for up to four months.

Participants who fail to attend the Work First orientation or fail to develop a job search plan within seven days would be terminated from the program. But it is not clear whether they could still receive other traditional public assistance benefits.

Participants who are terminated from any of the jobs would not be eligible to apply for public assistance for at least six months, under the bill. Individuals who quit a job on the Work First program would immediately be assigned to a temporary public service job.

Rep. Bob Anderson (DFL-Ottertail), sponsor of HF1 and chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee, said the committee's finance division will decide how much money to spend on the programs in his



With sign in hand, and son, Dylan, at foot, Kari Sprung of the Welfare Rights Committee waited outside the hearing room where the House Health and Human Services Committee was meeting Jan. 12 for the opportunity to testify on HF1, a bill calling for welfare reform.

bill. Money is expected to be appropriated to subsidize childcare costs for low- to moderate income families.

Some of the other highlights in the measure would:

- Require all teenage parents on welfare to live at home with their parents or supervising adult, except in special circumstances, such as an abusive home. A waiver of federal rules would be required.
- Allow individuals on Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) to work more than 99 hours per month and remain eligible for public assistance. A waiver of federal rules would be required.
- Request the elimination of other federal rules that some argue discourage welfare recipients from finding work. One waiver request would allow the state to offer an additional year of medical assistance and child care benefits for families working their way off AFDC. Currently, they receive just one year of those benefits. Another waiver request would allow welfare recipients to spend more for an automobile, giving them more reliable transportation to and from work. The bill asks that the limit be raised to \$4,500—up from the current \$1,500 limit.
- Repeal the state's Work Readiness jobs training program and require families on general assistance to participate in a food stamp employment and training program.

- Require several state agencies to work together to design a system that allows welfare recipients who are working to receive their federal and state tax credits in monthly installments instead of in one lump sum at the end of the year. The money could be used to supplement their regular pay checks.
- Require welfare recipients participating in the state STRIDE jobs training program, who also are going to vocational school or college, to work a minimum of 16 hours a week at either a paying job or volunteering with a public or nonprofit agency. They must agree to search for and accept any offer of suitable employment after completing their education or training. Volunteer work includes taking parenting classes. Failure to comply would bring about penalties, such as an individual losing control of their cash benefits. The state could instead issue vouchers specifically tied to rent, utilities, and other payments. In some cases, the benefits could be cut.

Sharon Rolenc, a single mother on welfare taking classes and studying 60-70 hours a week to graduate within four years (before her child care assistance ends), challenged lawmakers to put themselves in her shoes and "see if you could handle an extra 16 hours a week."

- Require welfare recipients participating in the state STRIDE jobs training program and

seeking their high school equivalency, to work at least 16 hours a week in either a paying job or volunteering. "Volunteer work" would include attendance in parenting classes. They also must be in class at least six hours a week and meet attendance and progress requirements as outlined by their caseworker. Failure to comply with these requirements would result in penalties, such as those listed above.

- Expand the Minnesota Family Investment Plan program to Ramsey, Nobles, and Aitkin counties. This public assistance program began in April and is currently a five-year pilot project in seven counties (Hennepin, Anoka, Dakota, Sherburne, Mille Lacs, Todd, and Morrison). The program allows families to accept lower paying jobs while receiving some public assistance. This helps them gain work experience. It also requires the family to sign an agreement on what steps they'll take toward employment and self-sufficiency. If they don't abide by the agreement, they could lose part of their public assistance. Finally, the program eliminates some of the welfare rules that discourage marriage. Eligibility depends on economic factors and income, not on whether a parent is absent or unemployed.

The Health and Human Services Committee will continue hearing public testimony on HF1 Jan. 17.



### House Concurrent Resolution Number

**Two** seemed a fairly innocent two-paragraph measure when it came before the House Jan. 12. But the vote wasn't without lighthearted controversy.

Senators needed House approval to skip their Jan. 19 session. The Senate planned to meet the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of that week, take Thursday off, and not reconvene until the following Monday.

But the Minnesota State Constitution says that each legislative body must agree to the other's intent to adjourn for more than three days, excluding Sundays. The provision keeps lawmakers from packing their bags, heading home, and refusing to negotiate with the other body.

Normally, the Senate meets Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, but senators and representatives plan to gather Wednesday, Jan. 18 to hear the governor's State of the State address. Senators weren't keen on meeting for a

fourth day on Thursday, so the resolution was required.

Just before the House vote on the resolution, Minority Leader Steve Sviggum asked Carruthers what would happen if legislators didn't approve it.



Kris Sanda, commissioner of the Department of Public Service, provided a departmental overview for members of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee Jan. 9.

"We'd have an unhappy and unruly Senate," Carruthers answered, "But perhaps they always are."

By voice vote, legislators granted the Senate's request.

**So who checks to be sure** a full gallon is what you get at your local gas station pump? The Weights and Measures Division of the Department of Public Service, that's who.

Public Service Commissioner Kris Sanda told members of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee Jan. 9 that the division checks the accuracy of each of the state's 34,000 gas pumps.

They also monitor the state's 12,000 retail scales, 225 livestock scales, 3,400 vehicle scales, 110 railroad track scales, and more.

The division's 40 employees issue either a yellow or a red tag to pumps and scales that are out of compliance. Yellow tags give the owner 30 days to fix the faulty equipment; red tags immediately halt the use of the equipment until it can be fixed or replaced to meet department standards.

## Youth in Government

# Students explore complex business of government

Nearly 1,100 high school students came to the Capitol Jan. 5 - 8 to participate in the Youth in Government Program sponsored by the YMCA.

The students gave speeches, crafted legislation, and held debates on the floor of the House, often sounding like the lawmakers who usually occupy the mahogany desks.

The program exposes students to the nuts and bolts operations of all three branches of state government — legislative, judicial, and executive.

By electing legislative officers, attending committee hearings, and drafting and passing bills, the students got a hands-on view to help them better understand the lawmaking process.

They also took part in mock Supreme Court proceedings to learn the nuances of the judicial branch.

Representing each of the state's cabinet-level state agencies helped students develop an understanding of the executive branch.

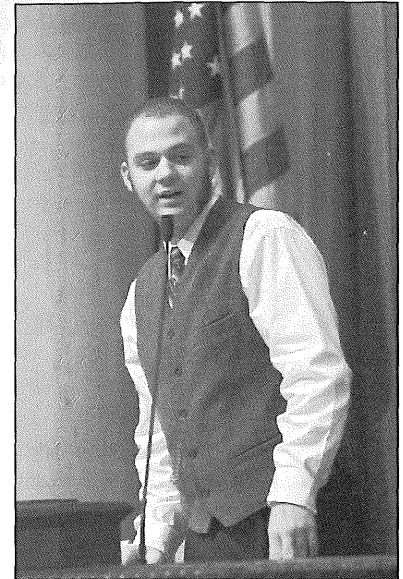
When the Youth in Government Program

first began in Minnesota 49 years ago, it was simply a model legislature and a youth governor was chosen to represent the executive branch. The program, then known as Youth and Government, was held every two years. In 1965, it became an annual event.

A Youth in Law program, begun in 1975, added a model Supreme Court. A year later, the first full Executive Cabinet Program came along. Eventually, the Secretary of State and Attorney General programs were added.

Other programs have since been added to give the program a more "true to life" flavor, including a press corps (both video and newspaper) and a lobbying program.

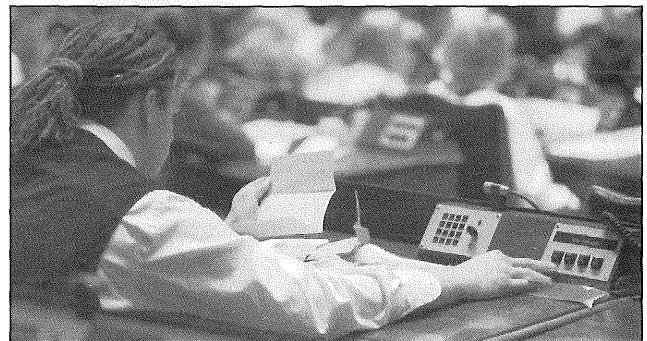
Youth in Government participants also have had the opportunity to participate in model sessions in other states. Alabama, Illinois, Texas and Wisconsin each have received Minnesota students in their programs and, with the exception of Texas, each have sent student delegates to Minnesota.



Youth in Government's House Speaker Jeremy Ross of Hopkins.



Youth in Government Assistant Floor Leader Kelly Ceynowa, Fridley, right, and Molly Sheehan, St. Paul, presented their bill to the House during a Jan. 6 floor session.



Scott Jenkins, Burnsville, casts his vote during a Jan. 6 roll call vote.



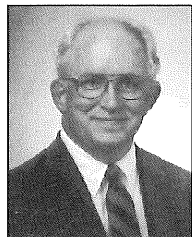
Angie VanHeuveln, Fridley, reacts to an amendment that would change the word "hog" to "dog" during a Youth in Government debate concerning a bill that focused on hog manure.



New members . . .

## McElroy focuses on workers' comp, affordable housing, transportation

He plays bridge on the Internet and considers himself a bleacher bum with his nephews at basketball games. He transformed a three-employee travel business with \$1 million in sales into a business with 85 employees and \$35 million in sales, which he later sold.



Rep. Dan McElroy

Rep. Dan McElroy, a first-term Independent-Republican lawmaker from Burnsville, has a wide array of experiences he plans to bring to the House. The history major from the University of Notre Dame has been the mayor of Burnsville for about eight years and served on the city council before that.

His transition into politics was accidental.

About 14 years ago, the Burnsville city government annoyed some local people when it was about to split its public safety department into separate police and fire departments.

One of those people, McElroy, attended the city council meeting, his first direct experience in Minnesota politics. He was bothered by the way the city administration was pushing through the idea with little public input.

"The process was the problem," he said, not necessarily that some city leaders wanted to split the department.

McElroy, 46, now owns a travel agency management consulting firm and said his business experience helps in the Legislature. "Government is a business owned by its customers."

The difference, he said, is that government doesn't have competition so it also needs to serve a marketplace function and put the brakes on spending and programs people may want but can't afford.

McElroy said he doesn't plan to introduce a lot of his own legislation this year. He said he wants to learn the House system first.

His interests include workers' compensa-

tion, affordable housing, and transit issues.

The administration of workers' compensation is something that can be streamlined without reducing benefits to injured workers. If you cut costs, you can lower the premiums, he said.

He points to the owner of a roofing business in Minnesota paying \$1.09 for every \$1 of payroll for workers' compensation and a roofer in North Carolina paying 20 cents for every \$1 of payroll.

He has served on the governor's council on affordable housing and said he plans to oppose any House bill mandating local governments offer specific levels of affordable housing.

Instead of mandates he prefers local governments offer incentives to encourage developers to build affordable housing in their community.

Regarding transportation, McElroy is concerned about Minnesota's involvement with Light Rail Transit. "Light Rail Transit is not a magic panacea." Buses and carpooling are necessary and LRT must be concentrated in an area where lots of people go to and from the same place to be effective and affordable.

McElroy said he is excited about the legislative session but added: "I liken it to a dog chasing a school bus. What do you do when you catch it? I'm working hard to learn the answer to that."

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

### District 36B

**Population:** 32,679  
**Distribution:** 100 percent urban  
**County:** Dakota  
**Largest city:** Burnsville  
**Location:** southcentral Metro  
**Unemployment rate:** 2.96 percent  
**Residents living below poverty level:** 3.64 percent  
**1992 presidential election results:**  
Bush/Quayle ..... 36.26 percent  
Clinton/Gore ..... 36.88 percent  
Perot/Stockdale ..... 26.13 percent  
Other: ..... 0.73 percent

## It's a fact!

Recent changes in Minnesota's ethics and campaign finance laws have made it clear to the public that state lawmakers are not beholden to special interests.

But few remember that a similar wave of public opinion concerning legislative ethics led to radical changes in state law in 1912.

"Taking government away from the 'interests' and returning it to the people became the slogan of the times" — so it was written in *Minnesota: Political Maverick* by the Minnesota Historical Society.

It was the peak of the Progressive movement in 1912, the same year that Theodore Roosevelt abandoned the Republican Party and ran for president as an Independent. Although he lost the election, he carried the state of Minnesota.

"In the disillusionment of the early 1900s . . . the badge 'independent' began to stand for virtue and high principle, while a vote 'for the man and not the party' came to mean a vote for honesty in government," according to the historical society book.

And so during a 13-day special session, Minnesota lawmakers enacted sweeping changes to state law: a statewide political primary election, direct election of U.S. senators (previously chosen by legislators), and campaign spending limits. The session also brought us the law which prohibits the distribution of campaign materials on election day.

"In thirteen days the legislature completely revolutionized the state's present political system," wrote the *Minneapolis Journal* on June 18, 1912.

# COMMITTEE INFORMATION

1995-96 Minnesota House of Representatives

## Agriculture

487 State Office Building ..... 296-4247

**Meets:** Mon., 10 a.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 18

**Chair:** Wenzel-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Peterson-DFL

Cooper-DFL	Kraus-IR
Dauner-DFL	Lourey-DFL
Davids-IR	Molnau-IR
Finseth-IR	Otremba-DFL
Harder-IR	Sarna-DFL
Hugoson-IR	Schumacher-DFL
Jaros-DFL	Swenson, H.-IR
Koppendrayer-IR	Winter-DFL

### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Patrick J. Plonski ..... 296-4172

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Mary Hollenbeck ..... 296-6860

## Capital Investment

543 State Office Building ..... 296-4240

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 12:30 p.m. in Room 500N\*

**Members:** 17

**Chair:** Kalis-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Trimble-DFL

Bishop-IR	McElroy-IR
Brown-DFL	Ostrom-DFL
Clark-DFL	Rhodes-IR
Davids-IR	Simoneau-DFL
Dawkins-DFL	Skoglund-DFL
Dempsey-IR	Solberg-DFL
Knoblach-IR	Van Dellen-IR
Lieder-DFL	

### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Pat Lindgren ..... 296-5398

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Kathleen K. Bruss ..... 296-4271

## Claims

565 State Office Building ..... 296-4265

**Meets:** Call of the chair

**Members:**

**Chair:** Olson, E.-DFL

Dauner-DFL  
Ozment-IR

### Staff

**Committee Administrator/**

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Dorothy M. Sawyer ..... 296-7427

## Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

563 State Office Building ..... 296-4219

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 12:30 p.m. in Room 10\*

**Members:** 28

**Chair:** Sarna-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Hasskamp-DFL

Bradley-IR	Milbert-DFL
Daggett-IR	Mulder-IR
Entenza-DFL	Murphy-DFL
Erhardt-IR	Ness-IR
Farrell-DFL	Pellow-IR
Goodno-IR	Perlt-DFL
Holsten-IR	Peterson-DFL
Jennings-DFL	Pugh-DFL
Kelso-DFL	Rice-DFL
Kinkel-DFL	Smith-IR
Kraus-IR	Swenson, D.-IR
Luther-DFL	Swenson, H.-IR
Lynch-IR	Tomassoni-DFL

### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Elizabeth A. Cozatt ..... 296-5318

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Dianne Ruppert ..... 296-4279

## Business Regulation Division

537 State Office Building ..... 296-0518

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., 12:30 p.m. in Room 500N\*

**Members:** 14

**Chair:** Jennings-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Entenza-DFL

Farrell-DFL	Pellow-IR
Holsten-IR	Peterson-DFL
Luther-DFL	Rice-DFL
Milbert-DFL	Sarna-DFL
Mulder-IR	Swenson, D.-IR
Ness-IR	Swenson, H.-IR

### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Elizabeth A. Cozatt ..... 296-5318

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Dianne Ruppert ..... 296-4279

## Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance

381 State Office Building ..... 296-4262

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., Thurs., 8 a.m. in Room 300N\*

**Members:** 14

**Chair:** Rice-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Mahon-DFL

Clark-DFL	Leighton-DFL
Frerichs-IR	Lieder-DFL
Garcia-DFL	Molnau-IR
Harder-IR	Ozment-IR
Johnson, B.-DFL	Wolf-IR
Kalis-DFL	Workman-IR

### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Jennifer B. Saliture ..... 297-2869

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Mary Pat Speltz ..... 296-4178

### Transportation Finance Division

517 State Office Building..... 296-5091

**Meets:** Tues., Fri., 8 a.m. in Room 500S\*

**Members:** 10

**Chair:** Lieder-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Garcia-DFL

Clark-DFL	Leighton-DFL
Frerichs-IR	Molnau-IR
Harder-IR	Rice-DFL
Kalis-DFL	Wolf-IR

#### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Todd Iverson..... 296-5528

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Mary Pat Speltz ..... 296-4178

### Education

379 State Office Building..... 296-4255

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 8 a.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 33

**Chair:** Carlson-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Bertram-DFL

Bettermann-IR	Ness-IR
Dauner-DFL	Olson, M.-IR
Dehler-IR	Opatz-DFL
Dorn-DFL	Orenstein-DFL
Entenza-DFL	Orfield-DFL
Greiling-DFL	Paulsen-IR
Johnson, A.-DFL	Pelowski-DFL
Kelley-DFL	Schumacher-DFL
Kelso-DFL	Seagren-IR
Kinkel-DFL	Swenson, H.-IR
Koppendraye-IR	Sykora-IR
Kraus-IR	Tomassoni-DFL
Leppik-IR	Tuma-IR
Limmer-IR	Tunheim-DFL
Mares-IR	Weaver-IR
Mariani-DFL	

#### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Nancy K. Conley ..... 296-4374

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Dori Vaughan ..... 296-3367

### K-12 Education Finance Division

539 State Office Building..... 296-5510

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 a.m. in Room 500N\*

**Members:** 13

**Chair:** Johnson, A.-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Schumacher-DFL

Bertram-DFL	Orfield-DFL
Carlson-DFL	Seagren-IR
Entenza-DFL	Tomassoni-DFL
Koppendraye-IR	Tunheim-DFL
Mares-IR	Weaver-IR
Mariani*-DFL	*Ex-officio member
Ness-IR	

#### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Ray Frost ..... 296-5508

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Joan M. Sweeney ..... 296-1340

### Higher Education Finance Division

453 State Office Building..... 296-2451

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 a.m. in Room 400N\*

**Members:** 9

**Chair:** Kinkel-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Pelowski-DFL

Bettermann-IR	Orenstein-DFL
Carlson-DFL	Paulsen-IR
Dehler-IR	Tuma-IR
Dorn-DFL	

#### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Susan M. Burns ..... 296-4091

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Jan C. Horner ..... 296-5496

### University of Minnesota Finance Division

415 State Office Building..... 296-1072

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 a.m. in Room 400S\*

**Members:** 9

**Chair:** Kelso-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Opatz-DFL

Carlson-DFL	Limmer-IR
Kelley-DFL	Mariani-DFL
Kraus-IR	Sykora-IR
Leppik-IR	

#### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Susan M. Burns ..... 296-4091

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Urszula M. Gryska ..... 296-5492

### Environment & Natural Resources

479 State Office Building..... 296-4282

**Meets:** Wed., Fri., 10 a.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 24

**Chair:** Munger-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Wagenius-DFL

Bakk-DFL	Leppik-IR
Boudreau-IR	Lindner-IR
Dempsey-IR	McCollum-DFL
Finseth-IR	Milbert-DFL
Garcia-DFL	Orfield-DFL
Haas-IR	Otremba-DFL
Hackbarth-IR	Ozment-IR
Hausman-DFL	Pellow-IR
Jacobs-DFL	Peterson-DFL
Johnson, V.-IR	Trimble-DFL
Leighton-DFL	Tuma-IR

#### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Elizabeth R. Goehl ..... 296-8879

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Norma S. Christensen ..... 296-7175

### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

597 State Office Building..... 296-4929

**Meets:** Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m. in Bsmnt. Hrg. Rm.\*

**Members:** 14

**Chair:** Brown-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Hausman-DFL

Finseth-IR	Munger-DFL
Hackbarth-IR	Osthoff-DFL
Holsten-IR	Peterson-DFL
Johnson, V.-IR	Sarna-DFL
Larsen-IR	Trimble-DFL
Lynch-IR	Wenzel-DFL

#### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Scott G. Croonquist ..... 296-7185

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Teri T. Edison ..... 296-7171



## Ethics

565 State Office Building..... 296-4265

**Meets:** Call of the chair

**Members:** 10

**Chair:** Olson, E.-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Smith-IR

Bettermann-IR

Davids-IR

Greiling-DFL

Mahon-DFL

Orenstein-DFL

Pugh-DFL

Van Engen-IR

Workman-IR

McGuire\*-DFL

Tompkins\*-IR

\*Alternates to the Ethics  
Committee

### Staff

**Committee Administrator/  
Committee Legislative Assistant**

Dorothy M. Sawyer ..... 296-7427

## Financial Institutions & Insurance

365 State Office Building..... 296-4331

**Meets:** Wed., 10 a.m. in Room 10\*

**Members:** 18

**Chair:** Simoneau-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Lourey-DFL

Abrams-IR

Bertram-DFL

Carlson-DFL

Davids-IR

Delmont-DFL

Dorn-DFL

Girard-IR

Greenfield-DFL

Huntley-DFL

Mares-IR

Molnau-IR

Onnen-IR

Ostrom-DFL

Paulsen-IR

Tomassoni-DFL

Worke-IR

### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Carol A. Kummer ..... 296-4281

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Paula J. Hoover ..... 296-9194

## General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

585 State Office Building..... 296-4224

**Meets:** Mon., 12:30 p.m. in Room 300N\*

**Members:** 18

**Chair:** Osthoff-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Opatz-DFL

Anderson, Bruce-IR

Boudreau-IR

Commers-IR

Davids-IR

Greiling-DFL

Jefferson-DFL

Knight-IR

McCollum-DFL

Munger-DFL

Orfield-DFL

Pawlenty-IR

Pelowski-DFL

Rhodes-IR

Rostberg-IR

Simoneau-DFL

Solberg-DFL

### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Virginia E. Lanegran ..... 296-2909

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Kristine M. Henry ..... 296-5342

## Elections Division

577 State Office Building..... 296-8659

**Meets:** Thurs., 12:30 p.m. in Room 300N\*

**Members:** 10

**Chair:** Jefferson-DFL

**Vice Chair:** McCollum-DFL

Anderson, Bruce-IR

Boudreau-IR

Commers-IR

Greiling-DFL

Osthoff-DFL

Pawlenty-IR

Pelowski-DFL

Solberg-DFL

### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Virginia Lanegran ..... 296-2909

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Kristine M. Henry ..... 296-5342

## Governmental Operations

367 State Office Building..... 296-4257

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 10 a.m. in  
Bsmnt. Hrg. Rm.\*

**Members:** 22

**Chair:** Kahn-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Tomassoni-DFL

Anderson, Bruce-IR

Dehler-IR

Dempsey-IR

Dorn-DFL

Farrell-DFL

Greiling-DFL

Jefferson-DFL

Johnson, B.-DFL

Kinkel-DFL

Knight-IR

Knoblach-IR

Mares-IR

Olson, M.-IR

Osskopp-IR

Osthoff-DFL

Pawlenty-IR

Perlt-DFL

Pugh-DFL

Rostberg-IR

Rukavina-DFL

### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Jacquelyn B. Rosholt ..... 296-4112

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Judith Richardson ..... 296-7173

## Gambling Division

533 State Office Building..... 296-3248

**Meets:** Fri., 10 a.m. in Room 500N\*

**Members:** 9

**Chair:** Dorn-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Perlt-DFL

Dehler-IR

Kahn-DFL

Knoblach-IR

Mares-IR

Olson, M.-IR

Pugh-DFL

Tomassoni-DFL

### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Brad Lehto ..... 296-5367

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Judith Richardson ..... 296-7173

## State Government

### Finance Division

471 State Office Building..... 296-0170

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., 10 a.m. in Room 400S\*

**Members:** 14

**Chair:** Rukavina-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Greiling-DFL

Anderson, Bruce-IR

Farrell-DFL

Jefferson-DFL

Johnson, B.-DFL

Kahn-DFL

Knight-IR

Knoblach-IR

Osskopp-IR

Osthoff-DFL

Pawlenty-IR

Perlt-DFL

Rostberg-IR

### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Brad Lehto ..... 296-5367

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Debra M. Fastner ..... 296-8857

## Health & Human Services

437 State Office Building..... 296-4946

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 10 a.m. in Room 10\*

**Members:** 22

**Chair:** Anderson, Bob-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Wejcman-DFL

Boudreau-IR

Bradley-IR

Cooper-DFL

Delmont-DFL

Greenfield-DFL

Haas-IR

Hasskamp-DFL

Huntley-DFL

Jennings-DFL

Lindner-IR

Lourey-DFL

Marko-DFL

McCollum-DFL

Mulder-IR

Onnen-IR

Otremba-DFL

Tompkins-IR

Van Engen-IR

Vickerman-IR

Worke-IR

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Timothy C. Adams ..... 297-1934

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Barbara A. Klossner ..... 296-9463

## Health & Human Services

### Finance Division

375 State Office Building ..... 296-0173

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 a.m. in Room 10\*

**Members:** 14

**Chair:** Greenfield-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Otremba-DFL

Anderson, Bob-DFL	Marko-DFL
Boudreau-IR	Mulder-IR
Delmont-DFL	Onnen-IR
Jennings-DFL	Tompkins-IR
Lindner-IR	Vickerman-IR
Lourey-DFL	Wejcman-DFL

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Victor A. Thorstenson ..... 296-2317

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Marguerite Maloney ..... 296-7189

## MinnesotaCare Finance Division

549 State Office Building ..... 296-4346

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 8 a.m. in Room 10\*

**Members:** 10

**Chair:** Cooper-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Huntley-DFL

Anderson, Bob-DFL	Lourey-DFL
Bradley-IR	McCollum-DFL
Haas-IR	Van Engen-IR
Hasskamp-DFL	Worke-IR

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Victor A. Thorstenson ..... 296-2317

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Shirley M. Covert ..... 296-5322

## Housing

503 State Office Building ..... 296-0294

**Meets:** Mon., 12:30 p.m. in Room 500S\*

**Members:** 16

**Chair:** Clark-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Mariani-DFL

Dauner-DFL	Harder-IR
Dawkins-DFL	Kinkel-DFL
Greenfield-DFL	Lindner-IR

McElroy-IR  
Olson, M.-IR  
Seagren-IR  
Skoglund-DFL

Sykora-IR  
Trimble-DFL  
Tuma-IR  
Wejcman-DFL

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Cathy A. Strobel ..... 296-1540

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Kevin J. Morgel ..... 296-6586

## International Trade & Economic Development

559 State Office Building ..... 296-4246

**Meets:** Wed., 12:30 p.m. in Room 500S\*

**Members:** 20

**Chair:** Jaros-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Hasskamp-DFL

Bakk-DFL	Long-DFL
Girard-IR	Molnau-IR
Hackbarth-IR	Osskopp-IR
Hausman-DFL	Pawlenty-IR
Jefferson-DFL	Rukavina-DFL
Johnson, A.-DFL	Simoneau-DFL
Koppendrayer-IR	Sykora-IR
Larsen-IR	Van Dellen-IR
Leighton-DFL	Wagenius-DFL

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Joseph H. Dodge ..... 296-4283

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Susan J. Maher ..... 296-4180

## Judiciary

477 State Office Building ..... 296-4330

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., 10 a.m. in  
Bsmnt. Hrg. Rm.\*

**Members:** 20

**Chair:** Skoglund-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Pugh-DFL

Bishop-IR	Murphy-DFL
Brown-DFL	Orenstein-DFL
Dawkins-DFL	Pelowski-DFL
Entenza-DFL	Rhodes-IR
Limmer-IR	Seagren-IR
Luther-DFL	Smith-IR
Lynch-IR	Solberg-DFL
Macklin-IR	Swenson, D.-IR
McGuire-DFL	Van Engen-IR

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Greg. W. Bergstrom ..... 296-5396

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Laurie M. Nistl ..... 296-5497

## Judiciary Finance

557 State Office Building ..... 296-2676

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 8 a.m. in Room 500N\*

**Members:** 14

**Chair:** Murphy-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Farrell-DFL

Bishop-IR	Pellow-IR
Broecker-IR	Pugh-DFL
Luther-DFL	Skoglund-DFL
Macklin-IR	Smith-IR
McGuire-DFL	Swenson, D.-IR
Olson, E.-DFL	Wejcman-DFL

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

John P. Curry ..... 296-5533

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Mary Ann Goschy ..... 296-7191

## Labor-Management Relations

551 State Office Building ..... 296-5516

**Meets:** Mon., 12:30 p.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 18

**Chair:** Johnson, B.-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Leighton-DFL

Bakk-DFL	Murphy-DFL
Bettermann-IR	Paulsen-IR
Daggett-IR	Perlt-DFL
Goodno-IR	Rukavina-DFL
Haas-IR	Vickerman-IR
Johnson, A.-DFL	Wenzel-DFL
Mahon-DFL	Wolf-IR
McGuire-DFL	Worke-IR

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Mary E. Faust ..... 297-8168

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Nancy K. Anderson ..... 296-1544

## Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

591 State Office Building ..... 296-0171

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 12:30 p.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 22

**Chair:** Long-DFL

**Vice Chair:** McGuire-DFL

Bertram-DFL	Johnson, V.-IR
Broecker-IR	Kelley-DFL
Finseth-IR	Krinkie-IR
Garcia-DFL	Larsen-IR

Mahon-DFL  
Mariani-DFL  
Opatz-DFL  
Orfield-DFL  
Osskopp-IR  
Otremba-DFL

Rostberg-IR  
Schumacher-DFL  
Tompkins-IR  
Weaver-IR  
Wenzel-DFL  
Worke-IR

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

John Skare ..... 296-8880

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Elizabeth L. Murphey ..... 296-5402

## Regulated Industries & Energy

485 State Office Building ..... 296-4231

**Meets:** Mon., 10 a.m. in Room 10\*

**Members:** 20

**Chair:** Jacobs-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Kelley-DFL

Anderson, Bob-DFL	Mahon-DFL
Delmont-DFL	Olson, E.-DFL
Dempsey-IR	Olson, M.-IR
Erhardt-IR	Onnen-IR
Hausman-DFL	Ozment-IR
Holsten-IR	Tunheim-DFL
Huntley-DFL	Vickerman-IR
Jennings-DFL	Wolf-IR
Kelso-DFL	Workman-IR

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Grania E. McKiernan ..... 296-8826

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Laura M. DeRose ..... 296-2955

## Rules & Legislative Administration

459 State Office Building ..... 296-3709

**Meets:** Call of the chair

**Members:** 17

**Chair:** Carruthers-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Lynch-IR

Abrams-IR	Pawlenty-IR
Anderson, I.-DFL	Rest-DFL
Bettermann-IR	Sarna-DFL
Delmont-DFL	Sviggum-IR
Jacobs-DFL	Trimble-DFL
Koppendrayer-IR	Weaver-IR
McCollum-DFL	Winter-DFL
Munger-DFL	

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Todd B. Rapp ..... 296-1023

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Mary Ellen Langenberger ..... 296-5356

## Taxes

443 State Office Building ..... 296-4176

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 10 a.m. and Fri., 8 a.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 25

**Chair:** Rest-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Dawkins-DFL

Abrams-IR	Jaros-DFL
Anderson, I.-DFL	Krinkie-IR
Bakk-DFL	Long-DFL
Carruthers-DFL	Macklin-IR
Commers-IR	Milbert-DFL
Daggett-IR	Olson, E.-DFL
Dauner-DFL	Ostrom-DFL
Erhardt-IR	Sviggum-IR
Girard-IR	Van Dellen-IR
Goodno-IR	Wagenius-DFL
Hugoson-IR	Winter-DFL
Jacobs-DFL	

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

P. Joshua Downham ..... 296-8875

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Lillian A. Pohlkamp ..... 296-9552

## Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Division

407 State Office Building ..... 296-5505

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., 8 a.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 13

**Chair:** Winter-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Dauner-DFL

Abrams-IR	Long-DFL
Anderson, I.-DFL	Macklin-IR
Daggett-IR	Olson, E.-DFL
Girard-IR	Ostrom-DFL
Goodno-IR	Rest-DFL
Jacobs-DFL	

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Robert D. DeBoer ..... 296-5376

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Lillian A. Pohlkamp ..... 296-9552

## Sales & Income Tax Division

579 State Office Building ..... 296-4192

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., 8 a.m. in Room 500S\*

**Members:** 13

**Chair:** Milbert-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Bakk-DFL

Carruthers-DFL  
Commers-IR  
Dawkins-DFL  
Erhardt-IR  
Hugoson-IR  
Jaros-DFL

Krinkie-IR  
Rest-DFL  
Sviggum-IR  
Van Dellen-IR  
Wagenius-DFL

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Robert D. DeBoer ..... 296-5376

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Lillian A. Pohlkamp ..... 296-9552

## Transportation & Transit

509 State Office Building ..... 296-9635

**Meets:** Wed., 12:30 p.m. & Fri., 10 a.m. in Room 10\*

**Members:** 22

**Chair:** Tunheim-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Marko-DFL

Bradley-IR	Mahon-DFL
Broecker-IR	Mariani-DFL
Cooper-DFL	McElroy-IR
Frerichs-IR	Osthoff-DFL
Hugoson-IR	Rhodes-IR
Kalis-DFL	Schumacher-DFL
Kelso-DFL	Tompkins-IR
Knight-IR	Wagenius-DFL
Krinkie-IR	Winter-DFL
Lieder-DFL	Workman-IR

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Lois J. Knutson ..... 296-8893

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Barbara Moehrle ..... 296-4171

## Ways & Means

445 State Office Building ..... 296-2365

**Meets:** Call of the chair

**Members:** 20

**Chair:** Solberg-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Luther-DFL

Abrams-IR	Kahn-DFL
Anderson, Bob-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Anderson, I.-DFL	Krinkie-IR
Bishop-IR	Orenstein-DFL
Brown-DFL	Ozment-IR
Carlson-DFL	Rest-DFL
Carruthers-DFL	Rice-DFL
Frerichs-IR	Sviggum-IR
Girard-IR	Weaver-IR

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Dan Kane ..... 296-6970

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Maxine J. Wiech ..... 296-4371



## **Government Efficiency & Oversight Division**

529 State Office Building ..... 296-4199

Meets: Call of the chair

Members: 14

Chair: Orenstein-DFL

Vice Chair: Delmont-DFL

Abrams-IR  
Brown-DFL  
Davids-IR  
Entenza-DFL  
Girard-IR  
Krinkie-IR

Marko-DFL  
Opatz-DFL  
Ozment-IR  
Rukavina-DFL  
Solberg-DFL  
Weaver-IR

## **Staff**

### **Committee Administrator**

Dan Kane ..... 296-6970

### **Committee Legislative Assistant**

Maxine J. Wiech ..... 296-4371

# **Finance Committees and Divisions**

*Departments, agencies and programs are listed under the finance committee or division that will consider their funding this session.*

## **State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Administrative Hearings Office  
Department of Administration  
Amateur Sports Commission  
Attorney General  
CAAPB Board  
Contingent Accounts  
Disabled American Vets  
Department of Employee Relations  
Department of Finance  
Governor and Lt. Governor  
Department of Human Rights  
Investment Board  
Legislative Commissions  
Legislature  
Lawful Gambling Control Board  
Lottery Board  
Department of Military Affairs  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning  
PERA  
Racing Commission  
Department of Revenue  
Salary Supplement  
State Auditor  
Tort Claims  
Treasurer  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans of Foreign Wars

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

Council on Disabilities  
Department of Health  
Health Boards  
Department of Human Services  
Ombudsman for Families  
Ombudsman for Mental Health & Mental Retardation  
Veterans Homes

## **MinnesotaCare Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

MinnesotaCare

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Academy of Science  
Department of Agriculture  
Ag. Utilization Research Institute  
Board of Animal Health  
Ethanol Development  
Environmental Assistance Office  
Hazardous Substances Injury Compensation Board  
Horticultural Society  
LCMR  
Mn-Wisc. Boundary Commission  
Minnesota Zoo  
Department of Natural Resources  
Pollution Control Agency  
Science Museum  
Water and Soil Resources  
Voyagers National Park

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

Center for Arts Education  
Department of Education  
Education Finance (School Aids)  
Permanent School Fund  
Public Libraries  
Faribault Academies

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

Community Colleges  
Higher Education Board  
Higher Ed. Coordinating Board  
Higher Ed. Facilities Authority  
State University System  
Technical Colleges

## **University of Minnesota Finance Division/EDUCATION**

Mayo Medical School  
University of Minnesota

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE**

Arts Board  
Department of Commerce  
Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans  
Council on Black Minnesotans

Council on Spanish Speaking Affairs  
Department of Economic Security  
Ethical Practices Board  
Historical Society  
Housing Finance Agency  
Humanities Commission  
Indian Affairs Council  
IRRRB  
Department of Labor and Industry  
Labor Interpretive Center  
Mediation Services  
Minnesota Municipal Board  
Minnesota Technology Inc.  
Non-Health Boards  
Department of Public Service  
Public Utilities Commission  
Safety Council  
Secretary of State  
Department of Trade & Economic Development  
Uniform Laws Commission  
Workers Compensation Court  
World Trade Center

## **Transportation Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGULATION FINANCE**

Met. Council Transit Operations  
Department of Public Safety (transp. issues)  
Department of Transportation  
Transportation Regulation Board

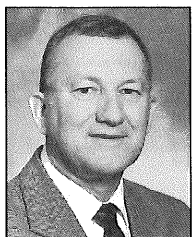
## **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Board of Judicial Standards  
Department of Corrections  
Court of Appeals  
District Courts  
Ombudsman for Corrections  
Peace Officer Standards & Training Bd.  
Private Detectives Board  
Public Defense Board  
Department of Public Safety (including the BCA)  
Sentencing Guidelines Commission  
Supreme Court  
Tax Court

New members . . .

## 'Political life' came unexpectedly for former White Bear mayor

The Legislature and its players will offer newly elected Rep. Harry Mares the perfect setting to apply all sorts of psychological theories.



Rep. Harry Mares

For years he has taught White Bear Lake High School students social psychology — the study of how the attitudes, motivations, and behavior of an individual influence, and are influenced by, groups.

"It'll be an interesting study," the first-term Independent-Republican from White Bear Lake said.

The 56-year-old football and gymnastics coach evolved into political life.

He was born and raised in Racine, Wis., one of seven children. "The first two boys were named Tom and Dick. My father named the boys. Then I came along and he had to name me Harry."

He began teaching in Rochester, Minn., then taught in California for a while. He returned to Minnesota to teach in White Bear Lake in 1966.

While his first wife was pregnant with their fourth child, it was discovered she had cancer. She died in 1975 and Mares later married a high school friend who was widowed and had three children of her own.

"All I can say is my wife is a saint," he said, explaining that at one time she was raising seven children under the age of nine.

The family was united by its size. Mares fondly remembers Sundays when he and his wife would line up the kids, cut their nails, and wash their hair. One of his children has cystic fibrosis, and it took a family effort to take care of her.

With the kids pretty much grown in 1985, Mares was looking for a change and an announcement in the White Bear Press caught his eye — the city was looking for volunteers to serve on policy committees.

That's where it all started and his political career has quickly snowballed.

In January 1986, he was appointed to the White Bear Lake Planning Commission. "I had no idea of political life," he said.

In November 1989, he was appointed to an uncompleted term on the White Bear Lake City Council. In March 1990, he won a full council term. In March 1991, he was elected mayor with 70 percent of the vote.

In November 1993, he was elected mayor again. "There were only seven votes against me and five of them were for Barney," he said.

"I was happy as mayor, but this opportunity presented itself," Mares said, referring to his House campaign. "I never intended to be on the council. I never intended to be mayor. I never intended [to be in] the Legislature."

"I don't know if anything prepares you for the Legislature." But, he added: "I'm glad for the experience I've had at the local government level."

Mares' legislative agenda will focus on his areas of expertise: education and local government.

"Education is a big item on my agenda. . . . We've asked the school to assume a lot of responsibility in the social issues. . . . The question has to be asked: 'What role do we want education to play?'"

If it is to be a social institution, then define its social roles and assign it a proper budget. If it is to be an educational institution, then define that and fund it properly."

If he gets his wish, he will sponsor and pass a bill in his first term to eliminate unfunded mandates imposed by state government on school districts. Those are programs and services state government requires school districts to offer but doesn't fund. He already has introduced a bill on the topic this session.

On state funding for local governments, Mares said he understands local governments are a target. Many, he said, are run efficiently, but some are not.

Local governments need to share resources, plan ahead, set goals, and save for the future. As mayor of White Bear Lake, he developed a strategic plan before drafting a budget, the priorities of which were outlined by 35 citizens and leaders in the community.

"My local government experience should be a big help as a legislator. 'I've been there,' Mares said.

—K. Darcy Hanzlik

### District 55A

**Population:** 32,921

**Distribution:** 98.44 percent urban; 1.56 percent rural

**Counties:** Ramsey, Washington

**Largest city:** White Bear Lake

**Location:** northeastern Metro

**Unemployment rate:** 3.26 percent

**Residents living below poverty level:** 4.26 percent

**1992 presidential election results:**

Bush/Quayle ..... 30.88 percent

Clinton/Gore ..... 43 percent

Perot/Stockdale ..... 25.12 percent

Other: ..... 1 percent

## Do you know?

It's true lawmakers sometimes need a break after some particularly hectic legislative sessions. Fifty-five years, however, is a little extreme.

That's what Thomas Smullen, a former lawmaker from Le Sueur County, took between his terms in the Legislature.

When Smullen began in the Minnesota House in 1875, the state was still a teenager — railroads had expanded rapidly, farms numbered 46,500, and lumber and flour mills were big employers.

Smullen left only to return about 55 years later, serving in the Senate during the 1931 and 1933 sessions, an era of the Great Depression. At the time there were multiple Minnesota bank failures, farm prices were in a slump, and 70 percent of Minnesota iron range workers were without jobs.

Smullen was born in New York City on April 14, 1852, and came to Le Sueur County in 1863, according to the *Minnesota Legislative Manual*. He was 22 when he began his legislative career and when he returned, 78.

It is unclear why Smullen left the Legislature after 1875, but he did continue his work in government. Over a period of 20 years, he was mayor of Le Sueur, registrar of deeds, and city assessor. He was a municipal judge for 12 years. He also was deputy bank examiner under Gov. John A. Johnson, and during World War I, a county food administrator and county director of the public safety commission.



Thomas Smullen

# Name Pronunciation Guide

## 1995 Minnesota House of Representatives

Abrams, Ron		Jefferson, Richard H.		Osskopp, Mike	(OZ-cop)
Anderson, Bob		Jennings, Loren		Osthoff, Tom	(AHST-hoff)
Anderson, Bruce		Johnson, Alice M.		Ostrom, Don	(OH-strom)
Anderson, Irv		Johnson, Bob		Otremba, Ken	(oh-TREM-ba)
Bakk, Thomas	(BOCK)	Johnson, Virgil J.		Ozment, Dennis	(AHZ-ment)
Bertram, Jeff		Kahn, Phyllis		Paulsen, Erik	
Bettermann, Hilda		Kalis, Henry J.	(KAH-liss)	Pawlenty, Tim	(paw-LENTY)
Bishop, Dave		Kelley, Steve		Pellow, Richard	
Boudreau, Lynda	(Boo-DROH)	Kelso, Becky		Pelowski Jr., Gene	
Bradley, Fran		Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony"		Perlt, Walter E.	
Broecker, Sherry	(BRO-ker)	Knight, Kevin		Peterson, Doug	
Brown, Chuck		Knoblach, Jim	(NOB-lock)	Pugh, Thomas	(PEW)
Carlson, Lyndon R.		Koppendrayner, LeRoy	(COPE-en-dryer)	Rest, Ann H.	
Carruthers, Phil	(ka-RUH-thers)	Kraus, Ron	(CROUSE)	Rhodes, Jim	
Clark, Karen		Krinkie, Phil		Rice, James I.	
Commers, Tim	(COMM-erz)	Larsen, Peg		Rostberg, Jim	
Cooper, Roger		Leighton Jr., Robert	(LAY-ton)	Rukavina, Tom	(roo-ka-VEENA)
Daggett, Roxann	(DAG-et)	Leppik, Peggy		Sarna, John J.	
Dauner, Marvin	(DOWN-er)	Lieder, Bernie	(LEED-er)	Schumacher, Leslie	(SHOE-mocker)
Dauids, Gregory M.		Limmer, Warren		Seagren, Alice	
Dawkins, Andy		Lindner, Arlon		Simoneau, Wayne	(SIM-en-oh)
Dehler, Steve	(DAY-ler)	Long, Dee		Skoglund, Wesley J. "Wes"	(SKOHG-lund)
Delmont, Mike		Lourey, Becky	(LOR-ee)	Smith, Steve	
Dempsey, Jerry		Luther, Darlene		Solberg, Loren	
Dorn, John		Lynch, Teresa		Sviggum, Steven A.	(SWIG-um)
Entenza, Matt		Macklin, Bill		Swenson, Doug	
Erhardt, Ron	(AIR-hart)	Mahon, Mark P.	(MAY-on)	Swenson, Howard	
Farrell, Jim		Mares, Harry	(MAIRS)	Sykora, Barbara	(sick-OR-ah)
Finseth, Tim		Mariani, Carlos	(mar-ee-ON-ee)	Tomassoni, David	(tom-a-SONY)
Frerichs, Don L.	(FRAIR-icks)	Marko, Sharon		Tompkins, Eileen	
Garcia, Edwina	(gar-SEE-a)	McCollum, Betty	(mah-CALL-um)	Trimble, Steve	
Girard, Jim		McElroy, Dan	(MACK-el-roy)	Tuma, John	
Goodno, Kevin		McGuire, Mary Jo		Tunheim, Jim	(TON-hyme)
Greenfield, Lee		Milbert, Bob		Van Dellen, H. Todd	
Greiling, Mindy	(GRY-ling)	Molnau, Carol	(MOLE-now)	Van Engen, Tom	
Haas, Bill	(HAHZ)	Mulder, Richard		Vickerman, Barb	
Hackbarth, Tom		Munger, Willard	(MUNG-er)	Wagenius, Jean	(wa-GEEN-yus)
Harder, Elaine		Murphy, Mary		Weaver, Charlie	
Hasskamp, Kris		Ness, Robert "Bob"		Wejzman, Linda	(WAITS-man)
Hausman, Alice		Olson, Edgar		Wenzel, Stephen G.	(WEN-zel)
Holsten, Mark		Olson, Mark		Winter, Ted	
Hugoson, Gene	(HUE-go-son)	Onnen, Tony	(AH-nen)	Wolf, Ken	
Huntley, Thomas		Opatz, Joe	(OH-patz)	Worke, Gary D.	(WORK-ee)
Jacobs, Joel		Orenstein, Howard	(OR-en-steen)	Workman, Tom	
Jaros, Mike	(Yahr-ohs)	Orfield, Myron			



# Name Pronunciation Guide

## 1995 Minnesota Senate

Anderson, Ellen R.	Kelly, Randy C.	Ourada, Mark	(or-AHD-a)
Beckman, Tracy L.	Kiscaden, Sheila M.	Pappas, Sandra L.	
Belanger, William V., Jr. (be-LAN-jer)	Kleis, Dave	Pariseau, Pat	(PARIS-oh)
Berg, Charles A.	Knutson, David L.	Piper, Pat	
Berglin, Linda	Kramer, Donald L.	Pogemiller, Lawrence J.	(PO-ga-miller)
Bertram, Joe, Sr.	Krentz, Jane	Price, Leonard R.	
Betzold, Don	Kroening, Carl W.	Ranum, Jane B.	(RAN-um)
Chandler, Kevin M.	Laidig, Gary W.	Reichgott Junge, Ember	(RYSH-got YOUNG)
Chmielewski, Florian (shim-a-LES-kee)	Langseth, Keith	Riveness, Phil J.	(RIV-ness)
Cohen, Richard J.	Larson, Cal	Robertson, Martha R.	
Day, Dick	Lesewski, Arlene J.	Runbeck, Linda	
Dille, Steve (DILL)	Lessard, Bob	Sams, Dallas	
Finn, Harold R. "Skip"	Marty, John	Samuelson, Don	
Flynn, Carol	Merriam, Gene	Scheevel, Kenric J.	(SKAY-vel)
Frederickson, Dennis R.	Metzen, James P.	Solon, Sam G.	(SOH-lun)
Hanson, Paula E.	Moe, Roger D.	Spear, Allan H.	
Hottinger, John C. (HOT-in-jer)	Mondale, Ted A.	Stevens, Dan	
Janezich, Jerry R. (JAN-a-zitch)	Morse, Steven	Stumpf, LeRoy A.	(STUMF)
Johnson, Dean E.	Murphy, Steve L.	Terwilliger, Roy W.	(ter-WILL-i-ger)
Johnson, Douglas J.	Neuville, Thomas M. (NEH-vill)	Vickerman, Jim	
Johnson, Janet B.	Novak, Steven G.	Wiener, Deanna	(WINE-er)
Johnston, Terry D.	Oliver, Edward C.		
	Olson, Gen		



**Q. Is there a legislative "Blue Book" available? What is in it? Where and how do I get one?**

**A.** *The Minnesota Legislative Manual*, more commonly called the "Blue Book," is prepared and published by the Office of the Secretary of State every two years. The book contains a brief history of the state, the state constitution, a photographic directory of the Legislature, maps of legislative districts, directories of the executive and judicial branches of state government, returns of primary and general elections, and other information regarding state government. Copies are published about six months after the beginning of the new legislative session.

To obtain a free copy, call 296-2805 or mail your request to: Office of the Secretary of State, 180 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN, 55155-1299. Each lawmaker is furnished with a supply of Blue Books, so you also may contact your local lawmaker for a copy.

Separate from the Blue Book is the *Official Directory of the Minnesota Legislature*, more commonly called the "Red Book," and the *Members Directory*, more commonly called the "Green Book," both of which are published by the House Public Information Office.

The Green Book is published early in the first session of the biennium, but not before committee assignments are finalized. This sometimes doesn't occur until two or three weeks after the opening day of the session.

The Green Book includes House and Senate members' names, addresses, phone numbers, biographies, and pho-

tos, as well as information about House and Senate offices, committee schedules, committee assignments, state constitutional officers, and U.S. congressional representatives.

The Red Book is published in the middle of the first session of the biennium. It includes the contents of the Green Book with all necessary updates, as well as information about commissions, House and Senate rules, constitutional and statutory provisions, and other relevant information.

This book cannot be published until the rules in both the House and Senate are adopted; in the past, late assignments to joint legislative commissions have also delayed publication of the book. In 1993, the Senate did not approve its rules until May.

To obtain a copy of either the Green Book or the Red Book call the House Public Information Office at 296-2146.

# Bill Introductions

HF21-HF70

**HF21—Milbert (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Property tax levy increase reverse referendum allowed in counties and certain cities.

**HF22—Anderson, I. (DFL)**

**Rules & Legislative Administration**

Tenth Amendment; Conference of States memorialized to convene Council of State Governments to restore balance to federal system.

**HF23—Delmont (DFL)**

**Ways & Means**

Public contracts for consultant, professional, and technical services reported to House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees.

**HF24—Solberg (DFL)**

**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Homeowner's insurance claim prompt payment required.

**HF25—Johnson, A. (DFL)**

**Education**

Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 appropriation caps repealed.

**HF26—Anderson, I. (DFL)**

**Regulated Industries & Energy**

International Falls authorized to issue temporary on-sale intoxicating liquor license for sales on property owned by a school district.

**HF27—Anderson, I. (DFL)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Areawide transportation partnerships or other regional entities created by the commissioner of transportation bound by open meeting law.

**HF28—Dauner (DFL)**

**Education**

Independent School District No. 548, Pelican Rapids, authorized to transfer funds from general fund to capital expenditure fund.

**HF29—Tunheim (DFL)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Recreational vehicle combination sunset provision repealed.

**HF30—Vickerman (IR)**

**Agriculture**

Wholesale food handler license fees changed.

**HF31—Munger (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Legislative Electric Energy Task Force initial report deadline extension provided.

**HF32—Jaros (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Retired court administrators authorized to solemnize marriages.

**HF33—Dawkins (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Neuroleptic medication administration and prescription provisions modified.

**HF34—Pawlenty (IR)**

**Judiciary**

Controlled substance offender sentencing court adjudication stay authority limited.

**HF35—Weaver (IR)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Commercial motor vehicle limited license issuance restricted for persons having committed certain offenses with private vehicles.

**HF36—Weaver (IR)**

**Judiciary**

Minnesota manager background check act adopted.

**HF37—Lourey (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metro Affairs**

Glen or Kimberly in Aitkin county allowed alternate annual meeting day.

**HF38—Johnson, V. (IR)**

**Taxes**

Veterinarians exempted from sales tax for horse and agricultural production animal care material purchases.

**HF39—Jacobs (DFL)**

**Education**

Interactive television revenue availability extended to school districts in economic development region eleven.

**HF40—Erhardt (IR)**

**Labor-Management Relations**

Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

**HF41—Limmer (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Human services public assistance eligibility provisions modified, work first program detailed and established, and money appropriated.

**HF42—Worke (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Human services public assistance eligibility provisions modified, work first program detailed and established, and money appropriated.

**HF43—Van Dellen (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Human services public assistance eligibility provisions modified, work first program detailed and established, and money appropriated.

**HF44—Ness (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Human services public assistance eligibility provisions modified, work first program detailed and established, and money appropriated.

**HF45—Rest (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Technical tax corrections bill, providing clarification and administrative changes.

**HF46—Perlt (DFL)**

**Commerce & Consumer Affairs**

Motor vehicle lease security deposit interest prompt payment required, and remedies provided.

**HF47—Wagenius (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Solid waste generator assessment provisions modified and terminology clarified.

**HF48—Bertram (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

**HF49—Bertram (DFL)**

**Regulated Industries and Energy**

Stearns County authorized to issue an intoxicating liquor license in Farming Township.

**HF50—Schumacher (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Geographic nursing home group modification provided for determination of facility reimbursement rates.

**HF51—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Northwestern Minnesota Juvenile Training Center non-state cost financing by local governments authorized.

**HF52—Bertram (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Drivers' license and state identification card holders allowed to wear headwear in drivers' license and identification card photographs in certain cases.

**HF53—Lourey (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Grandparent and great-grandparent visitation rights expanded.

**HF54—Bakk (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Constitutional officers to assert the state's ownership and control over certain waters and public lands.

**HF55—Molnau (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Motor vehicle temporary registration provided for the purpose of emissions inspections.

**HF56—Swenson, H. (IR)**  
**Education**  
School district noncompliance with unfunded state program mandates authorized.

**HF57—Onnen (IR)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Cemetery maintenance employment relationship and local government liability provisions specified.

**HF58—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Motor vehicle emission inspection requirement waived for newer vehicles.

**HF59—Bertram (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Used farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently.

**HF60—Osthoff (DFL)**  
**Gen Legislation, Veterans Affairs, & Elections**  
School board election transition schedule error corrected.

**HF61—Onnen (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Long-term care localization advisory commission established, and report and plan required.

**HF62—Onnen (IR)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Unicameral legislature provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF63—Schumacher (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Independent School District No. 727, Big Lake, provided capital loan and bond issuance, and money appropriated.

**HF64—Koppendrayner (IR)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Term limits; legislative and executive service limited and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF65—Luther (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Dependent care income tax credit provisions modified.

**HF66—Cooper (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Licensed professional counseling board established, licensure requirements specified, rules and penalties provided, and money appropriated.

**HF67—Peterson (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs, & Elections**  
National Guard member honor guard service compensation program established, and money appropriated.

**HF68—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
Group life insurance policy proceeds alternative payment methods required.

**HF69—Kelso (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Workers' compensation insurance regulation and benefits modified, and money appropriated.

**HF70—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Unicameral legislature provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.



The state can't build its new 800-bed prison on the selected site in Braham, Minn., because the soil there isn't solid enough to support such a massive structure, Jim Bruton, deputy commissioner of institutions for the Minnesota Department of Corrections, told Judiciary Committee members Jan. 11.

Bruton explained that other sites in Braham are now being explored. As a backup, however, soil samples are being taken from a site in Rush City, which was the state's number two choice for the prison, and in St. Cloud, which ranked third.

The prison is scheduled to open in the year 2000, Bruton said.

Minnesota telephone customers are paying an extra dime per month — in addition to the standard 14 cent-per-month 911 service fee — to help blanket the state with "enhanced" 911 service. The surcharge was authorized by the 1994 Legislature.

Enhanced 911 technology displays a caller's phone number, location, and closest ambulance location on a dispatcher's computer screen.

Jim Beutelspacher, 911 product manager for the state Department of Administration's Telecommunications Division, explained to members of the Regulated Industries and Energy Committee Jan. 9 that approximately 77 percent of the state now has enhanced 911 service.

Cellular phone customers are exempted from the additional 10 cent surcharge. It seems only fair, since "the technology doesn't exist" to provide enhanced 911 service to cellular phones, Beutelspacher said.

Minnesota's prison population is booming, Jim Bruton, deputy commissioner of institutions for the Minnesota Department of Corrections, told members of the House Judiciary Committee Jan. 11.

As of Jan. 9, the state prison population stood at 4,452.

Today, the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Stillwater holds 1,372 inmates. That's 200 more prisoners than were in the entire Minnesota state prison system in 1974.

Even though the growth is significant, the problem is an enviable one for many other states. In California, where the general population is about seven times that of Minnesota's, the prison population is 125,000 — more than 28 times that of Minnesota's.

Thirty-nine states are under federal order to expand prison space due to overcrowding and other reasons. Minnesota is not among them.



Coming Up Next Week . . . Jan. 16 - 20, 1995

# Committee Schedule

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

## MONDAY, Jan. 16

Holiday. No committee meetings scheduled.

## TUESDAY, Jan. 17

8 a.m.

### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** House Research report on charter schools. Discussion of Price of Government Act.

### JUDICIARY FINANCE

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Continuation of Jan. 12 agenda. Challenges of the Judiciary Finance Committee and effects of the federal crime bill, Gary Karger, fiscal analyst. Synopsis of interim and forthcoming reports, Emily Shapiro, House Research; Gary Karger, fiscal analyst. Summary of criminal justice bonding issues, Alan Hopeman, House Research.

### Transportation Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** Department of Public Safety, Driver and Vehicle Services.

8:30 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Presentation of the 1994 MPCA Annual Performance Report, Ann Glumac, deputy commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

### MinnesotaCare Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

\*\*\*Note Room Change\*\*\*

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** Functions of the Department of Health and the Office of Rural Health in health care reform.

10 a.m.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Introduction to gambling issues including a historical perspective of the subject, John Williams, House Research. Agency heads will be introduced.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** HF1 (Anderson, R.) - Relating to welfare reform. Public testimony.

### TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** HFXXX (Rest) - Technical bill.

HFXXX (Wagenius) Solid waste generator assessment statute clarification.

12:30 p.m.

### CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Follow-up of 1994 bonding bill directives, Alan Hopeman, House Research; Greg Crowe, fiscal analyst.

### COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** Presentation from James Ulland, commissioner, Department of Commerce.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** Presentations by the League of Minnesota Cities, the Minnesota Association of Small Cities, and the Minnesota Association of Townships.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

4 p.m.

Ramsey County Delegation

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire

**Agenda:** Election of delegation chair. 1995 county agenda.

7:30 p.m.

### Legislative Commission on

### Minnesota Resources

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Review corrected December 1994 revenue forecast involving Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund and Minnesota Future Resources Fund. Consider approval of LCMR 1995 recommendations for appropriation language as drafted and with changes offered by staff. Consider approval of Planning and Design portion of Minnesota Legislature, 1994, Chapter 643, Section 34, Subdivision 28(h).

## WEDNESDAY, Jan. 18

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Humanities Commission. Boxing Board. Barbers Board.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES/ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Tour

Chrs. Reps. Willard Munger, Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Tour of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Bus will leave at 8 a.m. from in front of the State Capitol and will return to the State Office Building at 11:15 a.m.

**Higher Education Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** Presentations by faculty unions: Inter-faculty Organization (IFO); Minnesota Community College Faculty Association (MCCFA); United Technical College Employees (UTCE).

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

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Department of Education performance measures.

8:30 a.m.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Family Assistance Program review, Department of Human Services.

10 a.m.

**JUDICIARY**

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

**Agenda:** Criminal justice computer systems update, Dale Good, director, Informational Systems, Minnesota Supreme Court.

**State Government Finance Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Performance report reviews from Finance Department and Military Affairs.

11:30 a.m.

The House meets in Session.

11:45 a.m.

State of the State Address.

2 p.m.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** HF1 (Anderson, R.) - Relating to welfare reform. Public testimony.

2:30 p.m.

**AGRICULTURE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

**Agenda:** History of Minnesota Department of Agriculture and statutory authority of department, Sam Rankin, House Research. Minnesota Department of Agriculture budget, Jim Reinholdz, House fiscal analyst.

4 p.m.

**University of Minnesota Finance/  
EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** University 2000 Initiative, overview and progress report.

**THURSDAY, Jan. 19**

8 a.m.

**EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Report of Coalition on Education Reform and Accountability.

**JUDICIARY FINANCE**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Unresolved budget issues from 1994, Gary Karger, fiscal analyst; Governors representative; Department of Finance. Public testimony. Reports on 93-94 initiatives.

**Transportation Finance Division/  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** Department of Public Safety: Traffic Safety Division; Pipeline Safety.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** 1994 Department of Natural Resources Annual Performance Report, Ron Nargang, deputy commissioner.

\*\*\*Note Room Change\*\*\*

**MinnesotaCare Division/  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** MinnesotaCare and its effect on private sector purchasers of health care services.

10 a.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Presentations by the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, Legislative Commission on Employee Relations, Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules, and Legislative Audit Commission.

**Joint HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES and  
Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing  
Division/TAXES**

5 State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Bob Anderson, Ted Winter

**Agenda:** Pat Dalton, House Research. Jane Rankin, House Research. Interactive testimony from Duluth area residents. Interactive testimony from Fergus Falls area residents.

12:30 p.m.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Orientation for new committee members.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM &  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**Elections Division/  
GENERAL LEGISLATION,  
VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** Election law, Joe Mansky, Office of the Secretary of State.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** Presentations by the Minnesota Association of Counties; Association of Metropolitan Municipalities; Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

After Session

#### RULES &

#### LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

400N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

**Agenda:** Organizational meeting. Other business.

**FRIDAY, Jan. 20**

8 a.m.

#### Joint Higher Education Finance Division & University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Overview of the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB). Report on the future HECB.

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

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Discussion of school food service funding.

10 a.m.

#### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** Update on wetlands conservation, including local water planning, Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan; Board of Water and Soil Resources (BOWSR), Minnesota Wetlands Planning Project, and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

#### Gambling Division/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

**Agenda:** Presentation of report concerning pull-tab dispensing machines, report on activities and functions of the Gambling Control Board, Harry Baltzer, director, Gambling Control Board.

#### Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

**Agenda:** Organizational meeting. Other business.

#### TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** Joint meeting of the Senate and House Metropolitan and Local Government committees, the Senate and House Finance and Appropriations committees, Senate and House leadership, and the State Advisory Council on Metropolitan Airport Planning.

12:30 p.m.

#### HOUSING

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** To be announced.

1:30 p.m.

#### LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO REVIEW ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

15 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. John Hottinger

**Agenda:** Preliminary assessment of the Pollution Control Agency administrative penalty orders for asbestos removal violations. Report from the Department of Human Services on the Interpretive memoranda study and pilot projects.

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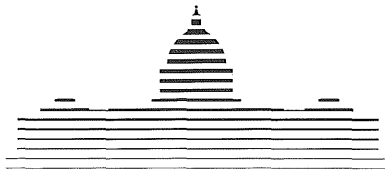
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Source: Minnesota Department of Economic Security; 1993 Annual Report, Minnesota Department of Economic Security



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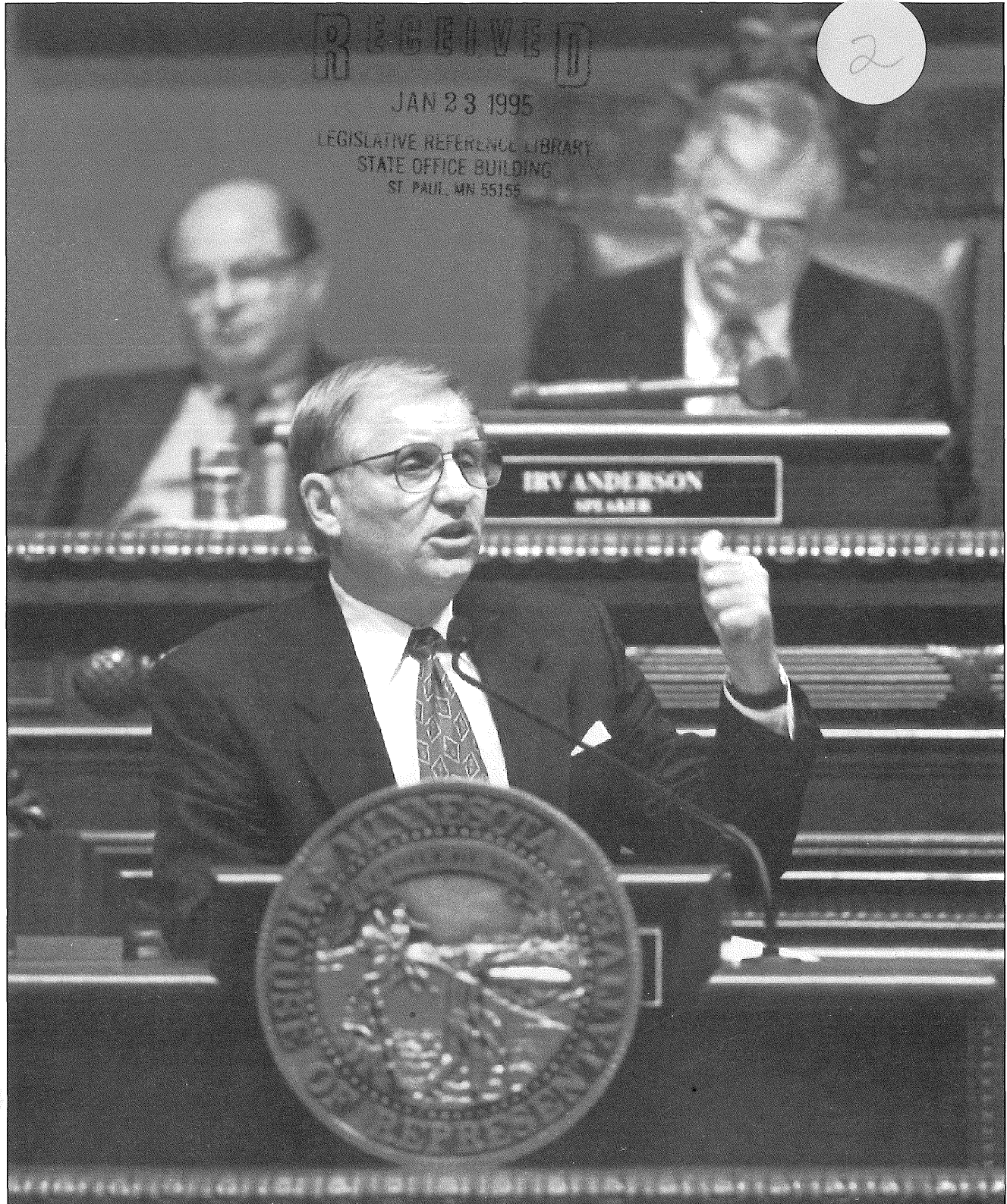
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# SESSION WEEKLY

A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ January 20, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 3





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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • January 20, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 3

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On the cover: Gov. Arne Carlson delivered his State of the State Address to a joint session of the Minnesota Legislature Jan. 18. Seated behind the governor are House Speaker Irv Anderson, right, and Senate President Allan Spear, left.

— photo by Tom Olmscheid



# Highlights



House Speaker Irv Anderson, center, flanked by House Majority Leader Phil Carruthers, left, and Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe, right, responds to Gov. Arne Carlson's State of the State Address Jan. 18.

## State of the State . . .

# Carlson promises efficiency, no new general taxes

The collapse of the Berlin Wall signaled a new era in global politics.

Similarly, the 1994 elections marked a major political change and Gov. Arne Carlson promised Minnesotans that he would tear down the "wall between the citizen and his or her government."

In his State of the State Address Jan. 18, Carlson outlined his vision of a leaner, more efficient state government. He called for changes that would get people off welfare and into jobs, and for keeping jobs in Minnesota by lowering the cost to employers of worker's compensation insurance. He also proposed consolidating all programs dealing with children into a new state department.

But he also warned of a looming budget problem that will force the state to control spending. Citing a recent Minnesota Planning Report, *Within Our Means*, Carlson noted that a \$2.5 billion "structural budget gap" will exist by the year 2005. It will be caused by an increased number of children in K-12 schools and Minnesotans reaching retirement age, coupled with a leveling off in the number of workers paying taxes over the next 10 years.

But income or sales taxes won't be increased to narrow that budget gap, Carlson promised.

The electorate made their "priorities abun-

dantly clear" in the 1994 election, according to Carlson, and government must live within its means and operate more efficiently. He said there will be no general tax increases through 1998.

"The taxpayers will be heard and this legislative session is the taxpayers' session," he declared.

Carlson said it was time to "launch an all-out war on expensive and ridiculous mandates be they from the federal government or from the state."

As an example, he cited a federal directive that calls for 10 percent of prison cells in the state to be wheelchair accessible. Minnesota has only 20 inmates in wheelchairs, and 14 of them reside in the geriatric unit in Faribault, said Carlson. Unless the state can obtain a waiver from the federal government, the state "will be forced to spend millions and millions of taxpayer dollars to create accessible space for 400 disabled inmates that we don't have," Carlson said.

To eliminate the "great wall" between the people and the political elite, Carlson proposed "removing burdensome mandates" from the state, and instead make appropriations to communities in the form of block grants.

"Give people the tools and they will be far more creative and far more effective than any

centralized government could ever be," he said.

Calling the state's welfare system a "social catastrophe," Carlson specified a number of reforms:

- Eliminate welfare for "able-bodied adults with kids";
- Make first time welfare applicants aware that they have an obligation to work;
- Expand the Minnesota Family Investment Program, an experiment that allows welfare recipients to work and receive assistance, as a "sturdy, one-way bridge out of welfare";
- Require teenage parents to live with their parents as a condition of receiving welfare; and
- Concentrate efforts to collect child support payments.

A proposal is already being heard in the House (HF5) which incorporates many of Carlson's ideas.

Carlson also proposed taking the "250 different children's programs scattered throughout 15 different state agencies" and folding them into a new Department of Children and Education Services. This echoed a similar proposal first aired in Carlson's 1993 State of the State Address.

To prepare Minnesota's youth for the emerging economy which requires specific

technical skills — not a four-year college degree — Carlson called for developing partnerships between schools and employers to create apprenticeship programs.

"This will be a difficult budget year, but youth apprenticeship must be a priority," he said.

DFL legislative leaders said that the governor made a good speech, but according to Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine), "the devil is in the details." House and Senate DFL leaders said they were awaiting specific budget proposals.

House Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) said he "liked the emphasis on education," but noted that there was "no mention of property taxes."

The idea of block grants to local communities "means money, and where are we going to get the money?" Anderson wondered. "You are just not going to give these communities dollars and let them do something." He said that state appropriations to local governments have to be tied to a specific legislative purpose.

House Majority Leader Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) called on the governor to be a "player" in the legislative process, and provide "leadership on a daily basis" throughout the 1995 session.

Carruthers cited Carlson's proposal to create a new state department dealing with children. He said this was proposed by the governor first in 1993, but a bill to make it happen was never introduced.

"It was a good idea, but there was no follow through," Carruthers said.

Legislative funding debates will begin in earnest next week when the governor releases his budget proposal Jan. 24.

— Mordecai Spektor



## BUDGET

### Balancing act

Minnesota lawmakers are encouraging their federal counterparts to balance the federal budget, but they want to know what such efforts are going to mean to Minnesotans.

House members approved a non-binding resolution (SF66) Jan. 17 asking Congress for financial information on the impact of a balanced federal budget amendment on the Minnesota state budget. The vote was 124-3. The Senate approved the resolution Jan. 12 on a 63-0 vote.

"We want to get information as to how a congressional balanced budget amendment would affect us, and more importantly, how

it would affect the people of our state," said Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center).

The Republican's "Contract with America" promises a vote within the first 100 days of the 104th Congress on a balanced budget amendment. It is necessary to "restore fiscal responsibility to an out-of-control Congress, requiring them to live under the same budget constraints as families and businesses," states the contract. It promises a balanced federal budget by the year 2002.

Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka) asked members not to assume that it would result in cuts to federal dollars flowing into Minnesota.

"If the feds show just a little fiscal restraint — as we [in Minnesota] have — then it is possible" to balance the budget without hitting the states, Weaver said.

Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) voted for the proposal, but wished it were more strongly worded.

"I wish it would have called on Congress to stop the unfunded mandates. I wish we had a stronger resolution before us," she said.

The resolution does recognize that working to balance the federal budget "may impose on the states unfunded mandates that shift to the states responsibility for carrying out programs that the Congress can no longer afford."

A recent study completed by the U.S. Treasury Department for the nation's governors estimates that the balanced budget amendment would reduce federal grants to Minnesota by \$1.2 billion. But some have dismissed that estimate as being politically motivated.

SF66 is sponsored by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine).

### Boxers, barbers, and artists

There was some singing but no low blows or nicks, when three disparate groups — boxers, barbers, and arts and humanities promoters — took turns introducing their groups to the House Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee Jan. 18. The committee will adopt funding recommendations for each of the three organizations later this session.

The Humanities Commission runs a teacher training institute, literacy programs, and awards over 150 small grants each year for community-based projects, explained commission chair Cheryl Dickson. The commission received about \$1.2 million in state funds and an equal amount in federal grants in fiscal years 1994 and 1995. A 21-member

board governs the commission, which is staffed by 12 full-time and two part-time employees.

Following the presentation by the Humanities Commission, committee chair Jim Rice (DFL-Mpls.) introduced representatives from the Board of Boxing. "We'll now move from the sublime to the unconscious," he said. Rice, a Golden Gloves boxer in his youth, praised Minnesota for its safe management of boxing matches.

Board chair Joseph Azzone, a former probation and parole officer in Ramsey County, and Joseph O'Hara, the board's volunteer executive secretary, testified before the committee. In recent years the state has appropriated about \$60,000 annually to the board. Azzone and O'Hara told representatives that amateur boxing programs, which are encouraged by the Board of Boxing, offer disadvantaged youth a positive direction and discipline.

"Our kids were at risk," O'Hara said. "We got 'em when they were hanging around on street corners." He said that 40 gyms in both the Metro area and outstate participate in the Upper Midwest Golden Gloves tournament.

Professional boxing and full contact karate matches are regulated by the Board of Boxing, which also licenses female boxers, according to O'Hara. He said that "tough man" tournaments, where untrained fighters can get in a ring and clobber each other, are not allowed in Minnesota.

Finally, Kenneth Kirkpatrick, chair of the Board of Barber Examiners, told the committee that his agency issues apprentice and master barber licenses, licenses instructors in barber schools, and inspects shops and schools for compliance with sanitation standards.

The board receives a general fund appropriation each year — about \$130,000 for fiscal year 1995 — but recovers more than that amount from examination and license fees. One full-time secretary and one full-time inspector are employed by the board.

The barbering business is healthy and barbers are in demand, according to Kirkpatrick. In response to a question about whether barbers still shave customers, he said that shaving is "part of the basics of barbering." Kirkpatrick noted that he was taught to shave faces by an instructor who accomplished the task with "seven strokes in about seven seconds."



## EDUCATION

### Revised K-12 funding

State spending on K-12 education should increase by 20 percent, according to a preliminary report by the Coalition for Education Reform and Accountability (CERA).

The 26-member coalition is an advisory committee that recommends reforms in public education. Members, who include teachers, school administrators, parents and several others, made a presentation to the House Education Committee Jan. 19.

A 20 percent increase would boost the state's share of education funding from 60 to 80 percent and reduce the local districts' share from 40 to 20 percent, according to the report.

An 80 percent share of K-12 funding would mean a price tag of about \$5.7 billion for the 1996-97 school year. The Department of Finance has determined \$2.9 billion is already available for K-12 education. An additional \$1.2 billion could come from support levies and local revenues such as fees and interest. That would leave a gap of \$1.6 billion to be funded by the state, according to the CERA plan.

The report also says the state shouldn't cap or defer state funding that forces school districts to borrow short term.

In perhaps the most controversial piece of the report, CERA recommended that the state give each local school district a "block grant" free from most state mandates. In return, the schools would agree to meet certain performance standards. This would make districts more accountable to the state, said Scott Johnson, CERA chair.

To help districts meet their 20 percent funding share, the CERA report says the Legislature should allow them to levy (without referendum) up to 25 percent of the state block grant amount they receive. The levy could be on a local individual income tax or local residential property tax, Johnson said.

The size of state block grants would increase as the number of students enrolled in schools goes up and as inflation rises, he said. Also, the measures proposed in the report to increase district accountability should raise education spending about \$8 per student, he said.

The coalition made a number of recommendations on where additional state education dollars could be found to fill the \$1.6 billion gap in increased state funding. Those recommendations included:



Rep. Wes Skoglund, chair of the House Judiciary Committee, examines the rows of prison cells at the 80-year old Stillwater Correctional Facility during a Jan. 13 tour. The committee also toured the Oak Park Heights Correctional Facility later that day.

- Preventing local school districts from levying a property tax on commercial, industrial, and agricultural property. Instead, the state would impose a market value tax on such property.
- Reforming other general fund spending programs and directing savings to education.
- Seeking voluntary revenues from Native American Indian gambling operations.
- Extending the sales tax to clothing, services, or both.

Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee) said she wasn't sure those measures would raise sufficient funds.

"The only way I can see to raise \$1.6 billion is an increase in the sales tax and Gov. Carlson has made it very clear he won't support that increase. I guess I don't see very many new ideas here about where the Legislature can come up with money," she said.

The final version of the CERA report will be ready in about two weeks, Johnson said.

### Charter schools report card

Minnesota's experiment with charter schools could put the state on the cutting edge of U.S. education.

But problems with transportation, start-up funding, teacher morale, and rivalries between school districts and the charters threaten the future development of these innovative institutions, according to a House Research Department report presented to the House Education Committee Jan. 17.

Charter schools were authorized by the 1991 Legislature. The schools operate under the auspices of an established school district, but are allowed more flexibility in their curriculum and structure.

They "have the unique advantage of being released from most of the rules and regulations that bind, and some would say hinder, traditional schools," states the report.

Parents of charter school students generally felt satisfied with the curriculums offered, the small class sizes, the teachers, and "the effect the school was having on their children."

But the report found some problems in the relationships between charter schools and school districts. Because charter schools cannot issue bonds or levy taxes for building projects, they have moved into older, unused schools. The rent is low, but money is still needed for repairs, handicapped accessibility renovation, and meeting fire code requirements.

School districts "were unsure of their role in terms of accountability and providing services to the charter," according to the report. The districts sometimes viewed the charter schools as a threat because they siphoned off students and consequently reduced the amount of government funding received by a district.

The report notes that Minnesota provides no start-up funding to charter schools, so the schools have to rely on grants from other sources. As more charters are established there will be more competition for the limited amount of funding available.

Other problems were related to starting a charter school that are similar to starting up a business. Teachers were sometimes "ill-prepared to deal with the day-to-day issues that emerged when they opened their doors," states the report. Planning for the charters tended to focus on educational aspects rather than the nuts and bolts details of operating. Teachers found that "wearing two or more hats required a great deal of time and effort."

In its conclusions, the House Research report looked to Great Britain, where 700



charter schools have been established. These schools receive start-up grants and significant management and administrative support from outside consultants. Without such support from the state, the report warns that charter schools will be able to offer only a marginal degree of educational reform.

### Charter schools at a glance

The House Research Department report lists some general characteristics of the 14 charter schools operating in 1993-94.

- Three charters served elementary/middle school students, two served K-12 students, and one served only high school students.
- The charter schools were small, ranging from 16 to under 200 students.
- Class sizes also were small with student to teacher ratios ranging from 4:1 to 20:1.
- Half of the schools served students with special needs (hearing impaired, at-risk, and drop-outs).
- Grant funding to the charters varied from nothing to \$300,000.

## GAMBLING

### In the beginning — Bingo

Fewer than 20 years ago, lawmakers saw gambling as social recreation in need of only slight state regulation. Now, gambling is a Minnesota industry that saw \$4 billion wagered in 1993 alone, said John Williams, legislative analyst for the House Research Department.

Williams gave members of the House Governmental Operations Committee a history of Minnesota gaming laws Jan. 17. He serves as legislative analyst for the committee's Gambling Division, which hears all gaming bills.

In 1945, the Legislature passed its first law regulating gambling. It allowed only non-profit organizations to hold bingo games. That law is still followed today, Williams said.

From 1945 to 1981, lawmakers essentially legalized and regulated the already-existing bingo business, Williams said. They placed the proliferation of bingo parlors under state control.

It wasn't until 1976, with the passage of a bingo reform law, that the Legislature first

really attempted to control a flourishing charitable gambling industry. Since that law passed, all gambling has been regulated on the state — not the local — level, Williams said.

In 1981, the state authorized pull tabs. Charitable pull tab booths in bars soon followed. Williams credited that "expansion of gambling" with touching off the beginning of what he called the "industrial revolution" of the 1980s, during which gambling became not a recreation but an industry.

In the 1980s, for instance, voters approved constitutional amendments calling for pari-mutuel racing and a state lottery. Passage of the pari-mutuel betting amendment was expected to create a horse racing industry in Minnesota, bringing in millions of tourism and breeding industry dollars, Williams said.

In fact, the Canterbury Downs horse track brought in \$134 million in gross wagers during 1986, its most successful year. Wagers steadily declined in following years and now the track is closed to live racing.

The lottery's gross sales in 1993 were \$328 million.

Also in the 1980s, the Legislature created a seven-member Gambling Control Board that grants charitable gambling licenses and oversees rules of play, Williams said.

But the greatest expansion of gambling in the 1980s came at the federal level with the Federal Indian Gaming Law of 1988. The gaming law authorized gambling on tribal reservations. It allowed tribes to conduct any form of gambling allowed by a state, whether regulated by the state or not. Non-state approved forms of gambling such as video slot machines are governed by a compact negoti-

ated between tribes and the state. In reality, though, the state has little control over tribal gambling, Williams said.

Now Minnesota seems to be in a third gambling-regulatory phase: the moratorium, Williams told legislators. Since 1991, the Legislature has made no efforts to expand gambling. And voters failed to pass a proposed constitutional amendment in November authorizing off-track betting on horses.

Last year, the Legislature created an advisory council to study state gambling policy and report back to lawmakers in 1995 and 1996, Williams said. The council will look at the proposed legalization of video lottery machines in bars, (which some say would be an expansion of gambling), changes in charitable gambling taxes, and compulsive gambling program funding.



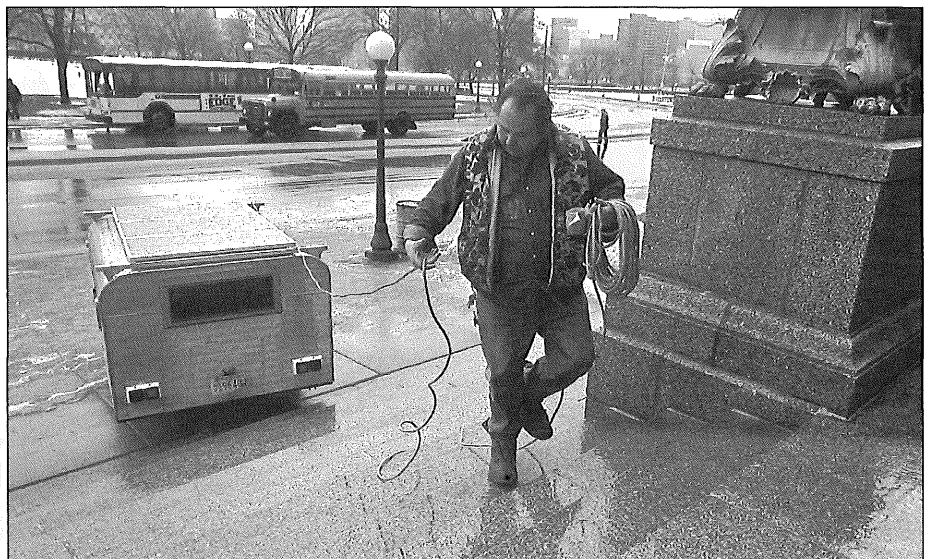
## HUMAN SERVICES

### Welfare reform

Two days of hearings on a House welfare reform proposal brought hundreds of protesters to the State Capitol, many of whom objected to what they considered the punitive tone of the bill. (See related story, page 7.)

But when the shouts of protest quieted down outside the House Health and Human Services Committee hearing room Jan. 17 and 18, the measure (HF5, formerly HF1) emerged in a form that was more palatable to some.

One successful amendment eliminated the 16-hour-a-week work requirement for welfare students in universities and technical



Joe Campbell of the Prairie Island Coalition Against Nuclear Storage ran an extension cord from a trailer topped with solar panels into the State Office Building for a Jan. 17 press conference. The coalition's message: if there is no movement toward alternative forms of energy, more nuclear power plants will continue to be built.

colleges as long as they are enrolled in a full load of courses.

Some had argued single mothers who are full-time students have enough of a work load. An employment requirement would take away time from their children.

A second successful amendment sets limits on which grandparents must become financially responsible for their minor child who has a child. Now under the bill, only grandparents who earn at least 200 percent more than the federal poverty level — about \$24,640 a year for a family of three — will be held financially responsible for their minor child. (The state will still make the welfare payment to support the child, but it could now seek reimbursement from the grandparents.)

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) proposed that amendment “to protect a level of income for the grandparents who are financially responsible.” Grandparents themselves, he said, need money to prepare for retirement and potential health care problems.

Another amendment eliminated the bill’s new job search and work requirements for welfare recipients who can’t speak English, provided they are taking classes to learn the language. Once they become proficient in the language, the job search and work requirements would kick in.

Many of those testifying before the House Health and Human Services Committee objected to what they considered the punitive tone of the bill and its underlying assumption that people on welfare are lazy.

“Moms on welfare are indeed already working,” said Mary Devitt of Mothers Union, an advocacy group. The bill turns welfare from a program to help maintain a healthy life for children to “forced labor for their mothers.”

“We can’t make successful public policy on misconception,” said Susal Stebbins of the National Organization for Women of Minnesota. She said many components of the bill



About 250 people jammed the hallways outside a hearing of the House Health and Human Services Committee Jan. 18. Inside, members were discussing a welfare reform bill (HF5). A coalition of community groups organized the protest.

would help mothers and families, but many would not. The Legislature needs to increase wages, child support enforcement, and the availability of low cost health care and child care.

Increasing money to help low- and moderate-income families afford child care, thus removing a barrier to their returning to work, would be “among the best investments you could ever make,” Stebbins said.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Bob Anderson (DFL-Ottertail), committee chair, would require all teenage moms on welfare to live at home or with a supervising adult and request the elimination of federal rules that some argue discourage welfare recipients from finding work. One waiver would allow welfare recipients to spend more for an automobile, giving them more reliable transportation to and from work. The bill asks that the limit be raised to \$4,500 — up from the current \$1,500 limit.

A major component of the bill would es-

tablish a Work First pilot program. The new program would set out tough penalties, such as losing benefits, if participants don’t stick to a contract to search for a job and accept work. The bill does not specify which counties could operate the program.

The bill now goes to the House Health and Human Services Finance Division, where funding decisions are made. (See Jan. 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6.)

## A woman’s right to know

Just a few hours after Gov. Arne Carlson pledged his support for a welfare reform bill “not cluttered with controversial amendments,” an abortion waiting-period proposal was added to the bill. (See related story, page 6.)

A “woman’s right to know” amendment was attached to the measure (HF5, formerly HF1) during a six-hour House Health and Human Services Committee meeting Jan. 18, shortly after the governor’s State of the State Address. The vote was 14 to 8.

The amendment, sponsored by Rep. Tony Onnen (IR-Cokato), requires a 24-hour waiting period before a woman can have an abortion. It mandates she be informed — by telephone or in person — about the medical risks associated with an abortion, the probable age of her fetus, and the name of the doctor who will perform the procedure. Women could sue their doctor for failing to provide the information.

A similar amendment stalled a welfare reform bill last session and some lawmakers fear welfare reform will suffer a governor’s veto if the abortion proposal isn’t removed. Carlson’s staff has already said the governor

## Minnesota’s top 10 AFDC counties, Fiscal Year 1994

County	Total annual payments, in millions	Percent of state total	Average monthly recipients	Average monthly payment per person
Hennepin	\$103.0	31.6	56,642	\$151.57
Ramsey	\$63.6	19.5	37,107	\$142.80
St. Louis	\$17.5	5.4	10,606	\$137.67
Anoka	\$12.6	3.9	7,832	\$133.85
Dakota	\$11.5	3.5	6,791	\$141.63
Beltrami	\$7.1	2.2	3,947	\$150.25
Clay	\$5.9	1.8	3,656	\$133.98
Washington	\$4.9	1.5	3,007	\$135.49
Olmsted	\$4.9	1.5	3,081	\$131.93
Stearns	\$4.4	1.3	2,694	\$135.02

Source: Department of Human Services

will veto the welfare reform bill with an abortion waiting-period amendment in it.

"This is politics at its most ridiculous," said Rep. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick), who voted against the amendment. Women, she said, don't enter into a decision to have an abortion lightly and don't need the government telling them to wait 24 hours.

"I beg you not to taint or compromise" the welfare reform effort, she said.

But, Onnen said, "My purpose in offering this is not to kill welfare reform." He said he feels strongly about a woman's need to be well informed and said there was no other way to get the proposal to the House floor. The bill would never be heard on its own, he said.

Amendment co-sponsor Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) agreed. She said she previously has tried to move an abortion-related bill through the legislative process without any success.

Hasskamp said she has counseled pregnant women and has learned that women are not always informed about their choices or the risks associated with abortions.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) said the amendment only serves to add another roadblock for women making the personal decision to have an abortion.

Two lines in the amendment, which require that patients receive the name of the doctor performing the procedure 24 hours in advance, also caused concern among some lawmakers.

Lourey, who tried unsuccessfully to have the lines stricken, said the advance knowledge could fall into the wrong hands and endanger the lives of doctors. Some physicians who provide abortions have been killed by anti-abortion extremists.

The welfare bill now goes to the House Health and Human Services Finance Division for further review.



## TAXES

### Price of government

State lawmakers now have another forecasting tool to help them establish their fiscal priorities.

It's called the "price of government" law, which was passed by the 1994 Legislature as part of the omnibus tax bill. Education Committee members received a primer on the new law Jan. 17.

The idea is to tie the amount of state and local government spending to the growth of personal income of Minnesotans. It will show, over time, whether government is expanding

faster than the taxpayers' ability to pay.

The November 1994 revenue forecast showed that state and local government revenue currently stands at 18.5 percent of total state personal income. It is expected to drop to 17.4 percent by the end of the decade.

The law doesn't mandate that the price of government go down should personal income go down, or rise as income rises. It simply requires that before any state spending decisions are made, the public be told how much money Minnesota state and local governments need to operate.

Specifically, the law requires the governor and the Legislature to establish revenue goals before the state taxing and budgeting process begins. Those goals must detail:

- the maximum percentage of total personal income to be collected in taxes and other revenues to pay for state and local government services;
- the split of the revenue between state and local governments; and
- the appropriate mix and rates of income, sales, and other state and local taxes and other revenues, and the amount that should be raised through local property taxes.

The governor will deliver his revenue tar-

gets on Jan. 24. By March 15, the Legislature must adopt a resolution setting revenue targets.

Both the governor and state lawmakers will have better data from the departments of finance and revenue on which to base their revenue goals. The price of government law mandated that the February and November budget forecasts include local government revenue — not just state general fund revenue. That gives a more accurate picture of dollars taken in by government. The November 1994 forecast was the first to provide local government revenue information.

Once legislators establish revenue goals, they will use the price of government figures as guides — not spending caps — for state spending decisions.

It's a process that will help not just lawmakers, but citizens as well.

"This is a tool that should prove useful to taxpayers," Art Rolnick, director of research for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, told House Taxes Committee members Jan. 12. "It will show them what they are getting from government, and what they are paying for."

## What's the problem?

### Driver's licenses backlogged for three months

Rep. Henry Kalis' (DFL-Walters) phone has been ringing off the hook the past several months with constituents complaining about the same problem: a driver's license that was supposed to arrive in the mail, but didn't.

Kalis brought his problem to Katherine Burke Moore, director of the Driver and Vehicle Services Division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, who addressed members of the Transportation and Transit Committee Jan. 17.

Kalis joined nearly every other representative on the 22-member committee in inquiring about the three-month backlog in distributing the new driver's licenses.

"I just have complaint after complaint after complaint," Kalis said. "There isn't a day that I don't . . . hear someone complaining about this."

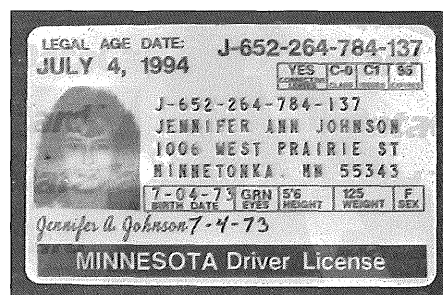
After applying for a new or renewed license, Minnesotans are issued a "receipt" while they wait for their new license to arrive by mail. The receipt doubles as proof of licensure to show to law enforcement agents and retailers. Receipt holders also keep their old licenses. New ones are expected to arrive by mail in about four to six weeks, Burke Moore said.

But in 1994, that wait was more like three

months, and the delays are still lengthy as 1995 begins.

The problem originated in 1993 when the Legislature approved a \$3.50 hike in the cost of a Minnesota license. With the additional revenue, Burke Moore's department planned to find a new vendor to issue licenses that didn't use photo negatives and couldn't be easily copied, she said. They chose Deluxe Corp. in Shoreview, Minn. The company promised to produce a high-tech tamperproof license.

But in December 1993, National Business Systems, the company previously under contract to make the state's licenses, sued Driver and Vehicle Services, alleging unfair bidding practices, Burke Moore said. The company



A sample of the new tamper-proof Minnesota driver's license.



obtained a restraining order to keep the Deluxe Corp. contract from moving ahead, she said.

Driver and Vehicle Services eventually won the case and the restraining order was lifted in May 1994. But the first Deluxe Corp. tamperproof licenses were scheduled to be issued in early June, leaving no time to work the kinks out of the new system, she said.

There proved to be several kinks.

New equipment couldn't be installed in every state licensing station to meet the June production date, so several Minnesotans had to return to have their pictures taken when the equipment arrived, Burke Moore said. The photo images, now transmitted electronically over telephone wires, also struck a glitch. Whole batches of photos were lost over the wires, so those whose photos 'disappeared' needed to make a return trip for a retake, Burke Moore said.

"Many people didn't know their image hadn't transmitted until they called. They were sent retake letters, but not until the information was typed into our database, so they could have applied in July and gotten a retake letter in October," Burke Moore said.

Also, the receipts Minnesotans receive when renewing licenses expire after 60 days. Public safety employees notified law enforcement agencies nationwide and retailers across the state, telling of the licensing problems and requesting that expired receipts be honored.

In mid-September, Driver and Vehicle Services sent a press release to everyone with expired receipts, assuring them the receipts were still legal, Burke Moore said.

Deluxe Corp. is picking up the tab for the press releases, the extra hours logged by temporary employees re-entering information into computers, and other extra expenses, Burke Moore said. The company receives \$1.29 for each license. About 1.2 million Minnesotans need new or renewed licenses each year, she added.

The state's contract with Deluxe Corp. contains a penalty clause, but Driver and Vehicle Services has chosen not to levy it as long as the company pays additional expenses.

"We don't want to kill the vendor," Burke Moore said.

Minnesotans currently wait three months between applying for and receiving their licenses, but hopefully the waiting period will return to the standard four-to-six weeks by March, Burke Moore added.

"Because of the backlog, I'm not confident there'll be no more problems," she said. "We had planned to have no backlog by Christmas, but here it is January and we have a backlog and expired receipts," she said.

## Interactive TV beams to, from House

Think of it as a conference call with television screens.

In an effort to reach more Minnesotans, this year the House of Representatives has introduced interactive (two-way) television, which allows members to hold committee hearings in St. Paul and hear — and see — testimony from several other locations around the state.

Interactive television already has been used in some committee hearings. Its first use occurred last fall at a meeting of the Task Force on Workers' Compensation Reform. Chair Rep. Ted Winter, (DFL-Fulda) using equipment in St. Paul, (a black remote control box and a twin screen television receiver) hooked up lawmakers with people in Marshall, Minn. and Fergus Falls, Minn.

Turnout was small for the first running of interactive television but its potential was appreciated. George Spang, general manager of Heartland Food Co. in Marshall, said he liked the new technology. It allowed him to testify on workers' compensation by simply walking across the street from his office, instead of driving to St. Paul.

"We can make it a lot easier for citizens to speak to their Legislature," said House Majority Leader Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center). Interactive television will reduce the psychological as well as the geographical distance between the people and their state government, he said.

Rep. Virgil Johnson (IR-Caledonia) said interactive television is a good way for rural constituents to have access to their state

lawmakers, hear all sides of an issue, and remain close to home. Constituents in his district need to travel about 300 miles round trip to get to St. Paul. "The more involvement people have in government. . . the better the end result."

Committee chairs will have the ability to zoom in on speakers from different cities and switch from city to city, depending on how many are hooked up to participate in a particular committee hearing.

The link is made via MNet, an existing state-owned network of telephone data transmission lines that reach 18 colleges and other public buildings around the state. More sites are expected to be hooked up this legislative session and eventually more than 200 locations will be linked. The House also has the ability to use private carrier telephone transmission lines to bring interactive television to other sites around the state, said Chris Cowman, director of House Television.

Most of the twin screen television receivers and other equipment needed for the interactive broadcasts already exist at the public buildings in outstate Minnesota because they have used interactive television for some time. Currently, the House is leasing its equipment used in St. Paul and is investigating the costs of ownership, Johnson said.

Cowman estimated it would cost about \$90,000 to \$100,000 for the House to purchase its own equipment.

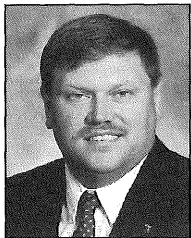


Jayne Sprinthall Rankin, right, and Pat Dalton, left, of the House Research Department presented a report they co-authored to a joint meeting of the Property Tax and TIF Division of the Taxes Committee and the Health and Human Services Committee Jan. 19. The meeting also was hooked to sites in Fergus Falls and Duluth via interactive television. County officials from both sites gave testimony before the committees.

New members . . .

## Bakk represents land of 'three Ts': timber, taconite, and tourism

Unlike most candidates on the campaign trail, Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) didn't knock on a single door.



Rep. Tom Bakk

He said it wasn't practical to meet voters by strolling through the sprawling District 6A in northeastern Minnesota, which encompasses part of the Iron Range, Lake Superior's North Shore, and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Instead,

Bakk relied on mailings and appearances at city council meetings and civic events.

His strategy worked. Bakk emerged from a crowded field to win the seat held for the last 18 years by former Rep. Dave Battaglia.

Last summer, the DFL district convention failed to endorse a candidate from among five contenders, and the "floodgates kind of opened up," Bakk said. Eleven candidates filed to run in the DFL primary. With 17.5 percent of the vote, Bakk emerged the victor and then took the general election by a comfortable margin.

Although he will miss his two teenaged sons' basketball games during the legislative session, Bakk is looking forward to serving on committees that will consider legislation important to his constituents. The economic bedrock of his arrowhead district is composed of what Bakk called the "three T's: timber, taconite, and tourism." He noted an upturn in both the wood products industry and mining.

As the business manager for the carpenters' union on the Iron Range, Bakk is looking forward to sitting on the House Labor-Management Relations Committee.

"That's probably the easiest committee for me to be on, because I'm so familiar with the labor-management issues," he said. "The workers' comp debate I expect to be real difficult, though."

Bakk vowed to oppose any reforms that would reduce benefits to injured workers. "Roughly 22 percent of the premiums [employers] pay for workers' comp actually ends up going to the injured worker. Now there's 78 percent there that's in the bureaucracy somewhere." Part of the solution, according to Bakk, lies in regulating the insurance companies, as they do in Wisconsin.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials can count on getting an earful from

Bakk when they appear before the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee. Bakk and his constituents would like to know what the DNR is doing with all the money it collects in license fees. He opposes any fee increases.

"One of the things I want to look at is lowering the price of deer licenses for young kids," said Bakk, who objects on principle to charging children and adults the same fee for a hunting license. "For a lot of people, it's a matter of economics. I know when I go buy a deer license for myself and my two sons, it's 69 bucks! Sportsmen ask themselves, 'What is the DNR giving me for 69 bucks?'" He pointed out that kids under 16 don't need a license for fishing or hunting small game.

A framed photo of his older son wearing his football uniform hangs on the wall of Bakk's office. When he isn't "following his teenaged sons around to football, basketball, baseball, and track," Bakk enjoys hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and canoeing in the Boundary Waters, which begins nine miles from his home on Lake Vermilion — "the most beautiful lake in Minnesota," he claims.

Bakk said that he has been closely involved in his sons' education, even taking them to their pre-school medical screenings. And he is proud to say that he has never missed a school conference. He says it's difficult being away from them, and that he's looking forward to a long weekend with them — snowmobiling and ice fishing.

The sacrifices will be worth it if Bakk can fulfill some of his expectations. He hopes to help make Minnesota a better place for his children to live in — better than it was for him. "That's partly what has driven me into becoming a labor leader — trying to provide the leadership in the workplace that will help accomplish that," he said.

— Mordecai Specktor

### District 6A

**Population:** 32,676

**Distribution:** 23.32 percent urban; 76.68 percent rural

**Counties:** Cook, Koochiching, Lake, St. Louis

**Largest city:** Two Harbors

**Location:** northeastern Minnesota

**Unemployment rate:** 10.15 percent

**Residents living below poverty level:** 12.18

**1992 presidential election results:**

Bush/Quayle ..... 24.96 percent

Clinton/Gore ..... 50.72 percent

Perot/Stockdale ..... 22.92 percent

Other: ..... 1.4 percent



Those who question the importance of agriculture in Minnesota need look no further than the voluminous *Minnesota Statutes*.

Of the 800 or so chapters (different sections of law) in the statute books, 122 make reference to the Department of Agriculture, explained Sam Rankin of the state House of Representatives Research Department.

The scope of the agriculture department is "almost stunning," Rankin told members of the House Agriculture Committee Jan. 18.

Not only is the department charged with the protection of the state's wildflowers, but it also has some regulatory authority over those who raise Eurasian wild pigs.

Many people in Greater Minnesota look fondly back on the first half of the 20th century when electricity first arrived on the farm. But for Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth), those memories are a lot more recent.

Jaros, who grew up on a farm in Bosnia, said electricity didn't come to his family farm until 1979. Jaros made the comment Jan. 18 when members were asked to introduce themselves during the first meeting of the Agriculture Committee this session.

Although Jaros has served in the House since 1973, this is his first stint on the committee.

### How times change?

Back in 1976, now Rep. LeRoy Koppendray (IR-Princeton) was honored by none other than Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) for being the "conservation farmer of the year."

Koppendray's good deed?

"Draining my wetlands," he explained during the first meeting of the Agriculture Committee Jan. 18.

Now, of course, such a practice would land him in a lot of legal hot water.

Koppendray owns a 360-acre dairy farm in Mille Lacs County.

Wenzel, who has been the House Agriculture Committee chair since 1981 (with the exception of 1985-86 when Independent-Republicans took control of the House), represented the area in the House in the 1970s.

# Minnesota House of Representatives

## 1995-96 Committee Assignments

<p><b>Abrams, Ron</b> (IR-Minnetonka) ..... 45A  Financial Institutions &amp; Insurance  Rules &amp; Legislative Administration  Taxes  Property Tax &amp; TIF Division  Ways &amp; Means  Government Efficiency &amp; Oversight Division</p> <p><b>Anderson, Bob</b> (DFL-Ottertail) ..... 10A  Health &amp; Human Services, chair  Health &amp; Human Services Finance Division  MinnesotaCare Finance Division  Regulated Industries &amp; Energy  Ways &amp; Means</p> <p><b>Anderson, Bruce</b> (IR-Buffalo Township) ..... 19B  General Legislation, Veterans Affairs &amp; Elections  Elections Division  Governmental Operations  State Government Finance Division</p> <p><b>Anderson, Irv</b> (DFL-Int'l Falls) ..... 3A  Rules &amp; Legislative Administration  Taxes  Property Tax &amp; TIF Division  Ways &amp; Means</p> <p><b>Bakk, Thomas</b> (DFL-Cook) ..... 6A  Taxes  Sales &amp; Income Tax Division, vice chair  Environment &amp; Natural Resources  International Trade &amp; Economic Development  Labor-Management Relations</p> <p><b>Bertram, Jeff</b> (DFL-Paynesville) ..... 14B  Education, vice chair  K-12 Education Finance Division  Financial Institutions &amp; Insurance  Local Government &amp; Metropolitan Affairs</p> <p><b>Bettermann, Hilda</b> (IR-Brandon) ..... 10B  Education  Higher Education Finance Division  Ethics  Labor-Management Relations  Rules &amp; Legislative Administration</p> <p><b>Bishop, Dave</b> (IR-Rochester) ..... 30B  Capital Investment  Judiciary  Judiciary Finance  Ways &amp; Means</p> <p><b>Boudreau, Lynda</b> (IR-Faribault) ..... 25B  Environment &amp; Natural Resources  General Legislation, Veterans Affairs &amp; Elections  Elections Division  Health &amp; Human Services  Health &amp; Human Services Finance Division</p>	<p><b>Bradley, Fran</b> (IR-Rochester) ..... 30A  Commerce, Tourism &amp; Consumer Affairs  Health &amp; Human Services  MinnesotaCare Finance Division  Transportation &amp; Transit</p> <p><b>Broecker, Sherry</b> (IR-Vadnais Heights) .... 53B  Judiciary Finance  Local Government &amp; Metropolitan Affairs  Transportation &amp; Transit</p> <p><b>Brown, Chuck</b> (DFL-Appleton) ..... 13A  Environment &amp; Natural Resources Finance, chair  Capital Investment  Judiciary  Ways &amp; Means  Government Efficiency &amp; Oversight Division</p> <p><b>Carlson, Lyndon R.</b> (DFL-Crystal) ..... 46B  Education, chair  Higher Education Finance Division  K-12 Education Finance Division  University of Minnesota Finance Division  Capital Investment (ex officio)  Financial Institutions &amp; Insurance  Ways &amp; Means</p> <p><b>Carruthers, Phil</b> (DFL-Brooklyn Center) .... 47B  Rules &amp; Legislative Administration, chair  Taxes  Sales &amp; Income Tax Division  Ways &amp; Means</p> <p><b>Clark, Karen</b> (DFL-Mpls) ..... 61A  Housing, chair  Capital Investment  Economic Development, Infrastructure &amp;  Regulation Finance  Transportation Finance Division</p> <p><b>Commers, Tim</b> (IR-Eagan) ..... 38A  General Legislation, Veterans Affairs &amp; Elections  Elections Division  Taxes  Sales &amp; Income Tax Division</p> <p><b>Cooper, Roger</b> (DFL-Bird Island) ..... 15B  Health &amp; Human Services  MinnesotaCare Finance Division, chair  Agriculture  Transportation &amp; Transit</p> <p><b>Daggett, Roxann</b> (IR-Frazee) ..... 11A  Commerce, Tourism &amp; Consumer Affairs  Labor-Management Relations  Taxes  Property Tax &amp; TIF Division</p>	<p><b>Dauner, Marvin</b> (DFL-Hawley) ..... 9B  Taxes  Property Tax &amp; TIF Division, vice chair  Agriculture  Claims  Education  Housing</p> <p><b>Dauids, Gregory M.</b> (IR-Preston) ..... 31B  Agriculture  Capital Investment  Ethics  Financial Institutions &amp; Insurance  General Legislation, Veterans Affairs &amp; Elections  Government Efficiency &amp; Oversight Division</p> <p><b>Dawkins, Andy</b> (DFL-St. Paul) ..... 65A  Taxes, vice chair  Sales &amp; Income Tax Division  Capital Investment  Housing  Judiciary</p> <p><b>Dehler, Steve</b> (IR-St. Joseph) ..... 14A  Education  Higher Education Finance Division  Governmental Operations  Gambling Division</p> <p><b>Delmont, Mike</b> (DFL-Lexington) ..... 51A  Government Efficiency &amp; Oversight Division, vice chair  Financial Institutions &amp; Insurance  Health &amp; Human Services  Health &amp; Human Services Finance Division  Regulated Industries &amp; Energy  Rules &amp; Legislative Administration</p> <p><b>Dempsey, Jerry</b> (IR-Hastings) ..... 29A  Capital Investment  Environment &amp; Natural Resources  Governmental Operations  Regulated Industries &amp; Energy</p> <p><b>Dorn, John</b> (DFL-Mankato) ..... 24A  Governmental Operations  Gambling Division, chair  Education  Higher Education Finance Division  Financial Institutions &amp; Insurance</p> <p><b>Entenza, Matt</b> (DFL-St. Paul) ..... 64A  Commerce, Tourism &amp; Consumer Affairs  Business Regulation Division, vice chair  Education  K-12 Education Finance Division  Judiciary  Government Efficiency &amp; Oversight Division</p>
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- Erhardt, Ron** (IR-Edina) ..... 42A  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Taxes  
Sales & Income Tax Division
- Farrell, Jim** (DFL-St. Paul) ..... 67A  
Judiciary Finance, vice chair  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Business Regulation Division  
Governmental Operations  
State Government Finance Division
- Finseth, Tim** (IR-Angus) ..... 1B  
Agriculture  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Environment & Natural Resources Finance  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
- Frerichs, Don L.** (IR-Rochester) ..... 31A  
Economic Development, Infrastructure &  
Regulation Finance  
Transportation Finance Division  
Transportation & Transit  
Ways & Means
- Garcia, Edwina** (DFL-Richfield) ..... 63B  
Economic Development, Infrastructure &  
Regulation Finance  
Transportation Finance Division, vice chair  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
- Girard, Jim** (IR-Lynd) ..... 21A  
Financial Institutions & Insurance  
International Trade & Economic Development  
Taxes  
Property Tax & TIF Division  
Ways & Means  
Government Efficiency & Oversight Division
- Goodno, Kevin** (IR-Moorhead) ..... 9A  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Labor-Management Relations  
Taxes  
Property Tax & TIF Division
- Greenfield, Lee** (DFL-Mpls) ..... 62A  
Health & Human Services  
Health & Human Services Finance Division,  
chair  
Financial Institutions & Insurance  
Housing
- Greiling, Mindy** (DFL-Roseville) ..... 54B  
Governmental Operations  
State Government Finance Division, vice chair  
Education  
K-12 Education Finance Division (ex officio)  
Ethics  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections  
Elections Division
- Haas, Bill** (IR-Champlin) ..... 48A  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Health & Human Services  
MinnesotaCare Finance Division  
Labor-Management Relations
- Hackbarth, Tom** (IR-Cedar) ..... 50A  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Environment & Natural Resources Finance  
International Trade & Economic Development
- Harder, Elaine** (IR-Jackson) ..... 22B  
Agriculture  
Economic Development, Infrastructure &  
Regulation Finance  
Transportation Finance Division  
Housing
- Hasskamp, Kris** (DFL-Crosby) ..... 12A  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs,  
vice chair  
International Trade & Economic Development,  
vice chair  
Health & Human Services  
MinnesotaCare Finance Division
- Hausman, Alice** (DFL-St. Paul) ..... 66B  
Environment & Natural Resources Finance,  
vice chair  
Environment & Natural Resources  
International Trade & Economic Development  
Regulated Industries & Energy
- Holsten, Mark** (IR-Stillwater) ..... 56A  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Business Regulation Division  
Environment & Natural Resources Finance  
Regulated Industries & Energy
- Hugoson, Gene** (IR-Granada) ..... 26A  
Agriculture  
Taxes  
Sales & Income Tax Division  
Transportation & Transit
- Huntley, Thomas** (DFL-Duluth) ..... 6B  
Health & Human Services  
MinnesotaCare Finance Division, vice chair  
Financial Institutions & Insurance  
Regulated Industries & Energy
- Jacobs, Joel** (DFL-Coon Rapids) ..... 49B  
Regulated Industries & Energy, chair  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Rules & Legislative Administration  
Taxes  
Property Tax & TIF Division
- Jaros, Mike** (DFL-Duluth) ..... 7B  
International Trade & Economic Development,  
chair  
Agriculture  
Taxes  
Sales & Income Tax Division
- Jefferson, Richard H.** (DFL-Mpls) ..... 58B  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections  
Elections Division, chair  
Governmental Operations  
State Government Finance Division  
International Trade & Economic Development
- Jennings, Loren** (DFL-Harris) ..... 18B  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Business Regulation Division, chair  
Health & Human Services  
Health & Human Services Finance Division  
Regulated Industries & Energy
- Johnson, Alice M.** (DFL-Spring Lake Park) 48B  
Education  
K-12 Education Finance Division, chair  
International Trade & Economic Development  
Labor-Management Relations
- Johnson, Bob** (DFL-Bemidji) ..... 4A  
Labor-Management Relations, chair  
Economic Development, Infrastructure &  
Regulation Finance  
Governmental Operations  
State Government Finance Division
- Johnson, Virgil J.** (IR-Caledonia) ..... 32B  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Environment & Natural Resources Finance  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
- Kahn, Phyllis** (DFL-Mpls) ..... 59B  
Governmental Operations, chair  
Gambling Division  
State Government Finance Division  
Ways & Means
- Kalis, Henry J.** (DFL-Walters) ..... 26B  
Capital Investment, chair  
Economic Development, Infrastructure &  
Regulation Finance  
Transportation Finance Division  
Transportation & Transit  
Ways & Means
- Kelley, Steve** (DFL-Hopkins) ..... 44A  
Regulated Industries & Energy, vice chair  
Education  
University of Minnesota Finance Division  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
- Kelso, Becky** (DFL-Shakopee) ..... 35B  
Education  
University of Minnesota Finance Division, chair  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Transportation & Transit
- Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony"** (DFL-Park Rapids) . 4B  
Education  
Higher Education Finance Division, chair  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Governmental Operations  
Housing
- Knight, Kevin** (IR-Bloomington) ..... 40B  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections  
Governmental Operations  
State Government Finance Division  
Transportation & Transit

- Knoblach, Jim** (IR-St. Cloud) ..... 16B  
Capital Investment  
Governmental Operations  
Gambling Division  
State Government Finance Division
- Koppendrayner, LeRoy** (IR-Princeton) ..... 17A  
Agriculture  
Education  
K-12 Education Finance Division  
International Trade & Economic Development  
Rules & Legislative Administration
- Kraus, Ron** (IR-Albert Lea) ..... 27A  
Agriculture  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Education  
University of Minnesota Finance Division
- Krinkie, Phil** (IR-Shoreview) ..... 53A  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Taxes  
Sales & Income Tax Division  
Transportation & Transit  
Ways & Means  
Government Efficiency & Oversight Division
- Larsen, Peg** (IR-Lakeland) ..... 56B  
Environment & Natural Resources Finance  
International Trade & Economic Development  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
- Leighton, Robert** (DFL-Austin) ..... 27B  
Labor-Management Relations, vice chair  
Economic Development, Infrastructure &  
Regulation Finance  
Transportation Finance Division  
Environment & Natural Resources  
International Trade & Economic Development
- Leppik, Peggy** (IR-Golden Valley) ..... 45B  
Education  
University of Minnesota Finance Division  
Environment & Natural Resources
- Lieder, Bernie** (DFL-Crookston) ..... 2A  
Economic Development, Infrastructure &  
Regulation Finance  
Transportation Finance Division, chair  
Capital Investment  
Transportation & Transit
- Limmer, Warren** (IR-Maple Grove) ..... 33B  
Education  
University of Minnesota Finance Division  
Judiciary
- Lindner, Arlon** (IR-Corcoran) ..... 33A  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Health & Human Services  
Health & Human Services Finance Division  
Housing
- Long, Dee** (DFL-Mpls) ..... 60A  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs, chair  
International Trade & Economic Development  
Taxes  
Property Tax & TIF Division
- Lourey, Becky** (DFL-Kerrick) ..... 8B  
Financial Institutions & Insurance, vice chair  
Agriculture  
Health & Human Services  
Health & Human Services Finance Division  
MinnesotaCare Finance Division
- Luther, Darlene** (DFL-Brooklyn Park) ..... 47A  
Ways & Means, vice chair  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Business Regulation Division  
Judiciary  
Judiciary Finance
- Lynch, Teresa** (IR-Andover) ..... 50B  
Rules & Legislative Administration, vice chair  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Environment & Natural Resources Finance  
Judiciary
- Macklin, Bill** (IR-Lakeville) ..... 37B  
Judiciary  
Judiciary Finance  
Taxes  
Property Tax & TIF Division
- Mahon, Mark P.** (DFL-Bloomington) ..... 40A  
Economic Development, Infrastructure &  
Regulation Finance, vice chair  
Ethics  
Labor-Management Relations  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Transportation & Transit
- Mares, Harry** (IR-White Bear Lake) ..... 55A  
Education  
K-12 Education Finance Division  
Financial Institutions & Insurance  
Governmental Operations  
Gambling Division
- Mariani, Carlos** (DFL-St. Paul) ..... 65B  
Housing, vice chair  
Education  
K-12 Education Finance Division (ex officio)  
University of Minnesota Finance Division  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Transportation & Transit
- Marko, Sharon** (DFL-Newport) ..... 57B  
Transportation & Transit, vice chair  
Health & Human Services  
Health & Human Services Finance Division  
Government Efficiency & Oversight Division
- McCollum, Betty** (DFL-North St. Paul) ..... 55B  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections  
Elections Division, vice chair  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Health & Human Services  
MinnesotaCare Finance Division  
Rules & Legislative Administration
- McElroy, Dan** (IR-Burnsville) ..... 36B  
Capital Investment  
Housing  
Transportation & Transit
- McGuire, Mary Jo** (DFL-Falcon Heights) . 54A  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs,  
vice chair  
Ethics (alternate)  
Judiciary  
Judiciary Finance  
Labor-Management Relations
- Milbert, Bob** (DFL-South St. Paul) ..... 39B  
Taxes  
Sales & Income Tax Division, chair  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Business Regulation Division  
Environment & Natural Resources
- Molnau, Carol** (IR-Chaska) ..... 35A  
Agriculture  
Economic Development, Infrastructure &  
Regulation Finance  
Transportation Finance Division  
Financial Institutions & Insurance  
International Trade & Economic Development
- Mulder, Richard** (IR-Ivanhoe) ..... 21B  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Business Regulation Division  
Health & Human Services  
Health & Human Services Finance Division
- Munger, Willard** (DFL-Duluth) ..... 7A  
Environment & Natural Resources, chair  
Environment & Natural Resources Finance  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections  
Rules & Legislative Administration
- Murphy, Mary** (DFL-Hermantown) ..... 8A  
Judiciary Finance, chair  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Judiciary  
Labor-Management Relations
- Ness, Robert "Bob"** (IR-Dassel) ..... 20A  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Business Regulation Division  
Education  
K-12 Education Finance Division
- Olson, Edgar** (DFL-Fosston) ..... 2B  
Claims, chair  
Ethics, chair  
Judiciary Finance  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Taxes  
Property Tax & TIF Division
- Olson, Mark** (IR-Big Lake) ..... 19A  
Education  
Governmental Operations  
Gambling Division  
Housing  
Regulated Industries & Energy
- Onnen, Tony** (IR-Cokato) ..... 20B  
Financial Institutions & Insurance  
Health & Human Services  
Health & Human Services Finance Division  
Regulated Industries & Energy

- Opatz, Joe** (DFL-St. Cloud) ..... 16A  
Education  
University of Minnesota Finance Division,  
vice chair  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections,  
vice chair  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Government Efficiency & Oversight Division
- Orenstein, Howard** (DFL-St. Paul) ..... 64B  
Ways & Means  
Government Efficiency & Oversight  
Division, chair  
Education  
Higher Education Finance Division  
Ethics  
Judiciary
- Orfield, Myron** (DFL-Mpls) ..... 60B  
Education  
K-12 Education Finance Division  
Environment & Natural Resources  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
- Osskopp, Mike** (IR-Lake City) ..... 29B  
Governmental Operations  
State Government Finance Division  
International Trade & Economic Development  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
- Osthoff, Tom** (DFL-St. Paul) ..... 66A  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections,  
chair  
Elections Division  
Environment & Natural Resources Finance  
Governmental Operations  
State Government Finance Division  
Transportation & Transit
- Ostrom, Don** (DFL-St. Peter) ..... 24B  
Capital Investment  
Financial Institutions & Insurance  
Taxes  
Property Tax & TIF Division
- Otremba, Ken** (DFL-Long Prairie) ..... 11B  
Health & Human Services  
Health & Human Services Finance Division,  
vice chair  
Agriculture  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
- Ozment, Dennis** (IR-Rosemount) ..... 37A  
Claims  
Economic Development, Infrastructure &  
Regulation Finance  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Ways & Means  
Government Efficiency & Oversight Division
- Paulsen, Erik** (IR-Eden Prairie) ..... 42B  
Education  
Higher Education Finance Division  
Financial Institutions & Insurance  
Labor-Management Relations
- Pawlenty, Tim** (IR-Eagan) ..... 38B  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections  
Elections Division  
Governmental Operations  
State Government Finance Division  
International Trade & Economic Development  
Rules & Legislative Administration
- Pellow, Richard** (IR-New Brighton) ..... 52B  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Business Regulation Division  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Judiciary Finance
- Pelowski Jr., Gene** (DFL-Winona) ..... 32A  
Education  
Higher Education Finance Division, vice chair  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections  
Elections Division  
Judiciary
- Perlt, Walter E.** (DFL-Woodbury) ..... 57A  
Governmental Operations  
Gambling Division, vice chair  
State Government Finance Division  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Labor-Management Relations
- Peterson, Doug** (DFL-Madison) ..... 13B  
Agriculture, vice chair  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Business Regulation Division  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
- Pugh, Thomas** (DFL-South St. Paul) ..... 39A  
Judiciary, vice chair  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Ethics  
Governmental Operations  
Gambling Division  
Judiciary Finance
- Rest, Ann H.** (DFL-New Hope) ..... 46A  
Taxes, chair  
Property Tax & TIF Division  
Sales & Income Tax Division  
Rules & Legislative Administration  
Ways & Means
- Rhodes, Jim** (IR-St. Louis Park) ..... 44B  
Capital Investment  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections  
Judiciary  
Transportation & Transit
- Rice, James I.** (DFL-Mpls) ..... 58A  
Economic Development, Infrastructure &  
Regulation Finance, chair  
Transportation Finance Division  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Business Regulation Division  
Ways & Means
- Rostberg, Jim** (IR-Isanti) ..... 18A  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections  
Governmental Operations  
State Government Finance Division  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
- Rukavina, Tom** (DFL-Virginia) ..... 5A  
Governmental Operations  
State Government Finance Division, chair  
International Trade & Economic Development  
Labor-Management Relations  
Government Efficiency & Oversight Division
- Sarna, John J.** (DFL-Mpls) ..... 59A  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs, chair  
Business Regulation Division  
Agriculture  
Environment & Natural Resources Finance  
Rules & Legislative Administration
- Schumacher, Leslie** (DFL-Princeton) ..... 17B  
Education  
K-12 Education Finance Division, vice chair  
Agriculture  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Transportation & Transit
- Seagren, Alice** (IR-Bloomington) ..... 41A  
Education  
K-12 Education Finance Division  
Housing  
Judiciary
- Simoneau, Wayne** (DFL-Fridley) ..... 52A  
Financial Institutions & Insurance, chair  
Capital Investment  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections  
International Trade & Economic Development
- Skoglund, Wes** (DFL-Mpls) ..... 62B  
Judiciary, chair  
Capital Investment  
Housing  
Judiciary Finance
- Smith, Steve** (IR-Mound) ..... 34A  
Ethics, vice chair  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Judiciary  
Judiciary Finance
- Solberg, Loren** (DFL-Bovey) ..... 3B  
Ways & Means, chair  
Government Efficiency & Oversight Division  
Capital Investment  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections  
Elections Division  
Judiciary
- Sviggum, Steven A.** (IR-Kenyon) ..... 28B  
Rules & Legislative Administration  
Taxes  
Sales & Income Tax Division  
Ways & Means
- Swenson, Doug** (IR-Forest Lake) ..... 51B  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Business Regulation Division  
Judiciary  
Judiciary Finance



<b>Swenson, Howard</b> (IR-Nicollet) ..... 23B Agriculture Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Business Regulation Division Education	<b>Tunheim, Jim</b> (DFL-Kennedy) ..... 1A Transportation & Transit, chair Education K-12 Education Finance Division Regulated Industries & Energy	<b>Wejman, Linda</b> (DFL-Mpls) ..... 61B Health & Human Services, vice chair Health & Human Services Finance Division Housing Judiciary Finance
<b>Sykora, Barbara</b> (IR-Excelsior) ..... 43B Education University of Minnesota Finance Division Housing International Trade & Economic Development	<b>Van Dellen, H. Todd</b> (IR-Plymouth) ..... 34B Capital Investment International Trade & Economic Development Taxes Sales & Income Tax Division	<b>Wenzel, Stephen G.</b> (DFL-Little Falls) ..... 12B Agriculture, chair Environment & Natural Resources Finance Labor-Management Relations Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
<b>Tomassoni, David</b> (DFL-Chisholm) ..... 5B Governmental Operations, vice chair Gambling Division Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Education K-12 Education Finance Division Financial Institutions & Insurance	<b>Van Engen, Tom</b> (IR-Spicer) ..... 15A Ethics Health & Human Services MinnesotaCare Finance Division Judiciary	<b>Winter, Ted</b> (DFL-Fulda) ..... 22A Taxes Property Tax & TIF Division, chair Agriculture Rules & Legislative Administration Transportation & Transit
<b>Tompkins, Eileen</b> (IR-Apple Valley) ..... 36A Ethics (alternate) Health & Human Services Health & Human Services Division Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Transportation & Transit	<b>Vickerman, Barb</b> (IR-Redwood Falls) ..... 23A Health & Human Services Health & Human Services Finance Division Labor-Management Relations Regulated Industries & Energy	<b>Wolf, Ken</b> (IR-Burnsville) ..... 41B Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance Transportation Finance Division Labor-Management Relations Regulated Industries & Energy
<b>Trimble, Steve</b> (DFL-St. Paul) ..... 67B Capital Investment, vice chair Environment & Natural Resources Environment & Natural Resources Finance Housing Rules & Legislative Administration	<b>Wagenius, Jean</b> (DFL-Mpls) ..... 63A Environment & Natural Resources, vice chair International Trade & Economic Development Taxes Sales & Income Tax Division Transportation & Transit	<b>Worke, Gary D.</b> (IR-Waseca) ..... 28A Financial Institutions & Insurance Health & Human Services MinnesotaCare Finance Division Labor-Management Relations Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
<b>Tuma, John</b> (IR-Northfield) ..... 25A Education Higher Education Finance Division Environment & Natural Resources Housing	<b>Weaver, Charlie</b> (IR-Anoka) ..... 49A Education K-12 Education Finance Division Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Rules & Legislative Administration Ways & Means Government Efficiency & Oversight Division	<b>Workman, Tom</b> (IR-Chanhassen) ..... 43A Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance Ethics Regulated Industries & Energy Transportation & Transit

While it's still early in the 1995 session, at least five state lawmakers — all of them senators — have called for a nickel-per-gallon increase in the state's gasoline tax (SF67).

This year will mark the 70th anniversary of the Legislature's decision to place a state tax on gasoline.

When Gov. J.A.O. Preus took office in January of 1921, he promised better roads to Minnesota citizens, noting that "a great road system will make Minnesota a better state in which to live."

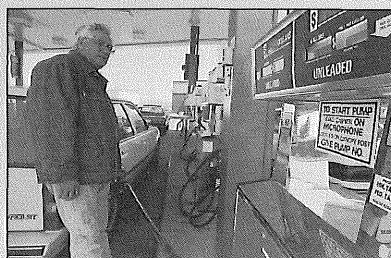
He kept his promise.

On the theory that more roads would boost the agriculture and tourist industries statewide, the number of graded roads tripled, the graveled roads quadrupled, and the paved roads quintupled during Preus' four years as governor.

However, maintaining this ballooning transportation system was expensive, and by 1923 the words "gas tax" were on the lips of state lawmakers. But before the

## It's a fact!

Legislature could institute a gas tax, the state constitution had to be amended. In November of 1924, Minnesota voters — by more than a 2 to 1 margin — paved the way for state lawmakers to tax gasoline. Incoming Gov. Theodore Christianson called the vote a "mandate from the people to enact a law imposing such a tax."



Gas prices could go up a nickel per gallon if a few state senators get their wish.

The Legislature agreed, voting in April of 1925 to place a two-cent-per-gallon tax on gas. The tax applied to motor vehicles driven on public highways and directed revenues to the trunk highway fund. While Minnesota wasn't the first to tax gasoline, it was the first state to dedicate the revenue for highway construction and maintenance.

To this date, all revenue generated by the tax must be used to build and maintain the state's roads and bridges. To change this, the state constitution must be amended. The current distribution formula (unchanged since 1956), gives 62 percent of the revenue to the trunk highway fund, 29 percent to the county-state aid highway fund, and 9 percent to the municipal state aid fund.

Since its inception, Minnesota's gas tax has been raised 11 times to its current rate of 20 cents per gallon. It has not increased since 1988.

Under the dome . . .

## Despite odds, Capitol club continues social tradition

They used to wear fashionable hats, visit Betty Crocker's Kitchen, attend style shows at major department stores, and knit outside House committee hearings waiting for their lawmaker husbands to finish their business.

Today participation in the Rotunda Club — a social group formed in 1949 for spouses of Minnesota House members — has slipped a bit from its glory years. Gone are the days when the club was regularly featured in Doris Bock's *St. Paul Pioneer Press* column "Good Morning to You," but the club is still active and recruiting new members.

"Sometimes I feel we should just hang this thing up. But the people who come really enjoy it," said Ann Sarna, president of the Rotunda Club and wife of Rep. John Sarna (DFL-Mpls). "More people need to learn about it. I wish that new people would join."

For more than a decade now the Rotunda Club has battled a societal change — more women entering the work force.

Fewer spouses (most often wives) can find the time to join the monthly social get-togethers that occur during legislative sessions. Although women now account for a quarter of all House members, only a handful of husbands have ever participated in the Rotunda Club.

The club originally organized 45 years ago to help outstate wives meet other women and socialize when they joined their husbands in St. Paul for the legislative session. Today, few spouses uproot their lives, families, and careers to temporarily move to St. Paul with their lawmaker partners.

"It is not like it used to be." Outstate spouses with jobs and children just can't take a drive down to the cities to spend an afternoon with the Rotunda Club, Sarna said.

In its heyday the Rotunda Club, briefly dubbed "House Wives" by some, could throw luncheons or other gatherings and easily entertain 50 or more people.

Today "we're lucky if we can get 15."

Currently, there are 42 dues-paying Rotunda Club members, although participation doesn't always show it, said Elaine Steensma, club secretary and wife of former Rep. Andy Steensma of Luverne. "Most everybody has a job now."

All spouses of new House members and former House members are invited to join and are sent notices of events each session unless they specify they don't want to receive them.

"You don't realize what good friends each



Being the wife of a legislator in the 1950s involved a lot of waiting and it took some creativity to avoid dying of boredom. This 1955 photograph depicts some legislative wives waiting outside a Capitol committee room for word from a tax conference committee. Part of the original newspaper caption reads: "Rep. (Dan) Conroy kibitzes in the background."

other can be," said Sarna. From the campaign trail, to the media, and constituent complaints, "we're all in the same boat. It is kind of like group therapy."

Any thoughts that the Rotunda Club wives have some sort of political influence over their husbands is misguided at best. "We pretty much don't talk politics. We're a social group," Sarna said.

Over the past 45 years there have been trips to museums, tours of businesses such as the Federal Reserve Bank and Fanny Farmer; lectures on finance for women and rape prevention; teas with the governor's wife; restaurant parties; luncheons at Eastcliff, the University of Minnesota president's residence (one centered around a theme of the zodiac); classes on typing, stenography, and charm; and a firsthand look at a heart surgery in 1963 with Dr. C. Walton Lillehei, a pioneer heart transplant surgeon with the University of Minnesota. A scrapbook notation regarding this event reported: "This was not very well attended."



Mrs. Martin Sabo and Mrs. Vernon T. Hoppe displayed their homemade clothes at a Rotunda Club meeting.





This group of 17 wives met weekly on the fifth floor of the Northern States building to take lessons on home catering.

Last year, the club traveled to Dayton's Marketplace for a cooking lesson. "It's kind of hard because almost everything's been done. . . . We've been to every museum. We've done it all," Sarna said.

Like the House of Representatives, the Rotunda Club has always run itself with leadership and budgets. It apparently took great pride in its budgets. Looking through scrapbooks and journals from the old days, numerous entries could be found such as these from 1953 and 1959, respectively:

"The balance in the treasury that day was 65 cents but a collection taken added \$4.77 to that amount."

"The treasury ended up (the year) with a healthy balance of \$13.30."

### *Good Morning To You—*



Courses were popular among wives who traveled to St. Paul with their lawmaking husbands during a legislative session. Subjects ranged from eyebrow shaping to typing classes, as this 1957 photograph of Mrs. A. F. Oberg of Lindstrom, left, and Mrs. G. J. Van De Riet of Fairmont, shows.

Currently, there are three organizations for spouses in state government: the Rotunda Club for spouses of House members; the Senate Club for spouses of Senate members, Minnesota Supreme Court justices, and constitutional officers; and the Dome Club made up of spouses from both the House and Senate, Supreme Court justices, and constitutional officers. While the Rotunda Club is mostly a social group, the Senate Club mixes both social and educational events and the Dome Club focuses on educational activities. The Dome Club, for instance, visits Minnesota prisons, schools, and other government institutions to learn about the state and how it spends money.

Like the Rotunda Club, the Senate Club is struggling for participation. Although the Senate Club has about 50 or 60 dues-paying members, "maybe eight or 10 people show up to activities," said Loretta Larson, club vice president.

"What we have is a lack of participation," Larson said.

There has been some talk of merging the three clubs but it has never gone far. This winter as the new clubs gear up for the new legislative session, the talk may go further.

Elizabeth Swanson, both a former president of the Rotunda Club and the Dome Club, said, "With the three things going on, it is really too much. It might be better to focus attention on one. It would become more visible."

Violet Anderson, a Senate Club member and Dome Club officer, said "if they would merge into one as the Dome Club, maybe we would have better participation."

"It is very difficult to put on a program with six people," Anderson said.

—K. Darcy Hanzlik

## End of railroad perk led to Dome Club creation

In the early days of Minnesota statehood it was customary for the wives of legislators to sit beside their husbands on the chamber floor during the law-making process.

It was also customary for railroad companies to provide special train cars for legislators and their wives when making investigative trips to visit state institutions.

But after 1905, the year the new Capitol building opened, those customs would change and become the impetus for the formation of the Dome Club, an educational and social group for spouses of legislators, Supreme Court justices, and constitutional officers.

When the 34th Legislative Session convened in 1905, "the third house," as the wives were called, was banished to the visitors' galleries and railroad companies were prohibited from "confering any favors" on legislative groups, eliminating the railroad car parties.

The railroad trips had become important for wives in fostering their good friendships. In 1903, for example, history notes an unusually large number of legislative wives traveled to St. Paul with their lawmaking husbands and enjoyed the railroad car trips. After touring state institutions, ". . . a reception was always held and usually a big banquet followed in the evening."

The railroad car ban "seriously affected the pleasure, interest and education of the third house; but not for long," according to a *History of the Dome Club*.

A group of women met at the new Capitol building and decided to christen themselves the Dome Club, naming themselves after looking up to see the Capitol dome. A written historical account describes the 1905 season as the "most enjoyably spent in varied pleasures. Beautiful homes were opened for entertainment. Art Galleries were visited, followed with a luncheon. Historic places in and about Minneapolis and St. Paul were visited. Trips to the public institutions of interest, musicals and dinner parties, all of those functions were fully carried through . . ."

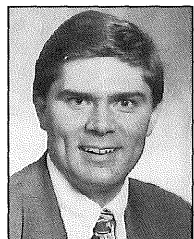
Today, the club welcomes both husbands and wives and meets about once a month during a legislative session.



New members . . .

## Leighton brings family's DFL tradition to House

In 1958, then 29-year-old Robert Leighton Sr. ran for a seat in the Minnesota Senate against longtime incumbent Sen. Peter Hol-



Rep. Robert Leighton

land. He almost pulled it off, his son says proudly.

In 1994, that son, Robert Leighton Jr., also 29, found himself in much the same position his father faced years before. But Leighton Jr. faced no incumbent in his run for a Minnesota House seat. Rep. Leo Reding (DFL-Austin) chose not to seek reelection after 16 years in the House. Though Leighton had never sought political office, he seemed a natural for the District 27B seat.

He comes from a family steeped in DFL tradition. In addition to his father's run for office, Leighton's brother, Scott, was the Mower County DFL Party chair until he gave up the office last year to manage Leighton's campaign. Scott Leighton should be given almost full credit for the first term legislator's appearance at the Capitol, Leighton said.

"When Leo Reding decided to retire, my brother decided I would run, and he would manage the campaign. He feels he's better at behind-the-scenes campaign work," Leighton said.

The campaign turned out to be a family affair. Not only did his father, brother, and mother help out, his girlfriend, Shawn, walked door-to-door with him.

"I was never really alone — I had fun doing it," Leighton said.

He's not new to campaign work. Leighton worked on Sen. Paul Wellstone's election campaign in 1990 and Rep. David Minge's

2nd District campaign for Congress in 1992.

While he attended law school in Berkeley, Calif., in 1990, he helped out with Sen. Dianne Feinstein's run for California governor.

"I was taught at an early age we have a responsibility to make society better. I knew I'd be active and interested in political issues, but I didn't know I'd ever run for an office," Leighton said.

After law school, Leighton came back to Minnesota, first to Minneapolis for a two-year stint as a lawyer with Dorsey and Whitney. He then returned home to Austin, Minn., to work at the law firm his father founded. His father, brother, and three other attorneys practice law at the firm.

Many of the issues he plans to pursue at the Capitol come about because of his ties to his hometown. Labor issues, for example.

"That's one thing that motivated me in my run," he said. "I lived through the 1985 Hormel strike in Austin. I saw how labor strife can impact an entire community."

He was a University of Minnesota undergraduate economics student at that time and his best friend's father was a striker. Leighton traveled to Austin on the weekends to see how the strike progressed. He first met Wellstone during one weekend at home.

Wellstone, then a political science professor at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., made a speech in support of the strikers. Leighton's father spoke directly before Wellstone.

Nine years later, Wellstone serves as a Minnesota senator and Leighton, in his first term as a state representative, serves as vice chair of the House Labor-Management Relations Committee.

He's pleased, also, by his appointment to the House committee involving economic development.

"Economic development is an important issue for rural Minnesota. I want to do everything I can to further economic development in Mower County," he said.

During his time in office, Leighton hopes to take inspiration from Democratic leaders. Three photos of himself shaking hands with Wellstone dot his office tables. On the walls hang photos of Martin Luther King and John F. Kennedy.

But perhaps the prize possession is a leaded plate his father's friend, Bill Thomsen, gave him after his victory in the November election. On the plate is a painting of Hubert Humphrey, his father's idol. Leighton promised Thomsen he would hang it in his office and look at it often. On the border is a quote from Humphrey that Leighton plans to take to heart during his time in office: "A fellow that doesn't have any tears doesn't have any hearts."

— Jean Thilmany

### District 27B

Population: 32,285

Distribution: 67.86 percent urban; 32.14 percent rural

County: Mower

Largest city: Austin

Location: southeastern Minnesota

Unemployment rate: 4.38 percent

Residents living below poverty level: 10.17 percent

1992 presidential election results:

Bush/Quayle ..... 23.99 percent

Clinton/Gore ..... 50.03 percent

Perot/Stockdale ..... 23.77 percent

Other: ..... 2.21 percent

## Do you know?

Legislators today, under law, must turn down free skiing trips, chicken dinners, and even calendars offered by lobbyists. Lawmakers at the turn of the century, however, encouraged perks.

Railroad company officials were notorious for giving gifts during the late 1800s and early 1900s but not always because they wanted to be generous. Everyone, it seemed, asked for freebies. There were free trips and special entertainment railroad cars for lawmakers and their wives as they traveled.

"The railroad companies regularly provided free transportation for politicians and wine and dined them," said Dr. W. Thomas White, curator of the James J. Hill Library in

St. Paul. Hill was Minnesota's most famous railroad baron and founder of what came to be called the Great Northern Railway.

In his book, *James J. Hill and the Opening of the Northwest*, author Albro Martin writes:

"Every stack of mail that was placed before Hill in his capacity as president of the Manitoba road contained requests for special favors of one kind or another. . . . Requests for free passes came in a flood, and each one posed special problems. It was a destructive system which made more enemies than friends for the railroads. Poli-

ticians, even those who had not been elected to any office, demanded passes as a matter of course. 'I shall try to render you some service in return,' one aspirant for public office told Hill during the campaign of 1884. Even the State of Minnesota took its pound of flesh: in 1880 the secretary of state sent Hill a list of twenty-one government officials, including the secretary of the historical society, blandly asking that they receive unlimited annual passes on the railroad. . . . 'The tendency is to abuse the pass privilege,' Hill grumbled in 1886, '(eventually) the firemen and porters will be looking for the same favors, and are, for all I know, as much entitled to them.'"

# Bill Introductions

HF71-HF134

## Tuesday, January 17, 1995

### HF71—Anderson, R. (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Child sex abuse offender pretrial detention release neighbor notification by custodial authorities required.

### HF72—Greiling (DFL)

#### Housing

Residential rental building and manufactured home park managers and caretakers required to undergo criminal background checks, and landlord requirements and notice specifications provided.

### HF73—Anderson, I. (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Bond issuance provided for development and construction of Rainy Lake watershed fish hatchery, and money appropriated.

### HF74—Johnson, A. (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Foster care facilities for delinquent children local government notification required prior to licensing.

### HF75—Hackbarth (IR)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Motor vehicle emission inspection requirement waived for newer vehicles.

### HF76—Kahn (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Retirement; certain early retirees prohibited from public employment in comparable positions.

### HF77—Greiling (DFL)

#### Rules & Legislative Administration

Unicameral legislature provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF78—Onnen (IR)

#### Rules & Legislative Administration

Appropriations not to exceed consumer price index rate increases, and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF79—Lourey (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services

Medical assistance reimbursement rate increases provided, and money appropriated.

### HF80—Simoneau (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services

Regulated all-payer option insurers allowed to contract with integrated service networks.

### HF81—Jacobs (DFL)

#### Labor-Management Relations

Emergency medical services personnel included in workers' compensation occupational disease presumption.

### HF82—Vickerman (IR)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Springfield authorized to establish a tax increment financing district for agricultural production facility expansion.

### HF83—Kinkel (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Compulsive gambling treatment provider eligibility provisions modified.

### HF84—Finseth (IR)

#### Rules & Legislative Administration

Firearms; right to keep and bear arms not abridged and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF85—Bertram (DFL)

#### Labor-Management Relations

Workers' compensation insurance regulation and benefits modified, and money appropriated.

### HF86—Lynch (IR)

#### Judiciary

Child abuse reporting record retention requirements modified, and data classification provided.

### HF87—Greiling (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

State treasurer office eliminated and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF88—Greiling (DFL)

#### Rules & Legislative Administration

Legislators not to receive mileage or per diem payments, and salary and reimbursement provisions modified.

### HF89—Hackbarth (IR)

#### Rules & Legislative Administration

Firearms; right to keep and bear arms not abridged and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF90—Ness (IR)

#### Education

Education department appropriated money to fund 1994-1995 biennium deficiencies.

### HF91—Johnson, V. (IR)

#### Agriculture

Conservation credit pilot program established in Houston County, property tax credits provided, and money appropriated.

### HF92—Seagren (IR)

#### Labor-Management Relations

Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

### HF93—Van Engen (IR)

#### Rules & Legislative Administration

Motor vehicle excise tax proceeds dedicated to highway user tax distribution fund and transit assistance fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF94—Seagren (IR)

#### Health & Human Services

Human services public assistance eligibility provisions modified, work first program detailed and established, and money appropriated.

## Thursday, January 19, 1995

### HF95—Lieder (DFL)

#### Transportation & Transit

Driveway headwalls in highway rights-of-way prohibited, and penalty provided.

### HF96—Bishop (IR)

#### Financial Institutions & Insurance

Health carrier subrogation rights restricted.

### HF97—Jacobs (DFL)

#### Rules & Legislative Administration

Legislature reduced in size to 56 senators and 112 representatives.

### HF98—Kahn (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Gambling Advisory Council provided alternate member.

### HF99—Brown (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Public employees prior service credit purchase authorized.

### HF100—Brown (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Morris authorized to enlarge an existing tax increment financing district.

**HF101—Jaros (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Health Care Commission membership increased for representation of consumers with physical disabilities.

**HF102—McGuire (DFL)**

**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Malt liquor container size sale and possession restrictions provided.

**HF103—Osthoff (DFL)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

School board membership plans reviewed by secretary of state, election expense allocation changed, election materials retained, terms and election frequency clarified, and certain election districts dissolved.

**HF104—McGuire (DFL)**

**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Dram shop liability expanded to include the provision of alcoholic beverages to persons under age 21 by persons age 21 or older.

**HF105—Ostrom (DFL)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

School district election precinct combination procedures revised.

**HF106—Dempsey (IR)**

**Rules & Legislative Administration**

Term limits imposed on legislative and constitutional offices, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF107—Farrell (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

School locker statewide inspection policy established.

**HF108—Simoneau (DFL)**

**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Tobacco retailer inspections, training, and reports required.

**HF109—Solberg (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Human services public assistance provisions modified, human services commissioner required to seek certain federal waivers, and money appropriated.

**HF110—Dorn (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Assault in the fifth degree probable cause arrests allowed in school zones.

**HF111—Commers (IR)**

**Governmental Operations**

Eagan Volunteer Firefighter Relief Association lump sum pension payments authorized.

**HF112—Hasskamp (DFL)**

**Education**

Pledge of Allegiance recitation encouraged in grades kindergarten through 12.

**HF113—Milbert (DFL)**

**Rules & Legislative Administration**

Revisor's bill correcting oversights, inconsistencies, ambiguities, and technical errors.

**HF114—Jennings (DFL)**

**Rules & Legislative Administration**

Legislature to meet only in odd-numbered years, staggered elections required, legislators salaries reduced, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF115—Weaver (IR)**

**Judiciary**

Jail credit sentence reduction awards regulated for certain offenders.

**HF116—Rukavina (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Eveleth police and fire trust fund benefit payment increase authorized.

**HF117—Smith (IR)**

**Judiciary**

Visitation interference or denial provided as grounds for custody order modification.

**HF118—Smith (IR)**

**Judiciary**

Child support fund use accounting required by support recipients.

**HF119—Greiling (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Part-time teacher retirement contribution payment by employer provisions modified.

**HF120—Tunheim (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Great horned owl trapping by turkey farmers authorized.

**HF121—Johnson, V. (IR)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Blufflands trail system in Winona County extension authorized.

**HF122—Delmont (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Anoka County; home care services reimbursement rate provisions modified.

**HF123—Opatz (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Public contract oversight provided for certain state and metropolitan government contracts.

**HF124—Delmont (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Anoka County authorized to award contracts to resident bidders.

**HF125—Bishop (IR)**

**Judiciary**

Inmates prohibited from applying for name changes more than once a year.

**HF126—Bishop (IR)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

County service districts established, county service delivery cooperation required, and board and advisory committee creation authorized.

**HF127—Kalis (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Apartment class property tax rate reduction provided in certain municipalities.

**HF128—McCollum (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

North St. Paul city manager allowed to retain membership in public employees police and fire fund.

**HF129—Bishop (IR)**

**Judiciary**

Medical examiner data sharing with certain investigative agencies authorized.

**HF130—Kahn (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

County consolidation feasibility study required, and money appropriated.

**HF131—Peterson (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Ethanol project increment increase provided.

**HF132—Kahn (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Omnibus environment and natural resources appropriations bill.

**HF133—Tompkins (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Human services public assistance eligibility provisions modified, work first program detailed and established, and money appropriated.

**HF134—Bertram (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.



Coming Up Next Week . . . Jan. 23 - 27, 1995

# Committee Schedule

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

## MONDAY, Jan. 23

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Uniform Laws Commission. Ethical Practices Board. Minnesota Safety Council. State of Minnesota Municipal Board.

### K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Further discussion on Department of Education performance report. Effect of appropriation caps on Anoka-Hennepin, St. Paul, and Montevideo school districts.

### University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** University of Minnesota: constitutional autonomy; land grant status; overview of specials; legislative role, Kerry Fine, House Research; Doug Berg, fiscal analyst. University 2000.

8:30 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** 1994 Minnesota Department of Agriculture annual performance report, William Oemichen, assistant commissioner.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Minnesota Department of Health programs overview.

10 a.m.

### AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

**Agenda:** Elton Redalen, commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture.  
HF91 (Johnson, V.) Relating to conservation; providing a pilot conservation credit program in Houston County.

### JUDICIARY

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

**Agenda:** Statistical overview of juvenile crime in Minnesota, Dan Storkamp, Minnesota Criminal Justice Center, Minnesota Planning. Review of juvenile law changes, Judge Philip Bush, Hennepin County District Court.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

**Agenda:** HF26 (Anderson, I.) International Falls authorized to issue temporary on-sale intoxicating liquor license for sales on property owned by a school district.  
Minnesota Department of Public Service, Joann Hanson, assistant commissioner, telecommunications. Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Burl Haar, executive director.

12:30 p.m.

### Business Regulation Division/ COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

**Agenda:** Organizational meeting.

### HOUSING

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** Overview on landlord/tenant issues, Lynn Schellenberger, Minnesota Tenants Network; Sherry Gates, Homeline; Steve Johnson, Minnesota Multi-Housing Association; Rosemary Frazell, Legal Services.  
HF72 (Greiling) Relating to public safety; background check on building managers.  
HF36 (Weaver) Minnesota manager background check act adopted.

### LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Johnson

**Agenda:** Minnesota Business Partnership, Lester Bagley, director, Political Action; Duane Benson,

executive director, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, David Olson, president. Minnesota AFL-CIO, William Peterson, secretary-treasurer; Bernard Brommer, president.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

4 p.m.

### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** Diversity issues in higher education, including needs of disabled students and students of color, Ron McKinley, St. Paul Companies; Clell Hemphill, executive director, Disability Council; Steve Tatum, admissions counselor, Metro State University; Azin Adjoudani, Minnesota Minority Education Partnership; Tim Price, director, Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity, State University System; Greg Braxton-Brown, chancellor, Community College System; Stacy Robinson, director, Multicultural Student Support, Minneapolis Community College; Juan Rongel, cultural diversity director, Inver Hills Community College; Carole Johnson, chancellor, State Board of Technical Colleges.

6 p.m.

### Legislative Commission on Waste Management

10 State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. Jean Wagenius, Sen. Janet Johnson  
**Agenda:** State Resource Recovery Program biennial report, Department of Administration. Report on mercury in products, and landfill assessment update, Pollution Control Agency.

## TUESDAY, Jan. 24

\*\*\*Time to be Announced\*\*\*

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** To be announced.

8 a.m.

### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Graduation Rule update. Discussion of college admission standards and relationship to Graduation Rule update.

#### JUDICIARY FINANCE

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Synopsis of interim and forthcoming reports, Emily Shapiro and Deb McKnight, House Research. Reports on 1993-94 initiatives, Emily Shapiro, House Research.

#### Transportation Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** Department of Public Safety, State Patrol.

8:30 a.m.

#### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Presentation of Budget 2001 environment and natural resources working papers, Deborah Pile, strategic planning specialist, Minnesota Planning.

#### MinnesotaCare Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** MinnesotaCare and its effect on private sector purchasers of health services, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce; Business Health Care Action Group.

10 a.m.

#### Gambling Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

**Agenda:** Discussion of Minnesota State Lottery, George Anderson, lottery director.

#### TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** Department of Revenue performance report, Mary Kim, chief financial officer, and John Lally, deputy commissioner, Department of Revenue; Marilyn Jackson-Beeck, evaluation coordinator, Legislative Auditors Office.

12:30 p.m.

#### CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Department of Finance: debt capacity forecast, guidelines for capital project grants to political subdivisions. Report on matching money to access capital grants.

#### COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** Presentation by Douglas Blanke, director, consumer policy, Attorney General's Office.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** Presentations by Minnesota Regional Development Organization, Urban Wetlands Management Coalition, Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, Metropolitan Intercounty Association.

2:30 p.m.

#### Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Howard Orestein

**Agenda:** Oversight of consultant contracts.

3 p.m.

#### ETHICS

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

**Agenda:** Organizational meeting to review ethics procedure with Tom Todd, director, House Research.

### WEDNESDAY, Jan. 25

8 a.m.

#### WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

**Agenda:** Governor's budget, Laura King, finance commissioner.

10 a.m.

#### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** Overview of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Presentation of transportation issues and the environment, MnDOT.

#### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

**Agenda:** Presentation regarding setting of automobile insurance rates.

#### JUDICIARY

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

**Agenda:** Report from the Task Force on Juvenile Programming, Evaluation and Planning,

overview of the juvenile programming survey. Richard T. Mulcrone, deputy commissioner, Department of Corrections.

12:30 p.m.

#### Business Regulation Division/ COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

**Agenda:** Presentation by Mary Ann Hruby, executive director, Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules.

#### TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** Metropolitan Light Rail Transit Joint Powers Board presentation, John T. Finley, Ramsey County commissioner and chair.

1 p.m.

#### INTERNATIONAL TRADE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

**Agenda:** Organizational meeting. HF14 (Jaros) A resolution urging the United Nations to admit the Republic of China on Taiwan as a full member.

2 p.m.

#### Joint Hennepin and Ramsey County Delegations

200 State Office Building  
Chrs. Reps. Linda Wejcman, Ron Abrams, Mary Jo McGuire

**Agenda:** Metropolitan area state transportation funding. Recommendations to increase transportation funding by the State Advisory Council on major transportation projects. Update on light rail transit.

7 p.m.

#### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** K-12 and higher education budget overviews, Department of Finance.

### THURSDAY, Jan. 26

8 a.m.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Arts Board.

## JUDICIARY FINANCE

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Automated Probation Pilot Project. Youthworks. Model school for chronic truants. Parents Anonymous.

## Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** Governor's budget recommendations, Ron Hackett, manager, Human Development, Department of Finance; Lisa Griskey, executive budget officer, Department of Finance.

8:30 a.m.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Agency budget presentations, Milton K. Knoll, chairman, Voyageurs National Park Commission; James Peterson, president, Science Museum of Minnesota.

## K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Begin analyzing governor's budget.

8:45 a.m.

## MinnesotaCare Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** Federalism in Health Reform Report, Rep. Lee Greenfield, National Steering Committee chair.

10 a.m.

## GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Review of administrative rulemaking.

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** Overview, Department of Economic Security.

## TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** Governor's budget, Department of Revenue; Department of Finance.

12:30 p.m.

## CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Orientation for new committee members. Department of Finance presentation, Peter Sausen, assistant commissioner; Lee Mehrkens, Budget Services Division.

## COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** Discussion of subcommittees.

## Elections Division/ GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

4 p.m.

## University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Governor's budget recommendations, Ron Hackett, manager, Human Development, Department of Finance; Lisa Griskey, executive budget officer, Department of Finance.

6 p.m.

## Legislative Commission on Waste Management

10 State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Jean Wagenius, Sen. Janet Johnson

**Agenda:** Salvage yard study, Pollution Control Agency. Panel discussion on loose foam packing material. 1995 Waste Management Act amendments.

## FRIDAY, Jan. 27

8 a.m.

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

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** HF5 (Anderson, R.) Welfare reform.

## K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Further analysis of governor's budget.

8:30 a.m.

## University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Tour

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Tour of University of Minnesota, Minneapolis campus.

10 a.m.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** Climate change and its effects on forest ecosystems; especially in the Great Lakes region, regent professor Margaret B. Davis, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, University of Minnesota. Biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, Professor David G. Tilman, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, University of Minnesota.

## JUDICIARY

Tour

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** Tour of a juvenile detention facility.

## TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

Tour

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** Tour of the Traffic Control Center in Minneapolis. (Bus will pick up committee members in front of the State Office Building at 10 a.m.)

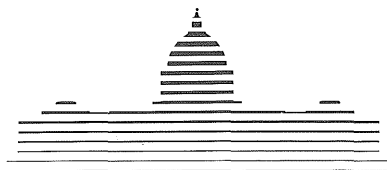
## About those Blue Books

Last week we wrote in our question and answer column about how to get a copy of the "Blue Book," otherwise known as the Legislative Manual.

Although we said copies can be obtained from the Office of the Secretary of State, the office isn't taking orders for the book until May. So please hold off on your requests until then. Thanks.

—The Editors





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Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Public assistance in Minnesota

Number of major public assistance programs using state and federal funds to help Minnesotans in poverty .....	9
Number of those funded solely by the state .....	4
Amount of all state budget dollars that are spent on public assistance .....	1 in 5
State public assistance dollars that are spent on medical care .....	4 in 5
Public assistance expenditures, excluding medical assistance, as a percentage of the state budget, (FY1993-FY1994) .....	3
State spending on Medical Assistance, as a percentage of state expenditures, (FY1993-FY1994) .....	17
Minnesota families receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) in an average month, FY1994 .....	63,754
increase since 1991, in percent .....	7.2
Total dollars spent on AFDC (including Emergency Assistance) for Minnesotans, FY1994, in millions .....	\$331.2
Amount that were state funds, in millions .....	\$150.5
State funds for Medical Assistance, FY1994, in millions .....	\$953.7
increase since FY1991, in percent .....	31
Additional federal dollars spent for Medical Assistance, FY1994, in billions ...	\$1.16
Number of Minnesotans receiving Medical Assistance, monthly average .....	387,763
Percent of all Medical Assistance funds spent on long-term institutional care ...	49.2
Percent of Medical Assistance dollars spent on inpatient hospital care .....	12.2
Households receiving food stamps in an average month, FY1994 .....	133,006
State dollars spent on the Food Stamp Program .....	0
AFDC recipients per month, on average, FY1994 .....	190,027
As a percentage of all Minnesotans .....	4
Percent of recipients living in the metro area .....	73
Families on AFDC with one or two children .....	3 in 4
Average monthly AFDC benefit, per family .....	\$416.94
Percent of AFDC mothers who are teenagers .....	7
Percent of AFDC mothers who are minors .....	1.1
Average length of stay for a Minnesota recipient on AFDC, in years .....	3.4
Years since AFDC grants were last increased .....	7
Monthly benefit for a one-adult, one-child family, 1994 .....	\$437
Amount it would be had the benefit amount kept pace with inflation .....	\$806
STRIDE program participants, FY1993 .....	20,957
Number of those women attending a postsecondary education program .....	8,926

Source: *Public Assistance in Minnesota: Facts About Programs and Recipients*, Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women, January 1995.



### For more information . . .

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95, Jan. 27

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P615

# SESSION WEEKLY

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A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ January 27, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 4

JAN 27 1995





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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • January 27, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 4

## Week at a glance

**Budget unveiled** — Gov. Arne Carlson wants to hold the line on spending and offers no new taxes. DFLers say the budget holds no new ideas. .... **Page 3**

**The middleman** — Local governments may not be able to count on their state aid checks coming directly from the State Capitol anymore. The governor's budget plan calls on state aid to cities, towns, and other taxing districts to be filtered through the counties and divided up by a new board. .... **Page 4**

**Free breakfast** — A Minnesota Department of Education advisory group recommends providing breakfast at no charge to all K-12 students — in both public and private schools. The price tag — \$61 million a year. .... **Page 5**

**Here's the dirt** — A new pilot program that would give farmers in Houston County a hefty tax break for using good soil conservation practices was approved Jan. 23 by the House Agriculture Committee. .... **Page 5**

**Emissions break** — Concern over the value of automobile emissions tests in the Twin Cities has prompted one lawmaker to recommend eliminating the annual tests for cars less than six years old. .... **Page 7**

**Koskinen lesson learned** — The 1994 killing of Kari Koskinen, a New Brighton woman believed to have been killed by her apartment building manager, has sparked a bill calling for a criminal history check on all potential building managers. .... **Page 9**

**OK, I'll run** — It took some prodding and a special call from Gov. Arne Carlson before Rep. Sherry Broecker would agree to run for the District 53B House seat. But now that she's here, she plans to push forward a conservative agenda. .... **Page 12**

**She's not tongue tied** — First-term legislator Rep. Roxann Daggett isn't afraid to speak her mind. This motivational speaker is set to take on the legislative process and bring some common sense to the Capitol. .... **Page 16**

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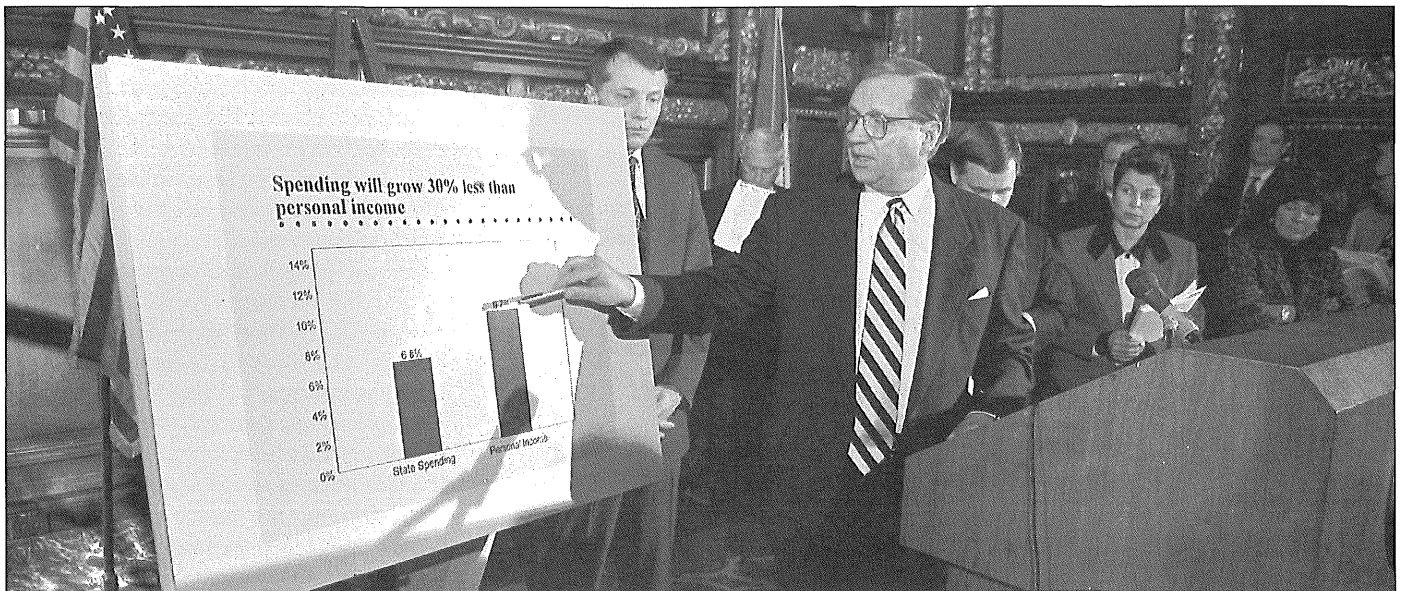
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On the cover: A bottoms-up view of the interior of the Capitol rotunda.

— Photo by Andrew VonBank



# Highlights



Using several charts to illustrate key points, Gov. Arne Carlson outlined his proposed budget during a Jan. 24 press conference.

1996-97 budget proposal . . .

## Carlson puts brakes on state taxing and spending

**T** rue to his pledge, Gov. Arne Carlson's proposed no new state taxes — and even some small tax breaks and the elimination of some fees — in his proposed budget for the the next two-year spending cycle.

"We want Minnesota out of the top 10 states in taxes," Carlson told reporters, legislators, and onlookers crowded into the governor's reception room Jan. 24. He said that "all parties agree that we're not going to raise taxes in 1996 and 1997."

All told, the governor has proposed just under \$18 billion in state spending for the next biennium. That's 6.5 percent more than the state spent in 1994-95, and what Carlson claims is "one of the lowest rates of growth in the past two decades."

Carlson said this restrained growth of government spending is the "healthiest step that this state can take." (See related stories, page 4.)

A majority of the increased funds would be earmarked for K-12 education, criminal justice, and health and human services.

Funding for criminal justice — more prison beds, hiring additional parole and probation officers, and public defenders — would in-

crease to \$836 million, up \$169 million from last biennium.

While spending on the corrections and courts system is still a relatively small piece of the state budget as a whole — about 4.6 percent under Carlson's plan — it is one of the fastest growing areas of state spending. Carlson's proposal would be a 25 percent increase in spending, the largest percentage increase in any area of the budget.

Total K-12 spending would be \$5.6 billion in 1996-97, a \$400 million, or 8 percent, increase over the previous biennium. This funding is tied to a recommendation that school districts have greater flexibility in how they use state aid. For example, Carlson would repeal the mandate that certain funds be set aside for staff development, so a district could use these funds for textbooks or other needs.

Some education officials have charged that the governor's numbers are inflated, and that the actual increase is somewhere between 1 and 3 percent for the coming biennium.

Health and human services, which includes big ticket items such as Medical Assistance, would receive \$5.1 billion in 1996-97 — a 20 percent increase over the previous

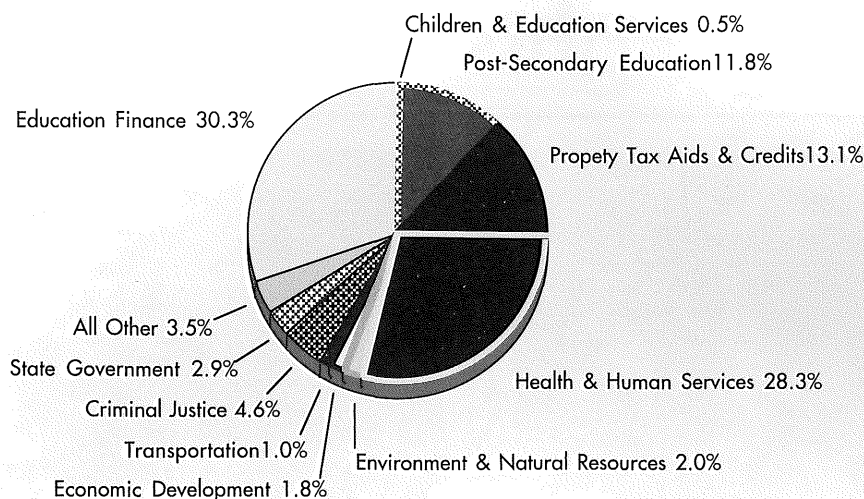
two-year appropriation. Programs in this area of spending account for one of every four of the state's budget dollars

The main innovation in the budget involves reconfiguring the delivery of local government aid. Efficiency in local government spending would be encouraged, Carlson says, by giving state aid and agricultural credits to local governments in the form of block grants to the 87 Minnesota counties — instead of to 3,700 government units.

These county Aid Distribution Councils, as they would be known, would be composed of representatives from all governmental units located within the county. Carlson said that this new arrangement will force cities, counties, and school districts to create a process for determining their needs and resources, and to "consolidate financial services. . . . The truth is we have way too much government."

Proposed aid to local governments is actually \$77 million less than was forecast last November to be distributed in the coming biennium by the Department of Finance. Since local governments have set their budgets by those numbers, some critics say that services will be cut to make up the difference.

## Where the general fund dollars go



Source: Gov. Arne H. Carlson, 1996-97 Minnesota Biennial Budget

Spending on state government itself — 3 percent of the total budget — would be cut by 0.1 percent over the next two years.

Carlson also proposed replacing the Department of Education with a Department of Children and Education Services. Children's programs now handled by four different agencies would be consolidated in the new department. The new department would eventually administer block grants to fund a variety of grassroots programs helping children and parents.

Youth apprenticeship programs, touted in the State of the State Address as essential to prepare students for the emerging economy, would receive \$5 million in the Carlson budget.

Carlson expected that his budget would generate controversy because spending isn't going up enough in certain areas. "We won't spend enough," he conceded. "No budget ever has and this one is no different."

The budget proposal does not advocate any "great changes in the way state government operates," said House Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls).

He said that Carlson has failed to capitalize on "somewhat of a mandate from the people" in the recent election. "Instead of doing the same old thing, such as allowing the bureaucrats to make these important decisions, he ought to come in with innovative ideas," Anderson suggested.

Portions of the budget recommendations will be heard in House committees in the coming weeks.

— Mordecai Specktor

## Swimming with the sharks

Gov. Arne Carlson's proposal to trim state aid to local governments — and to drastically alter the way it is delivered — raised questions and eyebrows in the House Ways and Means Committee Jan. 25.

The governor's \$18 billion proposed budget would cut state aid to cities, counties, and towns by \$77 million. Cuts in services would be expected because municipal budgets already have been set for the year and it is too late to raise local property taxes to recoup the governor's cuts.

A total of \$57 million would be trimmed this year, with the remaining \$20 million subtracted next year.

Commissioner of Finance Laura King told the committee that the reduction in state aid is small. "At seven-tenths of 1 percent, it shouldn't be an insurmountable reduction."

Critics argue that a cut in state aid to local governments only increases the likelihood that local property taxes will increase to make up the difference.

While the money issue has raised concerns, another of the governor's proposals for local governments has received even more attention.

Carlson has recommended that local government aid no longer travel from St. Paul directly to each local government. Instead, each county would receive a block of money for all the local governments within its boundaries. New county boards, called the Aid Distribution Councils, would divide the money. The councils would be made up of county representatives and representatives from the cities, towns, and school districts within each county.

"I'm not sure I heard the people of the state calling out for another layer of government," said Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls). The new boards would create competition among the local governments for money, not cooperation, she said.

Kahn asked that people go to the shark tank at the Minnesota Zoo and "look what happens when you throw raw food into the shark tank."

Majority Leader Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) said that for some counties, the council would be unworkable. Hennepin County, for instance, has more than 100 taxing jurisdictions.

"I look forward to seeing that meeting," Carruthers said.

Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon) said the governor's proposals give local governments flexibility on how to spend state dollars. Besides, he said, he doesn't think the public really cares if the dollars are going to the county as long as the money is spent efficiently.

Both DFL and IR lawmakers complained about the formula used to calculate how much state money goes to local governments. The governor's budget doesn't change the formula, but critics argued it should change to allocate money based on need.

Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester) said the Legislature "does not have the political guts" to change the formula regardless of which political party is in power.

## Offices and prisons

The purchase of a hospital near the State Capitol for state agency use, the construction of a new potato inspection facility in East Grand Forks, and the expansion of 24 juvenile beds at a state correctional facility in Sauk Centre are all included in the governor's budget proposal.

The Legislature usually doesn't put together a state bonding bill for construction projects until the second year of Minnesota's two-year budgeting cycle. But Gov. Arne Carlson has found six projects he recommends state bonds be sold for this year. The projects total about \$20.6 million for fiscal year 1995.

"The six projects recommended in our capital budget are for emergencies and one-time market opportunities which cannot be delayed until the start of the 1996 legislative session," Carlson wrote in a letter explaining the projects.

The projects include:

- \$1.5 million to acquire HealthEast Bethesda Lutheran Hospital in St. Paul. The hospi-

tal, a neighbor to the State Capitol, is relocating its operations and has approached the state about buying the buildings on its 8.1 acres. Bonds would be sold to obtain an option to buy and convert the property for state use.

- \$225,000 to build a new potato inspection plant in East Grand Forks. The new plant would replace and consolidate two facilities that currently exist in Crookston and East Grand Forks.
- \$421,000 to renovate Alcott cottage at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Sauk Centre to house 24 juvenile males.
- \$228,000 to demolish a nurses dormitory at the Moose Lake Regional Treatment Center. The 1993 Legislature enacted legislation to close the treatment facility and turn it over to the Department of Corrections to develop a 620-bed medium security correctional facility. The purpose of the demolition request now is to take advantage of federal dollars also available to help with the demolition.
- \$9.2 million to match federal dollars and develop a Drinking Water Revolving Fund through the Department of Trade and Economic Development Public Facilities Authority. The new fund would be used to help upgrade public water systems in the state. The Department of Health estimates that, depending on the federal Environmental Protection Agency standards, 25 percent of the state's 1,688 public water systems will need repairs.
- \$9 million to purchase the Water's Edge building in Roseville to house the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Metro Division Headquarters. The building on County Road B-2 would house about 689

employees. The Metro Division has leased portions of the building since 1993 and with the purchase would have access to all of it.

The governor's bonding proposals now will be reviewed by the House and its Capital Investment Committee.



## AGRICULTURE

### Encouraging good land use

A new pilot program that would give farmers in Houston County a hefty tax break for using good soil conservation practices was approved Jan. 23 by the House Agriculture Committee.

The bill (HF91), sponsored by Rep. Virgil Johnson (IR-Caledonia), would reduce eligible farmers' tax liability by giving them a 1.5 percent reduction in the estimated market value of their tillable land.

For an average Houston County farm (280 acres, about 90 of which are tillable), the average property tax break would amount to about \$600 per year — about a third of a farmer's total property tax bill, Johnson explained after the committee hearing.

"The purpose of the program is to lessen soil erosion and to reduce non-point source pollution," Johnson told committee members. "Rather than mandate some of these things, I like to use the carrot approach."

In Wisconsin's nearby Pepin County, cropland protected from excessive erosion increased from 49 percent to 86 percent under a similar program, said Johnson. In addition, the annual soil loss from erosion was reduced by 72 percent.

Cropland can be protected by leaving crop residue in the field over the winter — rather than plowing it up — so less soil is carried off by wind and rain.

Soil erosion is of particular concern in southeastern Minnesota because of the hilly terrain and because the Root and Mississippi rivers are nearby.

To be eligible for the program, a farmer would have to meet new standards set by the Houston County Soil and Water Conservation District. The new standards are to be set by Sept. 1, 1995.

Although the exact cost of the program in terms of tax dollars lost is not known, Johnson said it may be in the neighborhood of \$50,000 per year.

That led Rep. Marv Dauner (DFL-Hawley) to question whether there is enough state money to make up for the loss — particularly after other counties clamor to join the project.

And Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayner (IR-Princeton) questioned whether the tax break may be a bit too generous.

The measure (HF91) now moves to the House Taxes Committee for further review.



## EDUCATION

### Free breakfast

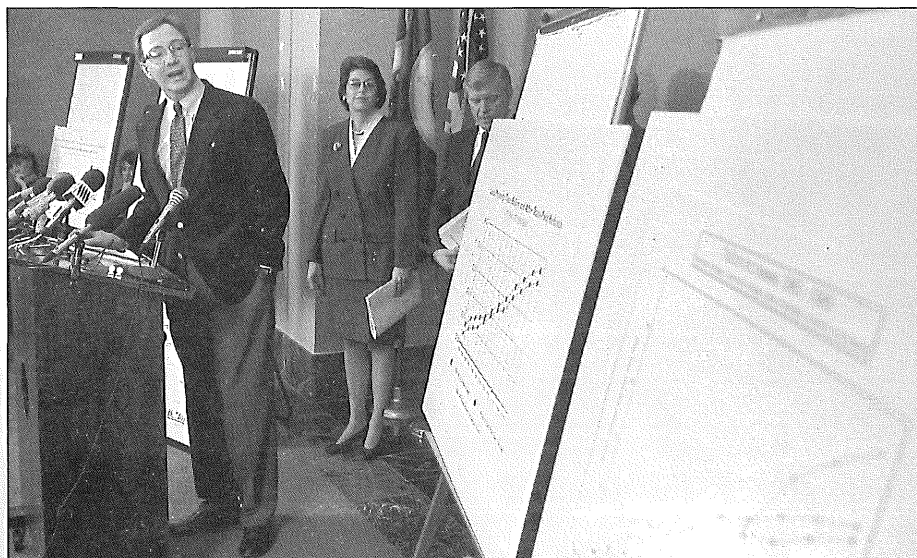
Students who eat their Wheaties with some juice and toast will be healthier and perform better in school, according to research on the effects of nutrition on learning.

"School Meals Programs," a new report issued by a Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) advisory group, has recommended providing breakfast at no charge to all K-12 students — in both public and private schools. Such a program would cost more than \$61 million in additional state funds each year.

The 1994 Legislature created the Universal Breakfast Pilot Program, which serves free breakfast to all students in four selected elementary schools. The program was lauded by students, teachers, and school administrators who testified before the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee Jan. 20.

Hans Christian Andersen Open School in Minneapolis participates in the universal breakfast program. Previously, free and reduced-price breakfasts were offered only to students from low-income families. Giving breakfast to every student prevents any welfare stigma that may occur.

"Since all of us eat, nobody gets teased," said Shannon Davis, a fourth grader at



Surrounded by House and Senate DFL leaders and lots of budget charts and graphs, House Majority Leader Phil Carruthers discussed the governor's budget proposal during a press conference Jan. 25 at the State Office Building. Sen. Ember Reichgott Junge and Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe look on.



Andersen. She said that the breakfast is good and her hungry classmates eat everything on their plates.

Vern Stevens, principal of Dawson-Boyd Elementary School in Lac Qui Parle County, said that his 400 K-6 students participate in the pilot program.

Before the free breakfast program, "we were noticing that throughout the morning, the school nurse was giving snacks to children who hadn't eaten breakfast," said Stevens.

The breakfast at Dawson-Boyd takes just a little more time than the morning milk break. Stevens told committee members that students can carry breakfast trays back to their classrooms and participate in various activities while they eat.

Recognizing state budget constraints, MDE advisory group member Jevne Kloeber, executive director of the Minnesota Early Childhood Care and Education Council, said that a universal breakfast program for just elementary schools would cost about \$34 million per year in state funds.

Doris Derelian, president of the American Dietetic Association, said adults have the ability to compensate for transitory hunger, but "kids just check out" — put their heads down on their desks. Also, children who don't eat breakfast have more respiratory illness, according to Derelian.

"On a given day across the United States, 28 to 33 percent of children in school haven't had an adequate meal to get them through the first hour of the day," said Derelian. "Health-related issues end up costing us in the long run. Children who don't learn cost us."

## More local control

Gov. Arne Carlson's budget proposal released Jan. 24 calls for an 8 percent increase in K-12 education funding in the next two-year spending cycle and what he called "increased flexibility" so school districts can make more decisions on the local level.

But some legislators argue that that small increase won't even keep pace with inflation.

The governor's budget calls for a total of \$5.6 billion in K-12 spending over the next two years — up from \$5.2 billion in the 1994-95 biennium.

The proposal calls for an increase in funding from the current \$3,150 per pupil to \$3,220 next school year and \$3,240 the following year.

If the increase is measured by the per pupil allocation, it amounts to a 1 percent increase per year, Department of Education Commissioner Linda Powell explained to House Education Committee members Jan. 25.

But those numbers don't take into account inflation, which the Department of Finance expects to increase by 3 percent each year, said Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park).

The governor's proposal also calls for the elimination of some state mandates that he argues narrowly limit how districts spend state appropriations.

Instead, school districts would be given more leeway in using discretionary funds and also would be able to more easily transfer funds from one account to another.

He wants to eliminate the penalty that is imposed on districts that maintain excessive fund balances, which he said will allow districts' greater discretion in how they spend their money.

In addition, he advocated repealing a recent law that required class sizes in the lower grades to be smaller. In its place, districts would be able to spend \$60 per pupil how they saw fit, including reducing class sizes, increasing parental involvement in schools, and providing teacher training.

Also, school districts that prove they plan to implement the graduation rule may receive an additional \$7 per pupil for the second year of the biennium, Powell said.

The rule sets out certain standards students must meet before they are allowed to graduate.

To contain education budget costs, Carlson said teachers should not have the right to strike if they refuse to negotiate with a school board that has agreed to arbitration. (Teachers would still retain the right to strike under other circumstances, however.)

Legislators mainly questioned Powell on details of the governor's recommendations at

the Jan. 25 meeting. The K-12 Education Finance Division will continue to review the budget.

## Grad rule update

Minnesota's seventh graders probably don't dwell much on their eventual role as education pioneers.

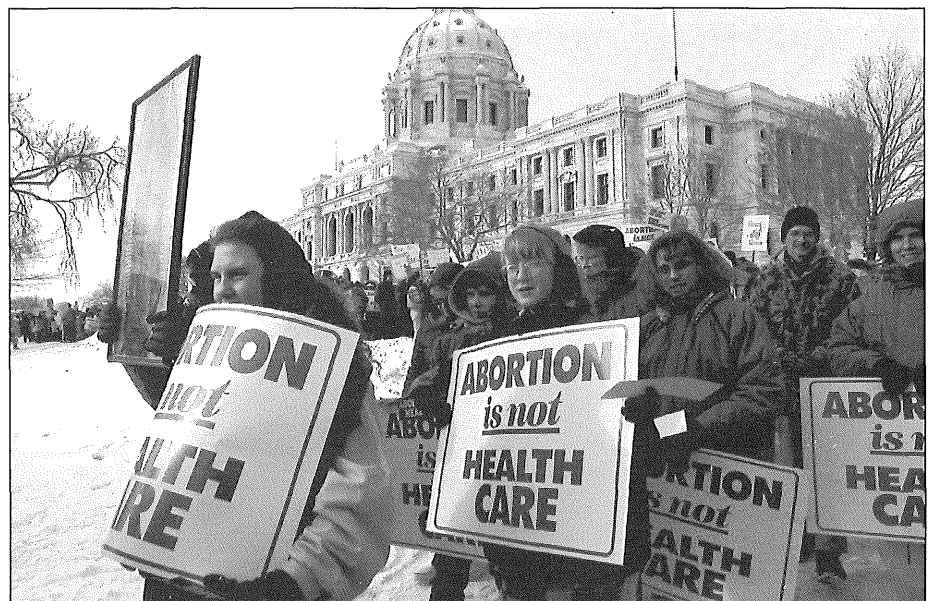
Those students, the graduating class of 2000, will be the first to face Minnesota's graduation rule when they enter ninth grade during the 1996-97 school year. They must meet the state-defined basic requirements in reading and mathematics before graduation, said Iris McGinnis, director of assessment with the state Department of Education.

She gave House Education Committee members an update on the graduation rule at a Jan. 24 meeting.

In 1993, the Legislature gave the Department of Education \$10 million to develop standards that students across the state would be required to meet in order to graduate from high school. The law also said the standards could be put in place for students entering high school during the 1996-97 school year.

The Department of Education is on target to begin implementation of the new standards, McGinnis said. They cover seven subject areas and will be phased in over a number of years.

Students who enter high school during the 1996-97 school year must achieve the basic requirements in reading and math before they can graduate, McGinnis said. Those who begin high school the next year must achieve those basic requirements, plus those for writing and science before graduation.



About 8,000 abortion opponents marched in front of the State Capitol Jan. 22, the anniversary of the U. S. Supreme Court decision which made abortion legal.

And students who begin ninth grade in September 1998 must meet all seven basic requirements: reading, math, writing, science, geography, government, and physical health and safety. During that year, the schools also begin the second part of the graduation rule, called the 'profile of learning.' These are sub-parts to each of the seven basic requirements, designed to develop and enhance skills that complement the seven core skills. Currently, there are currently 14 Minnesota school districts testing the graduation rule.

A cost study on the implementation of the graduation rule will be done by a Denver, Colo., consulting firm. Funds for the study will come from the 1993 appropriation to the Department of Education.

Three representatives of Minnesota's higher education admissions departments also spoke to committee members about how the graduation rule will affect their admissions process.

Cyndy Crist, associate vice chancellor of academic affairs for the State University System, said since 1989 the system has been redefining the classes that high school students must take before they can enroll in a state university.

"We couldn't wait for the graduation rule to be done before we started defining. But we try to make sure we're flexible to make adjustments to [be in] sync with the rule," she said.



## ENVIRONMENT

### New car testing break

Auto emission tests in the Twin Cities metropolitan area would be eliminated for cars less than six years old, under a bill proposed by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park).

Johnson says exempting newer vehicles from the testing program, which is designed to improve air quality, wouldn't significantly affect the environment.

Her bill, (HF2) was heard — but not acted upon — by the Government Efficiency and Oversight Division of the House Ways and Means Committee Jan. 20. A similar measure nearly became law last session, but was removed from the environmental finance bill during conference committee negotiations.

Johnson said her bill is supported by some hard facts. Over a six-month period in 1994, the private firm contracted to measure vehicle emissions tested 5,634 1994 model cars. One failed, Johnson said. A 1994 University of Minnesota study further supports her position, she said.

Huel Scherrer, who co-authored the study,



Huel Scherrer, a University of Minnesota doctoral candidate in mechanical engineering, testified in support of HF2 before the Government Efficiency and Oversight Division of the Ways and Means Committee Jan. 20. The bill would eliminate the annual emissions testing requirement for cars less than six years old.

told legislators the improvement in air quality in the metropolitan area is due to the growing number of newer cars on the streets. Newer cars emit less carbon monoxide and other hazardous emissions.

After learning of the study, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, (MPCA) which oversees the testing program, spent almost \$5,000 on a consultant to analyze the study. Also last year, Envirotest Inc. of Phoenix, Ariz., the private firm which administers the tests, spent \$120,000 on radio, television, and newspaper advertisements touting the emission program's effect in cleaning up metropolitan air.

Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul), who chairs the oversight committee, called the advertisements "science by soundbite." He also said the MPCA sought to debunk parts of the University of Minnesota study.

"Instead of a state agency giving balanced information, the wagons were circled and state money spent to inform the public of something that may not be accurate," Orenstein said.

"We spent public money because we wanted to get the benefits of the program to the people," countered Peder Larson, assistant MPCA commissioner.

## Looking for efficient solutions

The newly created Government Efficiency and Oversight Division of the Ways and Means Committee held its first hearing Jan. 20 when it heard testimony about the Twin Cities area program to test automobile exhaust emissions. (See related story, on this page.)

It marked the first in what the division chair promised would be a series of oversight hearings throughout this legislative session and into the interim between the 1995 and 1996 legislative sessions. Its mission: to probe perceived wasteful spending.

"The new committee intends to be aggressive and to look into programs the whole year," said Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul), chair of the division.

On Jan. 31, for example, the committee will hold an open-ended hearing to give fellow legislators an opportunity to offer their ideas on where government programs could be trimmed or redesigned.

Orenstein explained that the role of the committee "is still evolving." In some cases, the committee "might just shine light" on a particular issue, such as the automobile testing program, without taking any formal action. In others, formal action may be taken.

"I think we're going to do a mixture of hearing bills and reporting them to other committees, along with oversight hearings that may or may not result in legislation," he said.

The legislative oversight role is more common on the federal level than in state legislatures, where the tendency has been to go home after adjournment and turn everything over to the executive branch, he said.

But he explained that Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) made it clear that the committee should develop recommendations on how to improve government efficiency and to eliminate waste.

Seven-county metropolitan area automobile owners spend \$8 to get their vehicles tested, which they must do before they can renew annual tabs for their license plates, in accordance with a 1988 state law. The law, which took effect in mid-1991, was enacted as a way to get the Twin Cities metropolitan

area in compliance with federal Environmental Protection Agency air quality guidelines.

Envirotest tested more than 1.4 million vehicles at a cost to owners of \$11.6 million from July 1993 to July 1994. The MPCA gets 93 cents of the \$8 for administration costs. Envirotest gets the rest to administer the program.

The division merely heard **HF2**. It did not approve it. The House Environment and Natural Resources Committee will first act on the bill.



## ETHICS

### Confidential opinions

Since a 1994 law change authorizing confidential advisory opinions by the Minnesota Ethical Practices Board, the number of folks asking for a ruling on state campaign finance laws or gifts to elected officials has skyrocketed.

Some board members went before the Elections Division of the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee Jan. 26 to ask for help. Specifically, they want to change the 1994 law so that all advisory opinions are again public and can be talked about openly.

During the past 20 years, the board has issued about 200 advisory opinions; 50 of those have come since July 1, 1994, said John Holahan Jr., chair of the Ethical Practices Board.

The rush for advisory opinions, he said, comes from people using the confidential option to ask if what they're about to do is acceptable under the law. Another 1994 law change banning gifts to elected officials also has generated confusion and increased the opinion caseload.

Prior to the 1994 changes, all advisory opinions were public and contained the name of the person requesting the opinion and the specifics of his or her situation. Now, the specifics of advisory opinions are not made public unless the individual or group requesting the opinion signs a waiver. The board does release general information on confidential cases but opinions turn on specifics and it is important to know the variables in each case.

The problems, Holahan said, are many. First, the Ethical Practices Board is required to discuss all opinion requests, including confidential ones, in a public meeting. That is tricky considering they cannot speak anyone's name or any specifics of a confidential case.

Second, it eliminates public comment that



Rep. Howard Orenstein

helps keep opinion requesters honest and the board better informed. Previously, requests for advisory opinions were printed in the *State Register* so anyone familiar with the situation could comment before the board and sometimes give its members more or different information that would help them formulate their opinions.

Sometimes, for instance, people request an opinion but leave out several facts — in essence, writing questions to get specific answers. Public commentary often helps board members make sure they have all the facts.

Finally, because the board cannot release the specifics of a confidential opinion request or specifics on their ruling, they're getting multiple filings asking the same question. As a result, they're answering the same questions over and over again.

The Ethical Practices Board is requesting several other law changes this legislative session. Among them, a request for its own independent counsel, instead of using an attorney from the Office of the Attorney General. There is a conflict, board members say, because the attorney general is an elected official and one of the people the board must monitor.

Legislation to formalize the board's proposals is expected later this session.



## GOVERNMENT

### Lucrative jobs

Lawmakers are more closely examining the way state departments are using contract employees.

Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) wants to cut by 10 percent the amount of money state departments and agencies spend on private consultants. A bill containing a similar provision, co-sponsored by Opatz, was vetoed in 1993.

His proposal (**HF123**) was heard — but not acted upon — by the Government Efficiency and Oversight Division of the Ways and Means Committee Jan. 24

The bill would force a \$33 million cut in the amount of consultant and professional and technical contracts awarded in 1996-97, said Opatz.

But the way contracts are administered and monitored is also a problem, according to Barb Goodwin, legislative affairs director for the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE).

She told members a computer programmer hired on contract by the Intertechnologies Group in the Department of Administration made \$235,647 for work performed from July 1, 1993, through Dec. 31, 1994. This person received \$80 per hour. Another programmer made nearly \$180,000 during the same time period.

By law, a state employee in a particular agency cannot make more than the agency's head. When it comes to pay for a person working on contract — someone not considered a state employee — the sky is the limit.

Goodwin said that state agencies spend more than \$300 million per biennium on contracts for consultants and professional and technical services. Contracting by the state between 1988 and 1993 increased 83 percent, according to the Office of the Legislative Auditor.



## International community

The Legislature tackled U.S.-Sino relations with a resolution calling for U.S. recognition of the Republic of China on Taiwan and asking that it be admitted as a member of the United Nations.

**HF14**, sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth), calls for "support by the United States government to expedite the full participation of the Republic of China on Taiwan in the international community."

The measure was approved by the House International Trade and Economic Development Committee Jan. 25.

Following the establishment of the People's Republic of China on Oct. 1, 1949, the Kuomintang government of Gen. Chiang Kai-shek fled the mainland and set up a regime on the island province of Taiwan.

The U.S. established full diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China in 1979. It severed its diplomatic relations with Taiwan but still maintains trade relations. Most countries in the world recognize the People's Republic of China.

During his historic 1972 visit to the People's Republic of China, Pres. Richard Nixon declared, "Taiwan is a part of China."

**HF14** now goes to the House floor.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### Tuition increases

Gov. Arne Carlson's proposed budget would spend \$2.1 billion on Minnesota's colleges and universities during the 1996-1997 two-year budgeting period. He calls that a 3.7 percent increase, but many DFL legislators claim those numbers don't add up to much.

"When I go into my district I won't be telling people this is a spending increase," said Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato), whose district includes Mankato State University.

A 1993 law calls for state spending on colleges and universities not to exceed \$2.04 billion in the 1996-1997 biennium. The governor has recommended spending \$79.3 million above that cap.

Of that money, \$969 million would go to the University of Minnesota, \$905 million to the merged state university, technical college, and community college system, and \$244 million to the Higher Education Coordinating Board, which distributes financial aid among other duties.

The governor calls for a 3 percent tuition increase for post-secondary students in each of the next two years. But higher education

officials say 5 percent increases will be necessary to offset declines in enrollment.

Carlson also recommended colleges and universities find additional money by cutting waste and shifting money from programs that don't work to those that do.

Ron Hackett of the Department of Finance detailed the governor's budget to members of the House Education Committee's Higher Education Finance Division and the University of Minnesota Finance Division Jan. 26.

Like most state programs, Hackett said, colleges and universities will help pay for a recent \$320 million court decision against the state. Their share amounts to about \$9 million, or one-half percent of their budgets. For about 25 years, the state had taxed tax exempt bank portfolios. The Minnesota Supreme Court has ruled the state must repay that money, but the governor has determined taxpayers won't foot the bill. State agencies and programs will.

But Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), chair of the House Education Committee, said students will end up financing the court ruling by paying increased tuition and losing some school services.

This biennium marks the merger of state universities, technical colleges, and community colleges. Carlson said costs for the merger have been estimated at more than \$42 million for the 1996-1997 budgeting period alone.

Gov. Carlson has earmarked \$10.4 million for the merger in his budget proposal. "The governor has decided additional merger costs could be handled through reallocations within the system," Hackett said.

For instance, the University of Minnesota and the merged system could save a com-

bined \$11 million over the next biennium by not replacing retirees, Hackett said.

In addition, colleges and universities could save about \$2.5 million during each of the next two years by reducing employer contributions to pensions by 0.8 percent. The 0.8 percent is extraneous and its elimination wouldn't affect employee benefits, he said. The Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement approves of the recommendation, he added.



## HOUSING

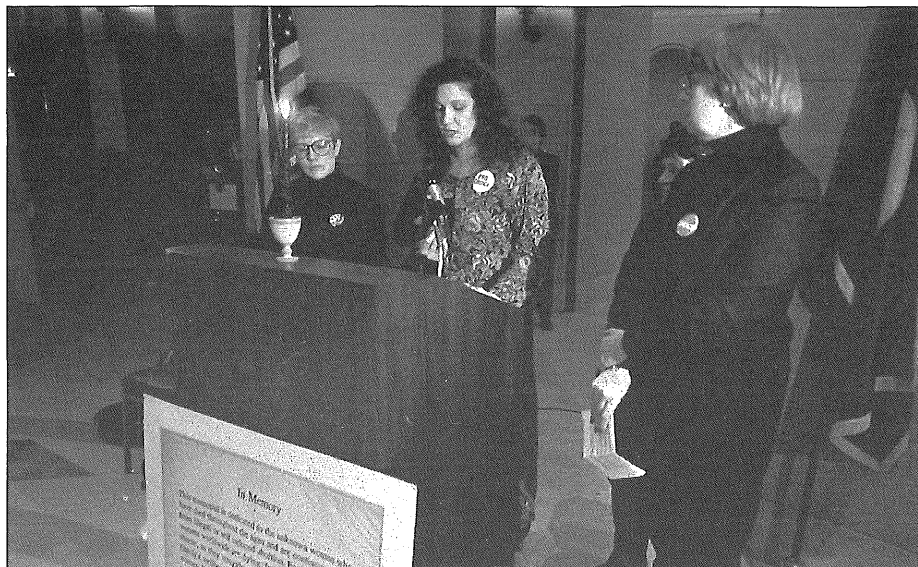
### Criminal background checks

Embalmers and funeral directors receive a criminal background check — insurance adjusters and veterinarians do, too. So why not people hired to manage apartment buildings?

The House Housing Committee heard a bill Jan. 23 that stems from the summer abduction and murder of Kari Koskinen, a New Brighton woman believed to have been killed by her building manager. The manager, who hanged himself in his jail cell before charges could be officially filed, had two prior convictions for rape.

The bill (**HF72**) requires apartment building owners to have the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) conduct a criminal history check on potential building managers who most often have keys to all the apartments. The bill creates the "Kari Koskinen Manager Background Check Act."

Luanne Koskinen, Kari's mother, said any inconvenience or cost to apartment owners pales in comparison to the value of her daughter's life.



Kathy Regalado of Minneapolis, center, remembered her grandmother, Carmen Vera Regalado, who died during an illegal abortion in Los Angeles in 1941. A candlelight vigil, sponsored by the National Organization for Women, was held Jan. 22 in the Capitol rotunda.

"She was left out in the elements. . . She was afraid to report [the building manager] because her lease was coming up" and she couldn't afford a rent increase. The mother said her daughter had been having problems with the manager.

"I made a promise to her . . . to make sure what happened to her won't happen to anyone else," Koskinen said.

The bill does not say owners cannot hire someone with a criminal background but if they do, and something goes wrong, there is a greater chance they could be held liable in the courts, said some lawmakers.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) and Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka), requires that managers who have lived in the state more than five years receive a statewide criminal history check and those who have lived in the state less than five years receive a nationwide check. The checks are to be done every two years.

Managers, Weaver said, have "immediate access to the most intimate parts of a person's life."

Greiling agreed. "Whether it is rental or owned, it is your home."

Apartment building owners are to be notified if convictions for everything from theft and riot to murder, rape, firearms violations, and arson appear on an individual's record.

Weaver estimated the statewide check, sent out by the BCA within 10 days of a written request, would cost \$8 to \$10. The nationwide check, which includes the fingerprints necessary to access the national computer system, could take up to six months and cost about \$50.

The sponsors explained that apartment owners may hire a manager applicant while waiting for the results from the BCA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Housing Committee is expected to continue discussing the bill Jan. 30.



Luanne Koskinen showed Housing Committee members a picture of her daughter, Kari, and granddaughter, Chessie. Kari is believed to have been murdered in June 1994 by the caretaker of her apartment building. The man had two prior rape convictions. Before the committee was HF72, which would require background checks for all apartment managers.

of recommendations on how to improve the system. Those recommendations will be sent to House leadership as well and the House Labor-Management Relations Committee.

"I know none of us consider these [recommendations] huge workers' compensation reforms, but I look forward to working toward that during the session," said Rep. Kevin Goodno (IR-Moorhead). "We can use these recommendations to look to where we agree."

Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), who chaired the task force, said the recommendations "looked at issues away from the constant areas of debate about workers' compensation."

Task force members said small business owners should be able to "self insure." Currently, small employers make up the bulk of businesses insured through the state-run Assigned Risk Plan, which was described as a workers' compensation insurer of last resort for business owners who sometimes can't buy private insurance.

By law, the Assigned Risk Plan must charge a rate higher than the market rate.

The task force recommended creating a "market assistance plan" to help small business employers find private insurance so they don't have to enroll in the Assigned Risk Plan.

Other task force recommendations included:

- Devising a system so disputes over medical bills can be resolved more efficiently. The Office of Administrative Hearings, where employees file workers' compensation claims, must deal with medical bill claims immediately. That means the system is frequently tied up with insurance compa-

nies and doctors arguing over a \$200 medical bill.

Other types of claims may be heard more readily if medical bills aren't placed on the fast track, he said.

- Eliminating "apportionment." Currently, more than one insurance company may pay a claim if an employee was injured at one job but changed jobs and was re-injured at the second job. The task force recommended that the most recent insurer should always pay the claim.
- Continuing the Office of Administrative Hearings' experiment in hearing cases by video conference. Under the experimental plan, judges can hear a case by video conference, even if the employee and the insurance company are in another part of the state. This ends costly drive time and overnight stays for judges.
- Increasing the \$25 fee to appeal cases ruled on by the Office of Administrative Hearings.
- Allowing judges to consolidate cases. Currently, an employee could file three different claims for three different injuries. Those cases could be consolidated only with approval from the employee and the insurance company. The task force recommends letting the judge consolidate those types of cases.
- Using the recommendations of a working group of plaintiffs and insurance defense attorneys to simplify the workers' compensation law.



Rep. Bob Anderson, center, and other members of the Health and Human Services Committee toured the Minneapolis Veterans Home Jan. 24. Funding for a renovation project at the site was approved by the 1994 Legislature.



## LABOR

### Workers' comp, small businesses

Businesses with only a few employees should be able to pool together to buy workers' compensation insurance at rates cheaper than those offered through the state-run Assigned Risk Plan.

That was among the major recommendations offered by the recently created legislative Workers' Compensation Task Force which has met five times since August 1994 to hear testimony on Minnesota's workers' compensation laws.

Members met again Jan. 20 to approve a list



Rep. Wayne Simoneau, chair of the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee, began a Jan. 25 meeting critiquing the clocks in the State Office Building. The one in his committee hearing room was off. But at least it had hands.

In fact, the DFLer from Fridley said there are lots of clocks in the State Office Building out of whack with reality. Hands regularly fall off and the clocks are too often inaccurate.

Ron Davis, the plant maintenance engineer for the State Office Building, explained that the metal-piece clocks have been sensitive for years. They are not encased in glass so when people reach up and move the hands — and they do — the hands fall off. He spent time this week glueing on hands and working to reset the clocks.

Simoneau's timing observations prompted this response from an anonymous lawmaker: "Do we need a bill to set the clocks?"

**Taxes sometimes feel like a criminal sentence** imposed on citizens. Lawmakers, however, usually avoid mentioning the connection.

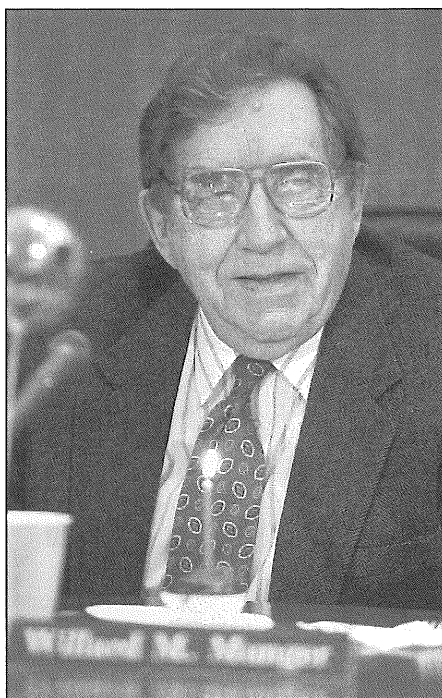
Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester), in a impassioned speech about local property taxes and the need to fix a faulty formula that sends state aid to local governments, told fellow members of the House Ways and Means Committee Jan. 25 that property owners need to know what, specifically, their tax dollars are paying for.

He went on to talk about "truth in sentencing" which brought laughter from the crowd. He meant "truth in taxation" and said: "I get the two mixed up."

**No one ever said complying** with Minnesota's state tax system is easy. According to the Department of Revenue, there are 154 distinct types of taxes within the Minnesota tax system.

The Department of Revenue collects \$7.8 billion each year, according to information provided to the House Taxes Committee Jan. 24 by John Lally, deputy commissioner of revenue.

How hard do the department's 1,300 employees work? Each year they handle 6 million pieces of mail, process 250 types of tax forms and returns, answer 1 million phone



To celebrate his 84th birthday, members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee surprised Rep. Willard Munger with a cupcake Jan. 20.

calls, audit or adjust 100,000 returns, and answer 10,000 letters.

Hally said they get 97 percent of their revenue from "voluntary compliance" with state tax laws. Only 3 percent comes from audits or collection efforts. Those statistics are in keeping with the department's mission, which is "to achieve compliance with Minnesota's revenue system."

**In an unusual move**, Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) grabbed the gavel from Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee and brought the Jan. 20 meeting to order.

"You are my idol and my mentor, and I'm pleased to be here celebrating your birthday," Wagenius told Munger.

In addition to the daily packet of committee paperwork, each member received a cupcake with a single candle placed in it.

After a round of best wishes on his 84th birthday, and a singing of "Happy Birthday" led by Rep. Alice Hausman, it was Munger's turn to speak.

He said the gavel-grabbing action by Wagenius, committee vice chair, was "unauthorized but I'm not going to punish her for it. I appreciate it."

The elder statesman of the Legislature was visibly moved by the birthday celebration and accolades. Living up to his national repu-

tation for pioneering environmental legislation, Munger advised members that if a person wants to "make it to 84 or 100 years, the only way to get there is to have a clean, livable environment."

Then everyone blew out their candles.

**A new law is required to serve** alcoholic beverages at Bronco Arena in International Falls for this summer's all-class Falls High School reunion.

A bill sponsored by House Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) would allow International Falls to issue a temporary seven-day liquor license to a non-profit organization. The license would be valid only in June and July 1995.

Passage of the law is necessary because existing law prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages on school grounds. The legislation is endorsed by the local school board.

The House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee approved **HF26** Jan. 23. The bill now moves to the House floor.

**Organizational committee meetings** tend to be dry affairs, often involving a review of committee rules and procedures. Such was the case at the opening meeting of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee — until Chair Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) explained the "Cookie Rule." It mandates that new House members, and members of the House who do not serve on the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, provide a batch of cookies to the committee when they are presenting a bill before it. They would prefer homemade.

**Gov. Arne Carlson's State of the State Address** drew varied responses, but the stand-up comedy part went over big. After being ceremoniously ushered onto the House floor, Carlson turned to House Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) and said, "Mr. Speaker, let me thank you for making this space available this afternoon."

Those in the packed House chamber laughed at the barb, which appeared to be a reference to the simmering feud between the governor and Anderson over who controls some office space in the Capitol.



New members . . .

## Broecker frames conservative legislative agenda

Running for the Legislature wasn't Rep. Sherry Broecker's idea. The Independent-Republican from Vadnais Heights wanted to



Rep. Sherry Broecker

focus time and energy on raising her children and managing her custom picture framing business, The Frame Broeckers (pronounced Brokers).

It took some persuading from Gov. Arne Carlson to get her into the race against DFL incumbent Marc Asch.

"When Arne called, I just really gave it some serious thought. I thought maybe I should give it a try, because if I didn't I would probably regret it later," Broecker recalled. "So I decided I should go for it."

Carlson told Broecker that her experience in local government — eight years as a member of the Vadnais Heights City Council — would be valuable in the Legislature. "That was all I needed," she said.

Broecker will keep her business going with some help from her sister and by "doing a lot of work on the weekends." She has told some of her corporate clients that they might have to wait a little longer for their framing jobs, and "they don't have a problem with that."

Broecker is enthusiastic about her opportunity at the Legislature to "make a difference" for her constituents in the northern St. Paul suburbs. Reflecting on her city council service, Broecker described herself as a "consensus builder" who tries to bring contending parties together to resolve disputes.

"I am pretty conservative," she allowed. "I

just feel that people need to be accountable for their actions." Likewise, Broecker said parents have to teach their children to be accountable, and impart moral values that include giving something back to the community.

As far as legislative priorities, Broecker succinctly declares, "People are fed up with taxes."

She wants to bring down taxes by holding the line on government spending. Broecker cited her experience putting together budgets for Vadnais Heights, where the tax portion of the city budget was "so frugal that we received zero local government aid" over the last five years. She said there are inequities in the current system, which give large amounts of aid to cities with less fiscal discipline.

Broecker and Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) have sponsored a bill to eliminate unfunded state mandates for local school districts. She explained that some mandates from the Legislature force school districts to raise local property taxes. The bill specifies that a school district "need not comply" with a state program that does not fully fund a mandated program.

Other legislative concerns mentioned by Broecker include welfare reform, bringing down the cost of workers' compensation insurance to employers, and imposing term limits. Broecker said she will serve no more than three terms.

Before going into business for herself, Broecker worked at Burlington Northern for eight years. She is married with three teen-aged sons, who help define her recreational interests.

Broecker and her husband have been involved in a leadership program with a youth group at Grace Church in Roseville. She enjoys canoe trips in the Boundary Waters with the teenagers.

"I'm the only female who likes to fish and clean 'em and cook 'em," she explained, so on the canoe trips the boys awaken her at sunrise to go fishing. "The last time I caught a 10-pound northern," she boasted. Fishing talent runs in the family: A photograph on her desk shows her son holding a 24-pound, 46-inch tiger muskie he caught in Forest Lake.

When not out camping and hiking or downhill skiing, Broecker likes to relax and water ski at her family's cabin on Forest Lake. She also enjoys watercolor painting when time allows.

Broecker pledges to dedicate herself to legislative work as she has committed herself to other political and civic pursuits.

"Even though I don't have all the answers, I'm willing to listen and learn," she said.

— Mordecai Specktor

### District 53B

**Population:** 33,153

**Distribution:** 98.45 percent urban;  
1.55 percent rural

**County:** Ramsey

**Largest city:** Maplewood (portion)

**Location:** north Metro

**Unemployment rate:** 3.57 percent

**Residents living below poverty level:** 3.19 percent

**1992 presidential election results:**

Bush/Quayle ..... 35.24 percent

Clinton/Gore ..... 40.39 percent

Perot/Stockdale ..... 23.59 percent

Other: ..... 0.78 percent

Q & A

**Q.** With all the laws currently on the books, has the Legislature ever thought of deleting or revising current law before enacting more laws?

**A.** The Legislature regularly repeals laws. Ironically, however, it takes a new law to repeal an old law.

In 1994, the Legislature passed a new law repealing a slew of laws already on the books that outlined how much cities

and counties could levy in property taxes for such things as grasshopper control, Dutch Elm disease control, libraries, cemeteries, and municipal bands and orchestras.

The laws were repealed because the Legislature earlier passed another law that eliminated municipal property tax levy limits. At the time the Legislature did away with municipal levy limits, however, members did not take such items as grasshopper control limits off the books.

Another example occurred in 1993 when the Legislature, following a public outcry, repealed a controversial 1992 law that authorized a conference of chief judges to compile a list of misdemeanor offenses that would become petty misdemeanors. Petty misdemeanors are not considered crimes and the maximum fine is \$200. Misdemeanors are punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$700 fine.



# Come to the Capitol

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 Avenue. 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 available 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. Free-way express bus service is available. Bus number 94B takes you to the Capitol and the State Office Building. Call the Transit Information Center at (612) 349-7000 for schedule and route information.

## What to do

### Tours

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

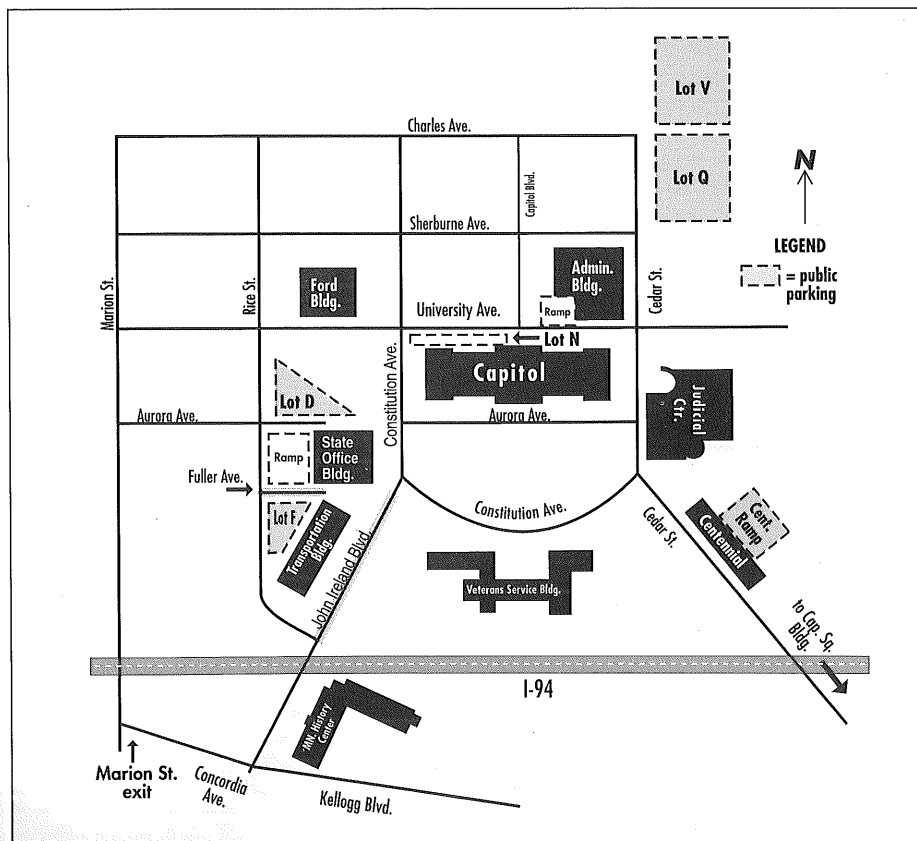
Tour guides lead the 45-minute tours on the hour Mondays through Fridays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (last tour leaves at 4 p.m.); Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.); and Sundays between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.). The tours are free of charge and begin at the Capitol's information desk at the end of the corridor to the right of the main entrance. Brochures in about 15 foreign languages also are 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.

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 questions. Spectators may sit in the galleries of either chamber.

## Committee meetings

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

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

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

Each committee has a chair, vice chair, administrator, and legislative assistant. 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. A brochure containing tips on testifying at legislative committee hearings is available from the House Public Information Office.

## Legislators

Representatives 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 buildings' 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 Café Minnesota is on the first level of the new Minnesota History Center. 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, (612) 296-5974, room scheduler for the State Office Building; or Marilyn Hall, (612) 296-0866, or Marge Collins, (612) 296-4154, both room schedulers for the Capitol Building.

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

231 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.



# The Mighty Mississippi . . . Just where are its headwaters?



"Discoverers and civilizers led to the source of the Mississippi," a mural by Edwin Blashfield, is on the north wall of the Senate chamber.

"The river itself has no beginning and no end. . . . What we call the headwaters is only a selection from among innumerable sources that flow together to compose it. At what point in its course does the Mississippi become what the Mississippi means?"

The metaphysical question posed by writer T.S. Eliot has never been fully answered.

Just where are the true headwaters of the Mighty Mississippi?

Henry Schoolcraft is widely credited for determining its source as Lake Itasca in 1832. Four years later, Joseph Nicollet made the same journey and constructed an exhaustive and accurate map of the area. He discovered a stream flowing into the southwest corner of Itasca and called it Nicollet Creek, the "infant Mississippi."

In 1881, Captain Willard Glazier paddled briefly upstream (after making most of the journey by wagon), took a quick look around, spied a 100-acre inlet stemming from Lake Itasca, and declared both Schoolcraft and

Nicollet to be wrong. What he "discovered" was Elk Lake, already charted by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1875.

Glazier—"an unconscionable adventurer," according to historian William Folwell in his *History of Minnesota*—tried to re-name Elk Lake after himself, and launched a self-promotion tour, following the Mighty Mississippi clear to New Orleans and peddling his fraud at every stop. He was well received.

Newspaper accounts show that in St. Louis, Mo., they even named a day in his honor. Glazier pressed his claim as founder of the true headwaters "extensively and persistently" for years. Entire texts were written both supporting and refuting Glazier's claims. Upon returning home to Minnesota, Glazier published a book heralding this true "discovery" of the source of the Mississippi. To fatten the text, he borrowed liberally from the journals of those who had gone before him.

"Schoolcraft's narrative was shamelessly plagiarized," Folwell wrote.

In the fall of 1888, steps were taken to silence the "impudent claimant." Jacob Brower, who would later write an eight-volume series entitled *Memoirs of Explorations in the Basin of the Mississippi*, spent 30 days at the headwaters "in a careful examination of its topography," and fully exposing Glazier as a phony.

Brower actually determined that after "tracing Nicollet's stream" through swamps, bogs, lakes, and underground streams, the ultimate high ground of Hernando de Soto Lake near the southern boundary of the current Itasca State Park is the river's source. But he also said that the river didn't begin until a number of sources combined at the common outlet of Lake Itasca.

That winter, the 1889 Minnesota Legislature passed a law forbidding any school from using a geography text with Glazier's historical version of the headwaters. Specifically, it put into law the name of Elk—not Glazier—Lake.

"That the lake known for many years to the Indians and early explorers as Elk Lake. . . shall be known and designated hereafter on all official maps of the state," said the law. Any text giving any other name for Elk Lake "shall not be used in this state."

The Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) has no official position on the headwaters, said Dennis Meissner, supervisor of manuscripts processing in the agency's research division. He does relate that Elk Lake does connect with Itasca by stream, and that speculation exists that Elk and Itasca were once one body of water.

A 1979 MHS report, *The Source of the Mississippi*, says that "scientists and philosophers aside," Lake Itasca "has stood the popular test of time" and will remain "the acknowledged source of America's greatest river."

— John Tschida

Could there be a gold rush in Minnesota?

According to William Brice, director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Minerals, "a fair number of corporations" have shown an interest in looking for gold deposits over the years.

During an overview of DNR programs at a recent House Environment and Natural Resources Committee meeting, Brice said that five companies are currently exploring for gold in the "greenstones"—deposits of



volcanic rocks hundreds of feet below the surface. These deposits can be found north of a line running from around Browns Valley (on the bump in western Minnesota) up to Ely (in the northeast corner of the state).

Diamonds also are found among the greenstones in Minnesota and Canada. "There is quite a bit of diamond interest in Canada," said Brice. "[But] I don't know of anyone who has ever found a

[gem-quality] diamond in Minnesota," he added.

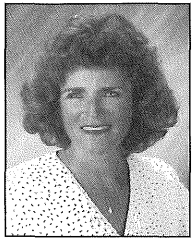
As of January of this year, 10 companies held metallic minerals leases (other than for iron ore) issued by the DNR. Aside from gold, there is exploration for titanium and platinum in the geologic formation known as the Duluth Complex, in the southern Iron Range around Hoyt Lakes and Babbitt.

While the DNR can guess what minerals the companies are looking for, the companies don't have to specify what they're up to.

New members . . .

## A motivated Daggett speaks out, uses 'common sense' on issues

These days, Rep. Roxann Daggett (IR-Frazee) often recalls an earlier time in her life: her freshman year in college.



Rep. Roxann Daggett

"I tell everyone I feel like I'm back in college. I've got a roommate, I'm away from home, I learn something at every meeting, I don't know where the rooms are, and I want to get an A-plus in good common sense," she said.

Daggett, who became interested in politics after joining a teen Republicans league in eighth grade, came to the Capitol this session as a first-term legislator from Frazee, Minn., her hometown.

Her experiences as a politically involved teenager never left her. She's stayed active all her life, serving as campaign chair for two of former representative Jim Evans' campaigns. He represented the area from 1976 to 1984.

"I'm a legislator because a lot of people encouraged me through the years to run, but my kids were in school. Now they're working and there was no reason not to run, so this time I said I would," Daggett said.

She attributes part of her election success to listening to constituent concerns.

"By knocking on 10,000 doors and talking to constituents, I know they're concerned about welfare reform, the high cost of workers' compensation, and the money they spend in taxes. They're tired of mandates. I'll be on the watch for those things as I serve as their representative," Daggett said.

Minnesota small business people pay more for workers' compensation insurance than those in other states, and that drives business from the state, she said. She knows about workers' compensation law firsthand. Her father-in-law founded a trucking line in Frazee 65 years ago. Her husband, Dave, along with other family members, now manages the family business.

"Even though workers' compensation costs have adversely affected us for years, we have a loyalty to our area and we would like to see an improvement in the regulations," she said.

As a member of the Labor-Management Relations Committee, she's now in a position to help push through such reforms.

And speak up she will. Daggett doesn't suffer from the frequent first-year fear of

speaking up in class or in committee. She's put her undergraduate degree in communications from the University of North Dakota to good use the past 14 years.

In 1979, after winding up a stint as state president of the Minnesota Jaycee Women, she received a number of requests from community organizations for speaking engagements. She spoke frequently to fellow Jaycee Women on time management, by far her most requested topic.

She soon found herself talking several times a week at community education classes, churches, and other local gatherings. Her primary talk is called "If You Don't Plan Your Time, Someone Else Will." She also speaks on getting rid of clutter and setting goals.

Before long, people started asking her where they could get the "little red books" she jotted notes in to plan her day. This was before the age of time planning books, when such things were hard to find, Daggett said.

She decided to market them herself.

People who come to her seminars and speeches can still get one by filling out a request form, but she doesn't market them as heavily as she has in the past. If it's one thing Daggett understands it's time management. And now she needs as much time as possible for her legislative work.

When she's not wearing her legislator or motivational speaker's hat, Daggett enjoys golfing, cross country and downhill skiing, and spending time at the family cabin on Lake Wimer.

Time for those activities will be in short supply for awhile, but she's sure to ink some time for herself now and again into her little red book.

— Jean Thilmany

### District 11A

**Population:** 33,145  
**Distribution:** 32.52 percent urban;  
67.48 percent rural  
**Counties:** Becker, Ottertail, Wadena  
**Largest city:** Detroit Lakes  
**Location:** northwestern Minnesota  
**Unemployment rate:** 6.49 percent  
**Residents living below poverty level:**  
15.93 percent  
**1992 presidential election results:**  
Bush/Quayle ..... 40.99 percent  
Clinton/Gore ..... 33.57 percent  
Perot/Stockdale ..... 23.75 percent  
Other: ..... 1.69 percent

## Do you know?

When Ole Stengrimson wanted his name changed in the 1870s, he had to ask the Minnesota Legislature to enact a special law. The same goes for Gustaf Olson, Knud Pederson, and Torger J. Evenson.

Who are these people? Who knows?

They are among many in the 1800s who had special laws passed to change their names. Back then, new identities required a new law.

Some Scandinavian immigrants with common names such as Johnson and Erickson (which mean son of John or son of Eric) changed their names to distinguish themselves from others. They sometimes chose to use their farm name from their native country.

There were too many people with the same name and changing identity made it easier to figure out who was who, said Patricia Harpole, an author and retired reference librarian who worked for the Minnesota Historical Society for 30 years. "It made it easier to receive your mail and figure out who owned a particular piece of property."

While many of the special law entries were for adopted children, some immigrants changed their name to make it easier to pronounce, sometimes because people regularly mispronounced it, she said. For instance, Minnesota law books show Charles H. Ljungquist changed his name to Charles H. Youngquist in 1879.

In 1872, a law was passed stating that the district courts "hereafter have the exclusive right to change the name of any person . . . ." But the Legislature went right on passing special laws for name changes. Ole Peter Peterson opted to be called Otto Peter Valby. John M. Johnson changed his name to John N. Boxrud. And Musie Cary became Georgie M. Wilmarth.

In 1881, the Legislature finally stopped enacting name-change laws after a constitutional amendment was adopted prohibiting a variety of special laws.

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

A bill that died during the 1994 session would have made name changes even easier and hoped to lighten district court caseloads. Under the bill, a person could have avoided the court appearance and filed a sworn petition, along with affidavits from two people vouching for his or her identity.

# Bill Introductions

HF135-HF264

## Monday, Jan. 23

### HF135—Tuma (IR) Governmental Operations

Legislators and constitutional officers compensation restricted.

### HF136—Clark (DFL) Housing

Forcible entry and unlawful detainer court filing fee refund provided.

### HF137—Jacobs (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy

Electric utility competitive rate sunset provision abolished.

### HF138—Kahn (DFL) Governmental Operations

Gambling department created; Racing Commission, Gambling Control Board, and State Lottery Board abolished and duties transferred.

### HF139—Pawlenty (IR) Governmental Operations

Tenth Amendment; federal government mandate reporting and analysis required.

### HF140—Kahn (DFL) Governmental Operations

State treasurer office eliminated and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF141—Anderson, R. (DFL) Capital Investment

Fergus Falls; Prairie Wetlands Environmental Learning Center appropriation purpose modified.

### HF142—Lieder (DFL) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Precinct caucus, state, and presidential primary dates changed, absentee ballot deadline modified, voters guide distribution provided, presidential primary by mail allowed, filing fee increased, duties modified, and money appropriated.

### HF143—Greiling (DFL) Education

School alternative staffing pattern pilot program established, and money appropriated.

### HF144—Jennings (DFL) Labor-Management Relations

Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

### HF145—Brown (DFL) Judiciary

Correctional officer defensive use of force authorized in certain correctional facilities.

### HF146—Hasskamp (DFL) Education

Brainerd Technical College appropriation use authorized for athletic facility relocation.

### HF147—Ozment (DFL) Taxes

Tax increment financing use restricted, and additional disclosure required.

### HF148—Simoneau (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Columbia Heights tax increment financing district exempted from LGA/HACA offset.

### HF149—Olson, E. (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
County economic development appropriation authority increased, and county approval required for use of county tax rate in tax increment financing.

### HF150—Jacobs (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy

Temporary on-sale intoxicating liquor license term increase provided.

### HF151—Mares (IR) Housing

Minnesota manager background check act adopted.

### HF152—Mares (IR) Governmental Operations

Teachers Retirement Association member authorized to make lump-sum contributions to obtain full-service credit for sabbatical leaves.

### HF153—Tompkins (IR) Transportation & Transit

Motor vehicle registration tax overpayment refund time limit established.

### HF154—Lieder (DFL) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Earned income exemption provided for certain income earned for service in the armed forces.

### HF155—Cooper (DFL) Governmental Operations

Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

### HF156—Finseth (IR) Agriculture

University of Minnesota appropriated money for wheat and barley scab research.

### HF157—Lindner (IR) Education

Capital facilities revenue use for equipment authorized.

### HF158—Worke (IR) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Canada; Minnesota-Ontario fish importation restrictions removed.

### HF159—Murphy (DFL) Judiciary Finance

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program funding provided, and money appropriated.

### HF160—Leppik (IR) Health & Human Services

Health care access denial physician review required.

### HF161—Leppik (IR) Health & Human Services

Long-term hospital Medicare inpatient rate adjustment provided.

### HF162—Bertram (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Stearns County required to pay refund to Melrose for money received for property acquisition.

### HF163—Leighton (DFL) Governmental Operations

Firefighter state aid increase provided.

### HF164—Jefferson (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy

Public utilities area development rate plan sunset provisions abolished.

### HF165—Schumacher (DFL) Governmental Operations

Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

### HF166—Bettermann (IR) Judiciary

Death penalty authorized for first degree murder and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF167—Jefferson (DFL) Governmental Operations

Voter registration and absentee voting requirements modified, and penalties imposed.



## Thursday, Jan. 26

### HF168—Luther (DFL)

#### Financial Institutions & Insurance

Homeowner insurance nonrenewal based on claim amounts and not number of claims.

### HF169—Tunheim (DFL)

#### Education

Education appropriation limits repealed.

### HF170—Rhodes (IR)

#### Judiciary

Bias crime victims provided cause of action, and liability imposed for parents of minors who commit bias crimes.

### HF171—Rostberg (IR)

#### General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Veterans homes resources account fund use authority clarified.

### HF172—Hackbarth (IR)

#### General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Veterans homes board of directors expense allowance authorized.

### HF173—Pelowski (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Winona lodging tax revenue use provisions modified.

### HF174—McGuire (DFL)

#### Regulated Industries & Energy

Alcohol retailers and municipal liquor stores required to post signs warning of the dangers of alcohol consumption by pregnant women.

### HF175—Knoblach (IR)

#### Transportation & Transit

Bridge of hope designated on Trunk Highway No. 15 crossing the Mississippi River near St. Cloud.

### HF176—Skoglund (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Criminal sexual conduct crimes statute of limitations lengthened.

### HF177—Skoglund (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Patterned sexual offender sentencing law scope expanded; and sentencing law training required for judges, prosecutors, peace officers, and sex offender assessors.

### HF178—Skoglund (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Sex offender registration law expanded, and registration law violation penalty increased.

### HF179—Skoglund (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Sentencing to service program expanded, and money appropriated.

### HF180—Bishop (IR)

#### Health & Human Services

Vasectomy; informed consent required prior to procedure, and civil cause of action provided.

### HF181—Bishop (IR)

#### Judiciary

Sex offender release notification required; registered sex offender information release authorized; and HIV testing of convicted offenders law clarified.

### HF182—Simoneau (DFL)

#### Financial Institutions & Insurance

Automobile insurance medical expense benefits regulated; benefits offered through managed care plans; Department of Commerce benefit certification provided; and premium reductions and rules required.

### HF183—Peterson (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Swift County authorized to establish a rural development finance authority.

### HF184—Simoneau (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Civil action punitive damage awards regulated.

### HF185—Osthoff (DFL)

#### General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Armory building commission member appointment flexibility provided; armory construction fund use authorized; armory site provision by municipalities clarified; site disposal provisions modified; and tax levy authority granted.

### HF186—Kelley (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

St. Louis Park special service district created; tax increment use restriction removed; and tax increment district exemption from LGA/HACA offset provided.

### HF187—Knight (IR)

#### Ways & Means

Appropriations not to exceed growth in state's personal income, and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF188—Knight (IR)

#### Taxes

Valuation exclusion for improvements to certain residential property (This Old House Law) provided.

### HF189—Jaros (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Duluth Teachers Retirement Fund Association future service credit purchase authorized for certain retired Duluth technical college teachers.

### HF190—Simoneau (DFL)

#### Financial Institutions & Insurance

No-fault automobile insurance benefit payment coordination required.

### HF191—Knight (IR)

#### Governmental Operations

State employee growth limitation provided.

### HF192—Knight (IR)

#### Taxes

Income tax personal exemption subtraction provisions modified.

### HF193—Huntley (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services

Prepaid Medical Assistance demonstration project statewide capitation rate established by Department of Human Services commissioner.

### HF194—Knight (IR)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Mandate full funding required and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF195—Knight (IR)

#### Governmental Operations

Legislature reduced in size to 51 senators and 102 representatives.

### HF196—Olson, E. (DFL)

#### Regulated Industries & Energy

Small telephone company regulatory clarification act adopted.

### HF197—Solberg (DFL)

#### Education

Itasca Community College student housing construction or acquisition provided, and bond issuance authorized.

### HF198—Johnson, A. (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Motor Vehicle Emission Control Equipment inspection program abolished.

### HF199—Johnson, A. (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Motor vehicle emission inspection requirement waived for newer vehicles.

### HF200—Swenson, H. (IR)

#### Education

Independent School District No. 422, Glencoe, authorized transfer of funds from debt redemption fund to capital expenditure fund.

**HF201—Peterson (DFL)**

**Agriculture**

Ethanol producer payments modified, ethanol blender credits phased out, and money appropriated.

**HF202—Peterson (DFL)**

**Agriculture**

Ethanol producer payments modified, and money appropriated.

**HF203—Johnson, R. (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Prepaid Medical Assistance demonstration project statewide capitation rate established by Department of Human Services commissioner.

**HF204—Dauner (DFL)**

**Labor-Management Relations**

Workers' compensation insurance regulation and benefits modified, and money appropriated.

**HF205—Luther (DFL) Transportation Finance Division/Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance**

Brooklyn Park right-of-way acquisition Metropolitan Council loan for proposed trunk highway No. 610 paid by MnDOT commissioner, and money appropriated.

**HF206—Osthoff (DFL)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Adjutant general authorized to assign retired officers to active duty and recommend National Guard members for brevet rank; state service medal eligibility changed; military property disposition penalties changed; obsolete language removed.

**HF207—Lieder (DFL)**

**Education**

Independent school district Nos. 526, Twin Valley, and 523, Gary, funds transferred to the Twin Valley and Gary successor school district.

**HF208—Osthoff (DFL)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Governor's military duties and powers clarified; adjutant general designation language clarified; acceptance of money by adjutant general on behalf of state provisions clarified; land lease authority clarified; obsolete language removed.

**HF209—Lieder (DFL)**

**Education**

Independent School District No. 600, Fisher, capital health and safety revenue use for purchase of portable classrooms authorized.

**HF210—Carlson (DFL)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Minnesota identification card fee changed.

**HF211—Cooper (DFL)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

School district polling place number requirements specified.

**HF212—Kahn (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Parliamentary government provided and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF213—Kahn (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

LCMR; Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources recommended projects appropriated money, and critical habitat matching account and environment and natural resources trust fund provisions modified.

**HF214—Murphy (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Prepaid Medical Assistance demonstration project statewide capitation rate established by Department of Human Services commissioner.

**HF215—Greiling (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Governor authorized to veto certain rules and terminate rule proceedings.

**HF216—Huntley (DFL)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Motor vehicle registration fleet definition modified.

**HF217—Simoneau (DFL)**

**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Life insurance living benefits settlements regulated; NAIC viatical settlements model act adoption provided; and powers and duties prescribed.

**HF218—Lourey (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Minnesota rock, gem, and mineral interpretive center designed, and money appropriated.

**HF219—Murphy (DFL)**

**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Lyme disease treatment coverage required by health plans.

**HF220—Greiling (DFL)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Special and primary elections conducted by mail in certain instances.

**HF221—Anderson, I. (DFL)**

**Education**

Independent School District No. 362, Littlefork-Big Falls, capital loan approved, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF222—Smith (IR)**

**Governmental Operations**

Fiscal notes required to accompany each bill before the Legislature.

**HF223—Skoglund (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund member granted temporary survivor benefit option.

**HF224—Clark (DFL)**

**Housing**

Transitional Housing Program exempted from sale restrictions on projects financed by state bond proceeds.

**HF225—Dempsey (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Human services public Assistance eligibility provisions modified, Work First Program detailed and established, and money appropriated.

**HF226—Kelley (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Medical Practice Board to receive reports of insurance settlements from all persons regulated by the board.

**HF227—Kelley (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Medical care prior authorization prohibited by persons not licensed by the State Board of Medical Practice.

**HF228—Mulder (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Physical therapy council, physician assistant advisory council, and respiratory care practitioners' advisory council reinstated.

**HF229—Schumacher (DFL)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Town supervisor office vacancy filling procedure clarified.

**HF230—Simoneau (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Joint and several liability apportionment regulated.

**HF231—Kelley (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Medical practice license requirements for foreign applicants changed, and disciplinary procedures modified.

**HF232—Perlt (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Public contract oversight provided for certain state and metropolitan contracts.

**HF233—Cooper (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Home care services reimbursement methodologies modified and rates increased.

**HF234—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**

Independent contractor workers' compensation provisions modified.

**HF235—Onnen (IR)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Nuclear power generators required to submit schedule for construction of high-level radioactive waste fueled reactors, and Department of Public Service to recommend funding options for construction.

**HF236—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Metropolitan mosquito control district and commission abolished, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

**HF237—Olson, E. (DFL)**  
**Taxes**

Veterinarians exempted from sales tax for horse and agricultural production animal care material purchases.

**HF238—Ozment (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**

Legislature reduced in size to 64 senators and 128 representatives, and legislative district boundary provisions modified.

**HF239—Osskopp (IR)**  
**Judiciary**

Marriage contracts provided and pre-marriage counseling required.

**HF240—Farrell (DFL)**  
**Taxes**

Noncommercial seasonal residential recreational property tax class rates reduced.

**HF241—Kalis (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Prepaid Medical Assistance demonstration project statewide capitation rate established by Department of Human Services commissioner.

**HF242—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Education**

Educational savings plan accounts provided income tax exemption.

**HF243—Mulder (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Prepaid Medical Assistance demonstration project statewide capitation rate established by Department of Human Services commissioner.

**HF244—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**

Governor's workforce development council established to replace the governor's Job Training Council.

**HF245—Garcia (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**

Legislative employee compensation governed by minimum wage and overtime pay laws.

**HF246—Lourey (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Prepaid Medical Assistance demonstration project statewide capitation rate established by Department of Human Services commissioner.

**HF247—Opatz (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Prepaid Medical Assistance demonstration project statewide capitation rate established by Department of Human Services commissioner.

**HF248—Solberg (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Pumped hydropower added to list of preferred alternative energy sources, and incentive payments provided for pumped hydropower facilities.

**HF249—Smith (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**

General Assistance eligibility requirements to include provision of social security number, and county agencies required to verify alien status of noncitizens.

**HF250—Smith (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**

Legislature reduced in size to 34 senators and 68 representatives.

**HF251—Kelso (DFL)**  
**Education**

Interactive television capital levy access increased.

**HF252—Tompkins (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**

Motor vehicle emission inspection requirement waived for vehicles less than five years old.

**HF253—Boudreau (IR)**  
**Education**

State academies for the deaf and blind governing laws clarified.

**HF254—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Medical savings account act adopted.

**HF255—Van Dellen (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
MinnesotaCare modifications provided.

**HF256—Knight (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**

Legislators residing within 60 miles of the capitol not to receive per diem payments.

**HF257—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Tax data classification provisions modified.

**HF258—Kalis (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Pollution Control Agency and Department of Health fines deposited in state general fund.

**HF259—Dempsey (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**

State building code receipt rebates paid to municipalities, and money appropriated.

**HF260—Munger (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Western Lake Superior sanitary district bonding authority allocation provided.

**HF261—Bishop (IR)**  
**Judiciary**

Occupational therapists included in civil action limitation period for health care professionals.

**HF262—Leighton (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Mechanics' lien notice filing requirements modified.

**HF263—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Judiciary Finance**  
Crime information reward fund appropriated money.

**HF264—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Judiciary Finance**  
Witness and Victim Protection Fund appropriated money.



Coming Up Next Week . . . Jan. 30 - Feb. 3, 1995

# Committee Schedule

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

## MONDAY, Jan. 30

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans. Council on Black Minnesotans. Indian Affairs Council.

### K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Continue discussion of governor's budget recommendations; begin analyzing changes to Article 1.

### Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** Reaction to governor's budget.

### University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Ronald Franks, M.D., dean, University of Minnesota, Duluth Medical School. University of Minnesota physical plant issues, Susan Markham, associate vice president, facilities management.

8:30 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Agency budget presentations: Kathryn Roberts, general director, Minnesota Zoo; Dan McGuiness, administrative director, MN/Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Overview of the Minnesota Department of Human Services budget for FY 1996-97.

10 a.m.

### AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

**Agenda:** HFXXX (Peterson) Ethanol funding bill.

### JUDICIARY

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

**Agenda:** Report from the Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force: Vivian Jenkins Nelson, co-chair; Sen. Ellen Anderson, co-chair; Mary Ellison, assistant commissioner, Department of Public Safety; Ellie Webster, violence prevention planner, Department of Public Safety.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

**Agenda:** Local telecommunications service: Minnesota Telephone Association, Inc., Mike Nowick, director; Sprint United Telephone of Minnesota, Barry Counts, manager, Governmental Affairs; US West Communications, Inc., Ron James, vice president, Minnesota.

### State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Performance report review with DOER and the Department of Human Rights.

12:30 p.m.

### GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

**Agenda:** Jeff Olson, deputy commissioner, Department of Veterans Affairs. Richard Zierdt, executive director, Veterans Homes Board. Jim Connelly, Minnesota commander; Al Loehr, legislative chair; Les Orton, adjutant quartermaster, Veterans of Foreign Wars. Lyle Foltz, American Legion.

### HOUSING

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** HF72 (Greiling) Relating to public safety; background check on building managers. (Continuation of testimony.)

### LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Johnson

**Agenda:** Minnesota AFL-CIO, William Peterson, secretary-treasurer; Bernard Brommer, president. Overview of state labor and employment laws, Martha Clark, House Research. (If necessary, meeting will be continued after session.)

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

4 p.m.

### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

N-104 Austin Community College  
Austin, Minn.

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** Introductions and overview of Austin Community College and Austin Technical College, Vicky Smith, president, Austin Community College; Marlin Wacholz, president, Minnesota Riverland Technical College; John Gedker, campus vice president, Austin Campus of Minnesota Riverland TC. Testimony on financial aid; developmental education; reports, mandates, litigation, and free speech issues; caps and their effect on institutions; update on the Austin Technical College/Community College Collocation Project; telecommunications enhancements and updates.

## TUESDAY, Jan. 31

8 a.m.

### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Response to governor's budget by K-12 education representatives/organizations.

### JUDICIARY FINANCE

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** DWI: public safety, Ignition Interlock Pilot Program; centralized DWI/DUI information system; evaluation of intensive DWI probation grants. Monitoring DWI offenders through breath analyzers. Remote electronic alcohol monitoring pilot project.

### MinnesotaCare Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** Recommendations of the Minnesota

Health Care Commission.

**Transportation Finance Division/  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** MnDOT overview.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Agency budget presentations: Susan Kafka, executive director, Academy of Science; T.J. Hagarty, D.V.M., ex-secretary, Board of Animal Health.

10 a.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Presentation by the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation. HF130 (Kahn) Authorizing a feasibility study on county consolidation.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** Continuation of Department of Economic Security Overview.

**TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** Continuation of Jan. 26 full committee and Jan. 30 Property Tax & TIF Division agendas. Discussion and testimony regarding governor's budget, Matt Smith, commissioner, Department of Revenue.

12:30 p.m.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Department of Administration presentations on strategic long-range plan for locating state agencies, and pre-design requirements for Capitol budgets.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM &  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** To be announced.

2 p.m.

**Joint House and Senate Hennepin County  
Delegation**

5 State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Linda Wejcman, Ron Abrams,

Sens. Martha Robertson, Ted Mondale.

**Agenda:** Health care financing. Health care reform. Other health care issues. Update on the school human services redesign initiatives.

2:30 p.m.

**Government Efficiency &  
Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

**Agenda:** Discussion of legislators' ideas for reducing and restructuring government.

4 p.m.

**Joint Legislative Committee on Merging Post-  
Secondary Education Systems**

112 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Gene Pelowski, Sen. LeRoy Stumpf

**Agenda:** Continuation of discussion on consolidation, reorganization and recodification of higher education statutes, John Ostrem.

**WEDNESDAY, Feb. 1**

8 a.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Department of Economic Security.

**Developmental Education Working Group/  
Higher Education Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

506 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** Discussion of developmental education in higher education.

**Financial Aid and Tuition Policy Working  
Group/Joint Higher Education Finance Division  
and University of Minnesota Finance  
Division/EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Becky Kelso, Tony Kinkel.

**Agenda:** Discussion of financial aid and tuition policy.

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

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Continuation of budget overview by the Department of Human Services.

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

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Continue discussing articles in governor's budget recommendations.

**Mayo Medical School Working Group/Uni-  
versity of Minnesota Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

346 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Discussion of Mayo Medical School.

**Reports, Mandates, Litigation and Free  
Speech Issues Working Group/Joint Higher  
Education Finance Division and University  
of Minnesota Finance Division/EDUCATION**

400N State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Becky Kelso, Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** Discussion of reports, mandates, litigation and free speech issues.

**University 200 Initiative Working Group/  
University of Minnesota Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Discussion of University 2000 Initiative.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Ron Harnack, executive director, Board of Water and Soil Resources agency budget presentation.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

Tour

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** Tour of the Department of Natural Resources. (Vans will leave from in front of the State Office Building at 10 a.m. and return at 2 p.m.)

**JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** Overview of the Department of Corrections, Community Services, Richard T. Mulcrone, deputy commissioner, Department of Corrections.

**State Government Finance Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Department of Revenue.

12:30 p.m.

**Business Regulation Division/  
COMMERCE, TOURISM &  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

**Agenda:** Presentation by Mary Ann Hruby, executive director, Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules.

1 p.m.

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

**Agenda:** Overview of Minnesota Department of Trade & Economic Development (DTED). DTED will also address the legislative priorities and their performance review issued by the Office of the Legislative Auditor. Discussion of the state's role in economic development and job creation, Wayne Cox, AFL-CIO; Bill Blazer, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce.

**THURSDAY, Feb. 2**

8 a.m.

**EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Response to governor's budget by higher education representatives/organizations.

**JUDICIARY FINANCE**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Crime prevention for juveniles. Reports from the Department of Education on high risk youth violence prevention program, grass roots collaboration effort grants, community based truancy action projects and dangerous weapons in school zones. Reports from the Department of Public Safety on statewide school related crime hotline and reward program, community crime reduction grants, DARE/GREAT. Report from the Department of Human Services on CHIPS-delinquents demonstration project.

**MinnesotaCare Finance Division/  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** Report on the federal requests of the Reforming States Group, Rep. Lee Greenfield, National Steering Committee chair.

**Transportation Finance Division/  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Agency budget presentation, Tom Jorgens, executive director, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute.

10 a.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Greiling) Authorizing a gubernatorial veto of administrative rules.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** Presentation on tax policy principles, the individual income tax and dependent children, Joel Michael and Nina Manzi, House Research. State welfare reform: integrating tax credits and income transfers, Bob Cline, Department of Revenue; Paul Wilson, St. Olaf College. Earned income credit and the working family credit.

12:30 p.m.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** New member orientation.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM &  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**Elections Division/  
GENERAL LEGISLATION,  
VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

**FRIDAY, Feb. 3**

8 a.m.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Continuing budget overview of Minnesota Department of Human Services.

**Joint Higher Education Finance Division and  
University of Minnesota Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Becky Kelso, Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** Overview and discussion of funding formula.

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

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Begin analyzing the governor's recommendation for the Department of Children.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** Pollution Control Agency Report on protecting public health and the environment from toxic air contaminants. Overview of Minnesota Department of Transportation, Environmental Services.

**Gambling Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

**Agenda:** Duties of the Gambling Control Board, report to the Legislature on the rulemaking process for pull-tab dispensing machines, Harry Balzer, executive director, Gambling Control Board.

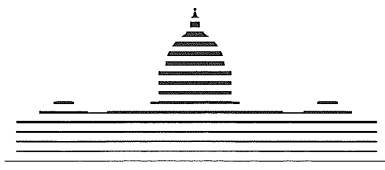
**JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** To be announced.





MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
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95, Feb. 3

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P615

# SESSION WEEKLY

A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ February 3, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 5





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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • February 3, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 5

## Week at a glance

**Ethanol at the pump** — A House bill would encourage Minnesota farmers to produce all the ethanol that is used in the state and would raise to \$30 million per year the amount the state would pay to subsidize the production of ethanol. .... **Page 4**

**Interest-bearing cars** — Landlords pay renters interest on apartment security deposits. A new House bill would extend that principle to of car leasing. .... **Page 4**

**Classroom complaints** — Members of the House Education Committee got an earful from educators fed up with trying squeeze money out of their shrinking budgets. .... **Page 6**

**It works** — A parade of Youth Works participants told legislators how the program created in 1993 has changed their lives. It allows young people to earn grants for college or technical school while working to improve their communities. The governor has recommended continued funding. .... **Page 6**

**The zoo can be a zoo** — The Minnesota Zoo wants to get rid of free admission days because staff members are having a tough time handling the crowds. .... **Page 7**

**Welfare reform** — The dollars have been tabulated and a new welfare reform bill will cost the state \$23.7 million. .... **Page 10**

**Intoxicated truckers** — Truckers caught driving drunk in the family car would have their commercial drivers' licenses suspended as well. .... **Page 11**

**Lights, camera . . . Marko** — Rep. Sharon Marko used to watch local governments from a back room as she helped them produce and televise their meetings on public access cable stations. Now she's in front of the House camera. .... **Page 19**

**A hefty agenda** — Government efficiency and holding the line on taxes will be at the top of first-time Rep. Peg Larsen's legislative agenda. With her teaching experience and four children in the public schools, education issues will also get attention. .... **Page 18**

### ON DECK . . .

**Local salaries** — Some local government officials are making between \$80,000 and \$100,000 per year, and Rep. Steve Wenzel says that's too much. His bill (HF339) to roll back those salaries and limit future increases will be heard before the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 200 of the State Office Building.

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On the cover: Hilary Pederson, left, and Laura Stypulkowski, right, sixth graders at Central Middle School in White Bear Lake, held a banner to draw attention to the need for increased education funds. Teachers, parents, and students from the district attended a Jan. 31 rally at the Capitol. The district has twice tried and failed to pass a local referendum in recent months to boost K-12 education funding.

— Photo by Laura Phillips



# Highlights

Reinventing government . . .

## Members offer ways to slice, dice, cut, and blend

Should the Office of the State Treasurer be eliminated? Should some of the state's public universities be closed? These and other ideas were raised before the Government Efficiency and Oversight Division of the House Ways and Means Committee Jan. 31.

Since the phrase 'reinventing government' was coined by a book of the same name in 1992, streamlining state government and improving its efficiency has become a mantra of sorts.

At the invitation of division chair Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul), 14 lawmakers brought forward their ideas for reducing, restructuring, or creating a more efficient state government. Some proposals

single comptroller's office. Currently, nine states have an elected comptroller.

Abrams also suggested that the state establish a panel similar to the federal armed services base closing commission to study the state's higher education institutions, because "the Legislature doesn't have the courage to close them." He called the higher education system expensive, overbuilt, and worthy of a serious examination.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) wants the Department of Gambling reinstated. The former Department of Gaming, established in 1989, was eliminated by lawmakers in 1991. The former commissioner of the department, Tony Bouza, advocated its elimination.

their paycheck," she suggested. "Let's ask them, 'What do we ask you to do that really doesn't matter?'"

Wejcman also suggested establishing a 1-800 telephone number for citizens to call and offer suggestions for greater efficiency. Rep. Tom Van Engen (IR-Willmar) said there should be 1-800 numbers so constituents can call each of their elected officials without cost. His campaign committee has established such a service.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) offered an alternative to the governor's proposed Aid Distribution Councils which would divide the pot of local government aid among governments within each county.

He wants to tie local government aid to achievement of "appropriate results." The recommendation comes from the Citizen's League. The aid distribution formula should also be changed to reward efficiency, Dawkins said.

This "linking funding with results" is what Dawkins called "a carrot approach to delivering efficiency at the local level."

At the state level, Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) said it "wouldn't be a bad idea" to pick a state agency each year and strip their funding away. "Make them justify their function and finances," Solberg said, noting that Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) has embraced such an idea in the past.

Solberg sponsored a bill during the 1994 session (HF272) to eliminate the Department of Public Safety. Because they were "taken to task," Solberg said "they are a better department today because of the exercise we went through . . . they became more efficient."

Other members called for a freeze on state fees, a reworking of the Petrofund reimbursement system, and gubernatorial veto authority for administrative rules.

Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), who has introduced three House Advisories calling for, respectively, studies to consolidate victim services offices, ombudsman positions, and youth employment programs, summed up the theme for the day: "There are programs out there that should be consolidated. . . . Could it be done more efficiently? I think it could," Murphy said.

— John Tschida



Rep. Mary Murphy outlined her three proposals to study the consolidation of certain government programs before members of the House Ways and Means Committee's Government Efficiency and Oversight Division Jan. 31.

have been introduced as bills, while others were "off the cuff." The ideas ran the gamut from the flashy to the obscure. (See Jan. 27, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7, for a short description of the committee).

Rep. Ron Abrams (IR-Minnetonka) offered eight proposals "for discussion purposes" that he said would rattle the cages of "just about every constituency."

He proposed abolishing the Office of the State Treasurer, which he said is a "19th century office. . . and difficult to justify." Instead Abrams proposed combining the duties of the treasurer, auditor, and secretary of state into a

Under her proposal (HF138), the department would be composed of three divisions: the pari-mutuel racing division, the gambling control division, and the gambling enforcement division. The Racing Commission, State Lottery Board and Gambling Control Board would be abolished.

"This isn't a totally new idea," Kahn said. She said the move would save between \$500,000 and \$1 million per year.

Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) offered a simple suggestion: Let state employees make suggestions.

"Get a form for staff and distribute it with

## A brief report . . .

### On the report on the report on reports

Rep. Tom Van Engen (IR-Willmar) says there are too many reports reaching his desk.

In part, he can blame his legislative colleagues.

According to the House Research Department report, *Reports Mandated by the 1994 Legislature*, more than 200 reports were called for last session.

The irony of the report on reports was not lost on Van Engen. He assigned his intern to write a brief report on the report on reports.

Van Engen expressed his frustration before members of the Government Efficiency and Oversight Division of the House Ways and Means Committee Jan. 31.

"It is physically impossible to read all the material that comes across my desk," he said.

Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) questioned why the Legislature asks for so many reports in the first place.

"In the last two years, my [Judiciary Finance] division has mandated 56 reports . . . there's no way my committee could do what all the recommendations [contained in them] say. . . . Let it die, rather than ask for a report," Murphy said.

A 1991 law designed to stem the tide of unwanted reports has helped somewhat. Under the law, lawmakers aren't supposed to get copies of reports mandated by the Legislature unless they specifically ask for them. However, that doesn't stop other reports, not mandated by the Legislature, from piling up on lawmakers' desks.

Van Engen told members they were welcome to review his intern's report on the report on reports.

"But in the spirit of what I am trying to accomplish I won't copy it and won't distribute it unless you ask for it."



## AGRICULTURE

### A cooperative renaissance?

Minnesota farmers would be encouraged to produce all the ethanol that is used in the state, under a bill approved by the House Agriculture Committee Jan. 30.

The bill (HF202) would raise to \$30 million per year the amount the state would pay to subsidize the production of ethanol, although the state would actually spend about half that yearly amount in the next two years.

The cap is currently at \$10 million per year, which proponents of the bill say is not enough to encourage the long-term development of more ethanol plants in Greater Minnesota.

Ethanol is made from the fermentation of corn and other agricultural products and has been used as an additive in gasoline to make it burn more cleanly.

There are currently five ethanol plants in Minnesota (a sixth will begin production in April) that combined produce a total of 59 million gallons of ethanol per year.

That's less than half of the 120 million gallons of ethanol that is consumed per year in Minnesota, most of which is imported from plants in Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska.

Bill sponsor Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison) argued that raising the cap to \$30 million per year would send a message to potential investors in ethanol plants that the state is committed to helping the industry.

"If Minnesota doesn't act this year, the window of opportunity is going to be gone," he said.

That's because beginning Oct. 1 of this year, gasoline used in automobiles in the 10-county metropolitan area will be required to burn "oxygenated fuel" year round, instead of just during the winter (Oct. 1 to Feb. 1) as is required under current law.

(The law was enacted in 1991 because the Twin Cities was in violation of federal Environmental Protection Agency clean air requirements. Adding one part ethanol for every 10 parts of gas is one way to oxygenate gas, although there are petroleum-based additives that can do the same thing.)

The need for year round "oxygenated fuel" in the metro area will greatly increase the demand for ethanol. And beginning Oct. 1, 1997, all gasoline sold in the state will have to be oxygenated, which will further increase demand for ethanol.

Although the bill was approved on a 13-0 vote, some members questioned why the state should subsidize the industry when

several large agricultural conglomerates have already invested heavily in ethanol.

And that led to a spirited discussion over whether farmers should share their profits with such large corporations as Cargill, or whether the state should encourage the development of farmer-owned ethanol cooperatives that would keep the profits closer to home.

HF202 now moves to the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee for further review.

### Existing and proposed Minnesota ethanol plants and production

Plant Location	Annual Gallons (in millions)
<b>Operating Plants</b>	
Marshall .....	35
Morris .....	7
Kraft .....	1
Dundas .....	1
Winnebago .....	15
Winthrop* .....	10
<b>Proposed Plants</b>	
Benson .....	15
Claremont .....	10
Buffalo lake .....	10
Little Falls .....	15
RDO .....	15
Madison .....	15
Luverne .....	10
Windom .....	15
Litchfield .....	15
Albert Lea .....	30

\*Plant will begin production in April.  
Source: Minnesota Department of Agriculture



## CONSUMERS

### Interest on car lease deposits

A landlord is required by law to pay a renter interest on an apartment security deposit, and a new House bill would extend that principle to the business of car leasing.

The bill (HF46) would require leasing companies to pay a 5.5 percent interest rate annually on a security deposit put down on a leased vehicle. The measure would apply only to vehicles leased for four months or more and used for personal or family purposes at least 40 percent of the time.

Bill sponsor Rep. Walt Perl (DFL-Woodbury) said the measure, approved by the House Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs Jan. 31, shouldn't cause much controversy and that it was only fair. He called it "something for the people" everyone could agree on.

Under the bill, the manufacturer or dealer leasing a vehicle must return the security deposit and interest within three weeks after the termination of a lease or furnish a written statement explaining why any or all of the security deposit is being withheld.

Retaining a security deposit and interest in "bad faith" could result in a fine, under the bill. Not only would the leasing company have to pay back the deposit and interest to the individual who leased the car, but the company could be fined the same amount. In addition, the courts could award punitive damages, up to \$200, to the person who leased the car, under the bill.

Tom Valley of the American Automobile Manufacturers' Association told representatives that the bill would create an "unneeded administrative burden on car manufacturers."

The full Commerce, Tourism, and Consumer Affairs Committee is expected to hear the bill next.



## CRIME

### More prevention, fewer prisons

A state task force is recommending a substantial shift in the way Minnesota's violence prevention dollars are distributed.

*The Report of the Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force* asks that 60 percent of the state's violence prevention dollars go to early prevention programs by the year 2000.

Currently, 40 percent of the state's prevention dollars go to programs designed to prevent a crime before it happens. All other dollars go to prevent future crimes after one already has occurred.

Fifty-three percent of the \$310 million spent last year by the state on prevention efforts went to the prison system, "to care for less than 1 percent of the population," according to the report.

"Prevention works," Vivian Jenkins Nelsen, task force co-chair, told the Judiciary Committee Jan. 30. "We have to intervene."

The task force report contains 29 formal recommendations, which include ensuring long-term, stable funding for violence prevention efforts, and enacting stronger handgun and automatic weapons control laws.

In order to accomplish the funding shift toward early prevention programs, the task force suggests a moratorium on increasing sentences for offenders or reducing sentences for some crimes. It also suggests placing a moratorium on expanding prison space.

Holding such a moratorium could prove difficult. Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul), also a task force co-chair, noted that once the new 800-bed state prison is opened in 1999, there will still be a shortage of 750 beds, assuming current crime rates and sentencing guideline practices.

The Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force was established by the 1994 Legislature and charged with, among other duties, developing measurable violence prevention goals, a state policy and funding plan for such programs, and a way to evaluate the effectiveness of funded programs.

Legislation to implement portions of the report's recommendations will be heard later this session.

### Is anyone there?

A telephone hotline for Minnesota students to report crimes at school received a \$20,000 state appropriation last year, but only six calls have been placed in the nine months the line has been in operation.

Members of the Judiciary Finance Committee Feb. 2 were clearly disappointed by the progress report presented by Don Peterson, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) special agent.

"This is a \$20,000 appropriation we're talking about, and six calls we're talking about," said committee chair Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown).

Half of the appropriation was for a toll-free, 1-800 line and a local line in the Twin Cities, and the other half was for a reward fund that would offer up to \$100 for a tip resulting in an arrest and prosecution. None of the reward money has been spent.

Calls to the students' crime hotline go to a voice mailbox and are reviewed "every other day" by BCA staff, according to Peterson. The telephone lines, both the statewide 800 WATS line and the local line, cost \$50 to \$60 per month.

"Most kids are raised to use the 911 system," Peterson said. "I anticipate an increase in use of the [crime hotline] as it becomes better known."

The hotline has been publicized in mailings from the state Attorney General's Office to school district administrators throughout the state. Committee members suggested that the hotline needed more publicity, including posters in the schools.

Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester) said the students' crime hotline program has "continuing validity" but could be funded at a reduced level.

For the record, those crime hotline numbers are: 1-800-657-3760; 643-2187 in the metropolitan area.

### Grants made easy

Organizations vying for crime prevention and youth intervention grants now have "one-stop shopping" to apply for funds.

The centralized Prevention and Intervention Funding program administered by the Minnesota Planning agency replaced the old system of calling any of 11 state agencies in search of available grant funds and application requirements.

In 1994, the program awarded 204 grants valued at just over \$5 million.

Barb Yates, director of the Department of Education's Office of Community Collaboration, said the application process is so simple, a "two-page proposal written in pencil" was awarded funds.

Grant recipients told House Judiciary Finance Committee members Feb. 2 of the program's benefits.

Jackie Starr was awarded a \$28,500 Grassroots Collaboration Grant to fund Project Outreach, which uses computers to help 200 young people on the near north side of Minneapolis improve their reading skills. Students come after school and on weekends to the project housed in a local church.

Starr said, "We have youth who tell us, 'I use drugs because I can't read.'"

The inner city group enlisted volunteers from Minneapolis and Deephaven to make the project work.

Laura Schlick, of St. Paul's Hmong American Partnership, was awarded a \$50,000 Community-Based Truancy Action Project grant.

The dollars funded Peem Tsheej (pronounced PENG CHENG), which is Hmong for "struggle for success."

Schlick noted that just as there is a relationship between smoking cigarettes and lung cancer, there is a relationship between truancy and later serious problems that involve the police and courts.

Groups seeking state money for their programs can call the Application Hotline at (612) 297-1419 or 1-800-934-7113 and leave a message. Schedules for application workshops are available. Deadlines vary depending on the type of grant. Applications are evaluated by panels that include people who are involved in community-based programs that have received grants.





## EDUCATION

### Reactions to budget proposal

First graders in the Osakis school district use textbooks that were new when their teachers were kids.

That's what Pat Ryan, a high school science teacher in the central Minnesota school district, told the House Education Committee Jan. 31. He and other educators were on hand to testify how the governor's budget recommendations would affect them and their schools.

"One teacher told me she contributed \$500 of her own money last year to buy things for her class," Ryan said. "The school can't get money for a bus to take students to Fergus Falls for a young writers' conference," he added.

The governor's budget calls for a total of \$5.6 billion in K-12 spending over the next two years — up from \$5.2 billion in the 1994-95 biennium.

His proposal also calls for the elimination of some state mandates that he argues narrowly limit how districts spend state aid dollars.

But Ryan and other district officials said the spending increase won't even begin to cover ever-increasing district needs. Voters failed to approve a levy referendum in his district last year. And the rural district of 850 students faces a continued decline in enrollment. Because the state appropriates money on a per-pupil basis, his district loses money when student numbers dwindle, Ryan said.

Another educator, Tom Walerius, a math teacher at Robbinsdale High School, said his district has cut all the administrative positions possible in an attempt to keep funding cuts away from students.

"Cuts were made away from the classroom, but it still affects students because now teachers have additional responsibilities," Walerius said. "It seems in education there's always a recession. It seems we continually cannibalize some programs in order to sustain other programs."

Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee) asked district representatives if the governor's proposal to take money now earmarked for specific programs — such as reducing class size — and give it to districts with no restrictions would help or harm them.

If the state doesn't direct districts on how to spend particular parts of their appropriations, teacher's unions could use collective bargaining to earmark some of it for increased teacher salaries, said Dennis Mor-

row, superintendent of Brooklyn Center Public Schools.

Jon McBroom, superintendent of Mora Public Schools, said his district employees have been understanding about the tight financial situation, but they've seen few raises.

"We couldn't have balanced our budget without them," he said.

Mora's school board members will have a hard time determining how much of the state's money to spend on particular programs now that it's not targeted money, McBroom said.

### Youth Works revisited

The 1993 Legislature hit a home run with the Youth Works Act, which allows young people to earn grants for college or technical school while working to improve their communities.

A parade of Youth Works participants told a recent meeting of the Judiciary Finance Committee that the program gave them new skills and positive direction in their lives.

Full-time participants in the program can earn a living allowance of about \$7,640 a year, plus health care benefits and child care if needed. After completing 1700 hours of work, a participant is eligible to receive \$4,725 toward higher education tuition.

Bill McComas of St. Cloud told committee members that he learned construction skills while working on upgrading facilities at Camp Friendship in Annandale, Minn. The camp serves youth with physical disabilities.

Not only did McComas learn construction skills from laying foundation blocks to hanging doors, but his interpersonal skills improved while he was involved in Youth Works. He admitted to being "kind of a sour apple" when he began the program, but his feelings toward others changed.

"I'm kind of proud of myself for doing something good," McComas said. "I'm going to stick with the program and I'll have the construction job I always wanted at the end."

Alma Tamayo worked at the Bryant Community Center and for a food shelf in Minneapolis. "I want to be a nurse and this is going to help me a lot," she said with regard to the educational benefits of the program.

Yohance Moore, who worked on rehabilitating houses on the north side of Minneapolis, said that he will use the educational stipend he earned in the program to study carpentry.

"With hope and opportunity you can become a positive force in your community," Moore concluded.

Youth Works Act sponsor Rep. Andy

Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said that the program received \$3.9 million in state funding in 1993, which leveraged an additional \$6.3 million in local and federal money.

In 1994, the Youth Works Act was amended and the program is now coordinated with the federal AmeriCorps program. Youth Works/AmeriCorps projects began in October 1994. Community organizations provide tutors and mentors to program participants.

The governor's budget proposal recommends \$3.6 million in funding for Youth Works in 1996 and 1997. That would allow the program to continue at its current enrollment of about 360 participants, Dawkins said.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Drowning in wetlands

Five Minnesota counties are refusing to cooperate with the 1991 Wetlands Conservation Act because they say the law discriminates against counties with lots of wetlands.

The law tells local governments that wetlands drained for roads, housing, or other development must be replaced — if not in another section of the county then somewhere in the state. It maintains state policy requiring no net loss of wetlands in Minnesota. The state's original 12 million acres of wetlands has diminished to less than 3 million acres.

Pennington, Beltrami, Marshall, Koochiching and Lake counties contend that the law will stifle economic development in their northern region because no developer is going to want to build in an area where they have to drain wetlands first and then come up with the money to replace them. Under the law, those responsible for draining a wetland, whether a developer building homes or a government entity building a road, must pay to replace the wetland.

Most counties that consist of more than 80 percent wetlands are located in northeastern Minnesota and in portions of central Minnesota.

Ron Harnack, director of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), mentioned the revolt during a recent meeting of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. The agency oversees compliance with the wetlands act.

He said the five northern counties "think they're going to get caught up in litigation" brought by developers unable to proceed with construction projects because the law requires them to spend large sums of money to replace wetlands.

Harnack explained that in a county like Koochiching, where 90 percent of the county is made up of wetlands, a developer or local entity would most likely have to drain a wetland to build anywhere and, under the law, replace the wetland. But, because the county already is inundated with wetlands, they'd have to spend the money to restore the wetland in another part of the state.

"I think they've got a valid concern," Harnack said.

All counties in Minnesota are given BWSR grant money (about \$10,000 to \$36,000) to administer the wetlands act. Pennington, Beltrami, Marshall, and Koochiching counties have all returned the grant money and said they want nothing to do with the law. Lake County never accepted the money, Harnack said.

Under the law, counties don't have a choice; they must participate or face a moratorium on development.

But rather than drag the rebellious counties into court, Harnack said his agency would wait until the Legislature had a chance to change the law to help counties with lots of wetlands. The suggestions for change come from a January 1995 report from the Wetland Heritage Advisory Committee.

One proposed change would loosen wetland replacement requirements. Currently, any development 400 square feet or more built on a drained wetland requires the wetland be replaced. One proposed change would raise that threshold to 7,500 square feet in counties with 80 percent of their original wetlands intact.

Another proposed change would give counties that consist of more than 80 percent wetlands and adopt a plan for preserving them, more flexibility in how they replace

wetlands drained for development, roads and other projects. Instead of replacing the wetland acre for acre, those counties could replace a wetland based on its function and value to the environment and humans. So, just because a development takes up four acres of a wetland, a developer may only need to replace one or two acres.

Wetlands act as a natural biological filter, preventing sediment from building up in lakes and rivers. Uncontrolled draining of wetlands, usually to make room for new roads or housing and business developments, has contributed to flooding problems in some areas. Wetlands also recharge underground aquifers and provide wildlife and fish habitat.

### It's a zoo

The Minnesota Zoo wants to get rid of free admission days because staff members are having a tough time handling the hefty crowds.

As many as 30,000 visitors on certain summer days take advantage of free admission and create chaotic conditions, said Kathryn Roberts, general director of the Minnesota Zoological Garden.

The zoo typically hosts about 8,000 to 10,000 visitors on a weekend day in the summer.

"It's not a pleasant experience" for visitors and staff at the zoo when the facility is overcrowded, Roberts told members of the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Jan. 30.

"There are kids jumping in with the Arctic fox," fights between visitors, graffiti vandalism, and stealing from the gift store on free admission days, Roberts explained. On these

days the zoo is "not enjoyable" and people who happen to visit may never return.

A Minnesota law requires that the Minnesota Zoological Garden — which receives about one-third of its annual revenue (\$5 million) from the state general fund — "must be open to the public without admission charges at least two days each month."

The Minnesota Zoo has proposed that the free admission days be abolished. Instead, the zoo would distribute some 100,000 free passes for "economically disadvantaged Minnesota citizens" that could be redeemed on any day.

Another option proposed by the Minnesota Zoo would be to offer 24 reduced admission days each year. This would offer "affordable access" to the zoo for individuals and families who "live within tight budgets."

Roberts also brought lawmakers up to date on a number of new zoo projects.

An exhibit of South American fishing cats soon will be created. Fish will be released into a stream running through the exhibit and zoo visitors can watch the felines catch their dinner. Also, a komodo dragon, the world's largest reptile, will be exhibited soon.

Another innovation is a high school on the Minnesota Zoo grounds. The School of Environmental Studies, scheduled to open next fall, will be operated by Independent School District No. 196, which serves students in Apple Valley, Rosemount, and Eagan.

The 1994 Legislature authorized \$25.5 million in bonds for the construction of a shark tank and an expanded dolphin exhibition area and amphitheater at the zoo. Roberts said the exhibits would open in May 1997.

The governor has recommended that the Minnesota Zoo's state funding stay level at \$10.5 million for the 1996-97 budget period.



Jan Orr, coordinator of the Department of Natural Resources' Project Wild, brought a bald eagle to the Capitol rotunda Jan. 27 to call attention to the state's non-game wildlife program. Funds from the 'check-off' box on state tax forms aid the program.



## GOVERNMENT

### Removing the rules

A bill to give the governor the power to suspend administrative rules won approval from the Governmental Operations Committee Feb. 2.

Although the Legislature and governor enact law, sometimes state agencies are given "rule-making authority" to detail the nuts and bolts of how a law should work.

Sometimes those rules are adopted with little public input, result in a mess of red tape, and undermine the original intent of the law, according to some lawmakers. (There are actually more rules than there are laws.)

The bill (HF215), sponsored by Rep. Mindy

Greiling (DFL-Roseville), seeks to limit the power of state agencies to adopt rules that adversely affect people and sometimes don't follow the original legislative intent of a new law.

It authorizes the governor to suspend all, or a portion, of an existing rule by publishing a notice in the *State Register* and outlining his or her objections to the rule. If the governor suspends a rule, he or she must introduce a bill during the next legislative session to permanently repeal the rule. If the Legislature doesn't enact the bill, the rule in question bounces back into effect. An amendment added to the bill would prohibit the same governor from suspending the same rule, or part of a rule, twice.

The bill also would allow the governor to issue an executive order terminating any pending rule-making proceeding. The order would expire 90 days after the end of the governor's term so that a new governor would have the authority to re-start the rule-making process.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) opposed the bill, stating that it gave too much authority to the governor. He said he would support a bill that requires all rules to be approved by the Legislature.

Greiling said the bill would allow for more accountability and a political check on agency rule-making. The governor, she said, is responsible for the state agencies as head of the executive branch.

She and other lawmakers said the bill would likely result in lawmakers drafting clearer laws so agencies don't need to adopt rules to interpret and enforce them.

The measure now goes to the House floor for consideration.

## Redrawing county boundaries

A bill to study whether some of Minnesota's 87 counties could be consolidated went before the House Governmental Operations Committee Feb. 2.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring the bill (HF130) that calls on the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation to study whether it makes sense to consolidate counties and their services. It suggests looking at all sorts of options, including but not limited to organizing Minnesota counties in a fashion similar to the state's 10 judicial districts.

Under the bill, the board would have to report its findings to the Legislature by Jan. 1, 1996. A dollar amount for the study has yet to be included in the bill.

Some counties have declined in popula-

tion and the state needs to start thinking about county problems in a more unified way to better offer services and administer state programs, said Kahn, chair of the Governmental Operations Committee.

"The consolidation of counties is not a new idea," she said. She proposed a similar idea in 1991, although she called on the State Auditor's Office to study the idea — not the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation.

Back in Minnesota's territorial days, Minnesota had just nine counties, some of which stretched to the Missouri River in what are now the Dakotas.

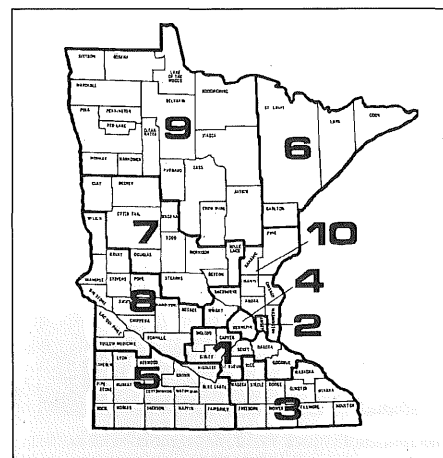
Colleen Landkamer, a commissioner in Blue Earth County and a representative of the Association of Minnesota Counties, asked that county officials be consulted on the study and that more time be devoted to it. She said that the bill in essence only allows six months for the study, not enough time to study all the counties and how they deliver services.

Landkamer also asked that no one go into the study presuming some counties need to be eliminated. No one knows that to be true, she said.

One potential hitch with the bill is Gov. Arne Carlson's desire to eliminate the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation. The board was created in 1993 and awards grants to local governments that want to work together to share resources and offer better customer service.

The board — in the interest of government efficiency — also has the power to waive certain rules placed on local governments. Several local government officials were on hand Jan. 31 to tell members of the Governmental Operations Committee how the board has helped them do their jobs better.

The bill now goes to the State Government Finance Division.



Minnesota's 10 judicial districts.

## Recognizing Taiwan

A resolution calling for the United States to recognize the Republic of Taiwan and asking that it be admitted as a member of the United Nations was given final approval by the House Feb. 2. The vote was 94-27.

The resolution, (HF14) calls for "support by the United States government to expedite the full participation of the Republic of Taiwan in the international community."

Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth), who sponsored the measure, said Taiwan is the 14th largest trading nation in the world.

The U.S. established full diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China in 1979. It severed its diplomatic relations with Taiwan but still maintains trade relations.

"The main reason I'm supporting this is I don't like a big country like China to push a little country around," Jaros said. He contended that the U.S. does not recognize Taiwan "because of political differences between mainland China and the U.S."

Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester) amended the bill Jan. 30 to change the country's name from Republic of China on Taiwan to the Republic of Taiwan. He said all references to China should be removed from the bill.

Copies of the resolution will be forwarded to Congress and other federal offices.

## Madison, Anderson, and Moe

James Madison won't be there, but House Speaker Irv Anderson, Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe, and Gov. Arne Carlson could be.

The House gave preliminary approval Feb. 2 to a resolution (HF22) stating that Minnesota is willing to participate in a "Conference of the States" that is designed to get the attention of the U.S. Congress on a variety of issues.

It would mark the first such state gathering since 1787 when James Madison and friends got together for the historic Constitutional Convention.

The purpose: to limit the scope of the federal government in general and to get Congress to stop "unfunded mandates" in particular.

The resolution approved by the House would send a total of seven people to the conference — three from the House, three from the Senate, and the governor (or another constitutional officer of his choice).

Of the legislators from each body, at least one must be from each major political party. The measure was approved only after lengthy partisan debate over the exact number and composition of the delegation.



Here's how the conference proposal, which is sponsored by House Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), would work:

For the conference to be called, a total of 26 states would need to pass the resolution of participation. The conference would then have to be held within 270 days, probably in Philadelphia sometime this fall, explained Chris Schwarz, who is tracking the issue for the Lexington, Ky.-based Council of State Governments.

There, the delegation from every state — each with one vote — will attempt to write a "States' Petition to Congress," which would then need ratification by a majority of state legislatures before the petition would be delivered to Congress.

"While the petition would have no force of law and would not be binding on Congress, it is likely that Congress would respond," stated a handout from the Council of State Governments. "To ignore the carefully reasoned formal petition of America's state legislatures would be unthinkable."

Schwarz said the conference proposal is not as drastic as calling a constitutional convention but not as passive as sending individual resolutions to Congress.

The idea was first pushed by Nebraska's Gov. Benjamin Nelson, a Democrat, and Utah's Gov. Mike Leavitt, a Republican.

As of Feb. 2, the proposal has been approved by five state legislatures, and approved in at least one body in 10 more legislatures, said Schwarz. The proposal has been introduced in 16 more legislatures, bringing to 31 the number of legislatures in which the proposal is being considered.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

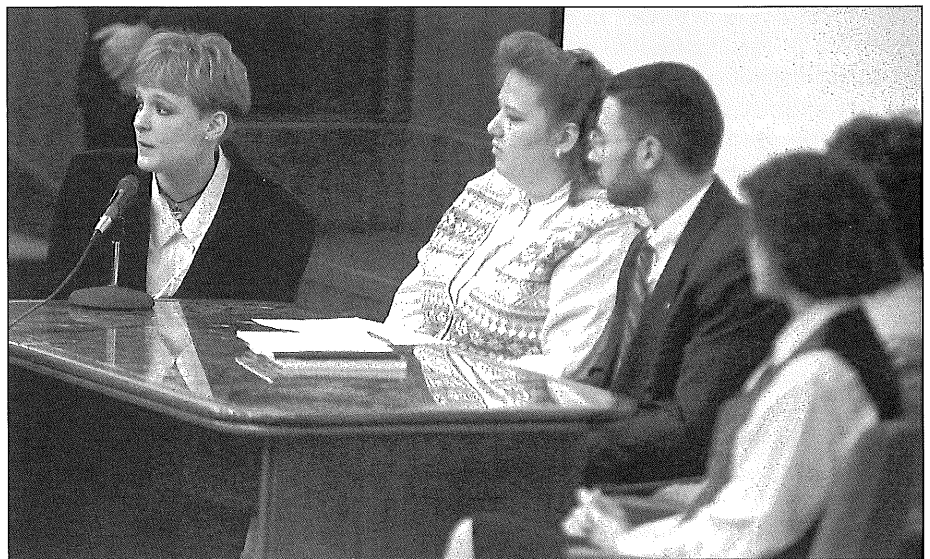
### Less for college students

Jennifer Swanson, a student at Inver Hills Community College, told members of the House Education Committee Feb. 2 that she's in a no-win situation.

Swanson works long hours to pay for classes and books, so she doesn't have much time to study. She wants a degree so she can find a good job, but she doesn't have enough money to pay for her education.

"You have to be 24, have a child, or get married just to get financial aid," said Swanson, adding that she wants neither a husband nor a child.

She joined 12 others in criticizing the governor's proposed higher education funding for the 1996-97 biennium, which some say won't keep pace with inflation.



Jennifer Swanson, left, who attends Inver Hills Community College, responded to the governor's higher education budget recommendations before the House Education Committee Feb. 2. Other students present included, left to right, Andrea Ruesch, Moorhead State University; Cecil Smith, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities; Dawn Gordon, Northwest Technical College, Wadena Campus; and Starr Brown, Hamline University.

His proposed budget would spend \$2.2 billion on Minnesota's colleges and universities during the 1996-97 two-year budgeting period.

Of that money, \$969 million would go to the University of Minnesota, \$905 million to the merged state university, technical college and community college system, and \$244 million to the Higher Education Coordinating Board, which distributes financial aid among its many other duties.

The University of Minnesota proposed appropriation represents a 6.6 percent increase over the 1994-95 biennium. But funding for the state's college system would increase just 1.4 percent.

A 1993 law calls for state spending on colleges and universities not to exceed \$2.04 billion in the 1996-97 biennium. The governor has recommended spending \$79.3 million above that cap.

But it's not fair to look at that as a spending increase, argued Cecil Smith, a University of Minnesota graduate student, because the cap didn't leave room for inflationary increases.

Vicky Smith, president of Austin Community College, said her school will see a 1.6 percent decline next year in state appropriations should the Legislature approve the governor's budget. The community college would have to cut \$106,000 from its budget, she said.

"To big institutions that's not a great amount of money, but to us that's a significant amount," Smith said.

Swanson said that if her school raises tuition, she'll have to drop out. She can't afford to take out any more loans, she said.

But Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayner (IR-Princeton) said students should take loans to pay for their education.

"I believe in loans. I don't believe in grants," he said.

Swanson said she's willing to use loans "within reason" to pay for her education. Currently, her loans total \$4,000, she said.



## HOUSING

### Checks on apartment managers

A bill requiring criminal background checks on potential apartment building managers passed the House Housing Committee Jan. 30 with a tenants' right to privacy amendment attached to it.

The bill (HF72), sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) and Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka), now goes to the House Judiciary Committee.

The main focus of the bill stems from the summer abduction and murder of Kari Koskinen, a New Brighton woman believed to have been killed by her building manager. (See Jan. 27, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9.)

The bill requires apartment building owners to have the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), or in some cases the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), conduct a criminal history check on building manager applicants who most often have keys to all the apartments. The measure creates the "Kari Koskinen Manager Background Check Act."

The tenants' right to privacy amendment, sponsored by Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls), tries to settle complaints from tenants who say too often landlords and managers walk into their apartments unannounced and without any prior notice.

The amendment states that a landlord may enter an apartment only with a reasonable emergency, maintenance, or business purpose and only after giving "reasonable" notice.

A landlord violation could result in a tenant being released from a lease, recovery of a damage deposit minus any proven damages to the rental property, and a \$100 civil penalty for each violation.

"It is a matter of common courtesy," Wejcman said.

While many tenants rights groups agreed, some landlord groups saw no need for such an amendment. Dianna Wilhelmson of the St. Paul Association of Responsible Landlords said the amendment would limit landlords who need to check on criminal activity in apartments and lease violations. She asked why lawmakers weren't considering a criminal background check on tenants.

Weaver estimates a statewide check on apartment manager applicants, sent out by the BCA within 10 days of a written request, would cost \$8 to \$10. The nationwide check, which includes the fingerprints necessary to access the national computer system, could take up to six months and cost about \$50. There is some debate as to who should pay for the search, the apartment owner or the manager applicant.

The bill does not say owners cannot hire someone with a criminal background, but if they do, and something goes wrong, there is a greater chance they could be held liable in the courts.

Jack Horner of the Minnesota Multi Housing Association, said that while he supports a criminal check for building managers, the bill goes too far and is based on one incident and emotional circumstances. He urged lawmakers to keep "common sense" about them.

He said the provision calling for nationwide criminal history checks in some cases is unnecessary, too costly, and time consuming. Horner also said the provision requiring that checks be done every two years is unnecessary.



## HUMAN SERVICES

### Welfare reform spending

A welfare reform bill with \$18 million to subsidize child care costs for low- and moderate-income families, thus removing a barrier to their returning to work, passed the House Health and Human Services Finance Division Jan. 27.

### A man's right to know

A "woman's right to know" provision, which would require a 24-hour waiting period before a woman can have an abortion, has been added as an amendment to the welfare reform bill (HF5).

So why not add a "man's right to know" provision, too?

That's what Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester) proposed during a Jan. 27 Health and Human Services Finance Division meeting.

Under his proposal, a "fertile male" seeking a vasectomy would have to wait at least 24 hours before having the procedure so he could be informed about the procedure's medical risks. The man also would be required to sign a statement acknowledging that he understands the risks associated with the procedure.

The fertile male's parents, wife, and her parents, also would have to be notified about the "date, time, and place of the planned vasectomy." This covers what Bishop refers to as the "generational interests" that would be affected by a vasectomy.

Bishop, who favors abortion rights, insisted that his amendment was serious. "This is the law in Canada," he said, adding that the Canadians have a 48-hour waiting period before a vasectomy is performed and require counseling for both spouses.

The last section of the amendment concerned "severability," and Bishop explained that this is a "legal term" — it doesn't have anything to do with a vasectomy.

Rep. Bob Anderson (DFL-Ottertail), sponsor of HF5, said that if representatives "keep loading this bill down" with amendments, he would move the welfare reform language to another bill.

Bishop's amendment failed on a 6-8 vote.

In all, the bill (HF5) totals about \$52 million but with cuts in some public assistance benefits such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children and the elimination of one \$24 million state jobs program, the net price tag falls to \$23.7 million for the 1996-1997 two year state budget cycle.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Bob Anderson (DFL-Ottertail), would require all teenage moms to live at home or with a supervising adult and request the elimination of federal rules that some argue discourage welfare recipients from finding work. One waiver would allow welfare recipients to spend more for an automobile, giving them more reliable transportation to and from work. The bill asks that the limit be raised to \$4,500 — up from the current \$1,500 limit.

A major component of the bill would establish a Work First pilot program. The new program would set out tough penalties, such as losing benefits, if participants don't stick to a contract to search for a job and accept work. The bill does not specify which counties could operate the program.

Arguably, the most controversial portion of the bill requires a 24-hour waiting period before a woman can have an abortion. An amendment to remove that provision from the bill was defeated.

In addition to the cost of subsidizing child care for some families, the bill spends:

- \$19 million to expand the Minnesota Family Investment Plan to Ramsey, Nobles, and Aitkin counties. The program began in April and is currently a five-year pilot project in seven counties. It allows families to accept lower paying jobs while receiving some public assistance. This helps them gain work experience.
- \$7.4 million for general assistance grants for some people who were dropped from the Work Readiness program. This jobs training program would be cut.
- \$5 million to the Department of Economic Security to cover the cost of enrolling more disadvantaged children in the Head Start early learning program.
- \$2.4 million for the Work First pilot program, which covers a person's rent, utilities, and other expenses during a required job search.
- \$2 million for AFDC grants.

The bill now goes to the House Health and Human Services Committee.

(See Jan. 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6 and Jan. 20, 1995, *Session Weekly*, pages 6-7.)



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Wet reunion

A bill to allow International Falls, Minn., to issue a temporary liquor license to a non-profit organization was given final approval by the House Jan. 30. The vote was 124-7.

The proposal (HF26), sponsored by House Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), would allow alcoholic beverages to be served at Bronco Arena in International Falls for this summer's all-class Falls High School reunion.

Passage of the law is necessary because the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on school grounds. The legislation has been endorsed by local school district officials.

The bill now moves to the Senate.



## TAXES

### County legislatures?

We already have a state Legislature. Imagine 87 more, albeit on a smaller scale.

That's what you'd have if Gov. Arne Carlson's "radical recommendations" to combine most local government aid in a lump sum for distribution to cities and counties through local "aid distribution councils."

And if you thought the Minnesota legislative process was messy, imagine such an aid distribution council making decisions in a city like St. Cloud that lies in three separate counties?

That, in a nutshell, was the view of some members of the Tax Committee's Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division that spent the better part of their Jan. 30 meeting questioning the wisdom of such an arrangement.

"All you're doing, in a sense, is creating another legislative body," said Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope), referring to the proposed councils. To do that would be to abdicate "a responsibility that is uniquely ours."

The governor's proposal is to combine into one "county homestead block grant" the alphabet soup of various state aid that is currently sent directly to local governments. Among those state funds are local government aid (LGA) and homestead and agricultural aid (HACA).

By combining and reducing the amount spent by the state to help finance county, city and township operations, the governor argues that the local officials who spend the money would be better equipped to divvy it up efficiently.

But several local government representatives begged to differ.

Rather than creating an atmosphere of cooperation, there is always the temptation for any local leaders to "fall prey to parochialism," said Jim Mulder, executive director of the Association of Minnesota Counties.

In Lyon County, where 60 percent of the population lives in the city of Marshall, what would happen to the city of Lynd that has just 5 percent of the population? he asked.

Tim Flaherty, representing the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, also questioned why local governments are being asked to bear such a large share of the proposed cuts.

He said that local government aid, which helps many lower wealth cities in Greater Minnesota fund basic services like police and fire protection, has actually dwindled in proportion to the state budget over the past five years.

The governor is calling for about a 6.8 percent in reduction in local government aid in the next two-year spending cycle and a 3.2 percent reduction in homestead and agricultural aid.

Mulder suggested that the state eliminate many state mandates so counties would have greater flexibility to operate. He said a 1989 study in Blue Earth County showed that a memo or directive was received every six hours and 15 minutes from the state Department of Human Services.

It took precious staff time just to read and distribute all that information, he said.



## TRANSPORTATION

### Revoking truckers' licenses

Truckers caught driving under the influence in the family car would have their commercial drivers' licenses suspended as well, under a bill approved Feb. 1 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

Currently, those arrested for driving their commercial vehicles while under the influence have both their commercial and personal drivers' licenses suspended. Commercial vehicles include semi-trailer trucks, snow plows, and street cleaning equipment.

But a DWI in the family car has no effect on a commercial license held by the same driver.

"So what we're saying to people in Minnesota is we don't trust you to drive your Ford Taurus, but you can drive a 40-ton propane truck down the road," said bill sponsor Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka).

Weaver's bill (HF35) calls for both personal and commercial licenses to be taken away for a DWI crime in a personal vehicle. The two would be revoked concurrently, following the same schedule as the personal driver's license revocation.

Weaver said 26 states have similar laws.

About 500 commercial vehicle drivers had their personal licenses revoked last year and would have been affected by the bill, said Katherine Burke Moore, director of the Driver and Vehicle Services Division of the Department of Public Safety. Forty people were arrested for driving their commercial vehicles under the influence and lost their commercial licenses, she added.

Weaver's bill is a result of a December 21,



The House Transportation and Transit Committee got a first hand look at the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) Traffic Control Center in Minneapolis on Jan. 27. Cathy Clark, information officer for MnDOT, rear, explained how computers are used to control traffic flow in the Metro area.



1994 accident in Fairfax, Minn. in which a trucker swerved to avoid a school bus one foggy morning and drove into three brothers at the bus stop. Three-year-old Steven Ziegler was killed and his two older brothers were seriously injured.

Weaver said he is not drawing any conclusions that the truck driver was drunk or even negligent. However, state records show the driver does have a troubled driving history. His personal driver's license has been suspended four times since 1989 but, his commercial driving record is clean.

In Minnesota, first-time DWI offenders lose their license for 15 days, second-time offenders for 90 days, and third-time offenders for 180 days.

But Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) said the law would mean truck drivers couldn't earn a living.

"I think it's a detriment to people and to their entire family to have their livelihood taken away because they maybe got caught the one time in their life they drank more than they should and did something they shouldn't do," Winter said.

Weaver said many people use their cars to get to work and could potentially lose salaries if their driver's licenses are taken away.

Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton) said insurance companies often make it hard for trucking companies to insure drivers with drunk driving arrests on their record.

"The industry is already self regulating," she said.

Tim Connors, a member of Local Union 49 which represents parks keepers, street workers, and highway maintenance crews, also spoke against the bill.

The bill now moves to the House floor.

## It's a fact!

Francis H. Shoemaker once boasted, "I go from the penitentiary to Congress, not like a great many Congressmen who go from Congress to the penitentiary."

He wasn't kidding. Almost a year to the day after being released from the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., Francis Shoemaker was elected from Minnesota to an at-large seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1932.

Shoemaker was born in Renville County in 1889 and was educated at home by his mother instead of in public school "because, as he would claim later in life, he was more advanced than others and conventional school 'retarded his progress,'" according to the Spring 1989 issue of *Minnesota History* magazine.

After a failed run for Congress in 1930, Shoemaker found himself pursued by federal authorities. Then the ambitious editor of the *Organized Farmer*, a weekly Red Wing newspaper, Shoemaker was charged with "sending scurrilous and defamatory materials through the mails."

Shoemaker had a history of penning scandalous articles. During his failed congressional run he referred to his opponent, August H. Andreson, as a "rodent" and a "jellyfish."

U. S. District Court Judge John Sanborn levied a \$500 fine and a one-year-and-one-day suspended sentence to the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth.

Shoemaker wasn't impressed with the judge's leniency. In a Dec. 26 article entitled "Shoemaker gets Christmas Gift," he wrote an inflammatory version of his own trial.

Furious, the judge immediately had the stayed sentence reinstated and Shoemaker went off to prison.

After his release on Nov. 4, 1931, Shoemaker returned to his newspaper. In May 1932, he again announced his candidacy for Congress. All seats were elected at-large that year, meaning the top nine vote-getters statewide would be awarded a seat in Congress. Shoemaker finished eighth.

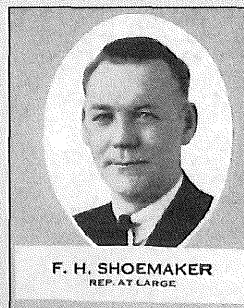
There were some who thought an ex-convict shouldn't be seated in Congress. Shoemaker silenced his critics in July 1933 by going to the White House and receiving a presidential pardon for his conviction from Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The remainder of his single term was a tumultuous one, with Shoemaker seeming to favor fisticuffs over public policy. He was arrested four times, "once when he bloodied a Washington neighbor for too much singing of Sweet Adeline," noted *Minnesota History*.

In a bold move for a newcomer, he challenged incumbent Sen. Henrik Shipstead, a fellow Farmer-Laborite, for a seat in the upper body. He lost the primary battle by a 3-to-1 margin.

Shoemaker would run unsuccessfully for Congress in the next four elections. A 1946 congressional effort as a Republican also failed.

Shoemaker died in a Minneapolis hospital on July 25, 1958. He is buried not far from his birth place in Flora Township's Zion Cemetery in Renville County.



Francis H. Shoemaker

Source: 1933 Legislative Manual

## NOTES

**To help avoid downtime** that can lead to jail house brawls, Minnesota prison inmates, at least those who can afford it, may purchase their own televisions.

Deputy Commissioner Jim Bruton, in a Jan. 12 memorandum to Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), chair of the Judiciary Finance Committee, explained that the television screen can be no larger than 13 inches and the inmate must listen through headphones. The televisions must be purchased through a Department of Corrections' vendor.

The question arose after some lawmakers thought taxpayers were footing the bill for personal televisions.

Inmates also may purchase weight-lifting equipment with their own money.

"On the surface, televisions and weight-lifting equipment appear to be extra amenities that should not be afforded a convicted offender," Bruton wrote.

"At the same time, we strive to avoid lengthy

periods of idleness for inmates. Idleness spawns safety and security concerns. Televisions and weight-lifting equipment are management tools that allow inmates to be occupied with other endeavors rather than to focus their energy on illicit behaviors."

**You could call it the zoo to zoo express line.**

Since May 1994, visitors can travel from the Mall of America to the Minnesota Zoological Garden in Apple Valley by bus. Minnesota Valley Transit buses leave the megamall hourly.

The cost is \$1.25 during peak hours and \$1 at other times. As an incentive, visitors arriving via public transit receive a 20 percent discount off the regular admission price.

The Minnesota Zoological Board is also seeking funds from private foundations, schools, and community groups to underwrite zoo visits by economically disadvantaged youth. Financial support is needed to provide free transportation.

**The power to unilaterally fine** school districts that do not meet certain pay equity requirements rests with the Department of Employee Relations, and some members of the State Government Finance Division aren't happy.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (IR-Lake City) expressed frustration at a Jan. 30 meeting that his local school district received a more than \$300,000 fine without a hearing. Rep. Walter Perl (DFL-Woodbury) also was frustrated. His district received a \$4 million fine.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), division chair, said he suspected there would be some bipartisan legislation this session to fix the problem.

"Mr. Chairman, you can make book on it," Perl said.

To that Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), head of the Governmental Operations Committee, which oversees gambling issues, said: "Excuse me, not legally."

For the past several years, state and local officials have spent hundreds of hours debating the merits of building a light rail transit system in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

No one, however, is talking about personal rapid transit (PRT) — a technology developed and patented by former University of Minnesota professor J. Edward Anderson.

What is PRT? Under Anderson's Taxi 2000 system, it is like riding a personalized monorail. Instead of large trains, passengers ride in small, computer-controlled vehicles traveling on an elevated track. The electrically powered cars would hold from one to four people and would reach top speeds of 45 miles per hour. Ice, snow, and freezing rain wouldn't affect the car's performance.

Users would place a card into a computer similar to an automatic teller machine and an empty vehicle would (theoretically) show up no more than three minutes later.

## Do you know?

In the early 1970s, PRT was all the rage. In fact, nine different PRT systems across the United States were in various stages of design or development.

The 1974 Legislature asked the Metropolitan Transit Commission to produce a detailed study "of an automated fixed guideway system using small vehicles." The PRT system was rejected by the commission.

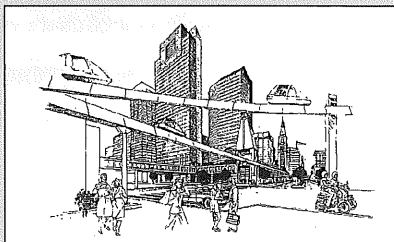
Interest in the technology would wax and wane over the next decade. In

1982, Anderson received a request from a group in Los Angeles "asking him to supply a [PRT] system for the 1984 Summer Olympics," according to *Taxi 2000 PRT*, a University of Minnesota publication. In a memo to University of Minnesota officials, Anderson noted the request "unfortunately is a bit soon."

In February 1984, Anderson and his partners met with Gov. Rudy Perpich, the mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and several metropolitan transit officials. They were looking for political and financial backing to build a PRT demonstration track.

It never materialized.

But Anderson's patented Taxi 2000 PRT system is going to Rosemount, Ill., a Chicago suburb. A three-mile PRT line is planned to connect the O'Hare Expo Center and surrounding hotels with the train and bus stations serving downtown Chicago. It is projected to open to the public in 1999.



An artist's conception of how the Taxi 2000 Personal Rapid Transit system might look.



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

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

In an effort to give people a general outline of House activities this session, as well as an indication of where to go with various issues of concern, the *Session Weekly* staff asked House committee chairs and administrators for brief, general descriptions of the functions of their committees and divisions. More specifically, they asked what topics were likely to be considered this session.

For those seeking to determine which committee or division oversees funding for particular state programs and departments, see Jan. 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 15.

Here are the results of the survey — a list of all committees and divisions, the boundaries of their concerns, and the specific issues they expect to address during the 1995 session.

## Agriculture

**Scope:** Reviews farm policies and programs to assist Minnesota family farmers; promotes interstate and international trade; develops strategies for marketing agricultural commodities; reviews and enacts legislation covering regulations and inspections of farm pesticides, food, and dairy products; and develops programs to encourage soil conservation.

### Agenda '95:

- Ethanol funding
- Corporate farming issues
- Rural finance authority loans
- Food safety
- Market access for livestock producers (family farmers)

## Capital Investment

**Scope:** Recommends objectives and goals in undertaking state debt; reviews the governor's capital budget proposals for state buildings and infrastructure; recommends debt management practices to maintain the state's credit rating; reviews every bill where the good faith and credit of the state is being obligated; and sets overall debt finance limits.

### Agenda '95:

- Develop emergency capital budget
- Higher Education asset preservation revolving fund
- Strategic plan for locating state agencies
- Review agency directives contained in '94 bonding bill

## Claims

**Scope:** Considers claims for reimbursement from individuals who have no recourse through administrative or judicial channels.

## Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

**Scope:** Considers legislation in the areas of consumer affairs, professional licensing, tourism, and small business regulation issues.

### Agenda '95:

- Consumer protection legislation
- Professional licensing
- Tourism

- Consideration of legislation from the division concerning business regulation.

## Business Regulation Division

**Scope:** Examines administrative rules and rulemaking and how to limit the impact of regulation on Minnesota's small and main street businesses.

### Agenda '95:

- Consideration and hearings on legislation to ease the burden of regulation on small businesses in Minnesota.

## Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance

**Scope:** Reviews and recommends funding for the Minnesota State Arts Board, Department of Commerce, Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans, Council on Black Minnesotans, Council on Spanish Speaking People, Department of Economic Security, Ethical Practices Board, Minnesota Historical Society, Housing Finance Agency, Humanities Commission, Indian Affairs Council, Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, Department of Labor and Industry, Labor Interpretive Center, Mediation Services, Minnesota Municipal Board, Minnesota Technology Inc., non-health boards, Department of Public Services, Public Utilities Commission, Safety Council, Office of the Secretary of State, Department of Trade and Economic Development, Uniform Laws Commission, Workers' Compensation Court, World Trade Center.

## Transportation Finance Division

**Scope:** Reviews and recommends funding for all transportation- and transit-related areas, including the Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Council Transit Operations, the Department of Public Safety (transportation areas), and the Transportation Regulation Board.

### Agenda '95:

- Transportation funding
- Transit funding
- Effects of trucking deregulation



## Education

**Scope:** Handles K-12 and post-secondary educational policy, statewide school and higher education funding, and the structure of public education.

### Agenda '95:

- School/higher education funding
- Structure/reorganization of the Department of Education and the Higher Education Coordinating Board
- Special education
- Proposed state board rule on graduation requirements
- Redesign of teacher education programs

## K-12 Education Finance Division

**Scope:** Provides policy direction and funding for the state's K-12 education system, which includes all public school districts, academies, the Department of Education, education finance (school aids), Minnesota Center for Arts Education, public libraries, and the Permanent School Fund.

### Agenda '95:

- Education funding
- Property taxes
- Removal of caps
- Special education
- Department of Children and the Graduation Rule

## Higher Education Finance Division

**Scope:** Determines operating and capital budgets for the technical colleges, community colleges, and state universities (the three separate systems will be part of the Higher Education Board as of July 1, 1995); the Higher Education Board; the Higher Education Coordinating Board, including financial aid and programs for students at both public and private institutions; and the Higher Education Facilities Authority.

### Agenda '95:

- Higher education budget
- Financial aid and tuition policy
- Reports, mandates, litigation, and free speech issues
- Developmental education
- The merger

## University of Minnesota Finance Division

**Scope:** Determines operating and capital budgets for the University of Minnesota and selected programs at the Mayo Medical School.

### Agenda '95:

- Overall level of state funding for the University of Minnesota
- University of Minnesota bonding requests
- Consideration of University 2000 strategy (funding implications and policy direction)
- The effect of legislative decisions regarding student financial aid on the University of Minnesota
- Concerns regarding state specials and state mandates dealing with higher education in general.

## Environment & Natural Resources

**Scope:** Examines issues relating to pollution, waste management, wildlife protection, forestry and mining, groundwater protection, solid waste reduction recycling, and hunting and fishing regulations and promotion.

### Agenda '95:

- Wetlands Conservation Act revisions
- Timber harvesting practices and forest management
- Regulation of air toxics: stationary and mobile sources, including auto emissions
- Non-point source water pollution: wastewater treatment, feedlots
- Land use policies
- The "Unholy Troika": unfunded mandates, risk assessment, and private property rights to undermine public health and environmental protection

## Environment & Natural Resources Finance

**Scope:** Oversees the budgets of state agencies: Academy of Science, Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Utilization Research Institute, Board of Animal Health, Ethanol Development, Environmental Assistance Office, Hazardous Substances Injury Compensation Board, Horticulture Society, Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Commission, Minnesota Zoo, Department of Natural Resources, Pollution Control Agency, Sci-

ence Museum, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Voyageurs National Park.

### Agenda '95:

- Agency budgets for 1996-97
- Review of fees
- Vehicle Emissions Program
- Ethanol Producers Subsidy Program

## Ethics

**Scope:** Sets procedures for dealing with ethical problems and hears legislation regarding ethical standards for elected officials and legislative staff.

## General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

**Scope:** Reviews election concerns, veterans issues, and miscellaneous legislation.

### Agenda '95:

- Veterans issues, such as cutbacks in service
- Elections
- Ethics
- Term limits
- Size of Legislature
- Unicameral legislature

## Elections Division

**Scope:** Reviews election concerns. The committee also holds initial confirmation hearings for individuals nominated to the Minnesota Ethical Practices Board.

### Agenda '95:

- Elections
- Ethics
- Term limits
- Size of Legislature
- Unicameral legislature

## Financial Institutions & Insurance

**Scope:** Reviews laws pertaining to banks, savings and loans, and credit unions; examines consumer rights in insurance and availability of insurance for individuals and companies and other aspects of the insurance industry.

### Agenda '95:

- Auto insurance medical benefits provided through managed care plans

- Financial institution re-codification
- Insurance issues relating to MinnesotaCare

## Governmental Operations

**Scope:** Reviews any bill that substantially changes or creates a new state department, agency, commission, board, or bureau; deals with public employee pension plans, state workers' employment and salary issues, administrative rules, and gambling legislation.

### Agendas '95:

- Reform of administrative rule-making process
- Improved oversight of state agency contracting
- Reorganization of gambling agencies

## Gambling Division

**Scope:** Reviews legislation concerning gambling policies. Oversees various agencies responsible for gambling oversight, including the Minnesota State Lottery, Gambling Control Board, and the Minnesota Racing Commission.

## State Government Finance Division

**Scope:** Reviews and recommends appropriations for state departments, commissions, agencies, and other accounts: Administrative Hearings Office, Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, contingent accounts, Department of Administration, Department of Employee Relations, Department of Finance, Department of Military Affairs, Department of Revenue, Department of Veterans Affairs, Disabled American Veterans, joint legislative commissions, Gambling Control Board, Legislature, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission, Minnesota Planning Office, Minnesota Racing Commission, Minnesota State Lottery Board, Minnesota State Retirement System, Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Office of the Attorney General, Office of the State Auditor, Office of the Treasurer, Public Employees Retirement Association, Salary Supplement, State Board of Investment, tort claims, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

### Agenda '95:

- Budget for Fiscal Years 1996-1997

## Health & Human Services

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

### Agenda '95:

- Welfare reform
- MinnesotaCare revisions
- Health and Human Services Omnibus Budget

## Health & Human Services Finance Division

**Scope:** Reviews administrative and legislative funding proposals administered by the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, the Council on Disabilities, the Veterans Home Board, all health-related licensing boards and ombudsman offices. The recommendations of the Health and Human Services Finance Division are forwarded to the House Health and Human Services Committee.

## MinnesotaCare Finance Division

**Scope:** Reviews administrative and legislative funding proposals for the series of health care reform initiatives known as MinnesotaCare. The recommendation of the MinnesotaCare Division are forwarded to the House Health and Human Services Committee.

### Agenda '95:

- Addressing recommendations of the State Health Care Commission
- Universal coverage
- Future funding

## Housing

**Scope:** Examines all aspects of housing programs and policy; focuses on preventing homelessness and preserving existing affordable housing; and targets community-based revitalization and rehabilitation.

### Agenda '95:

- Housing affordability and expanded homeownership opportunities
- Links between job development and housing needs
- Lead hazard reduction

- Housing choices/fair housing
- Tenant and landlord issues

## International Trade & Economic Development

**Scope:** Examines Minnesota's economic and job needs, emphasizing world competitiveness; and makes recommendations to enhance the state's economic strength.

### Agenda '95:

- Expanding economic development and job creation in Minnesota
- Development of the Minnesota Office of Foreign Affairs as an independent state agency
- State agency decentralization and relocation to rural and Greater Minnesota
- Interrelationships between education and how we prepare students for the global economy
- Focus on facilitating economic development through increase of exports and expansion to new markets

## Judiciary

**Scope:** Reviews all areas of Minnesota's criminal justice system, including sentencing practices, corrections policies, law enforcement issues, prosecution and public defender services, probation services, and the operation of the courts. Also reviews all areas of civil law, including family law and civil liability. Responsible for data practices policies, including the classification of government data as public or private.

### Agenda '95:

- Various issues related to sexual predators and criminal sexual conduct, including proposed new sentencing policies and improved investigative tools.

## Judiciary Finance

**Scope:** Oversees the budgets of state agencies related to corrections, courts, and law enforcement, including those of the Board of Judicial Standards, Board of Public Defense, Court of Appeals, Department of Corrections, District Court, Ombudsman for Corrections, Crime Victims Ombudsman, Private Detectives Board, Department of Public Safety (criminal justice sections), Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, Sentencing Guidelines Commission, Supreme Court, and Tax Court.

#### **Agenda '95:**

- Expansion of prisons and jails
- Crime prevention efforts
- Providing adequate court service

## **Labor-Management Relations**

**Scope:** Considers unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and labor standards concerning issues about hours worked, wage paid, working conditions, and job training programs and deals with certain public employee labor issues, with the exception of pensions.

#### **Agenda '95:**

- Workers' compensation
- Minimum wage
- Labor and business issues
- PELRA

## **Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

**Scope:** Examines local government and makes recommendations concerning the relationship between state and local governments; examines local governments' jurisdiction, control, and bonding authority; reviews metropolitan agencies' structures, goals, and programs; and considers changes to the transportation system, sewers, roads, bridges, parks, and airports, and other improvements that enhance the livability of the metropolitan area.

#### **Agenda '95:**

- Land use planning and growth management
- Unfunded mandates and other barriers to efficient local government
- Metropolitan livability
- Local government investment practices

## **Regulated Industries & Energy**

**Scope:** Examines controls on state regulated industries, such as liquor, telephone, and gas and electric utilities; and reviews the state's energy policy.

#### **Agenda '95:**

- Alternative forms of regulation for providers of local telephone service
- Proposed exemption of small telephone companies from regulation

- Renewal of area development rate and competitive rate statutes

## **Rules & Legislative Administration**

**Scope:** Establishes the budget for the House; approves personnel matters; recommends House rules and joint rules of the House and Senate; designates bills for consideration as Special Orders; and acts on bills and resolutions referred to the committee.

#### **Agenda '95:**

- Administrative procedures for the House
- Personnel policies
- Home budget
- House and joint rules
- Constitutional amendments

## **Taxes**

**Scope:** Reviews bills that affect state income, sales and use, excise, and property tax policy. The committee also hears bills regarding state aid to municipalities and counties.

#### **Agenda '95:**

- Controlling property tax increases
- Ensuring a fair system for children and caregivers
- Distribution of local government aids
- Fair tax system for all Minnesotans

## **Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Division**

**Scope:** Reviews various property tax-related issues, prepares property tax provisions for the Omnibus Tax Bill.

#### **Agenda '95:**

- Property tax burdens and K-12 education costs
- Local government aids/property tax relief
- county aid reform
- Taxation of wind power
- Payment — in lieu of taxes
- TIF reform
- Limited Market Value/This Old House

## **Sales & Income Tax Tax Division**

**Scope:** Reviews legislation that involves state taxes; prepares state tax provisions for the Omnibus Tax Bill.

#### **Agenda '95:**

- Tax system treatment of children, credits, etc.
- MinnesotaCare financing
- Green taxes/subsidies
- Gambling taxes

## **Transportation & Transit**

**Scope:** Addresses policy matters concerning highways, trucking, transit systems, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Public Safety.

#### **Agenda '95:**

- Transportation funding
- Light rail
- Highway maintenance
- Driver's license issues
- Truck Regulation Board

## **Ways & Means**

**Scope:** Sets House spending and revenue targets and considers money bills passed by finance and tax divisions and committees.

#### **Agenda '95:**

- House budget resolution
- Cost of government resolution
- Review of governor's budget
- Passage of bill financing state government
- Hear bills rereferred from the Government Efficiency and Oversight Division

## **Government Efficiency and Oversight Division**

**Scope:** Generation of legislation and review of ideas to reduce the cost and improve the efficiency of government programs, with the goal of better serving those who pay for and those who receive government programs.

#### **Agenda '95:**

- State government restructuring to eliminate or change outdated programs
- Identification of ways to reduce state barriers to local government efficiency and innovation
- Investigation and oversight of questionable laws or questionable decisions by those administering laws
- Oversight and improvement of government purchasing, personnel, and contracting laws and policies.



New members . . .

## Larsen's priorities include crime, taxes, education

When she decided to run for the Legislature, Rep. Peg Larsen (IR-Lakeland) didn't have to look far for a core of dedicated campaign workers. Her four children were enthusiastic helpers.



Rep. Peg Larsen

"They all got strongly involved in my campaign," said Larsen. "They door-knocked with me — they were probably one of my strongest support systems."

Not to mention her husband, Tom ("because he put up all my signs"), and her father-in-law, who lives with the Larsens for six months of the year.

The former mayor of Lakeland (just across the St. Croix River from Hudson, Wis.) unseated incumbent DFLer Pam Neary of Afton last November.

Larsen served four years on the Lakeland City Council, first winning an office for which no one had filed. (She launched a write-in campaign and won with 58 votes.) She was appointed mayor in 1991, and then ran unopposed for the position in 1992 with 98 percent of the vote.

Larsen said her legislative priorities reflect her constituents concerns about rising taxes and crime.

"People were concerned about the crime issue, which is kind of a surprise for Washington County — you don't think of that as a high crime area," Larsen said.

But residents in the suburbs to the east of St. Paul wondered if government had the "wisdom to prevent [crime] at early stages in

the school district, rather than just building new prisons." Construction of a new jail in Washington County generated a lot of controversy within her district, said Larsen.

Voting to bring back the death penalty in Minnesota would be an "extremely difficult decision" for Larsen.

"My bottom line is that if someone commits a heinous crime against society, it is not our responsibility to feed and educate and take care of that person for the rest of their life," she explained.

Larsen concedes that "there's no middle ground — either you're going to have the death penalty or you're not. At this point in time I would probably vote in favor of the death penalty."

Government efficiency and holding the line on taxes will be at the top of Larsen's legislative agenda. With her teaching experience and four children in the public schools, education issues will also get a lot of attention.

"Each school district and each school within the district has certain needs and they can't be mandated by the state," said Larsen, adding that school districts should be "free to use their funds as they need them, whether they need computers, or new desks, or textbooks."

While she's lived in Minnesota for 23 years, Larsen originally hails from Pittsburgh and attended the University of Slippery Rock in Pennsylvania.

Her varied career includes being the director of recreation and volunteer services in a home for the chronically ill and working as a clinical service manager at the Hennepin

County Medical Center. She also worked at the Minneapolis Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Larsen married and stayed at home for a time while raising her son and three daughters. For the past four years, Larsen worked as an educational assistant with kindergarten and first grade special needs students in the Stillwater schools.

"We had children who ranged from autistic to mildly retarded," she said. "I learned quite a bit from those kids. They give you a wonderful perspective on life and a smile that could warm your heart."

Larsen admits to falling in love with Minnesota and is dedicated to maintaining its "quality of life" for her children and their generation.

She said she will judge legislation by how it improves the lives of her constituents: "Those are the people who put me here. But I think you also have to be able to look past that and see how it's going to affect the entire state of Minnesota."

—Mordecai Specktor

### District 56B

Population: 32,555

Distribution: 74.52 percent urban; 25.48 percent rural

County: Washington

Largest city: Woodbury (portion)

Location: east Metro

Unemployment rate: 3.32 percent

Residents living below poverty level: 3.61 percent

1992 presidential election results:

Bush/Quayle ..... 32.87 percent

Clinton/Gore ..... 39.95 percent

Perot/Stockdale ..... 26.12 percent

Other: ..... 1.06 percent

### Committee deadlines

If you're following a bill that has yet to receive a hearing in the Legislature this session, you've got plenty of time. The first committee deadline is more than six weeks off.

Each year the House and Senate set deadlines by which most bills must be heard by a committee. The deadlines serve to weed out some of the several thousand bills introduced each year.

The first committee deadline is **Friday, March 31**. That means all bills must be passed out of all policy

committees in their house of origin to receive further consideration this session. If a House bill hasn't been approved by House policy committees by the deadline, but its Senate companion has, the bill has met the committee deadline.

By the second committee deadline — **Friday, April 7** — all bills other than those containing appropriations, must be passed out of all policy committees in both the House and the Senate. The deadline does not apply to the finance committees/divisions

or the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, the Taxes Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee.

By **Friday, April 21**, all appropriations bills must clear their policy and finance committees and move to the Ways and Means Committee.

Of course, there are exceptions to the deadlines. Any lawmaker may try to convince the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, which includes leaders from both party caucuses, to hear a bill after the deadlines.

New members . . .

## DFLer Marko a big fan of House television endeavor

A few years ago, Rep. Sharon Marko worked with the Bloomington City Council to help it broadcast council meetings on a public access cable station. One night as she sat in the production room behind the scenes she found herself talking to the screen as council members debated issues.



Rep. Sharon Marko

"I thought to myself, 'I can do this again.'"

Marko, who had previously served on a local community board near St. Charles, Ill., entered politics again and became a council member in Newport where she has lived since moving to Minnesota in 1985. She later became deputy mayor.

The first-term DFL lawmaker from the Cottage Grove-Newport-St. Paul Park area, then traveled another campaign trail and journeyed into the Minnesota House.

Political debate and discussion has long been a part of Marko's life. Her father was a Democrat and her mother a Republican. "So, I heard a lot. . . . I remember Sunday news programs sitting around and listening to them go back and forth."

She was born in Kentucky and has lived in nine other states. Many of her early travels involved her family. The work of her father, a nuclear physicist and cancer researcher, took the family of 11 around the country.

Marko graduated from Indiana University in communications and then moved to Colorado. "I graduated from college and it was one of those things where I got in the car and headed west. I found a place I liked and opened an antique shop."

She later moved to St. Charles, Ill., where the civics lessons learned during childhood followed her. While there she wrote, edited and distributed a community newspaper as well as served on the small community's local

board. During her tenure on the board she helped to start a mosquito abatement program. "It was a problem. We had a lot of farm land and standing water. . . . They were just terrible."

She came to Minnesota in 1985 to enroll in a performing arts graduate program at the University of Minnesota. There Marko, who has played Mark Antony in a stage production of *Julius Caesar*, had a class with WCCO television newscaster Dave Moore who helped foster an interest in television. She used that knowledge to help local governments use public access cable television to communicate with their constituents.

After working with the city of Bloomington to televise its council meetings and host a weekly public affairs program called Bloomington Today, she started her own business and developed a government television network in south Washington County so governments in the area could watch and learn from one another.

She is a big fan of the House endeavor to televise floor sessions and some committee meetings on public access cable television. "I think it is a wonderful way to communicate to the public. I think we should do more."

Her areas of legislative interest run the gamut but they center on transportation issues and government efficiency.

"We've got a lot of congestion in my district," she said.

She wants to upgrade the I-494 Wacouta Bridge (a major river crossing) and Highway 61 to a full access freeway system. Good roads and bridges are needed in her district, she said. Without them, the district "can't entice good solid commercial/industrial business" and increase the tax base for schools, local governments, and the state. And, she said, there is a lot of vacant commercial/industrial land available and ready for development in the area.

"I think it is important to the health of the entire Metro. If there is a piece of the machine that is not working right, you replace the part."

She said a bill may not be necessary to upgrade Highway 61 and the Wacouta Bridge. Marko, who has been named vice chair of the House Transportation and Transit Committee, said she hopes to work through the Department of Transportation and convince them it is a priority.

She also plans to introduce a bill to continue the research and development of the Saints Road Project, a St. Cloud-based group that has already constructed prototype vehicles — including a full-size passenger bus — that collect power from sections of the road and become energized as vehicles pass over them. The 1994 Legislature appropriated \$200,000 for the Department of Transportation to study the road-powered electric vehicles and compare it to light rail transit systems.

Marko also wants to help promote government efficiency to get counties and cities to work together and share resources. "You can share, you can save and you can provide a better service."

—K. Darcy Hanzlik

### District 57B

**Population:** 32,034  
**Distribution:** 97.25 percent urban; 2.75 percent rural  
**County:** Washington  
**Largest city:** Cottage Grove  
**Location:** southeastern Metro  
**Unemployment rate:** 5.16 percent  
**Residents living below poverty level:** 4.38 percent  
**1992 presidential election results:**  
Bush/Quayle ..... 25.18 percent  
Clinton/Gore ..... 47.59 percent  
Perot/Stockdale ..... 26.52 percent  
Other: ..... 0.71 percent

**Some pilot programs authorized** by the Legislature have yet to get off the ground.

Katherine Burke-Moore, director of the Driver and Vehicle Services Division of the Department of Public Safety, appeared before the Judiciary Finance Committee Jan. 31 to discuss the ignition interlock pilot program which has yet to materialize.

The plan was to have breathalyzers installed in the cars of repeat DWI offenders



and require them to test themselves each time they got behind the wheel. The kicker: The car wouldn't start unless the driver passed the test.

Since the Legislature authorized the program in 1991, several manufacturers have contacted the Department of Public Safety, but no prototypes have been tested.

Partially to blame may be the fact that the manufacturer would have to pay a \$5,000 certification fee before the state tested and certified the product.

The committee also heard of another DWI pilot project waiting to get started. This one would install breathalyzers in the homes of DWI offenders to monitor them. In 1994, however, Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed the Legislature's \$100,000 appropriation to fund the pilot project.

# Bill Introductions

HF265-HF400

## Monday, Jan. 30

### HF265—Dorn (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Lawful purpose expenditures to include contributions to certain compulsive gambling programs.

### HF266—Rest (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Surviving spouse benefit expenditures authorized for children's medical or dental treatment.

### HF267—Tunheim (DFL)

#### Education

School districts authorized to levy for creation of Internet connections, and money appropriated.

### HF268—Seagren (IR)

#### Education

School districts authorized to use facilities revenue for equipment uses.

### HF269—Carlson (DFL)

#### Regulated Industries & Energy

Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules requiring pay-per-call telephone services to include state tax amount in advertisements.

### HF270—Seagren (IR)

#### Health & Human Services

Medical care savings account act adopted.

### HF271—Dorn (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Teacher Retirement Association member provided bounce-back annuity.

### HF272—Lynch (IR)

#### Judiciary

Interference with privacy crime to include intrusion on occupants of hotel sleeping rooms and tanning booths.

### HF273—Pellow (IR)

#### Transportation & Transit

Collector motor vehicle license plate transfer and reissue authorized, and fees imposed.

### HF274—Pelowski (DFL)

#### Education

School district capital expenditure and staff development fund use provided for teacher computer training.

### HF275—Molnau (IR)

#### Agriculture

Farm crisis assistance personnel employment status clarified.

### HF276—Anderson, I. (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

St. Louis County; school trust land sale required.

### HF277—Rukavina (DFL)

#### International Trade & Economic Development

Board of Invention state money use prohibition removed.

### HF278—Weaver (IR)

#### Financial Institutions & Insurance

Genetic discrimination act adopted.

### HF279—Solberg (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Public defender dismissal causes restricted, and dismissal and appeal procedures provided.

### HF280—Sviggum (IR)

#### Transportation & Transit

School bus driver employment requirements modified.

### HF281—Vickerman (IR)

#### Health & Human Services

MinnesotaCare modifications provided.

### HF282—Perlt (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Vacation leave donations provided for a Department of Administration employee.

### HF283—Kahn (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Legislature required to establish annual state budgets.

### HF284—Perlt (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District and Commission abolished, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

### HF285—Winter (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Windom; ethanol facility tax increment financing district exempted from statutory restrictions.

### HF286—Weaver (IR)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Angler's right-to-know act adopted, and water

pollution discharge notification and posting required.

### HF287—Abrams (IR)

#### Taxes

Information service (1-900) calls tax repealed.

### HF288—Seagren (IR)

#### Health & Human Services

MinnesotaCare modifications provided.

### HF289—Jefferson (DFL)

#### General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Election law modification and clarification provided.

### HF290—Pugh (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services

Nursing home moratorium exception added, medical assistance reimbursement provisions expanded, and money appropriated.

### HF291—Swenson, H. (IR)

#### Agriculture

Shared savings loan program exempted from state and agency cost recovery.

### HF0292—Hugoson (IR)

#### Labor-Management Relations

Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

### HF0293—Jaros (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

St. Louis County employee authorized service credit purchase for on-leave military service.

### HF294—Cooper (DFL)

#### Education

Teachers provided continuous licensure.

### HF295—Haas (IR)

#### Transportation & Transit

Brooklyn Park; Trunk Highway No. 252 noise barrier construction required.

### HF296—Mulder (IR)

#### Judiciary

Firearms; right to keep and bear arms not abridged and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF297—Holsten (IR)

#### Judiciary

Firearms; right to keep and bear arms not abridged and constitutional amendment proposed.



**HF298—Weaver (IR)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Locomotive audible warning signal sounding regulated by cities.

**HF299—Jaros (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Minors provided simulated elections.

**HF300—Erhardt (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
MinnesotaCare modifications provided.

**HF301—Erhardt (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Medical care savings account act adopted.

**HF302—Smith (IR)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Interstate Highway No. 394 authorized additional lane using existing paved surface.

**HF303—Luther (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Service animals; grant provided to Helping Paws Inc., and Department of Human Services commissioner report required.

**HF304—Smith (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
AFDC; Aid for Families with Dependent Children recipient school participation requirements specified.

**HF305—Cooper (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Local government financial audit provisions clarified.

**HF306—Cooper (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Polling place hours of operation designated by local governments.

**HF307—Pelowski (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Higher Education Coordinating Board abolished, and higher education services office and higher education administrators council established.

**HF308—Paulsen (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
MinnesotaCare modifications provided.

**HF309—Rest (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Trunk Highway No. 169 in New Hope noise barrier construction project granted high priority status.

**HF310—Smith (IR)**  
**Taxes**  
Rebuilt passenger vehicle value determined by purchase price for taxation purposes.

**HF311—Kahn (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Municipal governing body members provided two year term of office.

**HF312—Jacobs (DFL)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Budget; Congress memorialized to ratify balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

**HF313—Hackbarth (IR)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
Gross premium insurance company tax rates changed.

**HF314—Finseth (IR)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Term limits; legislative and executive service limited and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF315—Finseth (IR)**  
**Taxes**  
Used farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently.

## **Thursday, Feb. 2**

**HF316—Bakk (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Cook County; tax-forfeited land sale authorized to Grand Portage band of Chippewa.

**HF317—Ostrom (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
School board election district dissolution procedures authorized, and school board member at-large elections provided.

**HF318—Lieder (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Fair campaign practices campaign material information provisions modified.

**HF319—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Family Investment Program federal waiver request required for program expansion.

**HF320—Dorn (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Nursing facility rental per diem adjustment allowed.

**HF321—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Deer; authorization continuation provided for residents under the age of 16 to take a deer of either sex.

**HF322—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Apartment property tax class rate reduction provided over a two-year period.

**HF323—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Housing**  
Landlord deemed billpayer and customer of record on utility accounts in single-metered multi-unit residential buildings.

**HF324—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Bridge construction and reconstruction bond issuance authorized and proceeds appropriated as grants to political subdivisions.

**HF325—Carruthers (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Minnesota bail reform act adopted; pretrial release on bail denial permitted; pretrial and postconviction release provisions modified; and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF326—Tomassoni (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Advertising on school buses authorized, and restriction provided.

**HF327—Johnson, V. (IR)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Gasoline excise tax rates modified, and motor vehicle excise tax proceed allocation provided to the transit assistance fund.

**HF328—Mares (IR)**  
**Education**  
Department of Education appropriated money to fund 1994-1995 biennium deficiencies.

**HF329—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Firearms; right to keep and bear arms not abridged and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF330—Wejcman (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Unlawful discrimination complaint employer actions restricted; Human Rights Act violations statute of limitations lengthened; and sexual harassment case evidence admission limited.

**HF331—Clark (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Patients bill of rights privacy provisions modified.

**HF332—Anderson, R. (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Emergency medical services regulatory board established.

**HF333—Davids (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Emergency medical services regulatory board established.

**HF334—Kalis (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Emergency medical services regulatory board established.

**HF335—Osthoff (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Fair campaign practices; campaign signs prohibited within 100 feet of polling places regardless of when erected.

**HF336—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Youth intervention program grants provided, and money appropriated.

**HF337—Ottremba (DFL)**  
**Agriculture**  
Elk crop damage compensation procedures modified.

**HF338—Knobloch (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Office of the State Treasurer eliminated and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF339—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Local government official compensation limits revised.

**HF340—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Motor vehicle sales dealership establishment and relocation regulated.

**HF341—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Compulsory education requirements modified for children under the age of seven.

**HF342—Garcia (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
High-speed bus service pilot project established by the Metropolitan Council in the metropolitan area.

**HF343—McCollum (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Recall provided for elected state officers and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF344—Leighton (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Common Interest Ownership Act modified, curative and validating law for mortgage foreclosures changed, and assignment form and record provided.

**HF345—Cooper (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Kandiyohi County; tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

**HF346—Cooper (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
First responder defined.

**HF347—Cooper (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Emergency medical services regulatory board established.

**HF348—Kinkel (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Child support arrearage interest accrual provisions modified.

**HF349—Smith (IR)**  
**Housing**  
Tenant issuance of dishonored check to landlord for rent constitutes theft.

**HF350—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
Medicare supplement plans required to provide coverage for equipment and supplies for the management and treatment of diabetes.

**HF351—Dempsey (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Red Wing provided combined sewer overflow grants, and money appropriated.

**HF352—Sviggum (IR)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Budget; Congress memorialized to ratify balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

**HF353—Opatz (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Higher Education Board abolished; and merger of community colleges, state universities, and technical colleges repealed.

**HF354—Vickerman (IR)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Small gas utility franchise rate regulation exemption provided for incidental utility service.

**HF355—Girard (IR)**  
**State Government Finance Division/ Governmental Operations**  
Appropriations; earlier appropriations supplemented.

**HF356—Erhardt (IR)**  
**Taxes**  
Recreational property owners allowed to vote on bonding and property tax questions where the recreational property is located, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF357—Smith (IR)**  
**Taxes**  
Property subject to probate exempted from tax delinquency and accrual of penalties.

**HF358—Wolf (IR)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Public Utilities Commission rehearing application time limit provisions modified.

**HF359—Dorn (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Deadly force peace officer policy modified.

**HF360—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Combined angling license authorized for married couples with at least one spouse age 65 or over, and fee established.

**HF361—Farrell (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Contamination cleanup grant project costs to include site tests and studies.

**HF362—Bertram (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Town boards authorized to establish petty cash imprest fund for claims payment.

**HF363—Winter (DFL)**  
**Agriculture**  
Farmer-Lender Mediation Act sunset date eliminated.

**HF364—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Lawful purpose expenditures; gross profit percentage increase provided for expenditure for allowable expenses.

**HF365—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
No-fault automobile insurance taxi coverage priorities regulated.

**HF366—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Gambling Control Board membership increased.

**HF367—Macklin (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Municipal subcontractor prompt payment provided; and statutory lienholder rights and performance bond provisions modified.

**HF368—Munger (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Soil and water conservation districts provided annual fund allocation.

**HF369—Ness (IR)**  
**Education**  
School district noncompliance authorized with certain state education mandates that are not fully funded.

**HF370—Farrell (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Cause of action provided for public disclosure of private facts.

**HF371—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Truancy service center pilot projects established, community based truancy action projects implemented, and money appropriated.

**HF372—Bishop (IR)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Town governments and organized towns dissolved; dissolved town territory governance provided; and county and city powers and duties modified.

**HF373—Jaros (DFL)**  
**International Trade & Economic Development**  
International affairs office established, and money appropriated.

**HF374—Dempsey (IR)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Large electric power generating plant certificate of need proceeding exemption provided in certain cases.

**HF375—Perlt (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Local government pay equity law noncompliance penalties modified.

**HF376—Van Engen (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Department of Economic Security data classification provided.

**HF377—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
DWI; vehicle forfeiture penalties provided for failure to appear at trial for designated driving while intoxicated offenses.

**HF378—Solberg (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Independent School District No. 698, Floodwood, provided interactive television grant.

**HF379—Haas (IR)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Cities permitted to close certain unlawful businesses.

**HF380—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Housing**  
Metropolitan area homestead program established; contract for deed home purchase assistance provided; construction community impact statements required; rental tax equity pilot project established, and money appropriated.

**HF381—Haas (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Department of Economic Security employees obligated to communicate certain threats.

**HF382—Wolf (IR)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Small electric utility franchise rate regulation exemption provided.

**HF383—Marko (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Motor vehicle head and tail lamp violations clarified; trailer brake requirements specified; commercial motor vehicle inspection report retention required; and license plate covering prohibited.

**HF384—Hackbarth (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Fishing contest financial security required.

**HF385—Long (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Metropolitan Airports Commission and Metropolitan Council airport planning report requirements modified.

**HF386—Frerichs (IR)**  
**Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance**  
State departments appropriations bill.

**HF387—Cooper (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Emergency services workers employment requirements modified.

**HF388—Tompkins (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Dental services exempted from regulated all-payer option and MinnesotaCare provider tax.

**HF389—Wolf (IR)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Public Utilities Commission rate suspension period provisions clarified.

**HF390—Lynch (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
MinnesotaCare modifications provided.

**HF391—Girard (IR)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

**HF392—Van Engen (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
MinnesotaCare modifications provided.

**HF393—Leighton (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Occupational safety and health investigation data access provisions modified.

**HF394—Rest (DFL)**  
**Ways & Means**  
Legislative appropriations reduced, and governor directed to reduce executive agency appropriations.

**HF395—Marko (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Road powered electric vehicle (RPEV) demonstration project and study appropriated money.

**HF396—Tompkins (IR)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Memorializing television networks to reduce violence and sex on television.

**HF397—Dempsey (IR)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Hastings tax increment financing district modified.

**HF398—Carruthers (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Elevator mechanic registration and regulation required, and money appropriated.

**HF399—Perlt (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Secretary of state; filings regulated, and service of process provisions specified.

**HF400—Brown (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Municipal unincorporated land annexation elections required in certain circumstances.



Coming Up Next Week . . . Feb. 6 - 10, 1995

# Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

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

## MONDAY, Feb. 6

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Continuation of overview and budget review of the Department of Economic Security.

### Joint Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing Division/TAXES/K-12 Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Alice Johnson, Ted Winter

**Agenda:** Interrelationship of property tax policy and school funding.

### University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** University 2000 discussion, Nils Hasselmo, president.

8:30 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Agency budget presentations: Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, John Velin, director; Department of Finance, governor's LCMR recommendations, Dale Nelson, Budget Services Section.

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

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Overview of the governor's budget recommendations by the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

10 a.m.

### AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

**Agenda:** HF156 (Finseth) University of Minnesota appropriated money for wheat and barley scab research.

Fertilizer price increases. Testimony by farmers and fertilizer industry representatives regarding recent increases in fertilizer prices.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Overview of issues related to state employment. Legislative Commission on Employee Relations, Greg Hubinger, executive director. Panel discussion of civil service reform projects undertaken by the Department of Employee Relations. Presentation on issues of concern to state employees, Barb Goodwin, Minnesota Association of Professional Employees, and Tom Beer, AFSCME.

### Reports, Mandates, Litigation and Free Speech Issues Working Group/Joint Higher Education Finance Division and University of Minnesota Finance Division/EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Becky Kelso, Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** To be announced.

### JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** HF32 (Jaros) Retired court administrators authorized to solemnize marriages.

HF107 (Farrell) School locker statewide inspection policy established.

HF72 (Greiling) Residential rental building and manufactured home park managers and caretakers required to undergo criminal background checks, and landlord requirements and notice specifications provided.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

**Agenda:** HF137 (Jacobs) Electric utility competitive rate sunset provision abolished.

HF164 (Jefferson) Public utilities area development rate plan sunset provisions abolished.

(There may be additions to the agenda.)

12:30 p.m.

### GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

**Agenda:** Department of Military Affairs.

### HOUSING

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** Issues related to the homeless: HUD, Emergency Mortgage and Rental Assistance Program, homelessness prevention programs.

### LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Johnson

**Agenda:** HF244 (Johnson, R.) Establishing the governor's workforce development council. Minimum Wage-A Review of the Economics Literature Report, Donald Hirasuna, House Research.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

After Session

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

**Agenda:** HF49 (Bertram) Interactive television revenue availability extended to school districts in economic development region eleven.

HF150 (Jacobs) Temporary on-sale intoxicating liquor license term increase provided.

HF102 (McGuire) Malt liquor container size sale and possession restrictions provided.

4 p.m.

### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** Budget overviews by Jay Noren, interim chancellor, Higher Education Board; Ed McMahon, vice chancellor for administration and budget, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

5:30 p.m.

**Legislative Water Commission Executive Committee**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Sen. Leonard Price  
**Agenda:** Administrative items.

6 p.m.

**Legislative Commission on Waste Management**

10 State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. Jean Wagenius, Sen. Janet Johnson  
**Agenda:** 1995 Waste Management Act amendments. Testimony and LCWM recommendations. (Please sign up in advance to testify.)

**Legislative Water Commission**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Sen. Leonard Price  
**Agenda:** Continued briefings on 1995 legislative initiatives. Report on the proposed Lewis and Clark Rural Water Project.

**TUESDAY, Feb. 7**

8 a.m.

**EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson  
**Agenda:** Presentation of report by Special Education Task Force.

**MinnesotaCare Finance Division/  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper  
**Agenda:** Health care reform and the disabled community. A presentation by Minnesotans for Affordable Health Care and the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities.

**Transportation Finance Division/  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder  
**Agenda:** Metropolitan Council transit budget, Jim Solem, executive director.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown  
**Agenda:** Agency budget presentations: Minnesota State Horticultural Society, Dorothy Johnson, director; Harmful Substance Compensation Board, Jean Small-Johnson, director.

10 a.m.

**Financial Aid and Tuition Policy Working Group/Joint Higher Education Finance Division and University of Minnesota Finance Division/EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building  
Chrs. Reps. Becky Kelso, Tony Kinkel  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn  
**Agenda:** Background briefing on public pensions, Larry Martin, executive director, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson  
**Agenda:** HF226 (Kelley) Medical Practices Board to receive reports of insurance settlements from all persons regulated by the board.  
HF227 (Kelley) Medical care prior authorization prohibited by persons not licensed by the State Board of Medical Practice.  
HF228 (Mulder) Physical therapy council, physician assistant advisory council, and respiratory care practitioners advisory council reinstated.  
HF231 (Kelley) Medical practice license requirements for foreign applicants changes, and disciplinary procedures modified.

**TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest  
**Agenda:** Board of Equalization assessment practices and sales ratios.

12:30 p.m.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis  
**Agenda:** Tour of Judicial Center. (Tour group will meet at 12:30 p.m. in 500N State Office Building.)

**COMMERCE, TOURISM &  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Sarna  
**Agenda:** Presentation by Hank Todd, director of Tourism, Department of Trade and Economic Development.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dee Long  
**Agenda:** HF339 (Wenzel) Local government compensation.

2 p.m.

**Joint Hennepin County House and Senate Delegations**

5 State Office Building  
Chrs. Reps. Ron Abrams, Linda Wejcman, Senators Ted Mondale, Martha Robertson  
**Agenda:** Governor's proposed budget and its impact on Hennepin County property taxes. Property tax relief programs. Property tax control proposals.

2:30 p.m.

**Developmental Education Working Group/  
Higher Education Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**Government Efficiency &  
Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein  
**Agenda:** Oversight of ongoing government reform efforts. Local government innovation: Board on Government Innovation and Cooperation. State Government Civil Service Reform Pilot Projects: Housing Finance Agency, MnDOT, Office of the State Auditor, Department of Human Services.

**Legislative Oversight Commission on  
Health Care Access**

10 State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. Lee Greenfield, Sen. Linda Berglin  
**Agenda:** Discussion of staff position for commission, and contract for 24-hour coverage study. Report on small employer coverage and an overview of ISN RAPO plan, Department of Health. Overview of standard benefit recommendations, Department of Health. Report on Community Rating Study, Department of Commerce.

3 p.m.

**ETHICS**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson  
**Agenda:** Overview from Ethical Practices Board, John Holahan, Jr., chairman; Bruce D Willis, chair, Recommendations Subcommittee.

3:30 p.m.

**HOUSING**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark  
**Agenda:** Kit Hadley, commissioner, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. Overview of governor's budget.  
HF136 (Clark) Forcible entry and unlawful detainer court filing fee refund provided.

6:30 p.m.

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

107 State Capitol  
Chr. Sen. Jane Ranum

**Agenda:** A discussion of proposed changes to the Community Social Services Act, the Education Code, the Community Health Act, and the Community Corrections Act to encourage collaboration as a means of providing a continuum of services to children and families.

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**WEDNESDAY, Feb. 8**

8 a.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Minnesota Historical Society.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Continuation of the governor's budget overview by the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

**Higher Education Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** Continuation of Feb. 6th agenda.

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

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Begin discussion of the governor's recommendations for Article 2 (transportation).

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Department of Agriculture budget presentation, Elton Redalen, commissioner; William L. Oemichen, deputy commissioner.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** Status report on 1994 Prairie Island legislation: Northern States Power Company,

Prairie Island Tribal Council, Prairie Island Coalition, Electric Energy Task Force.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS &  
INSURANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

**Agenda:** HF182 (Simoneau) Relating to insurance; automobile; regulating medical expense benefits.

HF217 (Simoneau) Relating to insurance; life; regulating living benefits settlements.

**JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** DWI overview, professor Steve Simon, University of Minnesota Law School.

**State Government Finance Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Department of Administration budget review.

12:30 p.m.

**Business Regulation Division/  
COMMERCE, TOURISM &  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

**Agenda:** Presentations on rulemaking policy by staff from the Department of Natural Resources, Pollution Control Agency, Department of Human Services.

**TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** Railroads and waterways presentation, Cecil Selness, MnDOT. Office of Aeronautics presentation, Duane Haukebo, MnDOT.

1 p.m.

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

**Agenda:** Discussion of international tourism. How Minnesota is promoted to international visitors, Greg Ortale, director, Minneapolis Convention and Visitors Bureau; Hank Todd, director, Minnesota Office of Tourism; Kim Rakos, tourism and group sales manager, the Mall of America; Eileen McMahon, vice president of the St Paul Convention and Visitors Bureau; Doug Killian, director, International Communications for Northwest Airlines.

**Working Group Task Force on Legislative  
Commissions/WAYS & MEANS**

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Delmont

**Agenda:** Overview and objectives of various Legislative Commissions.

4 p.m.

**University of Minnesota Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Budget overview, Richard Pfutzenreuter, associate vice president, Finance and Operations.

7:30 p.m.

**Legislative Commission on  
Minnesota Resources**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** To be announced.

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**THURSDAY, Feb. 9**

8 a.m.

**EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**MinnesotaCare Finance Division/  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** Budget presentation for MinnesotaCare programs administered by the Department of Health.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Agency budget presentation, Department of Agriculture. Continuation of Feb. 8th agenda.

10 a.m.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** Informational presentations, pre-referrals.

HF254 (Huntley) Medical savings account act adopted.

HF255 (Van Dellen) MinnesotaCare modifications provided.



**State Government Finance Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Statewide Systems Project review.

**Financial Aid and Tuition Policy Working  
Group/Joint Higher Education Finance Division  
and University of Minnesota Finance  
Division/EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building  
Chrs. Reps. Becky Kelso, Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** Tax expenditure budget.

12:30 p.m.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM &  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**Elections Division/  
GENERAL LEGISLATION,  
VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** HF103 (Osthoff) School board membership plans reviewed by secretary of state, election expense allocation changed, election materials retained, terms and election frequency clarified, and certain election districts dissolved.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** HF173 (Pelowski) Winona lodging tax revenue use provisions modified.  
HF37 (Lourey) Glen or Kimberly in Aitkin County allowed alternate annual meeting day.  
HF100 (Brown) Morris authorized to enlarge

an existing tax increment financing district.  
HF186 (Kelley) St. Louis Park special service district created; tax increment use restriction removed; and tax increment district exemption from LGA/HACA offset provided.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

**FRIDAY, Feb. 10**

8 a.m.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Public testimony on areas that have been covered in the governor's budget recommendation.

**Joint Higher Education Finance Division and  
University of Minnesota Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chrs. Reps. Becky Kelso and Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** Overview and discussion of financial aid, Kerry Fine, House Research; Doug Berg, Fiscal Analyst.

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

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Discussion of the governor's recommendation for Article 3 (Special Education).

**Gambling Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

**Agenda:** Minnesota State Lottery budget presentation. Report from the Governor's Advisory Council on Gambling.

**Transportation Finance Division/  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** Transportation Regulation Board budget, Richard Helgeson, commissioner, Department of Finance; Dwight Pederson, executive budget officer.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** HF2 (Johnson, A.) Motor vehicle emission inspection requirements and fees modified.

**TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**University 2000 Initiative Working Group/  
University of Minnesota Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** To be announced.

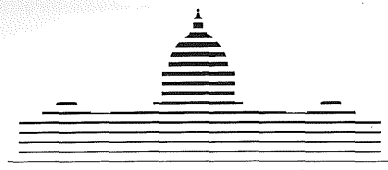
1:30 p.m.

**Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules**

15 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. John Hottinger

**Agenda:** LCRAR budget, FY95-96, and Biennial Report. Public Hearing: Pollution Control Agency; administrative penalty orders for asbestos removal violations.



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

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Sources: Task Force on Programming, Evaluation and Planning for the Juvenile Offender; *Synopsis of Survey on Juvenile Programming*, commissioners of corrections and human services; *A Report of the Violence Prevention Advisory Task Force*, Minnesota Department of Public Safety; *Overview of Crime in Minnesota 1993*, Minnesota Planning, Criminal Justice Center.



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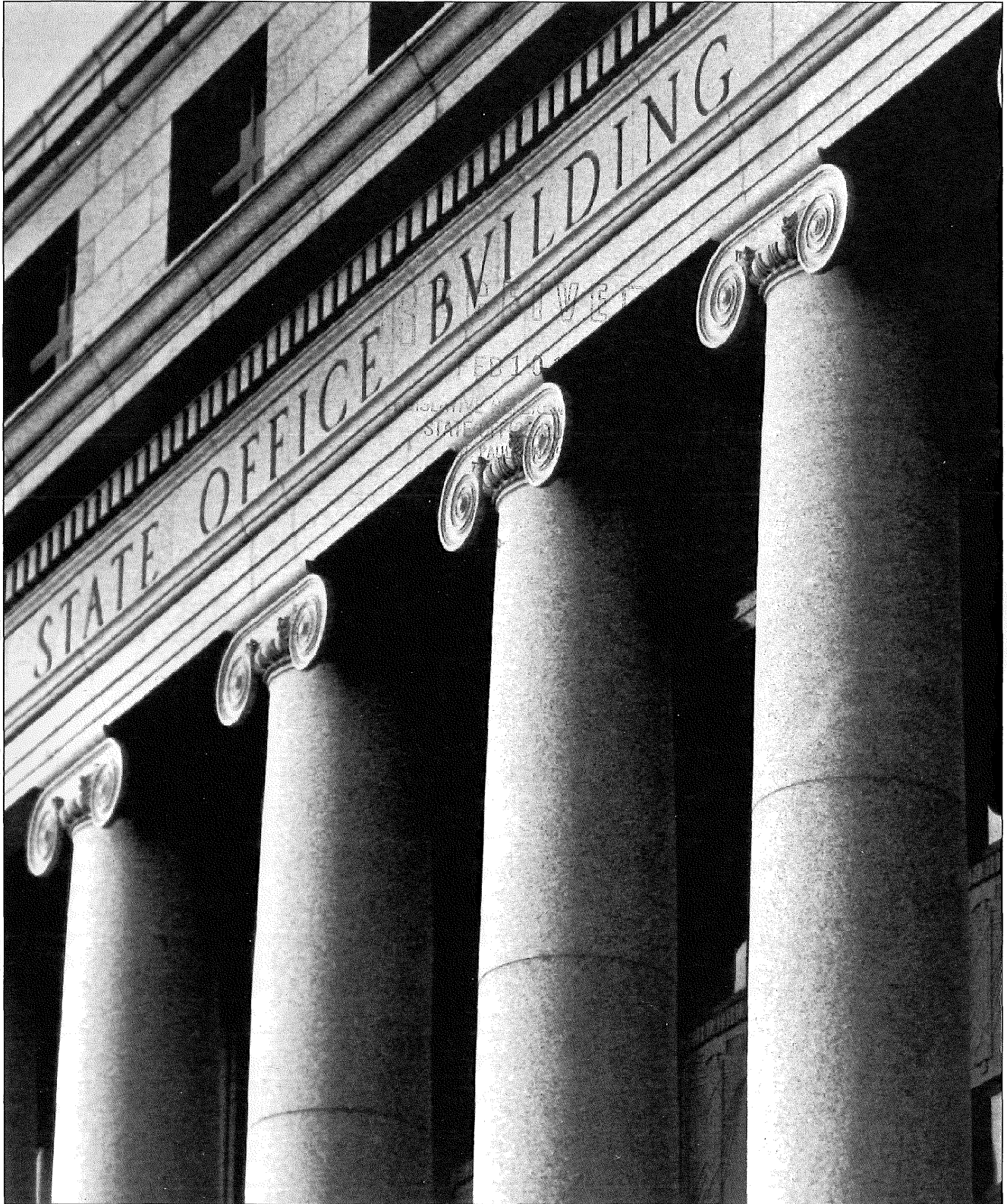
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# SESSION WEEKLY

A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ February 10, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 6





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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • February 10, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 6

## Week at a glance

**DWI odds** — Minnesota's DWI laws are working, but the chances of getting caught while driving under the influence aren't very good. Experts suggest a dedicated alcohol tax that would fund efforts to enforce the state's DWI laws. .... **Page 4**

**A captive audience** — With many school districts facing transportation budget troubles, the state may let gym shoe companies, fast food chains, and others help pay for the ride. A bill to allow advertising inside school buses is moving through the House. .... **Page 5**

**Open lockers** — Students may not have privacy rights when it comes to their school lockers. A bill in the House would allow school authorities the right to search lockers at any time. .... **Page 5**

**Prairie home companions** — Northern States Power Co. (NSP) is looking for a good home in Goodhue County to store its nuclear waste. The 1994 Legislature allowed NSP to store spent nuclear fuel outside its power plant at Prairie Island. Under the same law, NSP will be allowed to store more if it can find a site away from Prairie Island but in Goodhue County. .... **Page 6**

**Felony docs** — A bill to automatically suspend the licenses of Minnesota doctors when they are convicted of a felony "reasonably related" to their practice is on its way to the House floor. .... **Page 9**

**Hitch a ride with the Legislature** — Minnesota is now one of several legislatures in recent years to hop on the information superhighway and make available a wide array of legislative information on the Internet. .... **Page 15**

**No rookie** — This is Rep. Mike Osskopp's first term as a legislator, but he's been here before. The radio talk show host has covered the halls of the Capitol and is ready to air his conservative message in the House. .... **Page 18**

**He has a practical view** — Involvement in neighborhood politics provided the springboard for Rep. Matt Entenza's legislative candidacy. "You see what people's daily lives are like and what people need and what they don't need," he said. "You get a more practical view." .... **Page 19**

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On the cover: Ionic columns adorn the State Office Building.

— Photo by Tom Olmscheid

# Highlights

'The fat fifteen' . . .

## Holding the line on local government salaries

**A** bill to cap the salaries of most local government officials at \$78,500 was approved by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Feb. 7.

But managers who currently earn more than that need not worry. The bill was successfully amended by committee Chair Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) to exclude them from the salary cap.

Bill sponsor Rep. Steve Wenzel illustrated the need for **HF339** by drawing attention to what he called "The Fat Fifteen," a list of the 15 highest paid local public officials. The list includes annual salaries such as \$103,596 for the Hennepin County administrator, \$96,205 for the Ramsey County human services director, and \$94,068 for the Minneapolis city engineer.

"In 84 of the 87 [Minnesota] counties there is no problem," said Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls). But some cities and counties in the metropolitan area have not been fiscally responsible with salaries, he said.

The bill would limit the amount a city or county attorney could earn to 95 percent of the state attorney general's salary which amounts to \$84,981. An elected county sheriff would be limited to the salary of the state commissioner of public safety, currently

\$78,500. All other elected officials and employees would be limited to the salary of the state commissioner of finance, currently \$78,500.

The bill would apply to city, county, metropolitan, and regional units of government but would not apply to school districts. Under current law, school officials cannot earn more than 95 percent of the governor's salary, which would amount to \$108,780.

Many metro area local government officials and professional associations oppose the bill and label it "micro management" from the state.

Hennepin County Commissioner Mike Opat said local governments would have difficulty retaining top managers if salaries were capped. In particular, he said he's concerned government could be set up as a training ground for the private sector.

"Less than adequate talent puts taxpayers at risk," said former Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Spartz, now vice president of Capital Partnership Inc.

Spartz called it "penny-wise but pound foolish."

Joel Jamnick of the League of Minnesota Cities said he would be leery of advising cities to comply with the bill if it became law because of what he considers potential pay equity problems.

Proponents of the bill, however, dismissed that claim. Minnesota's pay equity law is designed to eliminate gender-based wage inequities.

Wenzel said his opponents will continue to argue that government needs to offer good wages to get good service. But, he said, too many forget that government jobs entail a desire for public service.

If some want higher paying jobs, they can go to the private sector where taxpayer dollars aren't involved.

"I don't care what [source] in the private sector pays their salaries," Wenzel said.

Another successful amendment to the bill limits the salaries of private consultants hired by a state agency or local government to 95 percent of the salary of the chief executive officer for that agency or local government. The amendment was offered by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud).

**HF339** now goes to the House Governmental Operations Committee for further discussion.

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

### 'The fat fifteen: 15 highest-paid public officials'

1. Hennepin County Administrator .....	\$103,596
2. Ramsey County Administrator .....	\$102,762
3. Anoka County Administrator .....	\$98,528
4. Hennepin County Assoc. Admin. Corrections .....	\$97,392
5. Hennepin County Assoc. Admin. Public Works .....	\$97,392
6. Hennepin County Assoc. Admin. Enterprise .....	\$97,392
7. Hennepin County Assoc. Admin. Human Resources .....	\$97,392
8. Hennepin County Library Director .....	\$96,852
9. Minneapolis City Coordinator .....	\$96,257
10. Ramsey County Human Services Director .....	\$96,205
11. Hennepin County Dept. Director General Services .....	\$95,052
12. Rochester General Manager Utilities .....	\$94,197
13. Minneapolis City Engineer .....	\$94,068
14. Washington County Administrator .....	\$92,280
15. Dakota County Administrator .....	\$91,400

Source: Government personnel departments as of 1994.



## AGRICULTURE

### Looking for manure

So what's behind the recent dramatic increase in fertilizer prices?

It appears a lot of things acting together — ranging from problems in Russia to a massive explosion in Iowa — helped cause a 20- to 40-percent increase in fertilizer prices since last spring.

And although many farmers may want to point fingers at the large companies that produce anhydrous ammonia (a widely used fertilizer), there's probably only some truth to the charge.

The House Agriculture Committee began its inquiry Feb. 6 into the cause of the recent price increases.

Testimony from two Minnesota fertilizer distributors and a review of several articles on the subject listed the following major causes:

- Worldwide production of ammonia, from which most fertilizer is made, is down. Exports of ammonia from Russia have dropped significantly because of technical failures and contractual disagreements with countries that contain parts of the ammonia supply line.
- Worldwide demand for ammonia for non-agricultural purposes — primarily in the textile and carpet industries — is up. Ammonia is used in the production of both nylon and acrylic fibers.
- Worldwide demand for ammonia for agricultural purposes is up for two reasons. First, the worldwide supply of grain is at its lowest level in 20 years so farmers around the world want to make up the difference in the coming growing seasons. Second, U.S. farmers traditionally use much more fertilizer following record crops, which occurred in many parts of the U.S. last year.
- The United States is a net importer of ammonia. Because it is in such short supply, much of it is being sold closer to the ports at which it enters the U.S. Distributors can avoid additional shipping costs by selling ammonia closer to its port of entry. That hits the Midwest the hardest.
- The explosion of the Terra Industries plant south of Sioux City — Iowa's largest producer of nitrogen-based fertilizers — on Dec. 13, 1994. The plant was a major supplier of fertilizer to southern and southwestern Minnesota.
- Price gouging. In the past, the profit margin for producing ammonia has been very thin. Some sources say those producers are now using the short supply to make up

some economic ground. (See Oct. 3, 1994, issue of the *Chemical Marketing Reporter*.)

So what can be done about the problem?

Greg Buzicky of the state Department of Agriculture suggested that farmers should concentrate on using fertilizer more efficiently.

And Rep. Gene Hugoson (R-Granada) suggested the state should do more to encourage livestock production so more manure could be used as fertilizer.

While that may be a noble goal, Buzicky said it's not a complete solution to the problem.

"There just isn't enough manure to go around — at least in the agricultural sense."



## CHILDREN

### New department for kids

Draft legislation that would eliminate the present Department of Education and create a department of children and education services was heard before the K-12 Education Finance Division Feb. 3.

The new department would "organize state government so that it makes sense for children and families," said Linda Kohl, director of Minnesota Planning.

Kohl said that about 245 programs spread among 32 state agencies would be transferred to the new department. Most programs would come from the departments of education, human services, economic security, and health.



Daniel Martig, a second-grader at Lino Lakes Elementary School, told members of the House Judiciary Finance Committee Feb. 7 about his activities in the youth intervention "Be a Buddy Program." Barb Swanson, executive director of the Forest Lake Youth Bureau, also testified.

It would be a "four-to-six-year process" to have all duties transferred to the new department, Kohl explained. If approved, the governor would appoint a commissioner for the new department on July 1, 1995. Educational and social programs serving children and families would transfer to the proposed department by July 1, 1996. In the second year, more programs would be evaluated for inclusion.

The new department would require \$150,000 in start-up costs, mainly for the salaries and support of two commissioners during the transition year, said Kohl.

The proposal calls for the Department of Education and the State Board of Education to be abolished. More than \$2.7 billion of state spending for K-12 education programs would transfer to the new department after July 1, 1996.

John Petraborg, deputy commissioner for the Department of Human Services (DHS), told committee members that the new department would emphasize developmental programs to help children learn. More than \$45 million for child care subsidies would be transferred from DHS to the new department in 1997.

Committee chair Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) asked whether the education and employment transition boards called for under the new department constituted a new bureaucracy. The legislation would provide \$2.5 million in fiscal year 1996 to establish this series of regional boards, which would expand and manage youth apprenticeship and work-based learning programs. Johnson suggested that there might be "existing regional structures out there that can be built on."

The proposal, which has not yet been formally introduced, is expected to be discussed further later this session.



## CRIME

### Drunk, driving, and untouched

Minnesota's DWI laws are working, but the chances of getting caught while driving under the influence aren't very good, according to a University of Minnesota law professor.

"The public would really be frightened if they knew how few police officers are on the street" during peak drunk driving times, said Steve Simon, one of the state's foremost authorities on DWI law.

Simon gave members of the House Judi-



ciary Committee an overview of the state's DWI laws during a Feb. 8 hearing.

After midnight, on any given day of the week, 8.8 percent of drivers on the road are legally drunk, according to Karen Sprattler of the Department of Public Safety.

And the odds of being arrested are about 1 in 1,000, Simon said.

"The chance of getting caught is not as great as people think it is," Simon said.

Law enforcement efforts have become focused on more violent crimes like domestic violence.

To increase arrest rates, the system needs money. Simon advocates a dedicated alcohol tax that would fund efforts to enforce the state's DWI laws. He cited a recent University of Minnesota survey that indicated 87 percent of surveyed Minnesotans also support such a tax.

Simon praised the state's DWI laws as "extremely comprehensive and complete," and called the license plate impoundment and intensive probation programs "unique in the country."

The 1991 Legislature approved a law that strengthened the state's license plate impoundment law for repeat DWI offenders, which Simon called "cheap and effective."

Not only are the laws working, but they're also having a deterrent effect.

As proof, he cited the declining number of first-time DWI offenders. In 1986, nearly 61 percent of all DWI arrests were first-time offenders. In 1994, that percentage had dropped to less than 50 percent.

That means many Minnesotans are getting the message to not drink and drive.

But targeting the chronic DWI offender is the real challenge.

"Tough penalties have little effect unless there is a fear of getting apprehended," Simon said.

And when the odds of arrest stand at 1,000 to 1, it seems repeat offenders have little to fear.



## EDUCATION

### Searching school lockers

School authorities could search the lockers of Minnesota students at any time, under a bill heard Feb. 6 by the House Judiciary Committee.

The proposal (HF107), sponsored by Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul), states that a locker inspection could take place "for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant." No-

tice of the policy would have to be distributed to parents and students.

Farrell argues that students don't have a right to privacy when it comes to school lockers.

"The locker is public property, owned by the school and used by a student for [his or her] convenience," he said.

Bob Meeks of the Minnesota School Board Association said many local school districts have policies regarding locker searches, but are afraid to enforce them for fear of a costly court challenge. With no law to guide officials, they are frustrated, he said.

"We have a responsibility to provide a safe environment to students and staff. . . . There's no right to privacy," Meeks said.

An Oct. 7, 1994, incident at Harding High School in St. Paul led to the proposed legislation.

Two students were shot following a school assembly. A fellow student was later charged with the assaults. Lockers were not individually searched following the incident because school authorities had "constitutional questions," Farrell said. Instead, a trained dog was brought from Arizona to "sniff out" gunpowder from the more than 1,800 student lockers. The search yielded nothing, but eight or nine lockers were opened where the dog indicated a gunpowder scent.

Farrell said the bill has been carefully worded to match a Milwaukee school district policy that has been court-tested.

A challenge to that policy based on a violation of the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which protects against unlawful search and seizure, did not succeed. The Wisconsin Supreme Court upheld the search policy and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the case, Farrell said.

Richard Neumeister, a citizen lobbyist involved in data privacy issues, spoke against the bill. He said it violates the Minnesota Constitution by allowing a search "without reasonable suspicion or cause."

He also argued that students do have a right to privacy, that they "just don't waive by walking through the [school] door."

A 1994 law mandated that schools track and report to the Department of Education any incidents involving dangerous weapons on school property and in school buses carrying students.

The department's first report shows that between July 1993 and July 1994 there were 872 weapons incidents. Sixty-five of those were exclusively gun incidents. Eighty-four of the state's 381 school districts did not report.

Continued testimony on HF107 is expected next week.

## School buses for sale

With many school districts facing transportation budget troubles, the state may let gym shoe companies, fast food chains, and others help pay for the ride.

A bill that would allow advertising inside school buses was approved by the House Education Committee Feb. 9.

The advertising would provide money for schools at no cost to the state and makes sense with "budget crunches all over the place," said Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm).

"If you have to go out and pay \$100 for a pair of Nikes, you might as well get a little bit back into your school district," said Tomassoni, sponsor of the bill (HF326).

Under the bill, school districts would be allowed to set their own standards for ads to be placed on buses and to reach their own deals with private bus companies.

The bill would require that all advertising proceeds to districts be deposited in their transportation accounts. When it comes to ad content, the bill only requires that districts devise policies and that ads comply with those policies.

Setting standards for what types of ads to accept could be fertile ground for debate.

Several committee members expressed concern that advertisers could push religious messages or stake out a position on teen pregnancy and abortion.

"I don't see how a school district, once it opened itself for advertising, could prohibit religious advertising," said Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins).

And advertising on an issue such as abortion could cause "a serious problem one way or the other" in a district, he added.

As originally written, the bill also would have allowed advertisements on the outside of buses — which could bring in still more money.

But the committee approved an amendment to allow ads only inside buses after hearing concerns about safety risks involved with disturbing the highly recognizable yellow and black bus exteriors.

Rep. Warren Limmer (IR-Maple Grove) questioned the appropriateness of allowing advertisers to target young school bus passengers.

"I don't like to see children as a captive audience in a money-raising endeavor," he said.

Last year the Legislature gave permission to the Department of Natural Resources to sell advertising space in its publications.

HF326 now goes before the full House for its consideration.



## ENERGY

### Prairie Island revisited

Northern States Power Co. (NSP) is looking for a good place in Goodhue County to store its nuclear waste.

Jim Alder, manager of regulatory projects for NSP, told members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 8 that NSP is working with the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to find a suitable storage site.

The 1994 Legislature allowed NSP to immediately put five casks next to the power plant at Prairie Island to store its spent nuclear fuel.

Under the same law, NSP will be allowed four additional casks if, by Dec. 31, 1996, it has a storage site away from Prairie Island ready for federal approval. (The utility also would have to contract for 100 megawatts of windpower by that date.)

In testimony Feb. 7 before the Electric Energy Task Force, Alder explained that the storage site must be away from the 100-year flood plain of the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The site, which by law must be in Goodhue County, also can't be built on limestone bedrock, which is susceptible to fracturing. Most of Goodhue County rests on limestone, which has significantly reduced the site possibilities.

Three to five acres would be needed to store the casks, along with a 20-acre "controlled buffer space" around the storage site. If no local landowners are willing to sell to NSP, Alder said the utility "might have to exercise eminent domain" to gain possession of a suitable site. (Eminent domain is the power to take private property for public use.)

Alder said that an application for a site certificate would be submitted to the EQB by mid-summer. The environmental assessment process would take between 12 and 18 months, and a final decision about the site would come in late 1996, he said.

Finally, NSP would be allowed to use eight more storage casks — for a total of 17 — unless the Legislature enacts a law by June 1, 1999, to revoke the authority to do so. Such legislative action could be taken if the utility has not begun construction of an alternate storage site or has not contracted for an additional 125 megawatts of windpower and 50 megawatts of biomass energy.

Glynis Hinschberger, manager for energy resource planning at NSP, told environment committee members that NSP has 25 mega-



Byron White, secretary of the Mdewakanton Tribal Council, gave an update on above-ground storage of high-level radioactive waste to the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 8.

watts of windpower in operation now, and bids were received in mid-January for another 100 megawatts of windpower. She said the utility will develop 425 megawatts of windpower by 2002.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Abolishing the LCMR

Should money raised through a portion of the state's cigarette tax and lottery earnings be used to finance part of the general environmental budgets of several state departments, agencies, and boards?

Or should it be used to fund specific environmental projects that are suggested by citizens through a series of "natural resources congresses" operated by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR)?

The issue — brought to the fore by Gov. Arne Carlson — was hotly debated at meetings of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Feb. 6 and 7.

The controversy surrounds the governor's proposal to divert about \$14 million of the LCMR's proposed \$34.6 million budget (40 percent) over the next two-year spending cycle to clean up rivers and preserve prairies and forests, proposals that weren't included in the LCMR's recommendations.

The money would go directly to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Department of Agriculture, Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Department of Natural Resources.

The governor argued in his proposed budget that the clean-up and preservation projects were a higher priority than some of the LCMR's recommended projects. And he has proposed

that the LCMR be abolished, although a bill to do that has not yet been introduced.

The LCMR, which is composed of eight House members and eight senators, has been criticized for circumventing the legislative process and for adding pork in LCMR members' districts.

But LCMR Director John Velin explained that the LCMR funding recommendations are always modified by the Legislature and that they *must* be approved by the Legislature in order to become law.

About 90 percent of the LCMR funding comes from a 2-cent per pack tax on cigarettes and state lottery earnings, with smaller amounts coming from two smaller funds.

Historically, LCMR funds have been used to finance a variety of environmental projects, ranging from the construction of bike trails to environmental education in the schools.

A total of 473 proposals for funding in the next biennium were submitted to the LCMR, which whittled the list to 86. Funding for those projects is proposed in **HF132**, which is sponsored by LCMR Chair Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls).

Dale Nelson of the Department of Finance told members that the state's general fund is under "tremendous pressure" and that there isn't enough money to fund additional environmental projects.

And Ron Nargang, DNR deputy commissioner, said he would prefer that construction of trails and parks be financed through the sale of state bonds rather than through the LCMR.

But Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) likened the governor to a "bully on the playground" who doesn't get his way. "Destroying the LCMR because it's not giving you what you want — I think that's terrible," said Trimble.

### Learning about garbage

School children are taught that reducing garbage and recycling are good for the environment. In the future they may learn the hazards of openly burning garbage, especially the health danger from dioxin emissions, under a proposed amendment to the state's Waste Management Act.

Members of the Legislative Commission on Waste Management (LCWM) Feb. 6 heard public testimony on this and other proposed amendments to the act.

Educational materials about the hazards of open burning would be distributed by the Office of Environmental Assistance (OEA) which took over the solid and hazardous

waste management duties of the Metropolitan Council. A dioxin is a toxin that studies have shown can cause cancers, birth defects, and fetal deaths in domestic and wild animals. Scientists disagree on whether it can contribute to cancer in humans.

Other proposed amendments to the Waste Management Act would:

- Require metropolitan counties to submit a detailed request to the OEA director before they dispose of "unprocessed" mixed municipal waste in a landfill. Under current law, mixed waste generated in the metropolitan area must be sorted to weed out what can be recycled, what can be burned as fuel, and what can be composted, so that at least 65 percent of the total weight is removed. Currently, counties don't ask permission before they dispose of mixed garbage in a landfill. They only explain why they did it after the fact.
- Enable greater Minnesota counties to require towns, cities, and companies to weed out garbage that can be recycled, burned as fuel, and composted, as is done in the metropolitan counties.
- Reduce the administrative burden on the OEA by consolidating, into one biennial report, several annual and biennial reports that it must by law submit.
- Instruct governmental units — including towns, cities, state agencies, and school districts — not to expose themselves and taxpayers to potential liabilities by disposing of waste at an inferior facility. The intent is that governmental units should set a good example and not try to cut costs at the expense of the environment.

• Establish a statewide goal for reducing the total amount of solid waste from all sources. The OEA would develop a strategy to reduce mixed solid waste in Minnesota by a minimum of 10 percent by 2001.

• Add packaging made with post-consumer recycled materials to the hierarchy of preferred packaging materials that was established by the 1994 Legislature.

• Require that legal briefs and documents submitted to the courts be on paper containing at least 10 percent post-consumer recycled content, if such paper is available. Colorado has such a law.

The draft amendments to the Waste Management Act are expected to be introduced in bill form and considered by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.



## GOVERNMENT

### Reining in the feds

The House is backing a plan to join other states in an effort to rein in the federal government.

House members Feb. 6 voted 75-56 to approve a resolution (HF22) calling for a national "Conference of States" designed to send a message to the U.S. Congress.

"By passing this resolution, Minnesota will join in a national movement seeking to restore the balance between the state and federal governments," said House Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls). "With the Balanced Budget Amendment advancing in Con-

gress, deciding what duties the states should have will be critical."

Anderson said Minnesota taxpayers should not have to pay additional costs resulting from the shift of federal programs to the state.

If at least 26 states pass similar resolutions, the state would send six legislators and the governor (or another constitutional officer) to the conference, which probably would be held this fall.

The state delegations would then attempt to compile a document, dubbed the "States' Petition to Congress," to send a unified message to Congress on various issues and specifically calling for a stop to "unfunded mandates."

As of Feb. 9, the proposal has been introduced in 37 state legislatures. It has been approved by legislatures in eight states and by one chamber in eight others.

The resolution is now pending in the Senate Rules and Administration Committee.

### The board that works

Described by some as a "dinky agency that works," a House panel heard pleas Feb. 7 to keep the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation alive.

The board was created by the 1993 Legislature and has a three-pronged mission to: grant waivers of state rules to local units of government; provide grants to cooperating units of government; and facilitate mergers of local governments.

Gov. Arne Carlson has targeted the board for elimination, which would bring a cost savings of \$3.4 million over the next biennium.

But several people described how the state board has helped to improve government efficiency.

"We need the board," said Cherry Merritt, program manager for Hennepin County's Department of Economic Assistance. Her agency successfully sought a board waiver to eliminate biannual income verification reports for fixed income Medical Assistance recipients.

Merritt told members of the Government Efficiency and Oversight Division of the House Ways and Means Committee that she sought help from the state Department of Human Services (DHS) to help identify clients who would be affected by the change. She said there was a "lack of enthusiasm" on the part of DHS to help.

Instead of an independent board waiving rules, Gov. Carlson would give that authority to state agencies — the very bodies who make



Rollie Beach, an employee of CEI, which manufactures high tech gaming equipment, showed the Gambling Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee a pull-tab dispensing machine Feb. 3.



the rules and are charged with enforcing them. Some members see that as a conflict.

Since state agencies make the rules, "I can understand the reluctance" in waiving them, Merritt said. "There's ownership there."

Myra Peterson, a Washington County commissioner, said just having the board to encourage grant applications is "enough of a carrot" to get governments to cooperate. Her grant application to fund a transportation needs assessment in south Washington County was denied, but the project is going ahead anyway.

The final needs assessment report is now being written, and the cities of Newport, Cottage Grove and St. Paul Park will be working with the Metropolitan Council Transit Operations to discuss its findings.

"It is a mighty program for so few dollars," she said.

Since its inception, the board has awarded 52 grants totaling \$3.24 million. It received 355 grant applications totaling \$20.1 million. It has received 33 requests for waivers from rules or procedures, 11 of which were approved.

Jim Gelbmann, executive director of the board, and his staff of two are currently working with five pairs of local governments looking to merge. Between 1973 and 1993, Gelbmann said, there were only three such mergers.

A decision on whether to continue funding for the board will be made later this session.



## HEALTH

### MinnesotaCare changes

Two bills heard by the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 9 would substantially change the way MinnesotaCare, the state's subsidized health coverage program, is administered.

Both bills (HF254, HF255) seek to repeal the regulated all-payer option portion of the current MinnesotaCare law. The all-payer option, set to be implemented by July 1, 1997, would require the state to set the prices and fees charged by health care insurers, including the government. It also would require insurers and providers to operate under uniform rules.

"Price controls won't work. A competitive market should regulate insurance costs," said Rep. Todd Van Dellen (IR-Plymouth), sponsor of HF255.

HF255 also would repeal the universal coverage mandate in current law, which re-

quires that all Minnesotans have health insurance as of July 1, 1997.

"I believe it's unrealistic to pursue that deadline, particularly without federal health care reform," Van Dellen said.

He said his bill pushes for universal coverage through "market reforms." It would call on the commissioner of human services to develop several low-cost health care options.

Another bill (HF254), sponsored by Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth), keeps the universal coverage mandate but calls for an additional 40 cent-per-pack cigarette tax.

This tax — over and above the current 48-cent per pack tax on cigarettes — would replace the existing 2 percent provider tax on the gross revenues of health care providers.

The additional cigarette tax would begin in July 1995 and increase an additional 40 cents in each of the next five years until it reached \$2 per pack in the year 2000. Huntley expects the tax to raise about \$120 million the first year and about \$100 million the following year. The funds would go to the health care access fund earmarked to pay for MinnesotaCare.

Huntley's bill would also require snowmobilers, all-terrain vehicle drivers, motorcyclists, and bicyclists to wear helmets or face a \$25 fine. His bill also would increase the fine for not wearing a seat belt from \$25 to \$100 and make violating the law a primary offense. Currently the fine can be levied only if an officer stops a driver for another offense.

Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) said the proposed helmet law meddles with people's personal lives.

"We may as well get into every behavior people have and start telling them how much they can eat," Hasskamp said.

Both bills also would allow employers to create medical savings accounts. Employees could contribute a portion of their income to the account, and employers also would contribute an unspecified amount. The funds could then be withdrawn to pay for medical expenses. Money not drawn from the interest-bearing accounts could be withdrawn at year's end (and taxed as income), or it could carry over to the next year, Huntley said.

Each bill will next be heard in the MinnesotaCare Finance Division.

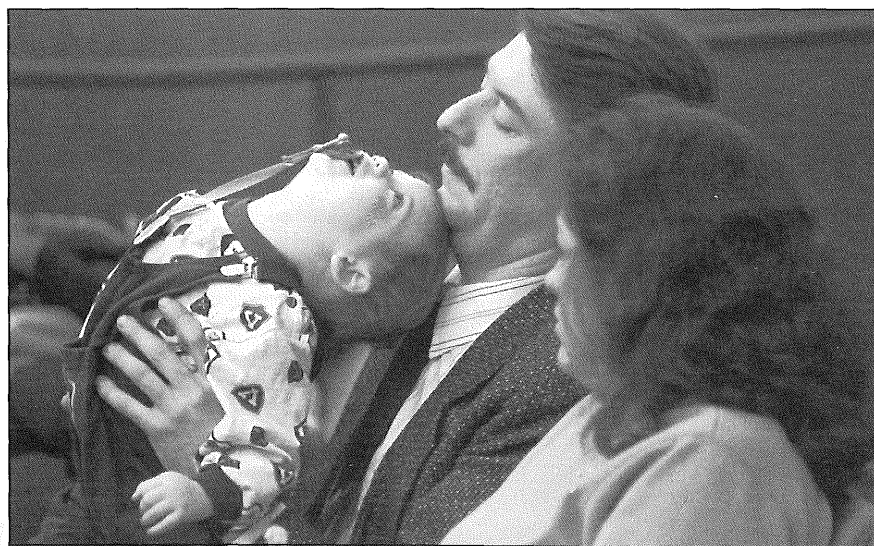
## Health care needs

Although MinnesotaCare has helped subsidize health care costs for 78,000 low income Minnesotans, the state could do more to help disabled citizens and those with chronic health problems afford care, say some groups.

Specifically, Minnesotans for Affordable Health Care and the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities have asked the state to let single adults buy into Medical Assistance (MA), also known as Medicaid, without having to impoverish themselves to meet the income eligibility requirements.

Both groups hope such legislation will be introduced this session.

MA is a federal and state program that offers health care to those in desperate need. The program is attractive because, unlike



Jacob Sparrow, who at birth was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, showed his flexibility while being held by his father, Roger, during a hearing of the MinnesotaCare Finance Division Feb. 7. Jacob's mother, Cindy, explained how Minnesota allows her family to buy into the state's Medical Assistance health care coverage for Jacob's long-term care. The program helps families afford care their private insurance companies won't cover.

private health plans, it covers many long-term health care needs such as: in-home care; on-going physical, speech, and other therapy; on-going mental health services; and the necessary equipment for various disabilities.

But under current MA guidelines, most people have to impoverish themselves — quit their jobs to meet low-income requirements and sell their homes — before they can qualify for help, said Ann Henry of the Minnesota Disability Law Center.

Groups addressing the MinnesotaCare Division of the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 7 asked for the option to pay into the plan for their long-term coverage while still keeping their jobs and homes. No one is asking for a freebie, Henry said. In addition to buying into the MA plan, they would agree to buy or keep their private insurance for traditional health care.

Currently, under federal law, states can allow families with children the option of paying into MA to receive long-term care not offered by their private insurers. But no such option is offered to childless adults.

Such an option may have helped Iva Anderson of Minnetonka. She has multiple sclerosis, and in 1993, her doctor recommended a power wheelchair to help with shoulder trouble due to her manual wheelchair.

She told the committee her private insurance company said a power wheelchair wasn't necessary and refused to pay for it.

Anderson, who works for the Minneapolis Public Library, said she persisted with letters and pleas from her doctor but got nowhere. "I was told I had two arms I could make it go. I made it go all right. It made me go right into surgery," she said in a later interview.

In 1994, she was in an operating room to fix tears in the tendons in her rotor cuff.

A power wheelchair would have been preventive medicine, she told the committee. Instead of paying for the wheelchair, the insurance company ended up paying tens of thousands of dollars in surgery, hospital, and therapy bills.

Eventually, a private fund-raiser helped her buy an electric wheelchair.

Henry said the people she represents would like the state to step in and require a broader benefits package both in MinnesotaCare and in private health plans. Currently, MinnesotaCare doesn't offer long-term care and private health insurers drop customers, such as those with disabilities or chronic problems, when they become too costly to maintain.

But they're realistic, Henry said. They know they'd face a strong lobby against such an idea, so they're asking the state to let them buy into MA.

## Sanctions for convicted docs

A bill to automatically suspend the licenses of Minnesota doctors when they are convicted of a felony "reasonably related" to their practice is on its way to the House floor.

The bill (HF231), sponsored by Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins), also would apply to physician's assistants, physical therapists, or other health professionals licensed by the state Board of Medical Practice. It won approval Feb. 7 from the House Health and Human Services Committee.

Under the bill, the license suspension would be automatic following such a conviction and a doctor would have to request a hearing to get his or her license reinstated. Reinstatement would only occur if health professionals can demonstrate they have been rehabilitated by "clear and convincing evidence."

The bill does not define a felony that is "reasonably related" to a medical practice, but Kelley said some obvious examples would include a doctor convicted of sexually assaulting a patient or filing fraudulent Medicare or Medicaid claims.

The board currently has the authority to suspend a professional license, but it first holds a hearing, said bill proponent Leonard Boche, executive director of the Board of Medical Practice.

Dave Renner, director of legislation and public policy for the Minnesota Medical Association, opposed the bill. He said it shifts the responsibility of license regulation from the Board of Medical Practice to the courts. He said he didn't want to be viewed as "protecting slime-bag physicians" but believes the law is too broad and unclear.

Boche told the committee he is concerned about potential public safety problems because of the lag time between when a health professional is convicted or pleads guilty to a felony and when their license is actually suspended.

Renner said he believes Minnesota law already grants the board the authority to suspend a license immediately and later hold a hearing.

Current law does grant the board the authority to temporarily suspend a license without a hearing, but the board must find that the doctor "has violated a statute or rule which the board is empowered to enforce and continued practice by the doctor would create a serious risk of harm to the public." Current law also puts the burden on the board to seek a hearing to issue a final conclusion.

Kelley's bill would reverse the process: the suspension would be automatic and the bur-

den is upon the health professional to seek a hearing and to prove that his or her license suspension shouldn't be permanent.

## Full disclosure

A bill to close a loophole and make sure the state Board of Medical Practice receives the names of all physicians who have malpractice settlements or awards against them is on its way to the House floor.

The bill (HF226), sponsored by Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins), was approved Feb. 7 by the House Health and Human Services Committee.

Current law mandates that insurance companies provide reports to the board detailing malpractice settlements or awards involving physicians.

In practice, however, clinics, hospitals, and other entities were paying off malpractice settlements against physicians and not reporting it to the Board of Medical Practice. Since the paying organizations weren't insurance companies, they weren't technically required to report.

The bill specifically requires medical clinics, hospitals, political subdivisions, and other entities that provide malpractice coverage on behalf of a doctor, physician's assistant, physical therapist, or other health professional under the board's jurisdiction, to report all malpractice settlements and awards to the board. They must report the health professional's name, the date and dollar amounts of all settlements and awards, and the allegations in the claim or complaint leading to the settlement or award.

The board is pushing for the bill so it can use the information to conduct its own investigations into doctors and other professionals to see if disciplinary actions, such as the suspension or loss of a license, is necessary. The bill requires the reports be made within 30 days of any settlement or award.

Leonard Boche, executive director of the Board of Medical Practice, said the board currently hears about doctors who are self-insured or who work for small clinics with private insurance companies. However, they rarely hear about malpractice settlements or awards from health professionals practicing in "mega-clinics."

## U2000

By following its U2000 plan, the University of Minnesota could join the ranks of world-class research institutions by the turn of the century, a House panel was told Feb. 6.

But Nils Hasselmo, university president, told members of the University of Minnesota Finance Division of the House Education Committee he needs the state's financial help to get the job done.

Some lawmakers questioned exactly what "world class" meant and asked Hasselmo how he would know when the university had reached that status.

"It's clear U2000 is a process, but a process leading to what is not as clear as it could be," division chair Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee) told Hasselmo. "I don't get a picture of what selective areas you will be a world-class institution in or what a world-class institution is. I think a good picture of the goals are missing."

The U2000 plan, originally unveiled in 1993, calls for strengthening undergraduate programs, raising faculty salaries to attract and keep quality faculty, and upgrading the university's research environment, Hasselmo said.

"You can't make a simple statement about the university because it's so many things," Hasselmo said. "But I'm concerned we haven't been able to lay out the footprint of the University of Minnesota as quickly and competently as we should."

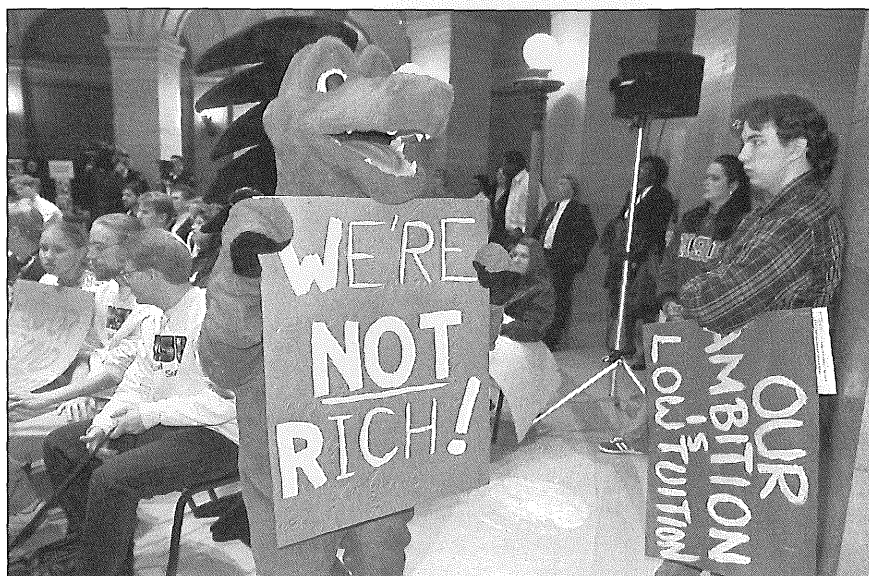
In 1994, Hasselmo said the university would need to spend about \$256 million over the next six years to accomplish the plan's goals. He expected 20 percent of that funding to come from the state.

But last year Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed the \$9.1 million the Legislature had intended for U2000. The money would have been used to improve the libraries and laboratory equipment and to better maintain classrooms.

Hasselmo said he plans to ask the Legislature this year to reapprove funding for the vetoed items. The university has not formally requested a specific state appropriation yet this session.

In his budget recommendations for the 1996-97 biennium, Gov. Arne Carlson proposed the University of Minnesota receive \$968.9 million in state money, \$53.8 million of which would make up a one-time only appropriation for U2000.

Hasselmo said the governor's recommendations trouble him because they represent



Moorhead State University mascot Scorch the Dragon, also known as first-year student Ryan Sylvester, held up a sign along with other state university students during a rally for affordable tuition in the Capitol rotunda Feb. 8. The rally was part of the Minnesota State University Student Association's annual lobby day.

only a one-time proposed appropriation for U2000.

"Even with technology you have to have sustained investment. You can't make a one-time investment and let it sit," Hasselmo said.

## More money for the 'U'

The University of Minnesota is seeking \$995 million in state funds for the 1996-97 biennium — 9.6 percent over what it received in 1994-95 — so it can continue its University 2000 plan, give faculty a long-overdue raise, and maintain its buildings.

And to supplement those state funds, the university also plans to increase tuition 4.8 percent during each of the next two years, Richard Pfutzenreuter, the university's associate vice president of finance and operations, told members of the University of Minnesota Finance Division Feb. 8.

A 1993 law caps the amount of state funds appropriated to the University of Minnesota for the upcoming biennium at \$908 million. The university is requesting \$87.7 million above that cap.

Gov. Arne Carlson has recommended the university receive \$60.8 million above the cap, or \$968.9 million, for the biennium. That proposal includes a \$53.8 million one-time appropriation to help the university reach its University 2000 goals.

The U2000 plan is designed to bring the University of Minnesota into the ranks of world-class research institutions by the turn of the century. (See related story this page).

Pfutzenreuter said the university will need more than a one-time appropriation for U2000.

## More dollars for higher ed

The soon-to-be merged Minnesota higher education system is seeking \$1 billion in state appropriations for the next biennium, system administrators told Higher Education Finance Division members Feb. 8.

A 1993 law caps the amount of money the system should receive in the 1996-97 biennium at \$895 million. The request exceeds that cap by \$118.5 million to account for inflation, enrollment increases, the cost of transferring technical college employees to state employment, and funding for new programs, said Ed McMahon, vice chancellor for administration and budget.

In his budget proposal for the 1996-97 biennium, Gov. Arne Carlson has recommended \$905 million for the merged state university, technical college and community college system.

That proposal would "put us 11 percent below where we are today," said Jay Noren, the system's chancellor. That's a \$94 million shortfall, of which \$68 million is necessary to maintain current services and \$26 million is estimated to be needed to bring technical college employees, who are presently local employees, into state employment under the merger.

The merger is slated for July 1. The Higher Education Board created to oversee the sys-



tem won't have the authority until then to deal with a shortfall.

"The governor's budget is unrealistic. It can't be accomplished without financially crippling us," Noren said.

Such a shortfall, if made up solely through tuition increases, would result in a 20 percent increase in 1995 and a 9 percent hike the following year, he said.

The system would most likely address a shortfall through a tuition increase, enrollment cut, and "draconian layoffs," he said.

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) said he expects to see continued merger costs in the future. But Noren disagreed.

"If contracts are negotiated sensibly I don't anticipate additional costs. I'm comfortable in saying we will see a savings over time," Noren said.



## HOUSING

### Landlords' eviction costs

Landlords would pay just half of the court filing fee to evict a tenant provided the proceeding takes just one court appearance, under a bill approved by the Housing Committee Feb. 7.

**HF136** is sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), who said that the \$122 state filing fee required to begin legal eviction proceedings is burdensome to property owners — particularly if they have to evict more than one tenant.

Such unlawful detainer eviction proceedings are typically handled with a single court appearance because tenants often fail to appear.

"No matter what happens, even if the case is dismissed, you pay," she said. "It's such a hardship on property owners. In my district, some landlords have almost had to empty buildings because of drug problems."

Property owners pay the filing fee for each eviction they seek.

Jack Horner, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association, told committee members that that fee is not in any way tied to actual court costs for such cases.

"Unlawful detainers use little of the court resources — three or four pieces of paper, such as a summons and a copy of the lease," said Horner. "The fee is the same as for all civil proceedings. So you could have a case that required 10 to 20 hours of court administrator filing time and it would cost the same as an unlawful detainer."

A large portion of the filing fee, goes to the state's Supreme Court budget, Clark said.

The county in which the case is heard receives an additional \$7 to \$10 in law library fees, depending on the county.

Horner estimated the Minnesota Supreme Court budget would have lost about \$1.4 million and the state's counties about \$104,000 if Clark's proposal would have been law in 1994. The \$1.4 million would have to be made up by reallocating from other funds, Horner said.

**HF136** moves next to the House Judiciary Committee.



## INDUSTRY

### Keg ban tapped out

The party may be over for a proposal to ban retail sales of keg beer, but a House DFLer still plans to slow the flow of alcohol to minors.

A bill to ban the retail sale of kegs was tabled indefinitely Feb. 6 by the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee.

The bill (**HF102**), sponsored by Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights), would ban the retail sale of any container holding more than five gallons of beer, including kegs and "party balls." Beer wholesalers would be allowed to sell kegs only to on-sale establishments and municipal liquor stores.

The elimination of keg sales would reduce underage drinking by putting an end to so-called keggers, McGuire said.

"It doesn't solve the entire problem," she said. "We wish it would."

Jerry Ruettimann, a crime prevention specialist for the Roseville Police Department, said he has confiscated scores of kegs from teens who have abandoned traditional kegger sites such as vacant fields in favor of elaborately planned parties in warehouses and homes.

At those parties, underage drinking increases because beer is cheap and plentiful, Ruettimann said.

"They drink faster and they drink more," he said. "It's cheaper. It's easier to transport."

But the bill was opposed by members of the beer-sales industry.

John Berglund, executive director of Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association, said the "prohibition or ban" on kegs would do little to reduce underage drinking but would cause a costly inconvenience for the "99-plus percent" of keg buyers who have legitimate intentions.

Although the keg ban proposal appears stalled, McGuire said she plans to offer an-

other bill that would require kegs to be registered. Similar proposals sponsored by McGuire have stalled at the Legislature in past years, but have been adopted by a handful of states, including North Dakota.

By registering kegs at the point of sale, police, for the first time, could trace confiscated kegs to buyers and stores, McGuire said.



## INSURANCE

### Selling off life insurance

Infected with the AIDS virus and seriously ill, Adam Tillis decided to sell off his life insurance assets to receive at least some of his investment before his death.

That was three years ago. Tillis is still alive, but the company that purchased the rights to his life insurance benefits, once he does die, will have made a killing.

After five "stressful and sometimes humiliating" months working out a viatical settlement (getting death benefits early), Tillis made a deal he lived to regret.

"When all was said and done, I was ill, I was needy, and I was ready to accept any crumb thrown my way," he said Feb. 8 in testimony before the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee. "The crumb upon which I settled was 22 percent of the face value of my policy."

Tillis urged the lawmakers to support a bill (**HF 217**) to regulate viatical settlements, a now growing business most often dealing with AIDS patients. The committee approved the bill, sponsored by committee Chair Rep. Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley).

Under the agreements, those who face certain death agree to sell off a portion of their life insurance policy to receive some cash on their investment before they die. Those who buy the insurance policy do so as an investment. They receive the remaining value of the policy after the person actually dies.

The bill would require companies and individuals who provide viatical settlements to be licensed by the state and subject to state oversight. The commissioner of commerce would set standards for evaluating settlement contracts.

Policy buyers would be required to receive a physician's statement showing the would-be seller is of sound mind. They'd also need to obtain a signed and witnessed statement from the seller stating that he or she understands the consequences of the contract and consents to it.

Disclosure requirements in the bill would allow ill people to know what they are getting into and what options are available to them, Simoneau said. The bill requires policy buyers to inform those selling their life insurance policies of alternatives to viatical settlements, including the fact that some insurance companies are willing to offer them early payments of their policy benefits.

The buyers must also make sure the seller knows they can cancel up to 30 days from the date the deal is signed, or 15 days from the date they receive the money.

Bob Tracy of the Minnesota AIDS Project said viatical settlements "emerged" as a result of the spread of AIDS. A victim of the disease may be interested in reaching such a settlement to get money for medical expenses, to take care of his or her estate, or simply to make a lifelong dream come true, Tracy said.

But the "young industry" already provides many "notorious examples" of unscrupulous dealings, he said.

Tillis used himself as an example of how easily a seriously ill person can be duped.

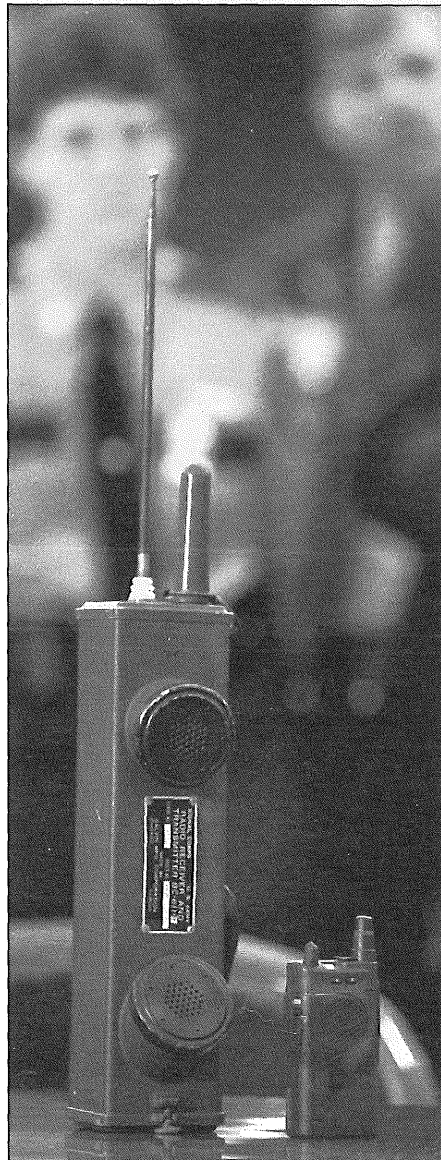
"After I had recovered from an acute illness, I realized I had been taken advantage of," he said. "I thought I should have known better. That alone is testament to the power terminal illness will have upon one's judgment."

Tillis, who had experience in the insurance field before he agreed to his settlement, has since helped form a company, ViatiCare Ltd., that aims to provide fair deals for the terminally ill.

If enacted into law, the bill would take effect Jan. 1, 1996. **HF 217** now moves to the House Governmental Operations Committee.

area's parks, roads, sewage, and other regional systems.

In addition to state dollars, the council receives transportation funding from a combination of sources, including federal appropriations, property tax revenue, and ride fares. The total budget for the next biennium is \$347 million.



Legislation to authorize the construction of a region-wide public safety radio system for government agencies, including emergency responders, in the Twin Cities metropolitan area was introduced at the Capitol Feb. 6. Flanked by law officers and others, Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) and Sen. Ted Mondale (DFL-St. Louis Park) explained that the proposal would allow local units of government to share channels on the 800 megahertz radio band in their two-way radio communications. This would allow different law enforcement agencies to better coordinate their joint efforts. Pictured are examples of the different radios that have been used by local governments.

Of the council's \$93.3 million request, \$52.8 million would fund the Metropolitan Council Transit Operations (formerly the Metropolitan Transit Commission), the agency running the metropolitan area's buses. The state appropriated \$32.8 million to the bus system in the 1994-95 biennium, but costs increased \$14.5 million during the spending period and they continue to climb, Solem said. The system cannot make up the difference with a rate hike, because ridership would decrease, he said. Instead, the council is in the process of cutting 800,000 miles of annual bus service to help cut costs.

The other main component of the funding request is \$31.7 million for Metro Mobility. The transit service provides rides to approximately 24,000 people with disabilities around the Metropolitan area.

For the last biennium, the state appropriated \$29.3 million to Metro Mobility. The transit service effectively collapsed in October 1993 when a new management company began to run the system for the Regional Transit Board. The governor then ordered National Guard members to serve as drivers for Metro Mobility's vans and buses until the system could be stabilized.

The Metropolitan Council, rather than an outside management company, now manages the Metro Mobility program.

Nacho Diaz, manager of the Office of Transportation and Transit Development, told division members ridership fell off after the crisis but then began climbing steadily. From July to December 1994, ridership increased by about 2,000, from 22,000 to 24,000 users, he said.

"That's a significant increase," Diaz said. "With our budget request, we're strictly trying to keep our head above water. Even if the request is met, it's questionable as to whether we'll be able to maintain service levels."

Funding levels for the transportation programs will be determined later in the session.



## TRANSPORTATION

### Transit funding

The Metropolitan Council needs \$93.3 million in state funds to run its transportation programs through the next biennium, Executive Director Jim Solem told members of the House Transportation Finance Division Feb. 7.

The governor has proposed \$89 million in spending for the agency to operate metropolitan area buses and the Metro Mobility program.

Last year, the council absorbed the Metropolitan Transit Commission and the Regional Transit Board under a new state law. The council is also charged with planning and coordinating the development of the Metro

### Busing to the Capitol

If you come to the Capitol during the session, taking the bus might make better sense than trying to park a car. Freeway express bus service is available: Bus number 94B, for example, takes you directly to the Capitol and the State Office Building. Call Metropolitan Council Transit Operations at (612) 373-3333 for route, schedule, fare, and other information.

## Truckin' and drinkin'

A bill that would suspend the commercial drivers' license of a trucker who is arrested for driving under the influence in the family car was given preliminary approval by the House Feb. 1. The vote was 93-29.

Bill sponsor Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka) said the punishment would "level the playing field" by giving a trucker the same punishment an ice cream truck driver or delivery person would face.

But Rep. Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley), who called the bill "a knee-jerk reaction to a very small problem," said truckers should not lose their livelihood because of actions in their personal lives.

According to the Department of Public Safety, 500 commercial vehicle drivers had their personal licenses revoked last year, and 40 people were arrested for driving their commercial vehicles under the influence.

Weaver's bill would require both personal and commercial licenses be taken away for a DWI in a personal vehicle. The licenses would be revoked concurrently for the same duration as a personal license revocation.

First-time DWI offenders lose their licenses for 15 days, second-time offenders for 90 days, and third-time offenders for 180 days. (See Feb. 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11)

HF35 is expected to come before the House for a final vote Feb. 13.

## NOTES

Perhaps county governments have heard Rep. Phyllis Kahn's (DFL-Mpls) repeated attempts to trim the number of Minnesota counties.

Jim Gelbmann, executive director of the Board of Governmental Innovation and Co-operation, told members of the Government Efficiency and Oversight Division of the House Ways and Means Committee Feb. 7 that two pairs of Minnesota counties in different parts of the state are now looking to combine.

One of the board's tasks is to assist in the merging of governmental units.

Gelbmann, who called the move "unprecedented," declined to name the counties for fear it would jeopardize the ongoing negotiations.

## Legislative Commissions

### Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC)

85 State Office Building ..... 297-3697

### LCC Central Accounting

198 State Office Building ..... 296-8890

### Claims (Joint Subcommittee on Claims)

198 State Office Building ..... 296-0099

### Geographic Information Systems

#### (GIS) Oversight Office/Subcommittee

70 State Office Building ..... 296-0098

### Legislative Advisory Commission (LAC)

Fourth Floor, Centennial Office Building

658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 ..... 297-7881

### Audit Commission/Office of

#### Legislative Auditor

First Floor, Centennial Office Building

658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 ..... 296-4708

### Legislative Commission on Children,

#### Youth & Their Families

60 State Office Building ..... 282-6289

### Legislative Commission on the

#### Economic Status of Women

85 State Office Building ..... 296-8590

Toll-free number ..... 1-800-657-3949

### Legislative Commission on

#### Employee Relations

85 State Office Building ..... 296-2963

### Legislative Commission on

#### Health Care Access

375 State Office Building ..... 296-0173\*

G-9 Capitol ..... 296-4261\*

### Legislative Commission on

#### Long Term Health Care

375 State Office Building ..... 296-0173\*

G-9 Capitol ..... 296-4261\*

### Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR)

65 State Office Building ..... 296-2406

### Legislative Commission on

#### Pensions & Retirement

55 State Office Building ..... 296-2750

### Legislative Commission on

#### Planning & Fiscal Policy

90 State Office Building ..... 296-0134

### Legislative Commission to

#### Review Administrative Rules (LCRAR)

55 State Office Building ..... 296-1143

### Legislative Commission on

#### Waste Management (LCWM)

85 State Office Building ..... 297-3604

### Legislative Water Commission

300 Centennial Office Building,

Third Floor, Southwest

658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 ..... 297-7905

### Iron Range Resources &

#### Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)

P.O. Box 441, Highway 53

Eveleth 55734 ..... 218-749-7721

### Mississippi River Parkway Commission

Pioneer Building, Suite 1513

336 Robert St., St. Paul 55101 ..... 224-9903

### Electric Energy Task Force

85 State Office Building ..... 297-3697

### Great Lakes Commission

569 State Office Building ..... 296-2228\*

### State Advisory Council on

#### Metropolitan Airport Planning

G-24 State Capitol ..... 296-3205\*

517 State Office Building ..... 296-5091\*

## Frequently called numbers

### Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol ..... 296-2344

Voice mail/order bills ..... 296-2343

### Chief Clerk of the House

211 Capitol ..... 296-2314

### Index, Senate

110 Capitol ..... 296-2887

### Index, House

211 Capitol ..... 296-6646

### Information, Senate

231 Capitol ..... 296-0504

### Information, House

175 State Office Building ..... 296-2146

Committee Hotline, Senate ..... 296-8088

Committee Hotline, House ..... 296-9283

### Sergeant at Arms, Senate

Senate Chamber ..... 296-7159

### Sergeant at Arms, House

45 State Office Building ..... 296-4860

### Counsel and Research, Senate

G-17 Capitol ..... 296-4791

### Research, House

600 State Office Building ..... 296-6753

### Legislative Reference Library

645 State Office Building ..... 296-3398

### Revisor of Statutes

700 State Office Building ..... 296-2868

### Governor's Office

130 Capitol ..... 296-3391

### Attorney General's Office

102 Capitol ..... 296-6196

### Secretary of State's Office

180 State Office Building ..... 296-3266

### Capitol Security

B-4 Capitol ..... 296-6741

Emergency ..... 296-2100

TDD\* Senate ..... 296-0250

TDD\* House 296-9896 or 1-800-657-3550



# Minnesota's representation in Washington D.C.

## U.S. Senators

### Senator

#### Rod Grams (IR)

2013 Second Ave. N.  
Anoka, MN 55303  
(612) 427-5921  
FAX: (612) 427-8872

### U.S. Senate

261 Dirksen Senate  
Office Building  
Basement 40, Room 3  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-3244  
FAX: (202) 228-0956

### Senator

#### Paul Wellstone (DFL)

Room 100 N.  
2550 University Ave. W.  
St. Paul, MN 55114  
(612) 645-0323  
1-800-642-6041

417 W. Litchfield Ave.  
Willmar, MN 56201  
(612) 231-0001

105 S. Second St.  
Virginia, MN 55792  
(218) 741-1074

### U.S. Senate

717 Hart Senate  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C.  
20510-2303  
(202) 224-5641

## U.S. Representatives

### First District

#### Gil Gutknecht (IR)

1530 Greenview Drive S.W.  
Suite 108  
Rochester, MN 55902  
(507) 252-9841  
1-800-862-8632  
FAX: (507) 252-9915

425 Cannon House  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2472  
FAX: (202) 225-3246

### Second District

#### David Minge (DFL)

542 First St. S.  
Montevideo, MN 56265  
(612) 269-9311  
1-800-453-9392  
FAX: (612) 269-8651

205 E. Fourth St.  
Chaska, MN 55318  
(612) 448-6567  
FAX: (612) 448-6930

938 Fourth Ave.  
Windom, MN 56101  
(507) 831-0115  
FAX: (507) 831-0118

1415 Longworth House  
Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2331  
FAX: (202) 226-0836

### Third District

#### Jim Ramstad (IR)

8120 Penn Ave. S.  
Suite 152  
Bloomington, MN 55431  
(612) 881-4600  
FAX: (612) 881-1943

103 Cannon House  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2871  
FAX: (202) 225-6351

### Fourth District

#### Bruce F. Vento (DFL)

Galtier Plaza, Box 100  
175 E. Fifth St., Room 727  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2901  
(612) 224-4503  
FAX: (612) 224-0575

2304 Rayburn House  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C.  
20515-2304  
(202) 225-6631  
FAX: (202) 225-1968

### Fifth District

#### Martin Olav Sabo (DFL)

462 Federal Courts Building  
110 S. Fourth St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55401  
(612) 348-1649  
FAX: (612) 348-1647

2336 Rayburn House  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4755  
FAX: (202) 225-4886

### Sixth District

#### William P. Luther (DFL)

1811 Weir Drive  
Suite 150  
Woodbury MN 55125  
(612) 730-4949

1419 Longworth House  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2271

### Seventh District

#### Collin Peterson (DFL)

714 Lake Ave.  
Suite 107  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
(218) 847-5056

Minnesota Wheat  
Growers Building  
2600 Wheat Drive  
Red Lake Falls, MN 56750  
(218) 253-4356

110 Second St. S.  
Suite 112  
Waite Park, MN 56387  
(612) 259-0559

1314 Longworth House  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2165  
FAX: (202) 225-1593

### Eighth District

#### James L. Oberstar (DFL)

231 Federal Building  
Duluth, MN 55802  
(218) 727-7474

Brainerd City Hall  
501 Laurel St.  
Brainerd, MN 56401  
(218) 828-4400

13065 Orono Parkway  
Elk River, MN 55330  
(612) 241-0188

Chisholm City Hall  
316 Lake St.  
Chisholm, MN 55719  
(218) 254-5761

2366 Rayburn House  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-6211

## 'If you can get to the Internet, you can get to us'

**T**he 80 miles between Rochester, Minn., and the Minnesota Legislature in St. Paul used to create a major obstacle for Lauri Hassinger.

She'd wait days to receive copies of bills from the Capitol, then spend hours poring over them. She has a personal interest in family law and takes the time to write lawmakers with her opinions.

But beginning in 1994, Hassinger only had to wait minutes to track a child custody bill that she had a personal stake in. From her personal computer, Hassinger monitored legislation via the Internet, or information superhighway, as easily as if she were at the Capitol in St. Paul.

The idea was first pushed by former Rep. Marc Asch of North Oaks. Minnesota is one of several legislatures in recent years to hop on the information superhighway and make available a wide array of legislative information, including the full text of House and Senate bills, *Minnesota Statutes*, committee hearing agendas, House daily journals, and bill-tracking information.

"If you can get to the Internet, you can get to us," says Charlie Fastner, former information systems manager for the House DFL Caucus who now works for the Senate.

With the use of a computer and modem, the public will also soon be able to communicate with most lawmakers through e-mail and obtain brief biographies of each House and Senate member.

"There is no easy way to know what is going on up there [at the State Capitol]," says Hassinger, an employee at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester who uses the Internet about twice a week to look up bills on everything from family law to crime and health care. "It has always been such a maze. But this is a god-send."

And the service has improved for 1995. Only the House was on-line during the 1994 legislative session. But during the interim the Legislative Reference Library spearheaded the drive to organize a variety of legislative information, with the bulk coming from the House Public Information and Senate Publications offices.

Then, with the technical expertise of the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, the information was put on-line. On Oct. 11, 1994, Senate information — and much more data from the House — was added.

The Minnesota Legislature's Gopher is now recognized as one of the best in the country.

On March 16 of this year, the "Legislative Gopher Design Group" will be presented with the "John R. Finnegan Freedom of Information Award," which recognizes Minnesota institutions and individuals who recognize the power of information to effect change.

The goal of the Internet access is to provide as much information as possible in a user-friendly format to increase citizen participation in the legislative process, said Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr. (DFL-Winona), chair of the Select Committee on Technology, which oversees the House's computer operations and Internet access.

### What's on the Gopher?

The following information will be available to the public on the Minnesota House and Senate Legislative Gopher:

- Daily bill and resolution introductions.
- Text of bills and resolutions.
- Bill tracking, so people can track the status of bills as they travel from committees to the House and Senate floors. (Only official House and Senate action is recorded.)
- House Research Department bill summaries. These are often handed out at committee hearings and serve to summarize what a particular bill is designed to do. The summaries often break down a bill by article and section, so people can more easily find out what the various parts of the bill hope to accomplish.
- Final votes on a bill by the House.
- Weekly and daily committee schedules for the House and Senate.
- Biographies of representatives and senators, their committee assignments, and office numbers.
- *Minnesota Statutes*.
- Directions to the Capitol and what services are available upon arrival.
- *People and the Process - A Legislative Study Guide*. This roughly 140-page document is full of lesson plans, information, and activities for junior and senior high school classroom teachers and students.
- *New Laws 1994*. This 141-page publication compiles easy-to-read articles on all the laws passed during a legislative session. It is organized by subject with House file, Senate file, and chapter indexes in the back. It is published every year after each session.
- *Session Weekly* and *Senate Briefly*. These two publications, one published by the House and one by the Senate, come out weekly and contain articles that describe and track the various bills as they travel through each body, respectively.

Rep. Virgil Johnson (IR-Caledonia), vice chair of the Select Committee on Technology, said the Internet access will also benefit the public by making it possible for the Legislature to make better decisions.

Since the Internet contains legislative information from a variety of state legislatures, including information on their bills, laws, and publications, lawmakers and staff can more easily determine what has been tried elsewhere and learn from other state's successes and failures.

"We are part of the United States," said Johnson. "It is kind of stupid to legislate in a vacuum."

Most of the information on the Minnesota Legislature found on the Internet has been available for years in a printed format, but the public had to either come to the Capitol in St. Paul to retrieve it or have it sent by mail, said Grant Moos, director of the House Public Information Office.

"Just about everything we've ever written is, or will be, on the Internet," said Moos, who added that the daily and weekly House schedules are among the most sought after documents.

Internet users can also find out which lawmakers serve on which committees, final vote counts on bills, answers to frequently asked questions about the Legislature, and even directions on how to get to the Capitol.

In addition, the 1994 House and Senate rules are on-line (the rules for the 1995-96 session have not yet been adopted), as well as easy to-read summaries of what was approved by the 1994 Legislature, what was vetoed, and what simply died.

"It's so unbelievably helpful to people," said Marilyn Cathcart, director of the Legislative Reference Library. She said people frequently call her and say thanks for making it available.

Although assembling the information for the Internet was a lot of work, nearly everyone involved with the project says it will pay off in the long run because so much information is now organized in a way that it will be easy to find.

"The best spirit of collaboration led to the Legislature joining the Internet," said Cathcart.

Fastner, who helped establish the electronic hookup, says the Internet finally gives the public equal footing with lobbyists when it comes to following legislation.

Internet access . . .

## Like bringing electricity to farms in Greater Minnesota

Farm families have long turned to the Minnesota Extension Service for information, whether it be on "Dead Turkey Handling" or "Making Fresh-Pack Pickles."

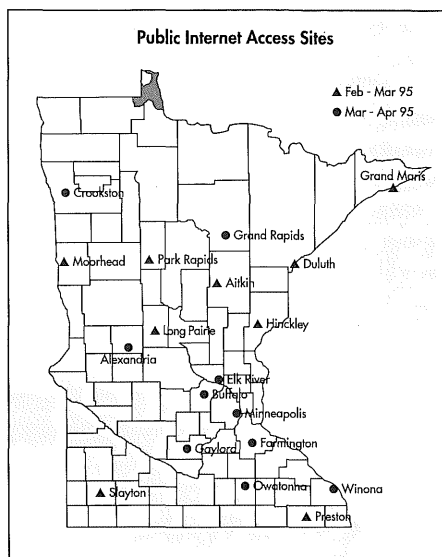
Now those Minnesota families — from Crookston in the northwest to Winona in the southeast — can turn to their local county extension office, school, or library to tap yet another vein of information: access to the Internet, or information superhighway.

Beginning this month, three sites in Greater Minnesota (Alexandria, Crookston, and Duluth) will make computers available so out-state folks will get an easier chance to see first-hand what the Internet is all about.

Every month thereafter, additional seven sites will be added until a total of 60 “community access centers” are established over the next nine months under the Access Minnesota program.

"I think the desire to have it is very big," said Rae Montgomery, an extension educator at the University of Minnesota who is helping coordinate the project. "For many people these sites will be a first introduction to the Internet."

The \$1.5 million project is funded in part by a \$425,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The rest of the support came primarily from the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Extension Service and the state Department of Administration's MNet.



It is hoped that the sites, which will be selected based on community interest, readiness, and technical considerations, will serve as a catalyst to help revitalize Greater Minnesota.

And although private individuals and businesses won't be able to hook up to these Internet sites, at least one private company is bringing the Internet to Greater Minnesota.

Nearly 300 Minnesota communities—from Ada to Zumbrota Falls — are now able to connect to the Internet through a local telephone call, which eliminated the costly long-

distance charges that were required in the past.

The local connection was made possible through a joint effort of numerous independent telephone companies that formed the Plymouth-based MEANS Inc. with the idea of bringing modern telecommunications service to rural Minnesota.

"Throughout the state people are absolutely thrilled that it's a local telephone call," said Julie Beaton, the marketing manager for Polaris Telcom, which is the marketing arm of MEANS Inc.

She explained that most of the 64 independent Minnesota telephone companies that are participating in the project charge about \$12.95 per month for up to 10 hours of Internet connect time.

Interested people would also need a software package to get connected such as the one offered by Fergus Falls-based Communicating for America, which is \$75 per year, said Beaton. But any software program, such as Gopher developed by the University of Minnesota (which is free for non-commercial purposes), will work.

The local connect charges for Internet access are roughly comparable to those offered by many private on-line services that are available in larger metropolitan areas.

And bringing that access to Greater Minnesota has led some to compare the Internet connection of the 1990s to the rural electrification projects of the 1930s and 1940s.

## Greater Minnesota sites that now have direct connection to the Internet

Greater Minnesota sites that now have direct connection to the Internet						
Ada	Clarissa	Freeborn	Houston	Millona	Pelican Rapids	Thief River Falls
Akeley/Nevis	Clearbrook	Freeport	Huntley	Minerva	Perham	Twin Valley
Albany	Climax	Frost	Hutchinson	Minnesota Lake	Perley	Ulen
Alexandria	Crookston	Garfield	Karlstad	Mission	Peterson	Underwood
Ashby	Crosby-Ironton	Gary	Kasson	Monticello	Pierz	Upsala
Avon	Crosslake	Gatzke	Kelliher	Moorhead	Pillager	Urbank
Badger	Dakota	Glendorado	Kimball	Morristown	Pine Island	Vergas
Bagley	Dalton	Gonvik	LaCrescent	Motley	Plummer	Vernsdale
Barnesville	Deer Creek	Goodridge	Lake	Newfolden	Preston	Viking
Battle Lake	Deer River	Grand Rapids	Lake Benton	New Munich	Princeton	Wadena
Baudette	Delavan	Granger	Lake Bronson	New Prague	Randall	Walcott
Becker	Dent	Great Bend	Lancaster	New York Mills	Red Lake Falls	Walker
Beltrami	Detroit Lakes	Greenbush	Lanesboro	Nielsville	Richmond	Wannaska
Bertha	Donaldson	Greenwald	Langby	Nimrod	Rochester	Warroad
Bertha/Hewitt	Eagle Bend	Grey Eagle	Leonard	Nokay Lake	Rock Dell	Watkins
Big Lake	Easton	Grygla	Lincoln	Northome	Roosevelt	Waubun
Blackduck	Eden Valley	Gully	Little Falls	Northwest Angle	Roseau	Wells
Blue Earth	Elitzen	Hallock	Longville	Ogema/White Earth	Rushford	Whipholt
Brainerd	Elgin	Halma	Maine	Oklee	Sebek	Williams
Brandon	Elmore	Halstad	Malung	Oronoco	Shelly	Winger
Breckenridge	Emily	Hancock	Mantorville	Osage	Shevlin	Winnebago
Bricelyn	Erhard	Hendrum	McIntosh	Osage/Ponsford	Silver Lake	Wolf Lake
Brooks	Erskine	Henning	Melrose	Osakis	Squaw Lake	Wolverton
Brownsville	Evansville	Hokah	Menahga	Ostrander	St Charles	Zimmerman
Buffalo	Eyota	Holdingford	Mentor	Ottertail	St Cloud	Zumbrota Falls
Bygland	Fargo	Holmes City	Middle River	Outing	St Hilaire	
Byron	Faribault	Holt	Millerville	Parkers Prairie	St Martin	Source:
Caledonia	Fergus Falls				Staples	Polaris Telcom
Campbell	Fertile				Stevens	
Canton	Fisher				Stewartville	
Carlos	Flom				Strandquist	
Chatfield	Fosston				Strathcona	

These Greater Minnesota sites can now access the Internet with a local telephone call through Polaris Telcom. More outstate sites may have local telephone access through a different system. For more information, see the Q & A section on page 17.



# Q & A

## Q: What is the Internet?

A: The Internet is an international network of computers first created by the federal government in the late 1960s as a way to connect the computers of researchers working with the military. Since then, this computer network has grown to include university, government, research, and commercial computers throughout the world.

## Q: How do I connect to the Internet?

A: If you can get an account on a computer at an Internet site, you are all set to hook up to the Legislature's electronic information center.

Without this direct access, however, you must buy a connection to a commercial service that has a "gateway" onto the Internet and have a modem on your computer to connect to the telephone line. The University of Minnesota Alumni Association (612-624-2323) offers a low-cost access package, but many people subscribe to services such as America Online (1-800-827-6364) or E-World (1-800-775-4556). Some of these popular commercial services charge a flat monthly fee (as little as \$10 per month for basic services) or charge subscribers only for the time they spend connected to the service's computers.

## Q: Do I have to pay for a long-distance call to get connected?

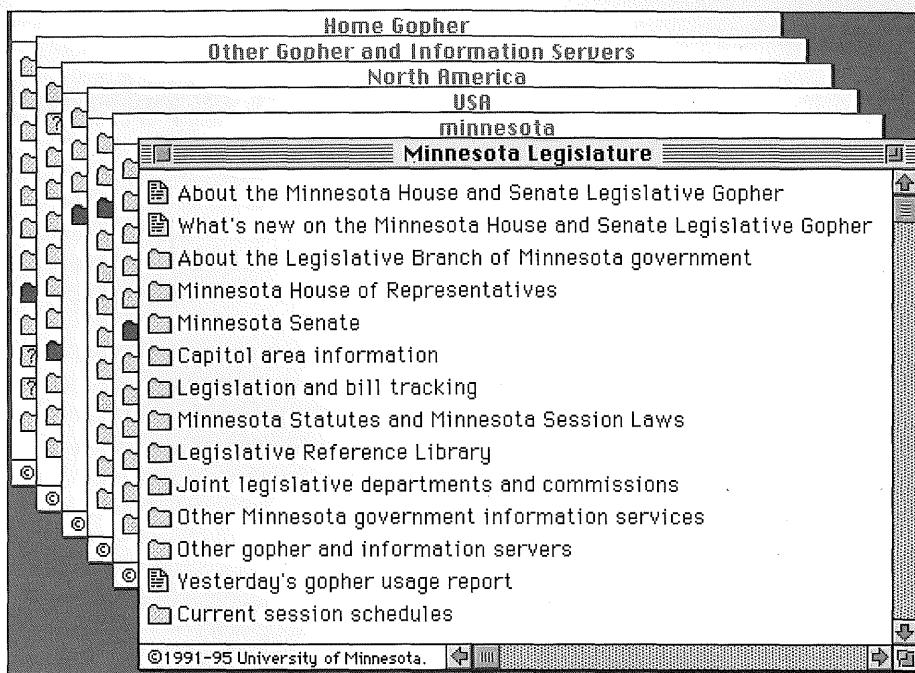
A: No, not if you live in the Twin Cities metropolitan area or several other areas of the state. (See related article on page 16). For more information about Internet access in Greater Minnesota, call Plymouth-based Polaris Telcom at (612) 230-4412 or 1-800-944-1492.

## Q: Once I'm connected, how do I find Minnesota legislative information?

A: To find the Minnesota Legislature, you must be sure your Internet connection has access to Gopher, a system of connections to various databases. Not all commercial services have full Gopher capabilities, so investigate before you sign up with one. (The *Gopher* is so named because computer scientists at the University of Minnesota developed it and because its job is to go *fer* information.)

Once you connect to Gopher, a menu of options will appear on your computer screen. To navigate your way to the House information files, you must select the following menu items in this order: Other Gopher, North America, USA, Minnesota, Minnesota Legislature.

When you open up the Minnesota Legislature file, you will have access to all the information described in the accompanying ar-



Internet surfers with gopher client software should take the above route from the Home Gopher Server to get to the Minnesota Legislature.

cles and more. You can now begin your electronic perusal of legislative activity.

## Q: How do I connect to the Minnesota Legislature with gopher client software?

A: Point your gopher client to [gopher.revisor.leg.state.mn.us](http://gopher.revisor.leg.state.mn.us) (Port 70)

## Q: If I don't have gopher client software, how can I telnet to connect?

A: Telnet to the University of Minnesota Gopher at [consultant.micro.umn.edu](http://consultant.micro.umn.edu), and login: gopher. Or, via dial access, 612-626-2400, access>[consultant.micro.umn.edu](http://consultant.micro.umn.edu), and login: gopher.

## Q: How can I connect to the Minnesota Legislature though America OnLine?

A: Click on the "Go To" menu at the top of the screen, then scroll down to "keyword." Type as a keyword: Internet, then click on the gopher icon. Scroll through these successive menus: Government and Politics, Govt. Center at Twin Cities Free Net, and Minnesota Legislature.

## Q: How do I track a bill on the Internet?

A: From the main menu of the House and Senate Legislative Gopher, select Legislation and bill tracking. Then select How to follow a bill using this gopher. This file explains the process in great detail.

## Q: Where does all this information come from?

A: The information provided on the Minne-

sota Legislature's Gopher is a collaborative effort involving several legislative offices. Most of the information exists in printed form, but has never before been gathered in one place. A majority of the information has been compiled by the House Public Information Office and the Senate Publications Office. Others providing information include the Chief Clerk's Office, the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, the Legislative Reference Library, and the House Research Department.

## Q: Why isn't this or that there?

A: Please remember, this gopher server is a work in progress. It represents an enormous amount of work by several staff people; no additional staff was hired to work on the project. Eventually full search capabilities will exist to make portions of *Minnesota Statutes* and bills easier to locate. Bills also will be sorted by author and topic, but these options are not yet available. Questions or comments on the content of the gopher can be E-mailed to: [refdesk@library.leg.state.mn.us](mailto:refdesk@library.leg.state.mn.us).

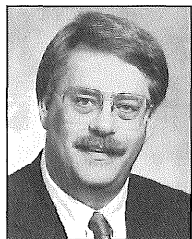
## Q: Do House and Senate members have E-mail addresses?

A: Yes, all House members and some senators have E-mail addresses. A complete list of addresses will be published in a future issue of the *Session Weekly*. For a list of some E-mail addresses for House members, go to the House of Representatives folder on the main menu, then select Member Information. The E-mail addresses are listed there.

New members . . .

## Lake City talk show host airs agenda in House

This is Rep. Mike Osskopp's (IR-Lake City) first term as a legislator, but he's been here before.



Rep. Mike Osskopp

"I'm not a complete rookie to the House because I've hung around here as a journalist," Osskopp said.

Since 1991, Osskopp, using his radio name, Mike Ryan, has been a mainstay on KDWA in Hastings, Minn. In that role, Osskopp trod the Capitol beat for his radio station and for the Minnesota News Network, which shares news for an affiliation of radio stations. For the past three years, he also has hosted a conservative radio talk show which, he boasts, received higher ratings than the Rush Limbaugh show for their relative radio listening markets.

Guests on his show included Rep. Jerry Dempsey (IR-Hastings), House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon) and Rep. Kevin Knight (IR-Bloomington). When then-Rep. Bob Waltman (IR-Elgin) announced his retirement, Osskopp's radio guests thought he had a shot at winning the open legislative seat.

"So I talked about it with my wife and here I am," Osskopp said. He announced his candidacy in December 1993 and couldn't work during his campaign. He's now on leave. His radio show may be resumed after session, depending on how busy he is with legislative duties.

"I've worked six weeks in the past year, the six weeks after I was elected," he said.

Osskopp faced a strange problem after his

decision to run: because KDWA's radio waves didn't permeate his home district, no one knew his name there. And, while his talk show brought him popularity in Dempsey's district, residents there recognized only his radio name, Mike Ryan.

But Osskopp has always been involved in local community affairs. Eight years ago he started a Lake City branch of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). The national organization, founded in the 1950s, uses professional athletes to talk to high school athletes about Christian values. The program also serves as a youth ministry program in a town that doesn't have youth pastors in any churches, Osskopp said.

The FCA is now thriving in Lake City. Many people who know him from his work with that organization acted as delegates to the IR nominating convention, said Osskopp, who faced five other contenders for the IR endorsement as well as a primary challenger.

Osskopp holds the FCA in such high esteem because he worked with the organization during his stint as a professional golfer. He turned pro between his junior and senior years of high school in Milwaukee. To earn Professional Golf Association status he apprenticed for three years at a Denver country club. That's where he met his wife, Monica, who is a Lake City native. He then toured from 1976 through 1980, but didn't make a lot of money.

"I starved," Osskopp said of the time.

He later landed a job at a Milwaukee banking firm and eventually transferred to a job in St. Paul and settled in Lake City. They have two children, Jeniffer, 14, and Tom, 11.

Osskopp's conservative political views were well known to his listeners. So it was no surprise that he emphasized government accountability and property tax reform during his campaign.

"It appears those things will be like moving mountains," Osskopp said. "But my district has one of the largest senior populations in the state. These people are really being hurt. Some are being forced from their homes due to rising property taxes."

He also thinks politicians need to become more accountable to the constituents they serve.

"I want to put the trust back into mainstream government. When I was in high school, politicians and pastors were the people you trusted the most. Now they're not. Neither is the media. I work as a journalist, too, so I get a triple whammy," he said.

Now, he said, he wants to do everything he can to earn his constituents' respect.

— Jean Thilmany

### District 29B

**Population:** 32,761  
**Distribution:** 21.94 percent urban; 78.06 percent rural  
**Counties:** Goodhue, Wabasha  
**Largest city:** Lake City  
**Location:** southeastern Minnesota  
**Unemployment rate:** 4.47 percent  
**Residents living below poverty level:** 8.28 percent  
**1992 presidential election results:**  
Bush/Quayle ..... 33.05 percent  
Clinton/Gore ..... 35.65 percent  
Perot/Stockdale ..... 28.80 percent  
Other: ..... 2.50 percent

### Minnesota State Agencies

Agriculture ..... 297-2200  
Commerce ..... 296-4026  
Corrections ..... 642-0200  
Education ..... 296-6104  
Employee Relations ..... 297-1184  
Job Information ..... 296-2616  
Finance ..... 296-5900  
Gaming  
Gambling Control Division .. 639-4000  
MN State Lottery Division .... 635-8100  
Toll Free ..... 1-800-475-4000  
MN Racing Commission ..... 341-7555  
Health ..... 623-5000  
Human Rights ..... 296-5663  
Toll Free ..... 1-800-657-3704

Human Services ..... 296-6117  
Economic Security ..... 296-3711  
Labor and Industry ..... 296-6107  
Military Affairs ..... 282-4662  
Natural Resources ..... 296-6157  
Public Safety ..... 296-6642  
Driver and Vehicle Services .. 296-6911  
Fire Marshal ..... 643-3080  
Liquor Control ..... 296-6159  
State Patrol ..... 297-3935  
Pollution Control ..... 296-6300  
Public Service ..... 296-7107

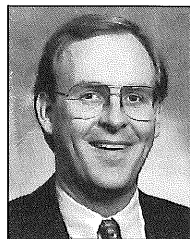
Revenue  
Taxpayer Assistance ..... 296-3781  
Toll Free ..... 1-800-652-9094  
Trade and Econ. Development 297-1291  
Office of Tourism ..... 296-5029  
Transportation ..... 296-3000  
Veterans Affairs ..... 296-2562  
**State Information ..... 296-6013**

House Information ..... 296-2146  
Senate Information ..... 296-0504

New members . . .

## Entenza focuses on 'education, education, education'

Involvement in neighborhood politics provided the springboard for Rep. Matt Entenza's (DFL-St. Paul) legislative candidacy.



Rep. Matt Entenza

Entenza, who is originally from Worthington, Minn., attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D., then Macalester College in St. Paul. After several years of graduate work at Oxford University and teaching high school in

England, he returned to his old St. Paul neighborhood.

His affection for the neighborhood and the birth of his three children strengthened his resolve to work on grassroots issues. He worked as a volunteer and served on the board of the Mississippi Market Co-op in St. Paul.

While serving on the Merriam Park Community Council, he became involved in many issues, including those of planning, city budget, zoning, environment, and economic development.

He says political experience at the local level — on a community council or school board — is good preparation for the Legislature.

"You see what people's daily lives are like and what people need and what they don't need," he said. "You get a more practical view."

And in addition to experience with local politics, Entenza is also no stranger to state politics — particularly when it comes to issues involving health care. He is married to Lois Quam, who has been a key player in the shaping of state health care policy for several years.

Entenza succeeds former Rep. Kathleen Vellenga, who most recently chaired the K-

12 Education Finance Division and was one of the most respected members of the Legislature.

Entenza considers himself lucky as a first-term legislator to be appointed to that committee. He vows to carry on Vellenga's legislative priorities: "education, education, and education."

"Education funding and fairer education financing were the key issues for me," Entenza said. "That wasn't the only issue but that's really the issue I talked about consistently through the whole campaign."

"I'd like to see that [the schools] are funded fairly, so that kids from poorer communities get the same education as children who live in wealthier communities."

He is also concerned about the soaring cost of St. Paul schools, which translates into burdensome property taxes for homeowners in his district.

His St. Paul constituents are well-educated and well-informed, said Entenza. Half of them are renters, many living in the apartments along Grand Avenue. The district includes three colleges: Macalester, Concordia, and the University of St. Thomas.

In addition to the many college students, the district also has many senior citizens, he said.

"It's a district that will support a candidate who's trying to look at the bigger picture," he said, adding that most support the effort to look after the "overall health of the metropolitan area."

Entenza backs the thrust of proposals offered by Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) that would allow the inner cities to share some of the wealth of the more affluent suburbs.

"In the scheme of things, my district is doing relatively well," Entenza said. "But if

the east side of St. Paul or Minneapolis is not doing well, that ultimately affects us."

Before his election to the House, Entenza worked in the Minnesota Attorney General's Office from 1990 to 1993 prosecuting fraudulent telemarketers who were "ripping off" vulnerable citizens. That experience provides a solid footing for his current position as chair of the Consumer Affairs Subcommittee of the House Commerce, Tourism, and Consumer Affairs Committee.

"It was a great white hat job. It was loads of fun because they were all people who couldn't believe they were being sued," Entenza recalls. The con artists he went after — many posing as fund raisers for charitable causes — "felt really invincible."

He recalled "a fake minister out of Texas" who set himself up as the trustee for families with children who needed organ transplants. "He stole almost a million bucks," Entenza said. The man was sued and several families got their money back. Unfortunately, about 50 other families around the country never saw their money again.

— Mordecai Spektor

### District 64A

**Population:** 32,735  
**Distribution:** 100 percent urban  
**County:** Ramsey  
**Largest city:** St. Paul  
**Location:** urban Metro  
**Unemployment rate:** 3.90 percent  
**Residents living below poverty level:** 9.15 percent  
**1992 presidential election results:**  
Bush/Quayle ..... 21.17 percent  
Clinton/Gore ..... 62.54 percent  
Perot/Stockdale ..... 14.56 percent  
Other: ..... 1.73 percent

It seemed like a good idea back in the 1970s to put breath-alcohol testing devices in bars. Patrons could drop in a coin, blow in the tube, and find out if they were too sloshed to drive themselves home.

But instead of deterring inebriates from getting behind the wheel of a car, the machines turned into a drinking game. According to University of Minnesota Law School professor Steve Simon, drinkers had contests

to see who could register the highest reading on the devices, which typically display a white, yellow, and orange light to reflect blood-alcohol concentration levels.

Simon, who chairs the Legislature's DWI



Task Force, told members of the House Judiciary Finance Committee recently that bar owners realized that they had better remove the devices or face a lawsuit.

The 1991 Legislature barred people from successfully suing a bar that has a breath-alcohol testing device for any liability resulting from such a test provided a variety of conditions are met.



# Bill Introductions

HF401-HF530

## Monday, February 6

### HF401—Rukavina (DFL)

#### Labor-Management Relations

Minimum wage increased and adjustment provided based on the consumer price index.

### HF402—Rukavina (DFL)

#### International Trade & Economic Development

Affirmative Enterprise Program expiration date repealed.

### HF403—Otremba (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Todd County tax forfeited land sale authorized.

### HF404—Peterson (DFL)

#### Labor-Management Relations

Employers required to grant paid leaves to employees donating blood.

### HF405—Simoneau (DFL)

#### Education

School enrichment partnership program established, matching funds provided, revenue use specified, and money appropriated.

### HF406—Luther (DFL)

#### Judiciary Finance

Undercover buy fund and witness and victim protection fund biennial reports required.

### HF407—Osskopp (IR)

#### Health & Human Services

Day training and residential services for persons with developmental disabilities and serious mental illness funding system established, competitive bidding process implemented, and advisory committee established.

### HF408—Cooper (DFL)

#### Transportation & Transit

Motor carrier driver physical examination and certification by licensed physicians, osteopaths, and chiropractors authorized.

### HF409—Tunheim (DFL)

#### Education

Interactive television revenue increased for certain combined or consolidated school districts.

### HF410—Winter (DFL)

#### Agriculture

Crop disaster insurance program designed and established, and money appropriated.

### HF411—Bertram (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Early retirement option provided temporarily for certain teacher retirement association members.

### HF412—Bertram (DFL)

#### Education

Community colleges, state universities, and technical colleges required to use construction plans prepared through the Department of Administration.

### HF413—Wenzel (DFL)

#### Transportation & Transit

Trunk Highway No. 131, marked Trunk Highway No. 115, named and designated as Veterans Memorial Highway.

### HF414—Peterson (DFL)

#### Labor-Management Relations

Businesses receiving state financial assistance required to pay a living wage.

### HF415—Huntley (DFL)

#### Labor-Management Relations

Minimum wage increased and adjustment provided based on the consumer price index.

### HF416—Skoglund (DFL)

#### Transportation & Transit

License plate issuance provided to certain persons subject to an impoundment order.

### HF417—Luther (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services

Public assistance payments paid directly to battered womens shelters, battered woman definition modified, and appeals and payment requests directed to Department of Human Services commissioner.

### HF418—Hackbarth (IR)

#### Judiciary

Child support order modification grounds established by existence of other children.

### HF419—Pellow (IR)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Pollution Control Agency required to meet with affected party prior to issuance of an administrative penalty order.

### HF420—Jennings (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Municipal drainage authorities required to maintain town road bridges and culverts constructed on drainage systems.

### HF421—Smith (IR)

#### Judiciary

Noncustodial parent child care authorized in certain cases.

### HF422—Osskopp (IR)

#### Financial Institutions & Insurance

Comprehensive Health Insurance Association lifetime benefit limit increased.

### HF423—Van Engen (IR)

#### Judiciary

DWI; snowmobile, motorboat, and all-terrain vehicle forfeiture provided for violation of certain driving while intoxicated offenses, and vehicle forfeiture law expanded.

### HF424—Hasskamp (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

### HF425—Hugoson (IR)

#### Agriculture

Farm corporation land use and ownership restrictions removed.

### HF426—Simoneau (DFL)

#### Transportation & Transit

Parking violation delinquent fine notification, recording, and collection system established; vehicle registration prohibited pending parking violation fine payment; parking violation warrant issuance prohibited; and fee imposed.

### HF427—McCollum (DFL)

#### Education

Elementary and secondary education trust fund established in state treasury, and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF428—Jacobs (DFL)

#### Regulated Industries & Energy

Domestic hydropower purchase credits by utilities allowed; biomass and wind power mandate provisions modified; and preferred generation source provisions modified.

### HF429—Ness (IR)

#### Labor-Management Relations

Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

### HF430—Vickerman (IR)

#### Labor-Management Relations

Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

**HF431—Orfield (DFL)****Taxes**

Metropolitan area property tax equalization provided.

**HF432—Sykora (IR)****Health & Human Services**

Child abuse investigation liability provisions modified, attorney fees provided, abuse investigation protocols established, and data access provided.

**HF433—Winter (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Windom tax increment financing district exempted from certain restrictions.

**HF434—Carlson (DFL)****Education**

General education formula allowance increased, and money appropriated.

**HF435—Jacobs (DFL)****Regulated Industries & Energy**

Gas utility performance-based gas purchasing regulation authorized.

**HF436—Ostrom (DFL)****Education**

Independent School District No. 2397, Le Sueur-Henderson, provided a levy adjustment.

**HF437—Johnson, V. (IR)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Environment and natural resources and agricultural appropriations provided for: natural disaster relief purposes, school land administration, and petroleum tank release assistance.

**HF438—Sykora (IR)****Education**

Higher education system merger implementation delayed.

**HF439—Onnen (IR)****Transportation & Transit**

Alternative fuel vehicle permit fee partial refund allowed, and money appropriated.

**HF440—Winter (DFL)****Agriculture**

Horse feed and bedding exempted from sales tax.

**HF441—Jennings (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs**

Business license electronic filing and retrieval provided, and money appropriated.

**HF442—Swenson, D. (IR)****Judiciary Finance**

Public defense, criminal justice, corrections, and judicial appropriations provided.

**HF443—Dempsey (IR)****Capital Investment**

Bond issuance provided for acquisition and betterment of public land and buildings, and money appropriated.

**HF444—Van Dellen (IR)****Education**

Student disciplinary sanctions related to speech limited, and civil cause of action provided.

**HF445—Skoglund (DFL)****Judiciary Finance**

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Criminal Assessment Program enhancements provided, and money appropriated.

**HF446—Leppik (IR)****Health & Human Services**

Acupuncture practitioner licensure by Board of Medical Practice established, and rules and penalties provided.

**HF447—Winter (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Wastewater Infrastructure Funding Program expanded to include municipal grants.

**HF448—Kelley (DFL)****Judiciary**

Tenant screening services authorized to report court record information related to unlawful detainer filings.

**HF449—Mulder (IR)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Pipestone County bond issuance authorized for county courthouse repair.

**HF450—Pelowski (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Soil and water conservation district supervisors authorized to hold certain city or town offices.

**HF451—Knobloch (IR)****Rules & Legislative Administration**

Tenth Amendment; federal government memorialized to conform to the limits expressed by the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

**HF452—Kelley (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Physician assistants registered by the Board of Medical Practice, and rules and penalties provided.

**HF453—Weaver (IR)****Judiciary**

Parenting and ethics education curricula established; disruptive students barred from open enrollment program; school buffer zones established; lengthened school year repeal removed; tort liability limit increased; and money appropriated.

**Thursday, February 9****HF454—Wejcman (DFL)****Judiciary Finance**

Inmate wages used to pay room and board charges, and mandatory savings eliminated.

**HF455—Wejcman (DFL)****Judiciary Finance**

Inmate wage deduction provisions modified.

**HF456—Hasskamp (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area appropriated money for operation and maintenance.

**HF457—Perl (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Mortgage loan negotiator and mortgage broker regulatory provisions modified.

**HF458—Wejcman (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Children and education services department established, and money appropriated.

**HF459—Lourey (DFL)****Education**

Independent School District No. 588, Askov, capital loan discharge provided, and school district maximum debt service levy provisions modified.

**HF460—Entenza (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Department of Commerce service of orders regulated and enforcement powers modified, and notaries public regulated.

**HF461—Wagenius (DFL)****Taxes**

Senior citizen's property tax deferral program established.

**HF462—Trimble (DFL)****General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Minors 16 years of age or older allowed to vote in school district elections, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF463—Johnson, R. (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

State trooper retirement contribution rates and annuity formulas modified.

**HF464—Mahon (DFL)****Transportation & Transit**

License plate impoundment limited to self-propelled motor vehicles.

**HF465—Pugh (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

West St. Paul city attorney authorized to participate in a retirement incentive program.

- HF466—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
 Nursing home moratorium exception provided, and total replacement rates established.
- HF467—Wejman (DFL)**  
**Housing**  
 Housing inspection cause of action for damages limited.
- HF468—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
 Koochiching County tax forfeited land sale authorized.
- HF469—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
 Uniform Condominium Act; attorney fee award provided.
- HF470—Orfield (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
 Uniform conflict of laws-limitations act adopted.
- HF471—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
 Seat belt violations; peace officers authorized to stop drivers and issue citations for seat belt violations without first observing a moving violation.
- HF472—Van Dellen (IR)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
 Term limits; legislative and executive service limited and constitutional amendment proposed.
- HF473—Trimble (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
 Human development center established, and money appropriated for planning and development.
- HF474—Commers (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
 Dakota County authorized to sell certain tax-forfeited land to Eagan.
- HF475—Rhodes (IR)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
 School district general elections held annually.
- HF476—Knoblach (IR)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
 Bank and trust company annual financial statement publishing requirements eliminated.
- HF477—McCollum (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
 Trunk Highway No. 36 in North St. Paul pedestrian-bicycle overpass construction required.
- HF478—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
 Annuity increment provided to certain teachers based on the difference between certain teacher salaries and average metropolitan area school district teacher salaries.
- HF479—Bakk (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
 State park additions and state wayside deletions provided.
- HF480—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
 Insurer bad faith remedy and cause of action provided.
- HF481—Marko (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
 Osteoporosis prevention and treatment program established, and money appropriated.
- HF482—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
 Recreational trailer three year registration option provided.
- HF483—Pellow (IR)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
 County commissioner salaries limited, and other compensation and conditions of service modified.
- HF484—Paulsen (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
 Correctional guard HIV exposure notification provisions modified.
- HF485—Winter (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
 Waste combustor operation permitted by Pollution Control Agency in certain cases.
- HF486—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Agriculture**  
 Value-Added Agricultural Product Loan Program eligibility expanded, and money appropriated.
- HF487—Pelowski (DFL)**  
**Education**  
 State university and college library appropriations exempted from the one-third debt service requirement.
- HF488—Cooper (DFL)**  
**Ways & Means**  
 Petroleum tank release cleanup fund site assessment payment provided prior to tank removal.
- HF489—Cooper (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
 Uncertified boarding care home defined, and county payment rate changed.
- HF490—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
 Nursing home moratorium exception provisions modified.
- HF491—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
 Long-term care facility ancillary service provisions modified.
- HF492—Lourey (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
 Long-term care facility payment provisions modified.
- HF493—Jefferson (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
 Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund health insurance administrative provisions modified.
- HF494—Bertram (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
 Milk truck length limitations extended and weight restrictions eased.
- HF495—Workman (IR)**  
**Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance**  
 Department of Transportation and Department of Public Safety appropriated money.
- HF496—Kraus (IR)**  
**Education**  
 School district superintendent past buyout arrangement disclosure required.
- HF497—Anderson, R. (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
 Medical Assistance noninstitutionalized patient monthly allowance deduction provisions modified.
- HF498—Dauner (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
 Clay County authorized to issue an on-sale intoxicating liquor license.
- HF499—Wejman (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
 Prescription drug price negotiation authority granted to Department of Administration commissioner, statewide drug formulary established, and pharmacists required to post signs relating to generic drug substitution.
- HF500—Abrams (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
 Legislative regular session meetings in even-numbered years required to begin on the fourth Tuesday in March, and constitutional amendment proposed.



**HF501—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
Comprehensive Health Association disabled enrollees covered by Medicare premiums regulated.

**HF502—Winter (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Town road, bridge, or culvert projects exempt from Pollution Control Agency permit fees.

**HF503—Bishop (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Water supply systems and wastewater treatment facilities classified and operators certified by Department of Health and Pollution Control Agency, and money appropriated.

**HF504—McCollum (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Park, recreation area, and natural and scenic area grants provided to school districts and municipalities.

**HF505—Olson, E. (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Independent School District No. 36, Kelliher, capital loan approved, money appropriated, and bonds issued.

**HF506—Clark (DFL)**  
**Housing**  
Lead abatement provisions modified and recodified, and money appropriated.

**HF507—Koppendrayner (IR)**  
**Education**  
Education finance appropriations bill.

**HF508—Onnen (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Health and human services public assistance provisions modified, program integrity provided, child support enforcement modified, health care finance and administration modified, and money appropriated.

**HF509—Clark (DFL)**  
**Housing**  
Affordable home investment account established, and money appropriated.

**HF510—Clark (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Pesticide poisoning treatment included as an emergency service for general assistance medical care eligibility purposes, pesticide poisoning reporting and education required, and money appropriated.

**HF511—Lourey (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Senior Citizen Nutrition Program reporting required, funding increased for congregate dining and home-delivered meals, and money appropriated.

**HF512—Koppendrayner (IR)**  
**Taxes**  
Local government property tax aid provided for property exempted due to Bureau of Indian Affairs action, and money appropriated.

**HF513—Cooper (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Nursing home moratorium exception provided.

**HF514—Rest (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Municipal Board composition provisions modified.

**HF515—Rest (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Local government incorporation, detachment, and annexation authority transferred to the Office of Strategic and Long-Range planning and the Office of Administrative Hearings, and money appropriated.

**HF516—Lourey (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Managed care health plans required to provide certain enrollees with expanded geographic access to primary care physician services.

**HF517—Rest (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Education Now and Babies Later (ENABL) teen pregnancy reduction program established, and money appropriated.

**HF518—Rest (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Dependent care income tax provisions modified.

**HF519—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Nursing facility subacute care definition provided, and rule waivers sought by Department of Human Services and Department of Health commissioners.

**HF520—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Jenkins Act; Congress memorialized to amend the Jenkins Act to require tobacco tax information report filing and increase related penalties.

**HF521—Sviggum (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
State department and legislative appropriations provided.

**HF522—Swenson, D. (IR)**  
**Judiciary Finance**  
Bomb Disposal Unit and Hazardous Material Response Team member reimbursement provided, tort claims and workers' compensation provisions clarified, and money appropriated.

**HF523—Erhardt (IR)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Canada; Minnesota-Ontario fish importation restrictions removed.

**HF524—Larsen (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
McGruff Program safe houses renamed McGruff houses.

**HF525—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Public assistance provider hearings permitted, state agency hearing conduct modified, medical assistance prior authorization requirements modified, and prior authorization advisory task force established.

**HF526—Trimble (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Waste management and treatment procedures modified in unincorporated areas.

**HF527—Mariani (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Telecommunication Access for Communication Impaired Persons (TACIP) Board equipment recipient eligibility requirements modified.

**HF528—Mariani (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Telecommunication Access for Communication Impaired Persons (TACIP) Board equipment eligibility restricted for persons in residential care facilities where suitable telephone service is provided.

**HF529—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Eminent domain notice of pendency provisions modified.

**HF530—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Baseball; Congress memorialized to repeal baseball's antitrust exemption and to create a publicly appointed board to govern baseball.

Coming Up Next Week . . . Feb. 13 - 17, 1995

# Committee Schedule

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

## MONDAY, Feb. 13

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Briefings by Workers' Compensation  
Court of Appeals, Mediation Services, Electric-  
ity Board.

### K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Public testimony on the Governor's  
recommendation for a Department of Children  
and Education Services. If necessary, finish  
Article 3 (Special Education).

8:30 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Minnesota Department of Agriculture  
budget presentation, Elton Redalen, commis-  
sioner; William Oemichen, deputy commis-  
sioner.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Continuation of the Governor's bud-  
get recommendations for Minnesota Depart-  
ment of Human Services. Community mental  
health and state operated services. Economic  
self-sufficiency.

9:45 a.m.

### AGRICULTURE

Tour  
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

**Agenda:** Tour of the Minnesota Department of  
Agriculture. (Group will depart from the east  
doors of the State Office Building at 9:45 a.m.)

Tour begins at 10 a.m. Please R.S.V.P. to com-  
mittee staff at 296-4247.)

10 a.m.

### JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund  
**Agenda:** SF75 (Betzold); HF262 (Leighton)  
Filing of mechanics' liens.  
HF107 (Farrell) School locker statewide in-  
spection policy established.  
HF72 (Greiling) Residential rental building and  
manufactured home park managers and care-  
takers required to undergo criminal background  
checks, and landlord requirements and notice  
specifications provided.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs  
**Agenda:** HF358 (Wolf) Public Utilities Com-  
mission rehearing application time limit provi-  
sions modified.  
HF382 (Wolf) Small electric utility franchise  
rate regulation exemption provided.  
HF389 (Wolf) Public Utilities Commission rate  
suspension period provisions clarified.  
HF354 (Vickerman) Small gas utility franchise  
rate regulation exemption provided for inci-  
dental utility service.  
HF374 (Dempsey) Large electric power gener-  
ating plant certificate of need proceeding ex-  
emption provided in certain cases.  
HF248 (Solberg) Pumped hydropower added  
to list of preferred alternative energy sources,  
and incentive payments provided for pumped  
hydropower facilities.  
HF435 (Jacobs) Gas utility performance-based  
gas purchasing regulation authorized.  
(There may be additions to the agenda.)

**Reports, Mandates, Litigation and Free  
Speech Issues Working Group/Joint Higher  
Education Finance Division and University  
of Minnesota Finance Division/EDUCATION**  
300S State Office Building  
Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

12:30 p.m.

### GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff  
**Agenda:** SF141 (Sams); HF103 (Osthoff) School  
board membership plans reviewed by secretary

of state, election expense allocation changed,  
election materials retained, terms and election  
frequency clarified, and certain election dis-  
tricts dissolved.

(After the bill is heard, the full committee will  
adjourn and the **Subcommittee on Veterans  
Affairs** will convene at approximately 1 p.m.  
Chr. Rep. Betty McCollum. **Agenda:** Sandra  
Curtis, AFSCME.)

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

After Session

### St. Paul Delegation

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble  
**Agenda:** Presentation by St. Paul Port Author-  
ity concerning the civic center. Presentation by  
Ann Bitter, president, Children's Museum.

4 p.m.

### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel  
**Agenda:** HF146 (Hasskamp) Brainerd Techni-  
cal College appropriation use authorized for  
athletic facility relocation.  
Stanley Edin, president, Brainerd and Staples  
Regional Technical College. Sally Ihne, presi-  
dent, Brainerd Community College.

4:30 p.m.

### Joint Higher Education Finance Division and University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso  
**Agenda:** Financial Aid Report, Kerry Fine, House  
Research.

6:30 p.m.

### Joint Legislative Commission on Children, Youth and Their Families/ The Children's Cabinet

5 State Office Building  
Chrs. Sen. Jane Ranum, Linda Kohl  
**Agenda:** Discussion of the draft version of the  
Family Impact Checklist.

## TUESDAY, Feb. 14

8 a.m.

### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** HF294 (Cooper) Teachers provided continuous licensure.

Report of School Bus Safety Advisory Committee by Glenn Gramse, Department of Public Safety.

### JUDICIARY FINANCE

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** 1993-94 initiatives and reports. 1994 Juvenile Justice Bill fiscal requirements on 96-97 budgets.

### MinnesotaCare Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** Primary care initiatives of the University of Minnesota Medical School.

### Transportation Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** Department of Public Safety budget presentation.

8:30 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Office of Environmental Assistance budget presentation, Ed Garvey, director.

10 a.m.

### Financial Aid and Tuition Policy Working Group/Joint Higher Education Finance Division and University of Minnesota Finance Division/EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** To be announced.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** HF123 (Opatz) Public contract oversight provided for certain state and metropolitan government contracts.

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** HF5 (Anderson, R) Welfare reform provisions modified, and money appropriated. The committee will provide 35 minutes of testimony time opponents and proponents. To testify, contact Tim Adams at 297-1934.

### Sales & Income Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

**Agenda:** Department bills, Minnesota Department of Revenue.

12:30 p.m.

### CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Department of Finance Report on matching money as mandated by the 1994 bonding bill.

### COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** To be announced.

12:45 p.m.

### K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Tour

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Tour of Foley and Cold Spring school districts. (Tour group will leave at 12:45 p.m. Tour group will meet in Foley Elementary School Gym at 3:30 p.m. Tour group will meet in Racori High School auditorium at 7:30 p.m.)

2:30 p.m.

### Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/ WAYS & MEANS

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

**Agenda:** Oversight of Commission on Reform and Efficiency implementation.

6:30 p.m.

### TAXES

Brooklyn Center City Council Chambers

6301 Shingle Creek Parkway

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** Public testimony on governor's budget proposal.

## WEDNESDAY, Feb. 15

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Briefings by Head Start of Minnesota and Spanish Speaking Affairs Council.

### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** MTCSA representatives. Continuation of discussion of governor's budget proposal and merger, Ed McMahon, vice chancellor, Administration and Budget, MnSCU; Judy Borgen, assistant vice chancellor, Finance, Minnesota State University System; Jay Noren, interim chancellor, Higher Education Board.

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

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Continuation of budget overview of governor's recommendation for Department of Human Services.

### Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** Minnesota's payment in lieu of tax policy.

8:30 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Office of Environmental Assistance budget presentation, Ed Garvey, director.

10 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** HF218 (Lourey) Minnesota rock, gem, and mineral interpretive center designed, and money appropriated.

HF351 (Dempsey) Red Wing provided combined sewer overflow grants, and money appropriated.

HF419 (Pellow) Pollution Control Agency required to meet with affected party prior to issuance of an administrative penalty order.



HFXXXX (McCollum) New language to repeal M.S. 1994, 85.019, Grants-In-Aid for recreational betterment.

HF121 (Johnson, V.) Blufflands trail system in Winona County extension authorized.

HF361 (Farrell) Contamination cleanup grant project costs to include site tests and studies.

HF260 (Munger) Western Lake Superior sanitary district bonding authority allocation provided.

#### **FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

**Agenda:** Continuation of Feb. 8th agenda.

HF182 (Simoneau) Automobile insurance medical expense benefits regulated; benefits offered through managed care plans; Department of Commerce benefit certification provided; and premium reductions and rules required.

#### **JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** Report on juvenile programming for youthful offenders, Joel Alter, Office of the Legislative Auditor.

12:30 p.m.

#### **Business Regulation Division/ COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

**Agenda:** HF441 (Jennings) Business license electronic filing and retrieval provided, and money appropriated.

#### **TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** HF280 (Sviggum) School bus driver employment requirements modified.

HF52 (Bertram) Drivers' license and state identification card holders allowed to wear headwear in drivers' license and identification card photographs in certain cases.

HF216 (Huntley) Motor vehicle registration fleet definition modified.

1 p.m.

#### **INTERNATIONAL TRADE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

World Trade Center Building, 3rd Flr. Executive Board Room

30 E 7th St., St Paul, Minnesota

Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

**Agenda:** Overview. Legislative priorities. Tour of the Minnesota Trade Office.

2:30 p.m.

#### **Working Group Task Force on Legislative Commissions/WAYS & MEANS**

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Delmont

**Agenda:** Continuation of testimony from legislative commissions on overviews, objectives and accomplishments.

4 p.m.

#### **University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Overview of Agriculture and Extension Service, Eugene Allen, vice president, Institute for Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics, and director, Agricultural Experiment Station; Gail Skinner-West, interim director, Minnesota Extension Service. County extension cluster legislative contacts. (Interactive hearing in room 5 State Office Building.)

7 p.m.

#### **Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

**Agenda:** Interactive T.V. hearing. Citizens in International Falls (Rainy River Community College) and Marshall (Lyon County Courthouse) will give their ideas on government efficiency.

### **THURSDAY, Feb. 16**

8 a.m.

#### **EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** HF341 (Skoglund) Compulsory education requirements modified for children under the age of seven.

HF107 (Farrell) School locker statewide inspection policy established.

HF146 (Hasskamp) Brainerd Technical College appropriation use authorized for athletic facility relocation.

#### **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** 93-94 initiatives and reports. CHIPS demonstration project. Maximizing federal reimbursement. Out of home placement.

#### **MinnesotaCare Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** Presentation of the governor's 1996-97 biennial budget recommendations for MinnesotaCare, Minnesota Department of Human Services.

8:30 a.m.

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

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Pollution Control Agency budget presentation, Charles Williams, commissioner; Ann Glumac, deputy commissioner.

10 a.m.

#### **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** HF123 (Opatz) Public contract oversight provided for certain state and metropolitan government contracts.

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

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** HF331 (Clark) Patients bill of rights privacy provisions modified.

HF446 (Leppik) Acupuncture practitioner licensure by Board of Medical Practice established, and rules and penalties provided.

#### **TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** Department bills. Minnesota Department of Revenue.

12:30 p.m.

#### **COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **Elections Division/ GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** HF142 (Lieder) Precinct caucus, state, and presidential primary dates changed, absentee ballot deadline modified, voters guide distribution provided, presidential primary by mail allowed, filing fee increased, duties modified, and money appropriated.  
(No vote will be taken.)

## FRIDAY, Feb. 17

8 a.m.

### Health & Human Services

#### Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Continuation of budget overview of the governor's recommendations for the Department of Human Services. Public testimony.

### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** Testimony from members of boards of directors of Interfaculty Organization (IFO), Minnesota Community College Faculty Association (MCCFA), and United Technical College Educators (UTCE).

### K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Article 5, facilities and equipment.

### Transportation Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** MnDOT budget presentation.

10 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** To be announced.

### TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** HF395 (Marko) Road powered electric vehicle (RPEV) demonstration project and study appropriated money. Additional bills may be added.

## Do you know?

Should African-Americans be given the right to vote? This was one of the tough questions facing those who crafted the original Minnesota Constitution in 1857.

Between 1820 and 1857, no state constitution adopted by a newly formed state had allowed African-Americans to vote and seven states that previously had made no distinction among races changed their laws to disenfranchise African-Americans.

And while Minnesota Republicans favored equal suffrage, they were concerned that if it were included in the constitution, voters would surely reject it. Democrats were open in their opposition to the idea. "White Supremacy Against Negro Equality!" screamed a headline in the *St. Paul Pioneer and Democrat*.

After each political party had forged its own constitution, representatives from both sides gathered to mold them into one document. On the equal suffrage issue, the Republicans wished to

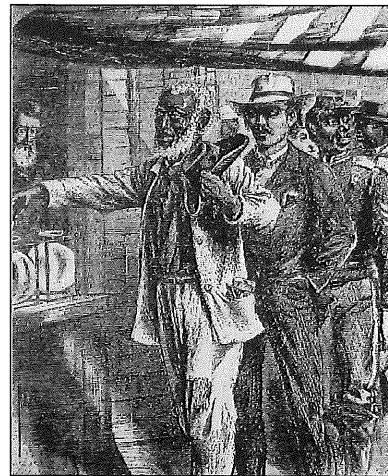
submit the question to a separate vote of the people. The Democrats disagreed.

At the last minute both sides agreed to settle the question by limiting the vote to whites while at the same time making the constitution easy to amend.

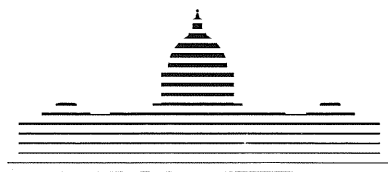
"In this way each party could argue that it had won — the Democrats that Black suffrage had been ruled out, and the Republicans that it could be easily permitted whenever the people were ready to vote for it," wrote the Minnesota Historical Society in *Minnesota: Political Maverick*.

After two failed attempts to amend the constitution in 1865 and 1867, African-American men, American Indian men, and mixed-blooded males over the age of 21 won the right to vote in 1868.

Minnesota voters approved the equal suffrage amendment by a 56.7 percent to 43.3 percent margin. The final vote was 39,493 in favor of the amendment and 30,121 against it.



"The First Vote" drawn by A.U. Waud appeared in Harper's Weekly magazine in 1867. In the south, African-Americans voted in large numbers after the Civil War. In Minnesota, African-Americans men were first granted the right to vote in 1868 after two prior attempts to grant suffrage to all men failed



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

Speaker of the House: Irv Anderson  
Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Minnesota agriculture

Number of Minnesota farms, December 1994 .....	85,000
in 1983 .....	102,000
County with the most farms, (Stearns), 1992 .....	3,275
County with the fewest, (Cook), 1992 .....	15
Average farm size, in acres, 1993 .....	341
Increase in the average size of a farm, 1983-1993, in acres .....	43
Average government payments per farm, 1992 .....	\$4,795
Average annual gross income per Minnesota farm, 1992 .....	\$90,631
Average net income .....	\$16,824
Total agricultural workers, April 1994 .....	130,000
Number of those workers hired by farmers .....	16,000
National rank, sugar beet production, 1993 .....	1
National rank for sweet corn, flax, sunflowers, and spring wheat production, 1993 .....	3
Tons of fertilizer used between July 1, 1992, and June 30, 1993, in millions of tons .....	2.1
National rank .....	6
All cattle in Minnesota, 1994, in millions .....	2.75
Cattle slaughtered by commercial operations, 1993, in millions .....	1
Calves born in Minnesota, 1993 .....	980,000
State record number of calves born, 1944, in millions .....	1.87
All hogs in Minnesota, 1994, in millions .....	4.6
Approximate ratio of hogs to humans, 1994 .....	1:1
Percent of the day that a pig spends grazing .....	31
That a pig spends rooting .....	21
Chickens on Minnesota farms, December 1994, in millions .....	13.46
Eggs produced in 1993, in billions .....	2.69
County with the most beef cows, 1994, (Fillmore) .....	21,400
County with the fewest, (Ramsey) .....	200
County with the most milk cows, 1994, (Stearns) .....	67,700
County with the most hogs, 1993, (Renville) .....	143,700
Pounds of American cheese manufactured in Minnesota, 1993, in millions ..	571.8
Gallons of ice cream made, 1993, in millions .....	40.6

Sources: *Minnesota Agriculture Statistics, 1994*, Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service, Minnesota Department of Agriculture; *Bringing Home the Bacon*, The Humane Farming Association.



### For more information . . .

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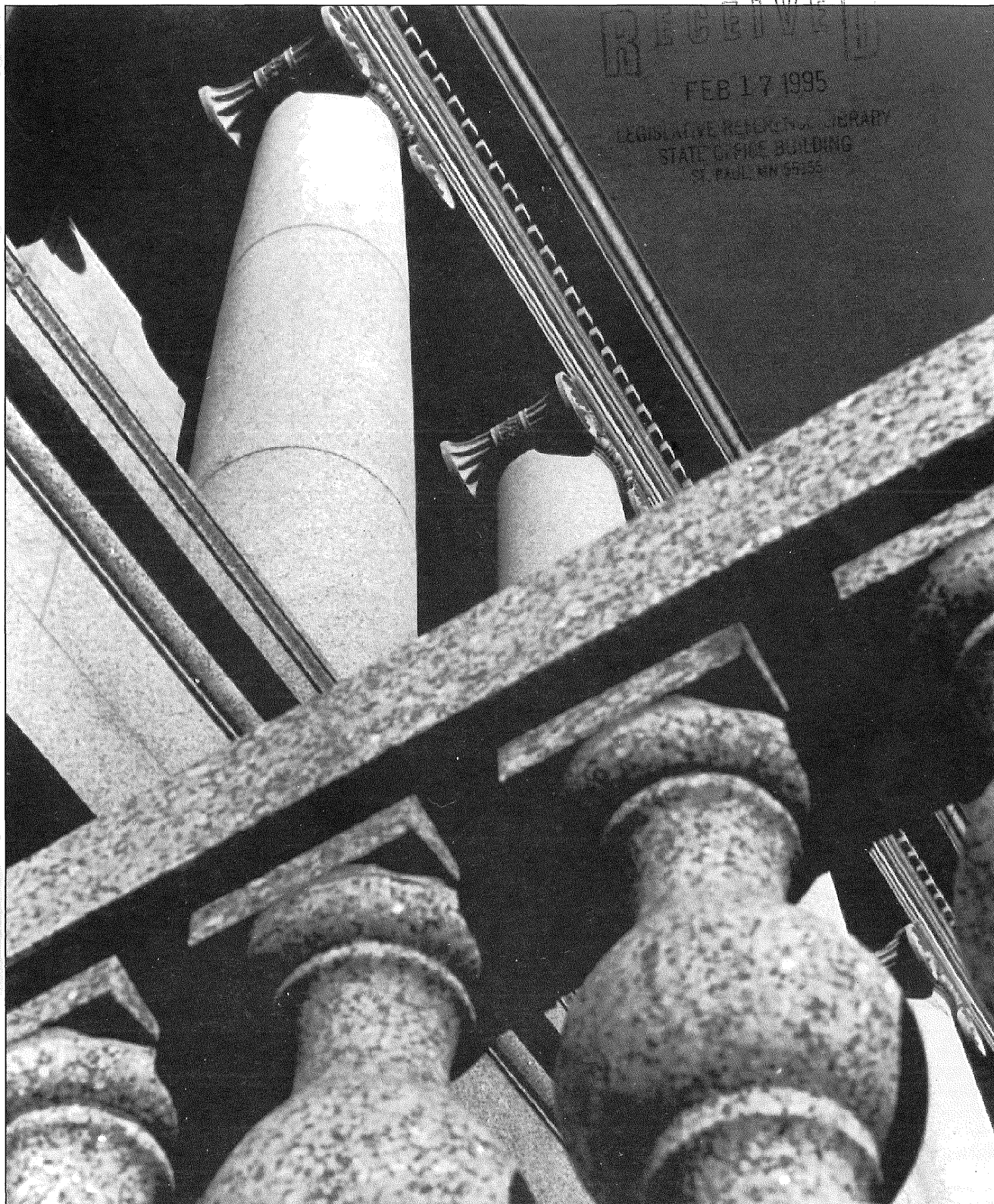
95. Feb. 17

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# SESSION WEEKLY

A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ February 17, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 7





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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • February 17, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 7

## Week at a glance

**Bad boys** — Minnesota programs for delinquent juveniles are largely ineffective, states a recent report by the legislative auditor's office. .... **Page 5**

**Video gambling** — After four years of study and debate, the time still is not ripe for video poker, keno, and blackjack in Minnesota bars and restaurants. .... **Page 7**

**Welfare reform bill** — Those for it support the abortion-waiting-period proposal; those against it abhor cuts to programs and the bill's "punitive approach" to the poor. .... **Page 8**

**Needling without a license** — Currently the state requires no training and licensing for acupuncturists but a bill is moving through the House to change that. .... **Page 8**

**One big rock collection** — A Minnesota rock, gem, and mineral interpretive center — whose focal point would be the famed Lake Superior agate — would be created under a bill approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee. .... **Page 11**

**Sensitive hats** — Those suffering hair loss due to illness or head injury would be allowed to wear a hat or other head covering in their driver's license photograph, under a bill moving through the House. .... **Page 12**

**Swen, Lars, Oscar, Carl, Doug, and Howard** — Rep. Howard Swenson brings to six the number of Swensons who have served in the Legislature over the past 107 years. .... **Page 13**

**He's a shoe-in** — Rep. Erik Paulsen ran a shoe leather campaign, knocking on 12,364 doors. He plans to apply marketplace principles to state government. .... **Page 14**

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On the cover: The balustrade of the State Office Building stairs beneath the building's stately Ionic columns is a study in contrasts. The building was built in 1932.

— Photo by Tom Olmscheid

# Highlights

Safety in the schools . . .

## Proposal would allow locker searches at any time

School authorities could search the lockers of Minnesota students at any time, under a bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 13.

The proposal (HF107) states that a locker inspection could take place "for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant." Notice of the policy would have to be distributed in advance to parents and students, and would take effect at the start of the 1995-96 school year.

"The locker is public property, owned by the school and used by a student for [his or her] convenience," said bill sponsor Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul).

Farrell told members many local school districts have policies regarding locker searches, but are afraid to enforce them for fear of a costly court challenge.

A statewide policy would shift the burden to defend the policy from the individual school or district to the state, said Farrell.

Minnesota courts have never specifically addressed the locker search issue.

Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester) said the real issue is one of property rights, and that "guns and knives have nothing to do with it . . . they inflame the issue." Because the

students don't own the lockers, the students can have no expectation of privacy, explained Bishop.

But safety is what has brought the issue before the Legislature, specifically an Oct. 7, 1994 incident at Harding High School in St. Paul.

Two students were shot following a school assembly and a fellow student was later charged with the assaults. Lockers were not individually searched following the incident because school authorities had "constitutional questions," Farrell said. Instead, a trained dog was brought from Arizona to "sniff out" gunpowder from the more than 1,800 student lockers. The search yielded nothing, but eight or nine lockers were opened where the dog indicated a gunpowder scent.

Farrell said the bill has been carefully worded to match a Milwaukee school district policy that has been "court-tested."

A challenge to that policy based on a violation of the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which protects against unlawful search and seizure, did not succeed. The Wisconsin Supreme Court upheld the search policy and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the case, Farrell said.

Currently, 11 states have laws governing

school locker searches. Many of the state policies mention weapons and drugs. Some explicitly state that there is no "reasonable expectation" of a right to privacy. A Washington law says such searches are a "reasonable and necessary tool to protect the interests of the students and the state as a whole."

Farrell said he is confident the Minnesota Supreme Court would uphold the policy, if it is challenged.

"I think the policy is pretty straightforward. I'm not doing anything here that the schools can't already do. The policies are out there. I'm only clarifying their authority," he said.

But one member questioned the locker search proposal.

"So where does this end?" asked Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul). "This is a very slippery slope we're starting on here."

Dawkins wondered if items stored in legislators' offices—presumably private—should also be subject to search because they are "owned by the public."

Richard Neumeister, a citizen lobbyist involved in data privacy issues, was the only person to testify against the bill. He said it violates the Minnesota Constitution by allowing a search "without reasonable suspicion or cause."

A 1994 law mandated that schools track and report to the Department of Education any incidents involving dangerous weapons on school property and in school buses carrying students.

The department's first report shows that between July 1993 and July 1994 there were 872 weapons incidents. Sixty-five of those were exclusively gun incidents. Eighty-four of the state's 381 school districts did not report.

HF107 now moves to the Education Committee.

— John Tschida



A bill approved by a House panel Feb. 13 would allow student lockers to be searched by school officials at any time, without warning. Eleven other states have laws authorizing locker searches.





## BUSINESS

### Business licenses in cyberspace

Minnesotans applying for business permits or licenses might be able to get what they need by booting up their computers and logging on to a state government electronic service.

This "one-stop shopping" service for business permits and licenses would be available to anyone with access to a computer and modem, under a bill (HF441) approved Feb. 15 by the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee's Business Regulation Division.

A business person would not have to "make 16 different phone calls and get 32 different answers" with the computerized system, explained the bill's author, Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris).

Jenny Engh, deputy commissioner of the Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED), described the concept as a "virtual co-location of regulatory agencies." In other words, all the state departments and agencies that issue business licenses and permits would locate their information and application forms in one database that could be dialed up from a personal computer.

A person would not need any special software other than an application that allows a computer to talk with another computer over a telephone line, said Engh.

The system would have two parts: an electronic catalog of licenses and permits with their corresponding requirements, statutes and other useful information; and an interactive electronic application for licenses and permits.

The bill would require that the electronic catalog be on-line by 1997; the electronic application system would go on-line by 1999.

Using a person seeking to apply for a restaurant license as an example, Engh demonstrated how a series of computer screens would prompt an applicant for information about the business to be licensed. An actual license application form filled the computer screen, which could be either printed out and filled in manually or completed electronically.

Engh showed committee members how a person could complete the license application while hooked up to the electronic system. A license fee was calculated based upon the number of employees in the business. Then the business owner would provide a credit card number and complete the transaction.

An executive order in 1993 directed DTED

to study the one-stop shopping idea for business licenses and permits. Citing that 1993 order, the governor vetoed a 1994 bill approved by the Legislature that called on the state's Bureau of Business Licenses to process all the state's business license applications.

For the upcoming two-year budget cycle, the governor provided \$1.7 million in his budget for creating the electronic system, said Jennings.

HF441 now moves to the full Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee for further consideration.



## CRIME

### Paying for the crackdown

A hefty bill is coming due for the 1994 Legislature's decision to crack down on juvenile crime by creating a new category of young criminal offender: the "extended jurisdiction juvenile" (EJJ).

Incarcerating and treating these 14- to 17-year-old offenders — and hiring more probation officers, public defenders, and judges to deal with them — could cost the state at least \$26 million over the next two-year spending cycle, according to a Department of Corrections official.

The 1994 Legislature created the EJJ category in response to growing concern over the increasing number of serious crimes committed by juveniles.

The law is intended to get tough with serious juvenile offenders but at the same time provide juveniles some of the legal rights afforded adults, which cost money.

For the first time beginning on Jan. 1 of this year, these types of juvenile offenders will be entitled to a public defender and a jury trial.

Richard Mulcrone, Department of Corrections deputy commissioner, told members of the House Judiciary Finance Committee Feb. 14 that an additional \$5 million is needed to hire more public defenders, who are already beset with huge caseloads.

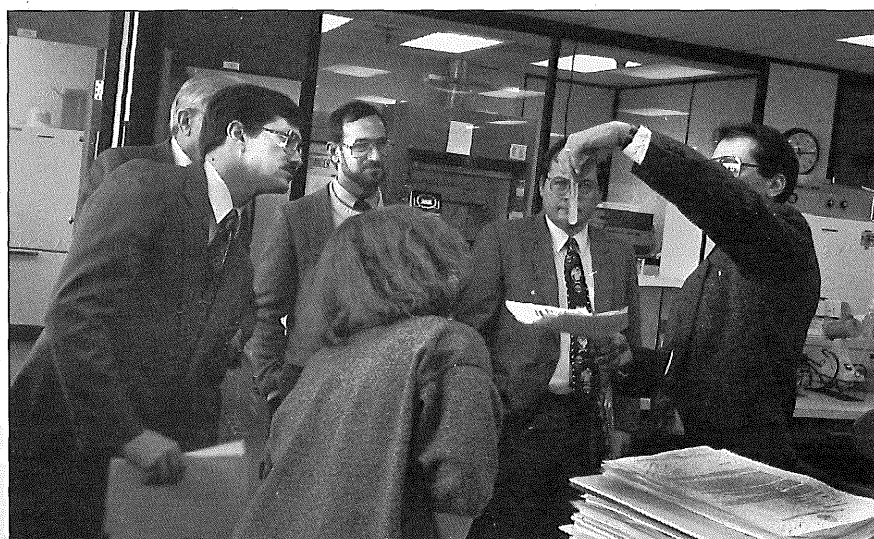
And an additional \$1 million is needed to hire four more juvenile court judges and support staff. County attorneys also expect increased costs from contested cases and more hearings. (See *Session Weekly*, Jan. 13, 1995, page 4.)

But the bulk of the extra state money — about \$20 million — is needed to finance an assortment of treatment programs that were spelled out in the 1994 law. And an equal amount would be required from Minnesota counties.

Mulcrone estimated that 435 juveniles will be classified as EJJ's in 1995. The EJJ classification is a sort of hybrid between the traditional informal juvenile court and adult court.

It is intended for serious offenders, but not for ones whose crimes are so flagrant that they are certified to stand trial in adult court.

Under an EJJ proceeding, a teenager receives a juvenile court penalty and a stayed adult penalty. But if he or she violates the condition of the sentence, the adult penalty is imposed.



During a tour of the Department of Agriculture's microbiology work unit Feb. 13, Bill Krueger, lab director for the department, showed members of the House Agriculture Committee how lab workers isolate pathogenic bacteria (salmonella).

## Bad, badder, baddest boys

Minnesota programs for delinquent juveniles are largely ineffective, according to a report just issued by the Office of the Legislative Auditor.

"Whatever we're doing is not working and I think we have to admit it," said Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), chair of the House Judiciary Committee.

The report, *Residential Facilities for Juvenile Offenders*, was presented by the auditor's office to the committee Feb. 15.

In examining seven Minnesota juvenile facilities for males, the Office of the Legislative Auditor found that at least half of those released in 1991 were back in juvenile court or arrested as adults within two years.

The recidivism statistics are much worse for the most serious juvenile offenders.

Of the 219 juveniles released from the Red Wing or Sauk Centre correctional facilities in 1985, 90 percent were arrested again before turning 23; 69 percent were sent to prison.

Jim Bruton, deputy commissioner for the Department of Corrections, said he was "shocked by the high numbers," but not surprised that the toughest offenders continued to fail.

"These are kids that have failed at every other program they have tried, and are very hard to turn around . . . yet I think we have to try," Bruton said.

Juveniles released from Red Wing in 1991 had an average of 13 prior offenses; those released from Sauk Centre had an average of 10 prior offenses.

So why are the recidivism rates so high?

"We don't know what's driving the re-offense rates," said Joel Alter of the program evaluation division of the auditor's office. And "people haven't figured out what [programming] works best for certain kids."

The report also doesn't explain what Rep. Teresa Lynch (IR-Andover) saw as a key issue: how kids get into trouble in the first place.

Deputy Commissioner Bruton agreed.

"This is a tough and complex societal problem," he said, adding that a significant problem is that "we reward kids who do well [in a corrections setting] by sending them back to the environment that was conducive to creating the problem in the first place."

The report was mandated by the 1994 Legislature as part of the juvenile justice law (CH576). It is the first of its kind to study the recidivism rates of Minnesota juveniles.



## EDUCATION

### 'Baby truants'

"Baby truants" beware. School children under 7 years old would be subject to compulsory attendance law under legislation on its way to the House floor.

A measure, sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), was approved Feb. 16 by the House Education Committee.

The bill (HF341) would restore the substance of a provision inadvertently repealed in 1993 in an effort to sweep away state mandates imposed on school districts, said Skoglund.

State law does not require children to attend school until the age of 7, but many children begin kindergarten earlier.

Currently, school officials can do little about the chronic absence of some 5 and 6 year olds, setting a pessimistic precedent for the academic future of such "baby truants," Skoglund said.

"If we expect kids to go to school when they're 12, 13, 14, 15, and so on, we had better expect those kids who are enrolled in school to attend when they're 5 and 6," he said.

Under Skoglund's bill, a parent would be able to remove a child for good cause, such as illness or a family move, with the consent of the school board. A neutral facilitator would



Audrey Puckett of the Minnesota Head Start Association, told members of the K-12 Education Finance Division Feb. 13 that she is opposed to the governor's proposal to move the program into a newly created Department of Children and Education Services.

be used to resolve disputes between districts and parents over withdrawals.

Schools would be required to tell parents enrolling 5- or 6-year-olds of the attendance requirements.

Chris Curtiss, who handles truancy cases for the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, said she has seen cases of 5- or 6-year-olds missing as many as 50 days in a single school year and that problems at home are often to blame.

The bill would allow school districts and other agencies "not to be punitive but to reach out in a way that's supportive," she said.

But Rep. Steve Dehler (IR-St. Joseph) said teachers should be concerned with children in the classroom, not those outside the school.

"The only thing I see is government intrusion into people's and families' lives," Dehler said.

### Lifetime teacher licensure

A bill to grant teachers lifetime licenses would cut state fees and red tape without softening standards, according to Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island).

Cooper, sponsor of HF294, told members of the House Education Committee Feb. 14 that the bill aims to "reverse the process" of teacher licensing.

Currently, teachers must apply for license renewal every five years. They pay a \$40 fee each time.

If a teacher demonstrates he or she has met continuing education requirements and other stipulations, the state renews the license.

Under HF294, the state would grant a teaching license and then step out of the picture as long as all requirements are met.

Local school officials would be responsible for making sure teachers follow all state requirements. If a teacher failed to do so, the school district would notify the state, and the license would be suspended.

Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul), one of several members to voice support for the bill, said it provides one way to reduce needless regulation.

"I think it's entirely on the right track," Orenstein said. "Every time you try to change something around here there are a hundred reasons why you shouldn't."

The state stopped issuing continuous licenses in 1969. The current licensing system was installed shortly thereafter.

About 110,000 Minnesotans are licensed to teach but only about 50,000 are active teachers, according to George Droubie, man-

ager of the Personnel Licensing Team for the Department of Education.

Droubie, who opposed the bill, heads a 15-person staff that issues about 27,000 teaching licenses annually. If **HF294** is approved, staff likely would be cut as "the need for its function is reduced," Cooper said.

Currently, recent college graduates are issued one- or two-year licenses from the state before they become eligible for five-year licenses. To have five-year licenses renewed by the state, teachers must complete 125 hours of continuing education.

Droubie said giving teachers lifetime licenses would strip the state of its ability to ensure certain standards.

Rep. John Tuma (IR-Northfield) also expressed concerns about the effect the bill may have on compliance with state requirements. If teachers answered only to "local buddies," state standards would be "easier to brush aside," Tuma said.

The bill was referred to the Higher Education Finance Division.



## ELECTIONS

### Combined polling places

A glitch in the 1994 uniform election law has some lawmakers scrambling to correct the oversight before an April school bond referendum in Forest Lake.

The measure approved by the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee Feb. 13 would allow Minnesota school districts to combine one or more polling places — just as was the case before the 1994 law was approved — to save money.

"Precincts in Forest Lake range from 4,300 people in one precinct to three in another," said Secretary of State Joan Growe. "They might want to do some kind of combination of precincts."

An unintended consequence of the 1994 law prohibited such polling place combinations. But another provision in the bill poses a concern for school officials.

The amendment would require districts to send notices to all registered voters each time the precinct differs from the place where they voted in the November election — an expensive requirement that could negate any cost savings, said Robert Meeks, lobbyist for the Minnesota School Boards Association.

But bill sponsor Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) disagreed.

"We'll be giving out notices for a vote which could potentially cause an increase in property taxes," he said.

Committee members amended the notification section of the bill to make it effective in January 1996.

The 1994 law requires city, school district, and special district elections that are held any other time to move to the Tuesday following the first Monday in November. Primary elections, if any, must be held in September.

Local units of government could hold November elections whenever they choose, but they must begin by 1998. School bond and levy referendums, however, are exempted from the 1994 law.

**HF103/SF141\*** now moves to the House floor.



## ENERGY

### Mining electricity

Water collecting in a northern Minnesota mine pit is posing a problem for a state park, but an electric power company may have an answer.

Why not pump the water out of the 500-foot-deep pit late at night when demand for electricity is low, then release it in a different direction to generate power during the day when demand for electricity is high?

A bill approved by the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee Feb. 13 would provide a cash incentive for a utility to do just that.

The Hill Annex Mine State Park in Calumet (northwest of Grand Rapids) features a mining interpretive center that runs tour buses to the bottom of the pit, which continually fills with water, explained Bill Morrissey of the DNR. That has caused a glitch in the tour bus operation.

But while an "extensive feasibility study" has been conducted by the DNR and Minnesota Power, the utility hasn't committed itself to the hydropower project.

That's because the power company hasn't yet found a market for the peak demand electricity, Mike Hambrock of Minnesota Power later explained. Nonetheless, the power company would "like to see it as an option in the future," Hambrock added.

If Minnesota Power did embrace the project, it could save the DNR about \$150,000 a year, said Morrissey; that's how much it spent last year to pump water from the mine.

The bill (**HF248**), sponsored Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), would direct the Department of Finance to extend a 1.5 cents per kilowatt hour subsidy to a facility that uses "pumped hydropower."

A law passed in 1994 offers the same

subsidy to a Coon Rapids project so a dam there on the Mississippi River can be retrofitted.

Although the pumped hydropower proposal may appear a bit unusual to some, a southern Minnesota utility had considered a similar idea several years ago — until the Legislature stepped in.

The Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency had planned to build a 500-megawatt generator near Lake City, Minn. The proposed plant would have pumped water 200 feet up the bluffs along the Mississippi River at night, then released it during the day to create electricity.

Because of environmental concerns, the 1993 Legislature passed a law that prohibits any state agency from issuing a permit for such a facility atop the Mississippi River bluffs.

The water from the Hill Annex Mine would be pumped into Upper and Lower Panaca lakes, which flow into the Swan River.

**HF248** now moves to the House floor.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Emissions exemption

A bill that says cars under six years old need not face an emissions test has the support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Minnesota enacted its vehicle emissions testing program and oxygenated fuel law because the state was in violation of EPA clean air requirements.

According to William MacDowell, chief of regulation development for the EPA's Air and Radiation Division in Chicago, the "bottom line" is that carbon monoxide levels must come down. "If you can demonstrate that you can meet that [federal air quality standard], that's all we really care about," he told House Environment and Natural Resources Committee members Feb. 10.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) also supports the proposal, according to Peder Larson, MPCA assistant commissioner.

Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), sponsor of the bill (**HF2**), cited MPCA data showing that during a six-month period last year, only 1 in 5,634 cars built in 1994 failed an emissions test.

"This is not a wise use of my taxpayers' money," Johnson said. "We are collecting money under false pretenses." She contended that the emissions testing program "is not cleaning up our air."



More efficient auto engines and the use of oxygenated fuel — gas mixed with ethanol — have reduced carbon monoxide levels in the Twin Cities, according to MacDowell. He said if continued progress is made, the EPA could certify that the metropolitan area is meeting federal carbon monoxide standards.

The 11 testing stations in the metropolitan area are run by a private firm, Envirotest Inc. of Phoenix, Ariz., under contract with the MPCA. The MPCA gets 93 cents of the \$8 test charge for administration costs. Envirotest gets the rest.

Larson said the potential revenue loss for Envirotest is about \$4 million annually. The state's loss would then be about \$526,000.

David Thornton, MPCA Air Quality Division manager, said that the Legislature will have to "wrestle with" the problem of lost revenue. He acknowledged that "raising the fee" for emissions tests was probably not politically viable. He suggested levying a small "air quality" fee on newer cars, or extending the current seven-year state contract with Envirotest, so revenues would be assured over a longer time period.

The committee will act on the bill at its Feb. 17 meeting, according to committee chair Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth).



## GAMBLING

### No gambling expansion

Four years of gambling studies and legislative debate just isn't enough. It is still too soon for the Legislature to allow video poker, keno, and blackjack in Minnesota bars and restaurants, according to a study by the Advisory Council on Gambling.

The report, presented Feb. 10 to the Gambling Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee, recommends no action be taken this year on video gambling.

The council was created last year to study gambling issues in Minnesota and report to the Legislature and the governor in 1995 and 1996. In its first report, the council says it would be "premature and unwise" to pass legislation enacting video gambling, which includes video poker, keno and slot machines.

The council lists "unanswered questions and unresolved concerns" about video gambling, including its potential effects on compulsive gamblers and on the existing gambling industry.

The state's liquor industry has lobbied for five years to win the right to install video gambling machines in its bars and restau-

rants. Bar owners say they need the video gambling to compete with nearby casinos which offer those games. They argue Minnesota's American Indian-owned casinos have an unfair competitive advantage and have lured away their customers.

But casino officials say casinos aren't to blame. Minnesotans are drinking less and spending less money in bars and restaurants.

In each of the past four years the Legislature has grappled with the question of allowing the use of video poker, keno, and other games in bars, restaurants, and other establishments with an on-sale liquor license. But no bill has survived.

Gov. Arne Carlson and several legislative leaders have opposed any expansion of gambling.

Before moving ahead with video gambling, the council report suggests the Legislature decide just how reliant the state is willing to become on gambling revenues.

"Once we have video lottery, I don't think the state would be without it," Harry Baltzer, chair of the advisory council, said in testimony before the gambling division.

The 14-member advisory council, which includes two members of each legislative body, also recommended the state study the costs and effectiveness of alternative compulsive gambling treatment approaches.

Once it has determined what works and what is cost-effective, the state should set new goals for compulsive gambling programs, according to the report.



## GOVERNMENT

### Cutting contracts

A bill that would cut the amount the state could spend on government contracts was heard by the House Governmental Operations Committee Feb. 14 and Feb. 16.

The proposal (HF123), sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), would trim by 10 percent the *total* amount most state agencies could spend in the coming two-year budget cycle over 1994-95 levels. The same limits would apply to the Legislature and the Metropolitan Council.

The bill would not affect all state agencies, but rather the 20 departments considered "major" under Minnesota law.

Opatz said the state spends about \$1 billion on contracts per biennium. About \$700 million of that is for transportation projects, which are exempt from the bill.

A similar proposal passed the Legislature in 1993 but was vetoed by the governor. The

vetoed proposal would have cut each governmental department's contract budget by 10 percent. The current proposal says only that the aggregate amount of contract spending must be trimmed by 10 percent.

"This gives the governor the discretion to cut where he sees fit," Opatz said.

The bill also limits all state contracts to no more than five years.

Marilyn Jackson-Beeck, who helped assemble *Staff Contracting for Professional/Technical Services*, a 1992 report from the Office of the Legislative Auditor, said that in a random sampling of contract employees, she found some who had contracts for 16 years running.

"It was often hard to distinguish who was a state employee and who was a contract employee," Jackson-Beeck said.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) congratulated Opatz for the work he had done in "identifying the problem." But he said he was concerned that state departments would hire "full-time, permanent, new employees at taxpayer expense" to replace the workers subject to contract cuts.

"There is no guarantee of cost savings," Osskopp said.

Opatz said savings could be as high as \$43 million over the biennium, assuming the current growth rate on state contracts of 10 percent per year.

Committee chair Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) reminded Osskopp that the Legislature would need to fund and authorize any additional state staff positions.

Discussion on HF123 will continue next week.



## HEALTH

### Suspending doctors' licenses

Minnesota doctors convicted of felonies "reasonably related" to the practice of medicine would have their licenses automatically suspended under a bill given final approval by the House Feb. 16. The vote was 125-1.

The House's only physician, Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), cast the lone vote against the measure.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins), also would apply to other health professionals licensed by the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice.

Under the bill, license suspension would be automatic following a felony conviction, and a doctor or other health professional would have to request a hearing to get back his or her license. For reinstatement, the

individual would have to demonstrate that he or she has been rehabilitated by "clear and convincing evidence."

The bill does not clearly define felonies "reasonably related" to the practice of medicine, but in debate on the House floor Feb. 13, Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester) offered an obvious example. Bishop said he was "shocked" by a report of a doctor who continued working after being convicted of sexually assaulting female patients.

Under current law, the board has the authority to suspend a doctor's license, but a hearing is held first. The board can suspend a license without a hearing in some circumstances, but the burden is then on the board to set up a hearing seeking a final conclusion.

Kelley's bill would shift the burden to the health professional. Suspension of a doctor's license would be automatic, and it would be up to the doctor to seek a hearing and to prove the suspension should not be permanent. (See Feb. 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9).

**HF231** now moves to the Senate for consideration.

## Complete malpractice reports

A bill to ensure that the Board of Medical Practice receives the names of all doctors who are the subject of malpractice awards or settlements was given final approval by the House Feb. 16. The vote was 123-0.

The bill (**HF226**), sponsored by Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins), now moves to the Senate for consideration.

Under current law, insurance companies are required to provide the board reports of all settlements or awards involving doctors.

But hospitals, clinics, and other entities paying off settlements against physicians have been able to dodge the requirement to provide details to the board. Since they are not insurance companies, they technically have not been required to report.

The bill closes that loophole by specifically requiring that hospitals and other entities that provide malpractice coverage for doctors or other health professionals report all settlements and awards to the Board of Medical Practice.

Reports must include the health professional's name, the allegations in the claim or complaint, and the date and dollar amount of the settlement or award. (See Feb. 10, 1995 *Session Weekly*, page 9)

Similar legislation is pending in the Senate Health Care Committee.

## Regulating acupuncturists

A bill that would require Minnesota acupuncturists to be licensed by the state won approval Feb. 16 from the House Health and Human Services Committee.

Acupuncture involves the ancient Chinese practice of puncturing the body with needles at specific points to relieve pain and cure diseases.

Currently, the state requires no training and licensing for acupuncturists. "That is the problem," said bill sponsor Rep. Peggy Leppik (IR-Golden Valley).

Someone could hang up a shingle today and "stick needles in you tomorrow morning," she said.

"The potential for harm is there when they are sticking needles in you" — organs may be punctured or diseases spread with unclean needles, said Leppik.

The bill prohibits a person from practicing acupuncture after June 30, 1997, unless certified by the National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncturists or unless "grandfathered" in under the bill.

For the next two years beginning July 1, 1995, an acupuncturist may qualify for a state license without national certification if they have practiced in the field for at least three years between July 1, 1991, and June 30, 1995. During those three years they must have had at least 500 patient visits annually with at least 100 different patients.

Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) opposed the bill because she said it involves too much regulation and may cause some acupuncturists to quit.

Hasskamp asked why the Legislature didn't also license those people who pierce ears since they puncture the skin too. "We're certainly into piercing. Everybody is piercing everything," she said.

Last year a similar provision appeared in the omnibus health and human services bill but Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed the entire bill. Members of the occupation have unsuccessfully sought state licensure for several years.

The bill also requests that acupuncturists be regulated by the same board that regulates doctors: the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice.

**HF446** now moves to the Governmental Operations Committee for consideration.



## HOUSING

### Fixing up homes

Two charitable groups that build and rehabilitate homes for low-income families would not have to obtain residential building contractor's licenses, under a bill approved Feb. 16 by a House subcommittee.

The exemption would mean that Habitat for Humanity and the Builders Outreach Foundation, a project of the Builders Association of the Twin Cities, wouldn't have to pay a \$75 annual license fee or the \$100 to \$200 annual fee to the state's contractor recovery fund. (The fund is used to pay claims against licensed contractors found by the court to have been guilty of fraud or performing inferior work.)

The proposal (**HF536**), sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), was approved by the Real Estate and Commerce Subcommittee of the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee.

Another provision of the bill specifies that an individual home owner — who under current law does not need a contractor's license to work on his or her own property — can build or improve only one property within a year's time.

Gary Lavasseur, deputy commissioner of enforcement and licensing for the Department of Commerce, explained that a person building or remodeling two or more homes in a year is considered to be in the residential contracting business and should be licensed.

**HF536** now moves to the full Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee.



## HUMAN SERVICES

### Protesting welfare cuts

A welfare reform bill, which still contains a controversial abortion waiting-period proposal, was approved by a House panel Feb. 14 despite a last minute protest from welfare advocates.

The advocates forced a hurried voice vote before the House Health and Human Services Committee after grabbing the microphone and declaring they would not allow a vote on the bill (**HF5**). Three people were arrested.

Before the committee was disrupted, much of the debate focused on the abortion waiting period-proposal — a controversial section that Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) unsuccessfully tried to remove from the bill.

Members of the public testifying in favor of the bill focused on their support for the waiting period.

Sheryl Schoenfeld of Lino Lakes told the committee that she has had two abortions and was given little if any information on fetal development or the physical and psychological risks of an abortion. She stressed that the information is necessary before a woman can truly understand what she is doing.

Members of the public testifying against the bill focused on cuts to welfare programs and what they called the bill's "punitive approach" to the poor.

Linden Gawboy of Minneapolis said the bill is playing with people's lives and creates "gaping holes in the safety net." She warned lawmakers they will see more children begging in the streets.

Elizabeth Simmons of Minneapolis told the committee members that they have "never lived poor" so they have no idea what they're doing. "You need to be in our shoes just one week."

The bill, Simmons said, "is teaching hate."

In all, the welfare reform bill totals about \$52 million but with cuts in some public assistance benefits such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children and the elimination of one \$24 million state jobs program, the net price tag falls to \$23.7 million for the 1996-1997 two year state budget cycle.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Bob Anderson (DFL-Ottertail), would require all teenaged moms to live at home or with a supervising adult and request the elimination of federal rules that some argue discourage welfare recipients from finding work.

A major component of the bill would es-

tablish a Work First pilot program. The new program would set out tough penalties, such as losing benefits, if participants don't stick to a contract to search for a job and accept work. Clay and Itasca counties would receive the pilot program.

The measure also includes \$18 million to help low- and moderate-income families pay for child care, thus removing a barrier to their returning to work.

It now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee for discussion.

(See Jan. 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; Jan. 20, 1995, *Session Weekly*, pages 6-7; and Feb. 3, 1995 *Session Weekly*, page 10.)



## INSURANCE

### Option could cut costs

Minnesota drivers could save on their automobile insurance premiums under a bill on its way to the House floor.

The bill (HF182), approved by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee Feb. 15, would allow consumers to choose auto insurance policies that provide personal injury protection and uninsured and underinsured motorist medical coverage through a discounted managed care insurance plan.

Managed care plans include HMOs such as Group Health; insurers such as Blue Cross and Blue Shield; and preferred provider organizations.

Based on what is happening elsewhere, managed care discounts promise to provide

drivers an attractive option, said committee Chair Rep. Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley), who sponsored the bill.

"We aren't talking peanuts," Simoneau said. "We're talking a substantial amount of savings to the customers in Colorado."

Similar legislation was approved in Colorado in 1991. Drivers selecting the managed care option have seen savings of as much as 20 percent on their auto insurance premiums, according to a 1993 survey conducted in that state.

Under Simoneau's bill, insurance companies still would offer standard benefits — allowing individuals to use their own doctors — for personal injury protection and uninsured and underinsured motorist medical coverage.

But companies could contract with managed care organizations to offer the discounted option.

Milo Curtiss, regional claims manager for Progressive Insurance Company in Arden Hills, said the option would be a boon to the high-risk drivers his company insures.

By selecting the managed care option, a 16-year-old male with a clean driving record would save \$130 annually and an 18-year-old male with two speeding tickets would save \$145, Curtiss said.

The bill requires managed care plans receive the approval of the commerce commissioner, who also would have authority to disqualify providers who do not deliver services as promised.

Insurance companies would be required to notify customers of the consequences of choosing managed care and to provide a list of the plan's providers.

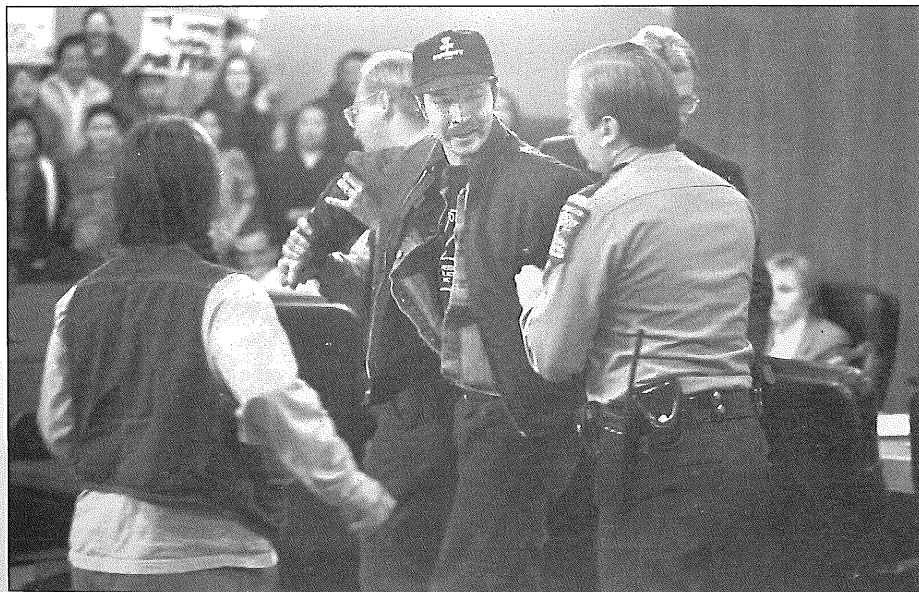
Motorists who choose the managed care option would be required to receive non-emergency care from providers in the managed care plan, said Simoneau.

But Rep. Jeff Bertram (DFL-Paynesville) said managed care would not suit many outstate residents, who may have to handle the costly inconvenience of traveling long distances to providers included in the plan.

"I want to sign that [dotted] line," Bertram said. "My concern is, suddenly I'm injured and then I'm limited as to what I can do and where I can go."

Rep. Gregory Davids (IR-Preston), owner of an insurance agency, said he would not recommend the option to his customers or to others in rural areas.

The bill now goes to the House floor for a vote.



Michael Kelly was removed from the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 14 by state troopers as a group of welfare rights advocates tried to disrupt the vote on a welfare reform bill. The proposal (HF5) was approved. Kelly was later arrested.





## LABOR

### Going up

A bill approved by the House Labor-Management Relations Committee Feb. 13 would require that all work performed on a passenger or freight elevator be done by an elevator mechanic licensed by the state.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), requires that a person must complete the National Elevator Industry Education Program and must have an elevator constructor license issued by the state Board of Electricity before receiving state licensure.

A licensed elevator mechanic could supervise up to two helpers.

Additionally, the bill would require that a licensed elevator company obtain a state permit before installing, altering or removing an elevator. Current law requires only that a person apply for a permit before work is started. Currently, altering or removing an elevator — a potentially dangerous procedure that requires specialized knowledge — does not require a permit.

The bill would not cover temporary elevators that are used during building construction. Thomas Joachim, director of the Department of Administration's Building Codes and Standards Division, explained that those elevators are inspected by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Carruthers said the bill addresses important public safety concerns. He said that a similar measure passed out of committee last year but no action was ever taken on the House floor.

HF398 now moves to the Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Committee.



## SPORTS

### On Target

Beaming with the thrill of victory, Minneapolis city and business officials went before the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Feb. 14 to announce that Target Center and the Minnesota Timberwolves have been saved.

And city officials told lawmakers they won't need all of the provisions from a 1994 law passed to help save the arena and the team.

City officials asked the 1994 Legislature for help in keeping the NBA franchise in Minnesota. While private groups in Minnesota were willing to buy the team, they weren't

willing to pay for the Target Center. So, the Legislature and the governor approved the public buyout of the arena in hopes of keeping the basketball team, the arena's main tenant.

While the newly restructured deal maintains a key component of the 1994 law — a state contribution of \$750,000 annually over the next 15 years — many other provisions of the original deal were scrapped.

Minneapolis finance director John Moir, who called the Timberwolves ordeal an "odyssey," explained the differences between the new deal and the old one.

The 1994 law authorized the Metropolitan Council to issue \$42 million in revenue bonds so the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission could purchase the downtown Minneapolis sports arena. The purchase was contingent on any new owner agreeing to keep the team in Minnesota for 30 years.

A 10 percent ticket admissions tax and a minimum \$1 ticket surcharge on Target Center events was to help pay off the bonds as was a state contribution of \$750,000 annually over the next 15 years.

In addition, the law called for a Minneapolis tax on downtown restaurants, bars, and hotels to kick in if the other funds weren't sufficient to pay off the bonds.

Under the newly negotiated deal, however, only the \$750,000 for 15 years survived. The current agreement eliminates the need for: a tax on downtown restaurants, bars, and hotels; the ticket surcharge; the ticket admissions tax; and the \$42 million in bonds issued by the Metropolitan Council.

Instead, the city of Minneapolis will own the arena and sell \$62.4 million in public bonds to pay for it. Other money sources — aside from the \$750,000 a year for 15 years — include: property taxes generated by the arena, a 3 percent entertainment tax on gross sales at the arena, and event-parking fees

from most city-owned downtown parking facilities.

Local corporations also worked to raise \$12.7 million to save the arena. The money will be used to buy private bonds.

Some lawmakers were still skeptical of the state's involvement in the deal. Rep. Jim Rostberg (IR-Isanti) asked what assurances the state had that the team would stay in Minnesota 30 years.

City officials said the guarantee comes in the form of a contractual agreement that would levy a hefty financial penalty if the team leaves. The penalty amount would change depending on when during the 30-year life of the contract the team left. If it leaves early in the time span, it would pay more than if it left later. One figure quoted was \$25 million.



## TAXES

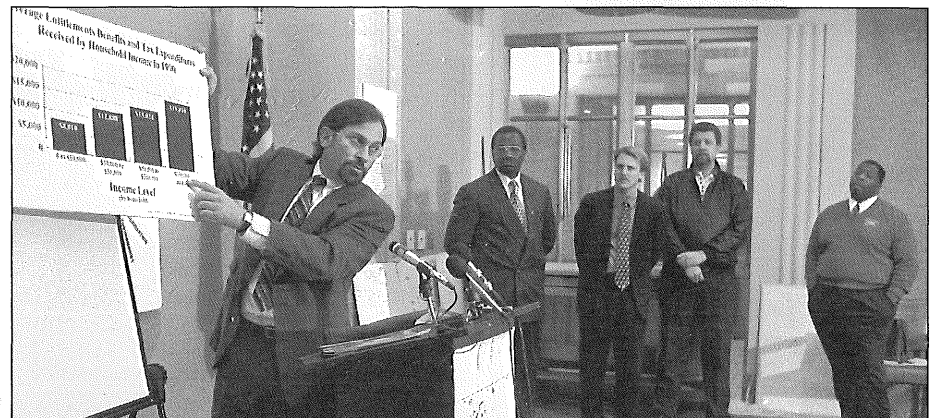
### TIF districts

The House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee approved three bills Feb. 9 that would allow three different cities a chance to forgo a penalty they normally would pay for offering tax breaks to companies to expand in their communities.

But committee chair Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) said the bills will face a tougher time winning passage at their next stop, the House Taxes Committee.

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 (TIF), involves a company expanding and creating new jobs in exchange for the city forgiving property taxes for a set number of years.

For years the state has worried that cities



Rep. Andy Dawkins, left, outlined a plan in a Feb. 15 press conference that would shift most of the state's revenue on the income tax rather than the property tax. Also pictured, left to right, are Shem Shakin, Frogtown Action Alliance, Wayne Lundeen, Thomas-Dale Block Clubs, Yusef Mgeni, Urban Coalition, and Johnny Howard, Thomas-Dale Block Clubs.

are too eager to offer tax breaks to companies that would otherwise expand even without the breaks.

So, in 1990 the state decided to attach a penalty to TIF districts created by cities. Now, local governments lose a portion of their state aid dollars when they offer a business tax breaks.

The bills heard Feb. 9 all ask that the state forgive their penalty. Supporters of the bills point to a precedent set by the 1994 Legislature when it made an exception in the TIF law for St. Cloud and its Fingerhut Companies, which had threatened to leave town and expand elsewhere.

**HF82** sponsored by Rep. Barb Vickerman (IR-Redwood Falls) would create a special TIF district to build a new feed mill to replace an aging 114-year-old facility in Springfield, Minn., for Vigorena Feeds. The mill employs 47 people and the community is concerned the company will move elsewhere without a new plant.

"Fingerhut comes in here last year and gets a huge break," said Jim Nichols, Springfield director of economic development. "I recognize what 4,000 jobs mean to St. Cloud, but 47 mean just as much to Springfield."

Nichols did not specify the amount of Springfield's potential TIF district penalty.

The second bill, **HF100** sponsored by Rep. Chuck Brown (DFL-Appleton), would allow the expansion of an existing TIF district in Morris, Minn. The bill would allow an expansion at Kleespie Tanks, which manufactures petroleum tanks, Brown said. The company has 133 full-time employees. The amount of Morris' potential penalty is unclear.

In addition to exempting the TIF district from the loss of state aid, the bill asks the district be allowed to exist for 28 years instead of the nine now specified in law.

A third bill would allow Windom, Minn., to create a TIF district for an ethanol facility.

In addition to asking for a break on the state aid penalty, the bill also asks that the district exist for 25 years instead of the usual nine. The bill, **HF433**, is sponsored by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda). The amount of Windom's potential penalty is also unclear.

The three bills will now move to the Taxes Committee for further consideration.



## TOURISM

### Collecting agates

A Minnesota rock, gem, and mineral interpretive center — whose focal point would be the famed Lake Superior agate — would be created under a bill approved Feb. 15 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

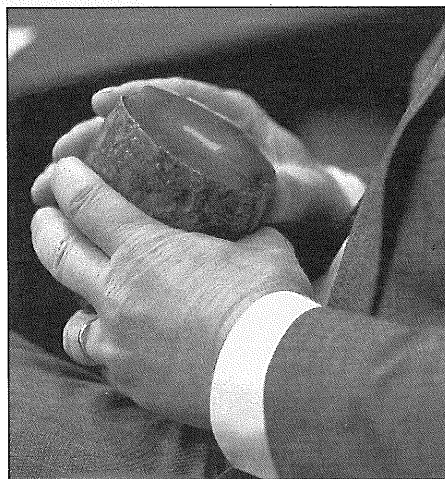
In addition to agates, other rocks, gems and minerals "indigenous to Minnesota" would be displayed. The bill would require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to consult with the Minnesota Geological Survey and rock and gem collectors about the design of the new center.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick), would spend \$67,500 to begin architectural and engineering design work for the center. The center, which would be located at Moose Lake State Park (just south of Duluth on I-35) would cost approximately \$450,000.

"We've been offered a number of agate collections," explained Bill Morrissey, director of state parks for the DNR. The state would get the prized agate collection of the late William Boltz of Topeka, Kan., if a suitable center is created. Lake Superior agates were moved south by the Kansan Glacier, Morrissey explained.

The interpretive center would be near Moose Lake, Minn., which is in prime agate hunting territory and features an annual Agate Days civic celebration.

A similar proposal was offered by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) in 1993, but the measure stalled.



A Lake Superior agate like this one could be seen at a new state mineral interpretive center, should **HF218** become law. The bill was approved Feb. 15 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

**HF218** now moves to the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee for further consideration.



## TRANSPORTATION

### School bus drivers

The state could no longer require that school bus drivers learn first aid or take eight hours of annual in-service training, under a bill approved by the House Transportation and Transit Committee Feb. 15.

Chief bill sponsor Rep. Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon) and co-sponsor Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters) spent the fall meeting with school bus drivers and school bus safety officials to ask their reaction to the 1994 school bus safety law.

"They said there's a lack of dollars to carry out the law, that there are buses without drivers, and they pointed out some rules we didn't think had a good cost-benefit," Sviggum said.

Last year the Legislature passed a comprehensive school bus safety law, which allowed school districts to get a 1 percent boost in their transportation safety aid each year to make their buses safer. The law also calls for more school bus driver training.

But Kalis said the law needed fine tuning, which is what **HF280** aims to do.

The proposal would leave it up to school districts — not the state — to determine how much first aid training drivers should receive. Current law says all drivers have to show they know first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation before they can obtain a school bus driver's license.

Sviggum called that provision an unfunded mandate the state passed on to school districts.

"First aid training should be left a local district decision and district dollars should be spent on it," Sviggum said.

The bill calls for school bus drivers to be evaluated every two years to make sure they still meet state licensing requirements. Current law says an evaluation must take place each year.

And **HF280** would decrease the amount of brush-up training each driver must take. Current law says drivers must receive eight hours of training annually. The bill would change that to eight hours every two years.

Robert Meeks, a lobbyist for the Minnesota School Boards Association, said the bill gives school districts more flexibility but still takes student safety needs into consideration.

Kalis said school districts face a bus driver

shortage because the frequently low-paying and part-time positions require specific training and a criminal background check. Potential bus drivers also must show they understand student behavior, know how to get students on and off the bus in an orderly fashion, and know what to do in emergencies.

This bill may ease some of the restrictions, Kalis said.

**HF280** now moves to the House floor.

## DWIs and truckers

The commercial drivers' licenses of truckers caught driving under the influence in the family car would be suspended under a bill given final approval by the House Feb. 13. The vote was 84-48.

Under the bill, truckers, snow plow drivers, and others arrested for driving under the influence in the family car would have their commercial and personal licenses suspended. The suspensions would run concurrently.

First-time DWI offenders lose their licenses for 15 days, second-time offenders for 90 days, and third-time offenders for 180 days. (See Feb. 3, 1995, *SessionWeekly*, page 11 and Feb. 10, 1995, *SessionWeekly*, page 13)

Bill sponsor Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka) said the measure "treats truck drivers the same as the average person." Truckers will lose their licenses only if they fail a sobriety test or refuse to take one, he said.

But Rep. Dennis Ozment (IR-Rosemount) said the proposal "just compounds the already bad law that's in place." It "trashes" the principle that a person is innocent until proven guilty because licenses are suspended before a trial is held, he added.

The bill (**HF35**) is a result of a Dec. 21, 1994, accident in Fairfax, Minn., which killed three-year-old Steven Ziegler and injured his two older brothers. A trucker who swerved to avoid a school bus drove his rig into the brothers as they waited at a bus stop.

Weaver did not claim that the truck driver was intoxicated or even negligent, but state records show the trucker has a spotty driving history. His personal driver's license has been suspended four times since 1989, but his commercial driving record is clean.

Similar legislation is pending in the Senate Transportation and Public Transit Committee.

## Hats and driver's licenses

Those suffering hair loss due to illness or head injury would be allowed to wear a head covering in their driver's license photograph, under a bill the House Transportation and Transit Committee approved Feb. 15.

House sponsor Rep. Jeff Bertram (DFL-Paynesville) proposed the bill (**HF52/SF33\***) after learning of a constituent who was told she had to take off her turban before her driver's license photograph could be taken. She wore the turban to cover up hair loss due to chemotherapy treatment for cancer.

"It was very traumatic to her," Bertram said.

Public safety employees now use their discretion in letting people wear hats or a head covering for photographs.

"But this would formally put it in policy," Bertram said. The bill also would apply to state-issued identification cards.

Additionally, the bill would allow Minnesotans with religious objections to leave their photographs off their state identification cards. Current law allows the practice for a state driver's license.

The bill, approved by the Senate Feb. 9 on a 60-0 vote, now moves to the House floor.

It was exactly 100 years ago that the first automobile appeared in Minnesota.

"The automobile was a monster new on Minnesota streets and roads. It was a curiosity, a contrivance for the rich, a noisy phenomenon that nobody quite knew how to control," according to *Minnesota Highway History*, a 1971 publication of the then-Department of Highways.

In 1903, the Legislature decided that "something had to be done to keep the automobile in check." The first traffic code was the result.

Lawmakers mandated that all automobiles have a license to operate on Minnesota roads. For \$2, a car owner needed to obtain a license from a state boiler inspector. Half the fee went to the county treasurer. The other half was

## It's a fact!

kept by the boiler inspector as his fee for issuing the license. Each car then received a number, which had to be displayed on the vehicle in figures no less than four and one-half inches high.

The original statewide speed limit was eight miles per hour "within the thickly settled



An early auto gets stuck somewhere in the Red River Valley in the 1920s.

Source: *Celebration 50 Years* a publication of the Minnesota Department of Highways

or business portion of any city or village," according to the law. While passing a crosswalk within city limits, drivers had to gear down to four miles per hour. Outside of town, the speed limit was 25 miles per hour. The same law mandated auto drivers to yield to "any vehicle propelled by horses" when directed to stop by the horsecart's driver.

Lights were required for night driving and no motor vehicle was allowed on the road unless it had an adequate muffler.

In 1907, the first license plates were issued. There were about 500 autos in the state. By 1911, the ranks had swelled to 17,960. A decade later, in 1921, the number was nearly 333,000.

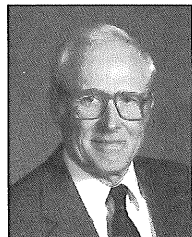
Today, there are more than 3.5 million cars registered in Minnesota.



New members . . .

# Swenson pledges 'Honesty, Integrity, Common Sense'

When Howard Swenson (IR-Nicollet) says his family has had a long-time interest and involvement in politics, he means it.



Rep. Howard Swenson

Great-grandfather Swen Swenson was elected to the Legislature from Nicollet County in 1886. Grandfather Oscar Swenson was elected to a House seat in 1913, and after serving 18 years, elected speaker in 1931 (in 1937, he was elected to a Senate seat and served until 1950).

Swen's brother, Lars Swenson, and Swen's son, Carl, also served in Senate.

So when Howard Swenson won the seat formerly held by Darrel Mosel (DFL-Gaylord) and joined his brother, Rep. Doug Swenson (IR-Forest Lake), it brought to six the number of Swensons who have served in the Legislature in the past 107 years.

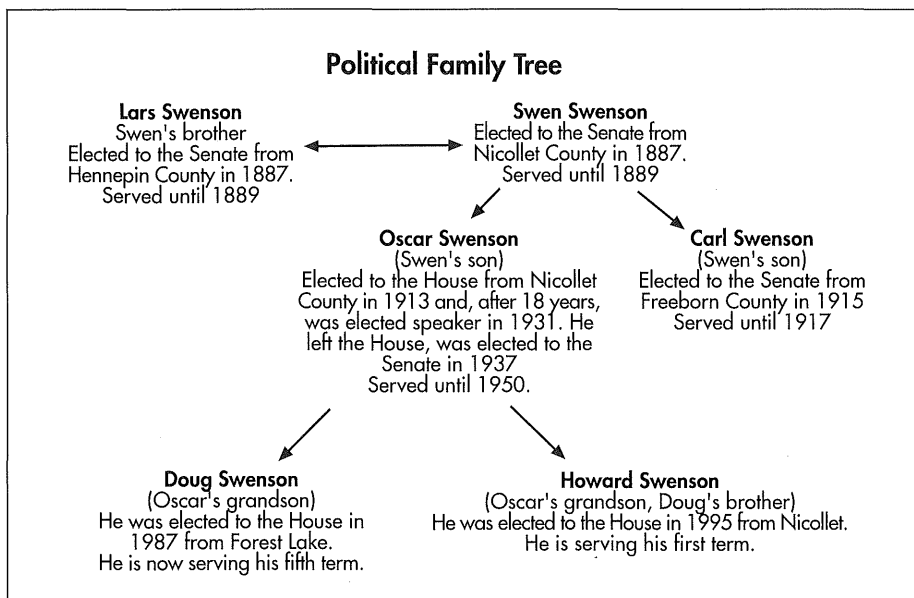
And not only does Swenson's family have a long political history, he has been very active himself. He spent 12 years on the Nicollet Board of Education, 11 years on the Minnesota Holstein Breeders Association Board, and five years on the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association Board.

Swenson has been a dairy farmer all his life and said his lifelong love has been raising dairy cattle. He lives on the homestead farm which has been in the family since Swen Swenson emigrated from Norway to Nicollet County in 1857. Howard Swenson's son, Paul, now does the bulk of the farm work while his father spends weekdays at the Capitol. His son is responsible for the dairy herd, but Swenson keeps his hand in the business when he's home on weekends.

He's always been involved in the livestock and dairy industries. The former 4-H leader says having registered cattle and taking part in showing and selling them has made his family business more interesting and enjoyable.

Swenson's local political involvements paid off when it came time to put an IR candidate against incumbent Mosel.

"I knew other people who had been in the Legislature and I had some idea about how it worked. The opportunity seemed to be there, so I declared," he said.



When Swen Swenson, who immigrated from Norway in 1857 and settled in Nicollet County, was elected to the Legislature in 1887, he started a family trend that continues today.

Swenson wants to hold down state taxes and slow down what he calls the "ever increasing growth in government." He also would like to have a hand in restructuring a workers' compensation system he says encourages business to move to neighboring states due to prohibitive insurance prices.

Swenson's campaign brochures boast in bright red the slogan "Honesty, Integrity, Common Sense." Those are the values he pledged to maintain if elected. The words are now carved in wooden block letters which sit on his desk. His office is also well stocked with photographs of his family: wife, Jane; daughters Julie, Janet, Nancy and Ruth; and son, Paul. He also proudly displays many photos of his farm.

Swenson does not intend to forget he represents rural interests. One of his priorities is to improve farm-to-market roads so agricultural products may be easily moved.

Legislators from the metropolitan area need to be reminded farming and agribusiness are vital to Minnesota's economy, Swenson said.

"I've been a farmer all my life. That's who I am and that's who I represent," Swenson said.

In addition to a spot on the House Agriculture Committee, he serves on the Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee and on the committee's Business Regulation

Division, and the Education Committee.

His school board experience gives him a good background on educational issues.

So far, he's found his legislative duties much as he anticipated, though even busier.

"It seems like even this early in the session, I keep going morning until night," he said.

— Jean Thilmany

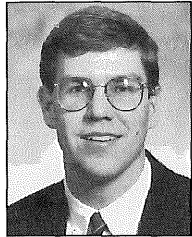
## District 23B

**Population:** 32,258  
**Distribution:** 14.41 percent urban; 85.59 percent rural  
**Counties:** Blue Earth, Brown, McLeod, Nicollet, Sibley  
**Largest city:** Glencoe  
**Location:** southcentral Minnesota  
**Unemployment rate:** 3.59 percent  
**Residents living below poverty level:** 9.06 percent  
**1992 presidential election results:**  
 Bush/Quayle ..... 33.06 percent  
 Clinton/Gore ..... 32.68 percent  
 Perot/Stockdale ..... 32.77 percent  
 Other: ..... 1.49 percent

New members . . .

## Paulsen applies market principles to government

Erik Paulsen was working as a marketing analyst for a direct mail company when the lure of politics became irresistible. He quit his job in 1989 to become an intern in the St. Paul office of former U.S. Sen. Rudy Boschwitz.



Rep. Erik Paulsen

The Independent-Republican from Eden Prairie later put to use his mathematical studies at St. Olaf College in assisting U.S. Rep. Jim Ramstad on the Small Business Committee in Washington, D.C. Paulsen returned to Minnesota in May 1992 to become district director of the congressman's Bloomington office.

When former Rep. Sidney Pauly announced her retirement last year, Paulsen saw a "great opportunity to have an impact on local issues — issues that would affect my family and the area I grew up in."

He ran a shoe leather campaign. "I knocked on 12,364 doors, so I'm glad that's over," he admits. Paulsen says he "out-hustled" a primary challenger and then won a House seat last November at the tender age of 29. (He's not the youngest House member, however. Rep. Tim Commers, another St. Olaf alumnus, is 28.)

Paulsen thought at first that his "youth might be a liability," but he said he realized "more and more that it was an asset in the campaign." He said that constituents appreciated his visits and were "excited" to see him working hard to spread his message.

Paulsen's legislative agenda will focus on improving the state's business climate, a lesson he literally learned at his grandfather's knee.

"When I was growing up my grandfather

owned a small manufacturing company in Plymouth and he always talked about workers' compensation costs and other impediments to doing business in Minnesota," Paulsen recalled.

Every year, South Dakota officials would visit Paulsen's grandfather to urge him to "move or expand" his business to the "Coyote State." Serving on the House Labor-Management Relations Committee will give Paulsen a say on the direction of workers' compensation reform legislation.

Concerning welfare reform, Paulsen said he would like to adapt "private marketplace principles" to public assistance programs. He would like to offer some form of bonuses for caseworkers "who help welfare recipients get jobs." He thinks that such incentives will motivate caseworkers to get their clients off the welfare rolls.

"I think competition and accountability are real powerful incentives," he said.

And like many of his Independent-Republican colleagues, Paulsen said many of his constituents are burdened by high property taxes.

"There's a myth" that people can pay high taxes just because they live in a "high property tax value area," said Paulsen, who represents parts of Eden Prairie and Edina. He added that he wants to "link education funding reform with tax reform."

To hold the line on taxes, Paulsen said he would like to require a "super majority" — or 60 percent vote — before any tax increase measure in the Legislature could be adopted. And he would also like to see the "super majority" proposal adopted as a constitutional amendment so legislators couldn't change it from year to year. (Currently, all that is needed in the House to approve a tax

bill is 68 votes; half of the 134-member House is 67).

Away from the Legislature and politics, Paulsen's "number one thing" is spending time at home with his wife and young daughter. He also enjoys cross-country skiing, hiking, camping, and late night broomball games with friends from St. Olaf.

The legislative session, so far, is going too slowly for Paulsen's taste. Most committee meetings are consumed with overviews of state departments, agencies, and boards, so he's waiting for the real action to start. He contrasts the slow pace at the Legislature with the new Congress, where lawmakers bolt out of the starting blocks "from day one."

Paulsen knows that the pace will pick up, and he's encouraged by the commitment to "real change" he finds, especially among the first-term representatives — "both the Republicans and the Democrats."

Paulsen says he sees "some real opportunities in the Legislature this year to get some things done. That's what people really want."

— Mordecai Spektor

### District 42B

**Population:** 32,285  
**Distribution:** 100 percent urban  
**County:** Hennepin  
**Largest city:** Edina  
**Location:** southwestern Metro  
**Unemployment rate:** 3.58 percent  
**Residents living below poverty level:** 3.60 percent  
**1992 presidential election results:**  
Bush/Quayle ..... 43.51 percent  
Clinton/Gore ..... 32.78 percent  
Perot/Stockdale ..... 22.98 percent  
Other: ..... 0.73 percent

**Bribery doesn't always involve money.** An apple will suffice. Just ask Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda).

Before presenting a local bill for southwestern Minnesota to the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Feb. 14, Winter gave Chair Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) an apple.

After the committee recommended his bill to pass, Long thanked Winter for the apple (size, type, and freshness unknown).

Knowledge of the apple sent some members of the committee into a mock tizzy, outwardly whining: "How come she got an apple?" Cries of

bribery rang through the committee room as well as calls for a full investigation into the scandal.

"An apple a day makes the bills pass right away," Winter joked as he rushed out the door.

**Should legislators have to pass** a physical fitness test before they propose a new or proposed trail system?

Rep. Virgil Johnson (IR-Caledonia) presented

a bill before the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 15 to extend the Blufflands Trail System to include the towns of Minnesota City, Rollingstone, Altura, Lewiston, Utica, St. Charles, and Elba in southeastern Minnesota.

As the measure sailed through the committee, Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) offered his conditional support to the bill's sponsor: "I'll vote for it if Rep. Johnson promises to walk from Minnesota City to Elba."

"That's asking a lot from a fat old man, but I'll try," Johnson replied.



# Bill Introductions

HF531-HF719

## Monday, Feb. 13

### HF531—Entenza (DFL)

#### Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Airbag passive restraint system repair and restoration regulated.

### HF532—McCollum (DFL)

#### General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Persian Gulf War veteran bonus payments permitted and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF533—Bertram (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Eden Lake township annexed to the Paynesville area hospital district.

### HF534—Haas (IR)

#### Judiciary

Fleeing a peace officer by means of a motor vehicle provided felony penalty.

### HF535—Haas (IR)

#### Judiciary

Criminals prohibited from recovering damages for injuries sustained during criminal conduct.

### HF536—Entenza (DFL)

#### Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Residential building contractor license requirements modified, garage defined, and license exemption provided for Habitat For Humanity volunteers.

### HF537—Bertram (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Teacher Retirement Association member provided military service credit purchase for military service during the Vietnam War prior to initial employment as a teacher.

### HF538—McGuire (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Secretary of state authorized access to individuals' social security numbers in certain circumstances.

### HF539—Garcia (DFL)

#### Education

Technology support aid provided to school districts, and money appropriated for Internet access.

### HF540—Davids (IR)

#### Education

Independent school district Nos. 228, Harmony, and 233, Preston-Fountain, provided debt equalization determination.

### HF541—Johnson, R. (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Public pension plan member pension guarantee provided, and postretirement benefits limited.

### HF542—Pellow (IR)

#### Governmental Operations

Lawful purpose expenditures by or to tax exempt organizations regulated.

### HF543—Ness (IR)

#### Education

School districts authorized to lease buildings or land for administrative purposes, and lease payment levy authority granted pending approval of education commissioner.

### HF544—Hasskamp (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Informal probate guide prepared by state court administrator, and money appropriated.

### HF545—Hasskamp (DFL)

#### Education

Minimum guaranteed aid provided to school districts.

### HF546—McGuire (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Child abuse victim videotape release limited.

### HF547—Larsen (IR)

#### Health & Human Services

Dental services and goods exempted from the MinnesotaCare provider tax.

### HF548—Davids (IR)

#### General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

State primary election date changed.

### HF549—Davids (IR)

#### General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

State primary election date changed, and precinct caucus system eliminated.

### HF550—Bishop (IR)

#### Judiciary

Sentencing guidelines modifications provided for certain violent crimes.

### HF551—Ness (IR)

#### Education

School district referendum levy notice wording clarified.

### HF552—Mulder (IR)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Split Rock Creek State Park in Pipestone County provided territory addition.

### HF553—Vickerman (IR)

#### Education

Independent School District No. 85, Springfield, debt service aid eligibility authorized.

### HF554—Entenza (DFL)

#### Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Securities broker-dealer, agent, or investment advisor licensee enforcement actions regulated, and investment metal definition modified.

### HF555—Smith (IR)

#### Judiciary

Civil action plaintiff administrative cost assessment and payment required.

### HF556—Davids (IR)

#### Health & Human Services

Abortion; Woman's right to know act adopted.

### HF557—Pugh (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Administration commissioner opinion issuance authority, and data treatment clarified.

### HF558—Cooper (DFL)

#### Education

Independent School District No. 2190, Granite Falls-Clarkfield-Echo, swimming pool operation levy authorized.

### HF559—Carruthers (DFL)

#### Judiciary Finance

Northwest Community Law Enforcement Project in Hennepin County appropriated money.

### HF560—Knight (IR)

#### Taxes

Property tax rate freeze provided for homeowners age 65 or older.

### HF561—Knight (IR)

#### Taxes

Property tax proposal truth in taxation notice mailing date changed.

### HF562—Knight (IR)

#### Education

Minneapolis and St. Paul parental choice program established, authorizing attendance at private schools free of charge, and money appropriated.

### HF563—Tunheim (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Beaver Damage Control Joint Powers Board appropriated money.

### HF564—Mahon (DFL)

#### Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Peace officers granted notary public powers for the administration of oaths upon information submitted to establish probable cause.

### HF565—Mariani (DFL)

#### Housing

Metropolitan Council federal Section 8 Housing Program operation authorized.

### HF566—Osskopp (IR)

#### General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Persian Gulf War veteran bonus payments permitted, bonus program established, penalty imposed, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.



**HF567—Dawkins (DFL)****Taxes**

Hospital and health care provider tax data disclosure provided to state Department of Human Services commissioner and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**HF568—Frerichs (IR)****Transportation & Transit**

Eye protection required for motorcycle riders.

**HF569—Opatz (DFL)****Education**

Independent School District No. 742, St. Cloud, authorized to transfer funds from the general fund to the capital expenditure fund for instructional technology purposes.

**HF570—Davids (IR)****Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Crop hail insurance rate filing date changed.

**HF571—Wolf (IR)****Taxes**

Cargo vans exempted from rental motor vehicle tax.

**HF572—Peterson (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

National pollution discharge elimination system permit fees limited.

**HF573—Wolf (IR)****Taxes**

Grass seed, fertilizer, and lawn chemicals considered purchases for resale in certain cases for taxation purposes.

**HF574—Pugh (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Securities registration provisions modified.

**HF575—Erhardt (IR)****Transportation and Transit**

Motor vehicle transfer notification by buyer required within ten days of purchase, and fees and penalties imposed.

**HF576—Tompkins (IR)****Governmental Operations**

Lottery advertising prohibited, state department and agency advertising restricted, and penalties provided.

**HF577—Bertram (DFL)****Taxes**

Brooten tax increment financing district exempted from the LGA/HACA offset; and sales tax exemption provided for building materials used in certain agricultural processing facilities.

**HF578—Opatz (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

Executive agency compensation savings use restricted.

**HF579—Tompkins (IR)****Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare regulated all-payer option eliminated.

**HF580—Sviggum (IR)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Environmental trust fund and future resources fund money availability expanded, Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) eliminated, and money appropriated.

**HF581—Johnson, V. (IR)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Forest resources council and forest resources research advisory committee established to coordinate forest resource management, use, and development.

**HF582—Clark (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Human services anti-poverty measures provided; AFDC grants provided, GA, GAMC, and STRIDE provisions modified, working family credit, minimum wage, sales tax, and child care cost provisions modified, and money appropriated.

**HF583—Jaros (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

Sports pool lottery games established; human resources account created in the general fund; community health clinic and food shelf grants provided; and money appropriated.

**HF584—Goodno (IR)****Judiciary**

Department of Human Rights data classification provisions modified.

**HF585—Orfield (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan government obsolete references removed and language clarified.

**HF586—Bertram (DFL)****Transportation & Transit**

Impound lots authorized to sell and dispose of unauthorized, abandoned, and junk vehicles.

**HF587—Davids (IR)****Governmental Operations**

Unicameral legislature provided with 135 members, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF588—Wejcman (DFL)****Judiciary**

Inmate claims hearings legislative authority expanded.

**HF589—Leppik (IR)****Judiciary**

Medical malpractice; health care provider professional negligence actions regulated, limitations provided on noneconomic losses, attorney's fees, and damages, and waiver of privilege for health care providers established.

**HF590—Trimble (DFL)****International Trade & Economic Development**

Agricultural trade promotion duties transferred to Department of Agriculture, regional trade centers authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF591—Simoneau (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Health carrier regulation duties transferred to the Department of Commerce.

**HF592—Simoneau (DFL)****Ethics**

Public official gift restriction provisions modified.

**HF593—Tunheim (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Wetland management and protection provisions modified.

**HF594—Smith (IR)****Rules & Legislative Administration**

Budget; Congress memorialized to ratify balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

**HF595—Osskopp (IR)****Governmental Operations**

Finance commissioner granted authority over debts owed to the state.

**HF596—Larsen (IR)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Local government pay equity law noncompliance penalties modified.

**HF597—Kelley (DFL)****Local Government & Metro Affairs**

Metropolitan public safety radio communications systems coordination and consolidation provided; 911 emergency telephone service fee use authorized, and bonds issued.

**HF598—Greenfield (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Vulnerable Adults Reporting Act modified, and penalties provided.

**HF599—Leppik (IR)****Transportation & Transit**

Passenger automobile depreciation schedules modified for taxation purposes, and gasoline and special fuel tax increased.

**HF600—Greenfield (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Medical Assistance Program trust treatment and enforceability provisions modified.

**HF601—Greenfield (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Human services child care and Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) waiver request provided, standard of need raised, and money appropriated.

**HF602—Winter (DFL)****Taxes**

Omnibus tax bill providing tax policy, collections, administrative changes, and penalties.

**HF603—Milbert (DFL)****Taxes**

Omnibus Department of Revenue tax bill providing technical corrections, administrative changes, and clarifications.

**HF604—Pugh (DFL)****Judiciary**

Uniform transfer of litigation act adopted.

**HF605—Knight (IR)**  
**Education**

Parental rights affirmed to direct the upbringing and education of their children, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF606—Solberg (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Nashwauk area ambulance district local approval requirements modified.

**HF607—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Nursing facility plant and maintenance cost adjustment provided.

**HF608—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Nursing facility maximum efficiency incentive per diem payment adjusted.

**HF609—Orfield (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan Council made an elective body and provided public campaign financing, and penalties imposed.

**HF610—Farrell (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Truancy prevention and school safety projects appropriated money.

**HF611—Leppik (IR)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Interstate Highway No. 394 construction restrictions abolished.

## Thursday, Feb. 16

**HF612—Cooper (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Prescription drug prescribers provided equal treatment.

**HF613—Hugoson (IR)**  
**Agriculture**

Agricultural Utilization Research Institute Board of Directors to include Department of Agriculture commissioner.

**HF614—Cooper (DFL)**  
**Agriculture**

Passing on the farm center established at Southwest Technical College in Granite Falls, and money appropriated.

**HF615—Girard (IR)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**

Prevailing wage payment requirement eliminated on state government contracted projects.

**HF616—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs**  
Accounting firm licensure by Board of Accountancy provided, licensing and disciplinary requirements modified, practice entities regulated, and money appropriated.

**HF617—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Teachers Retirement Association administration and benefit practices modified.

**HF618—Lourey (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded maximum efficiency incentives increased.

**HF619—Lourey (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Nursing facility efficiency incentives modified.

**HF620—Jacobs (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Telephone company alternative regulation provided for limited periods, local exchange service competition promoted, and technical provisions modified.

**HF621—Lieder (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Caucus and voter guides prepared and distributed by secretary of state, and money appropriated.

**HF622—Tunheim (DFL)**  
**Agriculture**

Wetland management and protection provisions modified.

**HF623—Tomassoni (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Life insurance policy replacement information disclosure requirements established, and form provided.

**HF624—Ostrom (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**

Public employees running for elective office provided leave of absence.

**HF625—Orenstein (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**

Debt collection entity established within the Department of Revenue, duties and powers imposed, data disclosure provided, collection penalty imposed, and money appropriated.

**HF626—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**

Environmental education council established, state plan for environmental education development required, and money appropriated.

**HF627—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**

Labor-Management Council employee or officer provided elective individual paid insurance and benefit eligibility.

**HF628—Bishop (IR)**  
**Judiciary**

Parental right termination; presumption of refusal or neglect of parental duties created.

**HF629—Van Engen (IR)**  
**Judiciary Finance**

Prairie Lakes Juvenile Detention Center bond issuance and appropriation provided for elevator installation.

**HF630—Macklin (IR)**  
**Taxes**

Agricultural tax credits provided, used farm machinery sales tax exemption made permanent, political contribution refund eliminated, local

government flexibility and accountability provided, and money appropriated.

**HF631—Clark (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Prescription drug price negotiation authority granted to Department of Administration, statewide drug formulary established, and pharmacists required to post signs relating to generic drug substitution.

**HF632—Van Engen (IR)**  
**Judiciary**

Grocery store and delicatessen civil liability limited related to food donations to the elderly or needy.

**HF633—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Indecent exposure in the presence of a child under the age of 16 penalties increased.

**HF634—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Long-term care demonstration projects established, and money appropriated.

**HF635—Rhodes (IR)**  
**Transportation & Transit**

Motor vehicle base value determination provided for taxation purposes.

**HF636—Erhardt (IR)**  
**Taxes**

Noncommercial seasonal residential recreational property tax class rates reduced.

**HF637—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Taxes**

Electric power generation facility market value taxation exclusion provided based on facility efficiency.

**HF638—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Power Plant Siting Act exemption provided for cogeneration plants, and local siting regulations for cogeneration plants preempted.

**HF639—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Cogeneration plants exempted from the certificate of need process, and federal right waiver required.

**HF640—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Registered property adverse claims notice requirements modified.

**HF641—Brown (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**

Land use request response by government entities provided time limitation.

**HF642—Winter (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**

Workers' compensation insurance regulation and benefits modified, and money appropriated.

**HF643—Bishop (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**

Water quality best management practices assess-

ment required, well sealing cost share grants increased, and money appropriated.

**HF644—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Firearms; right to keep and bear arms not abridged and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF645—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Beer keg identification standards established by public safety commissioner, and beer retailers required to maintain records of keg sales and record keg identification numbers.

**HF646—Bishop (IR)**  
**Judiciary Finance**

Peace officer firearms use report required annually by public safety commissioner.

**HF647—Jefferson (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Employees provided time off to vote in special legislative elections.

**HF648—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Court referee office abolished, judgeships established to replace referees, and money appropriated.

**HF649—Jaros (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Designer selection state board membership increased, and representation from each congressional district required.

**HF650—Long (DFL)**  
**Taxes**

Noncommercial seasonal recreational residential property tax class rates reduced.

**HF651—Macklin (IR)**  
**Judiciary**

Uniform probate code provisions modified, safe deposit box search authority expanded, division and merger of trusts provisions modified, and power-of-attorney granted to spouses in certain cases.

**HF652—Kraus (IR)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Glenville and Albert Lea tax increment financing districts established, and Albert Lea tax increment financing district exempted from certain aid restrictions.

**HF653—Perlt (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Oakdale tax increment financing districts exempted from certain restrictions.

**HF654—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Town board authority clarified to alter or vacate town roads dedicated by plat.

**HF655—Dehler (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Dice use allowed in licensed liquor establishments for deciding payment for alcoholic beverages, food, or other lawfully sold items.

**HF656—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Equal rights provided to men and women, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF657—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
No-fault automobile insurance damage limitation provided for noneconomic detriment.

**HF658—Smith (IR)**  
**Education**  
Education mandates removed unless funding is provided.

**HF659—Dehler (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Fleeing a peace officer by means of a motor vehicle in a dangerous manner provided felony penalty.

**HF660—Dehler (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Lawful purpose expenditures; gross profit expenditure increase provided for items not directly related to the conduct of lawful gambling.

**HF661—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Restraint of trade sales discrimination law price markup provisions repealed.

**HF662—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Precinct caucus date changed; major party candidates required to provide proof of party support before being listed on ballot; endorsed candidates permitted to include endorsement on partisan primary ballot; state primary date changed.

**HF663—Tomassoni (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Firearms; right to keep and bear arms not abridged and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF664—Jefferson (DFL)**  
**Housing**  
Manufactured home parks barred from prohibiting senior citizens from keeping pet dogs, cats and birds.

**HF665—Pawlenty (IR)**  
**Education**  
Campus closure and reorganization commission established, and money appropriated.

**HF666—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Cottage and camp use of federal land provided property tax exemption.

**HF667—Long (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Campaign finance spending limit and public subsidy provisions modified.

**HF668—Tuma (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Psychologist licensure written declaration of intent requirement eliminated for persons with a master's degree seeking psychologist licensure.

**HF669—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Survivor benefit payment prohibited to survivor who has feloniously caused the death of a member of a public pension plan.

**HF670—Pelowski (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Winona County authorized to negotiate and enter into a contract with Winona County Developmental Achievement Center.

**HF671—Anderson, R. (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Volunteer services for retired senior citizens, Foster Grandparent Program, and Senior Companion Program expanded, and money appropriated.

**HF672—Wagenius (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Waste Management Act provisions modified.

**HF673—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
Risk-based capital for insurers regulated, and NAIC model act adopted.

**HF674—Olson, E. (DFL)**  
**Education**  
North Central Minnesota Educational Television Consortium authorized a grant to establish an interactive television network.

**HF675—Knight (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
DWI; maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered for operation of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, and motorboats, and while hunting.

**HF676—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Inmates allowed to continue caring for their children who have special needs through the Work Release Program.

**HF677—Tomassoni (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
Insurance coverage regulated, and notice provisions, enforcement provisions, fees, and licenses modified, and technical changes provided.

**HF678—Clark (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Language interpretation model instruction program established, and money appropriated.

**HF679—Winter (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Independent School District No. 518, Worthington, residential program operation extension provided.

**HF680—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Home rule charter cities authorized to issue tax anticipation certificates.

**HF681—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Legislative Route No. 115 in Inver Grove Heights noise barrier construction required.



**HF682—Carruthers (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Health plan carrier organizational provisions modified.

**HF683—Milbert (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Small game hunting provisions modified, protected wild animal classification expanded, trapping and fishing restrictions modified, fishing season opening and closing dates adjusted, and commercial fish license provisions modified.

**HF684—Van Engen (IR)**

**Taxes**

Recreational property occupied by a relative home-stead qualification time period reduced.

**HF685—Simoneau (DFL)**

**Labor-Management Relations**

Workers' compensation self-insurance provisions modified.

**HF686—Lourey (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare; comprehensive health association coverage portability provided, small employer market provisions modified, premium billing practices regulated, and family coverage provisions modified.

**HF687—Lourey (DFL)**

**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Medicare supplement policy grace periods regulated.

**HF688—Dauner (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Teachers Retirement Association member granted disability benefit payment.

**HF689—Pugh (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

West St. Paul Police Relief Association deceased member spouse benefit eligibility provided.

**HF690—Cooper (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

University of Minnesota-Duluth Medical Education Program expanded, Federal Area Health Education Center Program grant request required, physician substitute demonstration project established, physician associate program, money appropriated.

**HF691—Koppendrayner (IR)**

**Education**

Teacher contract procedure modified.

**HF692—Jennings (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Medical Assistance transportation service reimbursement rates adjusted.

**HF693—Dehler (IR)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Polling place campaign sign posting regulations clarified.

**HF694—Huntley (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Human services child care programs and county contribution provisions modified.

**HF695—Solberg (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Higher education employee labor contracts ratified.

**HF696—Wagenius (DFL)**

**Education**

Compulsory education requirements modified for children under the age of seven.

**HF697—Simoneau (DFL)**

**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Long-term care insurance policy sale requirements modified.

**HF698—McCollum (DFL)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Veterans Homes Board duties modified, and Silver Bay Veterans Home Dementia Unit expansion provided.

**HF699—Smith (IR)**

**Transportation & Transit**

County board natural preservation route decision appeals allowed.

**HF700—Pugh (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metro Affairs**

Dakota County appropriated money for airport planning cost reimbursement.

**HF701—Pugh (DFL)**

**Judiciary Finance**

Administrative law judges salaries set.

**HF702—Lieder (DFL)**

**Education**

School safety patrols authorized to include nonpupil adults as members.

**HF703—Tomassoni (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Male responsibility and fathering grant program established, and money appropriated.

**HF704—Marko (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Public contracts for consultant services requirements modified.

**HF705—Mares (IR)**

**Education**

Children and education services department established and money appropriated.

**HF706—Huntley (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Duluth; Hartley Nature Center appropriated money for improvements.

**HF707—Bettermann (IR)**

**Education**

Higher Education Coordinating Board, state colleges and universities, and University of Minnesota appropriated money.

**HF708—Huntley (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare regulated all-payer option repealed, and tax payment procedures modified.

**HF709—Tunheim (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Civil cause of action provided for property value reduction as a result of government action, and attorney general required to review proposed rules relating to taking property.

**HF710—Carruthers (DFL)**

**Education**

Education general formula allowance, training and experience revenue, and transportation revenue increased.

**HF711—Carruthers (DFL)**

**Education**

School district tax abatement state aid modified.

**HF712—Luther (DFL)**

**Housing**

Brooklyn Park rental tax equity pilot project established, and money appropriated.

**HF713—Winter (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Feedlot regulatory authority granted to local governments.

**HF714—Clark (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Indian Affairs Council to report on potentially offensive place names.

**HF715—Schumacher (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Town board adoption of recorded town road map damages paid to property owners.

**HF716—Olson, E. (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Civil cause of action provided for property value reduction as a result of government action, and attorney general required to review rules relating to taking property.

**HF717—Cooper (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Town roads crossing state lands official confirmation provided.

**HF718—Johnson, R. (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Civil cause of action provided for property value reduction as a result of government action, and attorney general required to review proposed rules relating to taking property.

**HF719—Davids (IR)**

**Governmental Operations**

Civil cause of action provided for property value reduction as a result of government action, and attorney general required to review proposed rules relating to taking property.

Coming Up Next Week . . . Feb. 20 - 24, 1995

# Committee Schedule

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

## MONDAY, Feb. 20

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Minnesota Transportation Museum.  
Board of Architects, Land Survey and Land-  
scape Architecture. Minnesota State Board of  
Accountancy. Minnesota Association of Cen-  
ters for Independent Living.

### K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Analysis of Article 6 in governor's  
budget recommendations.

### Property Tax &

### Tax Increment Financing Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** HF82 (Vickerman) Springfield author-  
ized to establish a tax increment financing  
district for agricultural production facility  
expansion.

HF100 (Brown) Morris authorized to enlarge  
an existing tax increment financing district.

HF131 (Peterson) Ethanol project increment  
increase provided.

HF148 (Simoneau) Columbia Heights tax in-  
crement financing district exempted from LGA/  
HACA offset.

HF173 (Pelowski) Winona lodging tax revenue  
use provisions modified.

HF183 (Peterson) Swift County authorized to  
establish a rural development finance authority.

HF433 (Winter) Windom tax increment fi-  
nancing district exempted from certain  
restrictions.

### University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** University 2000 discussion, Matthew  
V. Tirrell; Earle E. Bakken, chair, Biomedical  
Engineering, University of Minnesota.

8:30 a.m.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Continuation of overview of governor's  
budget recommendations by the Department of  
Human Services.

10 a.m.

### AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

**Agenda:** Fertilizer price increases. Testimony  
from fertilizer producers and wholesalers.

### JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** HF471 (Greenfield) Seat belt viola-  
tions; peace officers authorized to stop drivers  
and issue citations for seat belt violations with-  
out first observing a moving violation.

HF125 (Bishop) Inmates prohibited from ap-  
plying for name changes more than once a year.

HF136 (Clark) Forcible entry and unlawful  
detainer court filing fee refund provided.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

**Agenda:** Department of Public Service tele-  
communications bill.

HFXXX (Jacobs) Allowing for alternative regu-  
lation of telephone companies for a four-year  
period; authorizing rulemaking to promote fair  
and reasonable competition for local exchange  
service.

12:30 p.m.

### HOUSING

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** HF506 (Clark) Lead abatement provi-  
sions modified and recodified, and money ap-  
propriated.

HF323 (Dawkins) Landlord deemed billpayer  
and customer of record on utility accounts in  
single-metered multi-unit residential buildings.

HF467 (Wejcman) Housing inspection cause of  
action for damages limited.

### LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Johnson

**Agenda:** 16-point plan presented to the Work-  
ers' Compensation Advisory Council.

### Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs/ GENERAL LEGISLATION,

### VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Betty McCollum, Joe Opatz

**Agenda:** HF566 (Osskopp) Persian Gulf War  
veteran bonus payments permitted, bonus pro-  
gram established, penalty imposed, money ap-  
propriated, and constitutional amendment  
proposed.

HF172 (Hackbarth) Veterans homes board of  
directors expense allowance authorized.

HF171 (Rostberg) Veterans homes resources  
account fund use authority clarified.

HF532 (McCollum) Persian Gulf War veteran  
bonus payments permitted and constitutional  
amendment proposed.

HFXXX (McCollum) Silver Bay Dementia Unit  
expansion.

2:30 p.m.

The House will meet in Session.

4 p.m.

### Reports, Mandates, Litigation and Free Speech Issues Working Group/Joint Higher Education Finance Division and University of Minnesota Finance Division/EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## TUESDAY, Feb. 21

8 a.m.

### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** SF188 (Samuelson); HF146 (Has-  
kamp) Brainerd Technical College appropri-  
ation use authorized for athletic facility  
relocation.

HF610 (Farrell) Truancy prevention and school  
safety projects appropriated money.

## JUDICIARY FINANCE

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Public defense deficiency bill. Out of home placement.

## MinnesotaCare Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** Continuation of presentation of governor's 1996-97 biennial budget recommendations for MinnesotaCare, Minnesota Department of Human Services.

## Transportation Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** Continuation of MnDOT budget presentation.

8:30 a.m.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency budget presentation, Charles Williams, commissioner; Ann Glumac, deputy commissioner.

10 a.m.

## Financial Aid and Tuition Policy Working Group/Joint Higher Education Finance Division and University of Minnesota Finance Division/EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## Subcommittee on Administrative Rules/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mindy Greiling

**Agenda:** Preliminary review of draft of the Omnibus Administrative Rules bill.

## TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** HFXXX Governor's tax bill.

12:30 p.m.

## CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Department of Administration presentations: Capital Asset Preservation and Replacement Account (CAPRA); rent study.

## COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** HF441 (Jennings) Business license electronic filing and retrieval provided, and money appropriated.

HF399 (Perlt) Secretary of state; filings regulated, and service of process provisions specified.

HF457 (Perlt) Mortgage loan negotiator and mortgage broker regulatory provisions modified.

HF536 (Entenza) Residential building contractor license requirements modified, garage defined, and license exemption provided for Habitat For Humanity volunteers.

HF554 (Entenza) Securities broker-dealer, agent, or investment advisor licensee enforcement actions regulated, and investment metal definition modified.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** HF162 (Bertram) Stearns County required to pay refund to Melrose for money received for property acquisition.

HF57 (Onnen) Cemetery maintenance employment relationship and local government liability provisions specified.

HF397 (Dempsey) Hastings tax increment financing district modified.

HF305 (Cooper) Local government financial audit provisions clarified.

HF449 (Mulder) Pipestone County bond issuance authorized for county courthouse repair.

HF362 (Bertram) Town boards authorized to establish petty cash loan fund for claims payment.

HF420 (Jennings) Municipal drainage authorities required to maintain town road bridges and culverts constructed on drainage systems. (If time permits.)

2:30 p.m.

## Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

**Agenda:** HF488 (Cooper) Relating to petroleum tank release clean-up fund.

6 p.m.

## Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women

224 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Janet Johnson

**Agenda:** Approval of budget. Legislative issues. Other commission business.

7 p.m.

## Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Voyager Room, Atwood Center, St. Cloud State University

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** Testimony from students, faculty, staff, administration, and community members on financial aid; developmental education; reports, mandates, litigation and free speech issues; caps and the effect on institutions; telecommunications enhancements and updates.

## WEDNESDAY, Feb. 22

8 a.m.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Housing Finance Agency. Senior Housing Inc.

## Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** Minnesota Community College Student Association testimony, Chris Lynch, president, MCCSA; Brian Clonkey, legislative director, MCCSA. Continued discussion of governor's budget proposal and merger, Ed McMahon, vice chancellor, Administration and Budget, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities; Judy Borgen, assistant vice chancellor, Finance, Minnesota State University System; Jay Noren, interim chancellor, Higher Education Board.

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

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Minnesota Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition response to the governor's proposed budget as it relates to the coalition's legislative agenda.

## Sales & Income Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

**Agenda:** HF59 (Bertram) Used farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently.

HF65 (Luther) Dependent care income tax credit provisions modified.

HF237 (Olson, E.) Veterinarians exempted from sales tax for horse and agricultural production animal care material purchases.

HF518 (Rest) Dependent care income tax provisions modified.

HF573 (Wolf) Grass seed, fertilizer, and lawn chemicals considered purchases for resale in



certain cases for taxation purposes.

HF577 (Bertram) Broom tax increment financing district exempted from the LGA/HACA offset; and sales tax exemption provided for building materials used in certain agricultural processing facilities.

8:30 a.m.

#### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

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

10 a.m.

#### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** Testimony on environmental issues by Bob Dunn, former Environmental Quality Board chair. Overview of Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, John Velin, director.

#### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

**Agenda:** HF313 (Hackbarth) Gross premium insurance company tax rates changed.

Other bills may be added.

#### JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** Any bill not completed during Feb. 20th meeting.

HF72 (Greiling) Residential rental building and manufactured home park managers and caretakers required to undergo criminal background checks, and landlord requirements and notice specifications provided.

Other bills to be announced.

12:30 p.m.

#### Business Regulation Division/ COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

**Agenda:** HF215 (Greiling) Governor authorized to veto certain rules and terminate rule proceedings.

2 p.m.

#### Advisory Council on Gambling

112 State Capitol

Chr. Harry W. Balzer

**Agenda:** Legislative update, Patrick McCormack and John Williams. Discussion of socio-economic model. Discussion of gambling policy development.

4 p.m.

#### University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Mayo medical budget overview, Burton Sandok, M.D., dean, Mayo Medical School; Thomas Harman, M.D., chair, Department of Family Medicine, Mayo Foundation; Martha Carey, administrative assistant, Academic Affairs, Mayo Medical School. High Technology Council presentation. University of Minnesota student body presentation: Tom Kleven, University of Minnesota-Crookston; Eric Newell, University of Minnesota-Morris; Susan Schultz, University of Minnesota-Duluth; Sheila Corbett, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

4:30 p.m.

#### Legislative Commission on Waste Management Executive Committee

400S State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Jean Wagenius, Sen. Janet Johnson

**Agenda:** FY 96-97 LCWM budget, review and approval. 1995 staff report and recommendations regarding appropriations from Superfund, review and approval.

5:30 p.m.

#### Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** Summary of 1994 actuarial valuations for the statewide and major local public pension plans, Thomas Custis, F.S.A., consulting actuary, Milliman & Robertson, Inc. Overview of likely public pension issues for the 1995 Legislative Session. Consideration of commission's fiscal year 1996-1997 budget request.

HF48 (Bertram) Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

HF134 (Bertram) Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

HF155 (Cooper) Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

HF163 (Leighton) Firefighter state aid increase provided.

HF165 (Schumacher) Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

HF424 (Hasskamp) Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

HF119 (Greiling) Part-time teacher retirement contribution payment by employer provisions modified.

SF361 (Metzen) Statewide; forfeiture of survivor benefits if survivor caused member death. HF76 (Kahn) Retirement; certain early retirees prohibited from public employment in comparable positions.

HF493 (Jefferson) Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund health insurance administrative provisions modified.

6:30 p.m.

#### Legislative Commission on Children, Youth and Their Families

107 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Jane Ranum

**Agenda:** Discussion of purpose and future of Legislative Commission on Children, Youth and Their Families.

7 p.m.

#### JUDICIARY FINANCE

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** District court judges who are former state representatives present their unique perspective on criminal justice funding.

### THURSDAY, Feb. 23

8 a.m.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. Dislocated Worker Program.

#### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** HF496 (Kraus) School district superintendent past buyout arrangement disclosure required.

Overview of latest draft of proposed state board desegregation rule. Activity report from Office of Desegregation/Integration. Brief overview of governor's desegregation budget initiatives.

#### JUDICIARY FINANCE

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Views on community correction funding.

**MinnesotaCare Finance Division/  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** Continuation of presentation of governor's 1996-97 biennial budget recommendations for MinnesotaCare, Minnesota Department of Human Services.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

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

10 a.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** HF217 (Simoneau) Life insurance living benefits settlements regulated; NAIC vatical settlements model act adoption provided; and powers and duties prescribed.

HF228 (Mulder) Physical therapy council, physician assistant advisory council, and respiratory care practitioners' advisory council reinstated.

HF139 (Pawlenty) Tenth Amendment; federal government mandate reporting and analysis required.

HF244 (Johnson, R.) Governor's workforce development council established to replace the Governor's Job Training Council.

**TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** Discussion of "green taxes."

HF520 (Milbert) State department and legislative appropriations provided.

HF603 (Milbert) Omnibus Department of Revenue tax bill providing technical corrections, administrative changes, and clarifications.

12:30 p.m.

**Elections Division/  
GENERAL LEGISLATION,  
VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** HF142 (Lieder) Precinct caucus, state, and presidential primary dates changed, absentee ballot deadline modified, voters guide distribution provided, presidential primary by mail allowed, filing fee increased, duties modified, and money appropriated.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** HF385 (Long) Metropolitan Airports Commission and Metropolitan Council airport planning report requirements modified.

HF597 (Kelley) Metropolitan public safety radio communications systems coordination and consolidation provided; 911 emergency telephone service fee use authorized, and bonds issued.

**Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs/  
COMMERCE, TOURISM &  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza

**Agenda:** HF340 (Pugh) Motor vehicle sales dealership establishment and relocation regulated.

HF531 (Entenza) Airbag passive restraint system repair and restoration regulated.

2:30 p.m.

**The House will meet in Session.**

**After Session**

**WAYS & MEANS**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

**Agenda:** HF5 (Anderson, B.) Welfare reform provisions modified, and money appropriated. HF394 (Rest) Legislative appropriations reduced, and governor directed to reduce executive agency appropriations.

HF355 (Girard) Appropriations; earlier appropriations supplemented.

HF273 (Pellow) Collector motor vehicle license plate transfer and reissue authorized, and fees imposed.

**FRIDAY, Feb. 24**

8 a.m.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Continuation of Department of Human Services budget overview of the governor's proposals.

**Transportation Finance Division/  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** Continuation of MnDOT budget presentation.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** HF419 (Pellow) Pollution Control Agency required to meet with affected party prior to issuance of an administrative penalty order.

HF479 (Bakk) State park additions and state wayside deletions provided.

HF552 (Mulder) Split Rock Creek State Park in Pipestone County provided territory addition. More bills may be added.

**Gambling Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

**Agenda:** HF83 (Kinkel) Compulsive gambling treatment provider eligibility provisions modified.

HF138 (Kahn) Gambling department created; Racing Commission, Gambling Control Board, and State Lottery Board abolished and duties transferred.

1:30 p.m.

**Legislative Commission to  
Review Administrative Rules**

123 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. John Hottinger

**Agenda:** Election of chair and vice chair. LCRAR budget FY95-96, staff presentation and discussion. LCRAR biennial report, staff presentation and discussion. Public hearing: Pollution Control Agency, administrative penalty orders for asbestos removal violations. Other business.

2:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Civil Law/JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

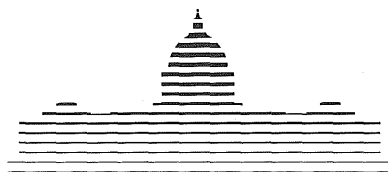
Chr. Rep. Tom Pugh

**Agenda:** HF344 (Leighton) Common Interest Ownership Act modified, curative and validating law for mortgage foreclosures changed, and assignment form and record provided.

HF367 (Macklin) Municipal subcontractor prompt payment provided; and statutory lienholder rights and performance bond provisions modified.

HF529 (Pugh) Eminent domain notice of pendency provisions modified.

HF544 (Hasskamp) Informal probate guide prepared by state court administrator, and money appropriated.



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Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Compulsive gambling in Minnesota

Amount the state has spent on research projects related to compulsive gambling .....	\$500,000
Estimated number of pathological gamblers in Minnesota, 1994 .....	45,000
as a percentage of all Minnesotans .....	1.2
Calls taken by the compulsive gambling hotline since its inception .....	10,000
percent of those callers who were male .....	62
State funds received by the Minnesota Institute of Public Health to operate the hotline, 1994-95 biennium .....	\$280,000
Percent of 1994 callers who cited casino gambling as the cause of their problem .....	58
Percent citing the lottery .....	7
Percent of callers who got the number from a gambling location .....	7
State funds earmarked for compulsive gambling programs, 1990-91 biennium .....	\$600,000
in 1994-95 biennium, in millions .....	\$2.85
Amount of 1994-95 state funds spent on patient treatment, in millions .....	\$1.3
Number of state-run compulsive gambling treatment programs .....	6
Number of people treated at those facilities between spring 1992 and August 1994 .....	845
Of those, number of people whose treatment costs were paid by the state .....	773
Average cost of treatment, per client .....	\$3,500
Percent of clients who quit before finishing treatment .....	28
Number of surveyed health plan companies in Minnesota that routinely reimburse for compulsive gambling treatment, October 1994 .....	0
Percent of all gamblers with a history of chemical addiction .....	33
Percent of gamblers who suffer from a concurrent mental disorder .....	40
Hours of training currently provided by the Minnesota Council on Compulsive Gambling for potential treatment providers .....	60
Hours of supervised treatment provider experience necessary before full national certification can be awarded .....	2,000

Sources: *First Report to the Legislature and Governor*, State of Minnesota Advisory Council on Gambling, February 1995; *Minnesota's Programs for Troubled Gamblers*, Senate Counsel & Research, October 1994.



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# SESSION WEEKLY

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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • February 24, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 8

## Week at a glance

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**Metals scam** — Rep. Matt Entenza wants to crack down on unscrupulous telemarketers who have been peddling some obscure "investment metals" to senior citizens. .... Page 4

**Just re-bag it** — Insurance companies would be required to cover the cost of repairing or replacing airbags that have been damaged in car accidents, under a bill approved by a House subcommittee. .... Page 4

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**Canadian health care panacea?** — A study by the legislative auditor's office concluded that a Canadian-style single-payer health care system would slightly increase costs in Minnesota. .... Page 8

**Stay put, kids** — A coalition representing needy mothers and infants told a House division that creating a new department of children and education services is a bad idea. .... Page 10

**Jay De Lawless** — A proposal would limit prisoners to one name change while within the state prison system. And, for the most part, the public would not have to pay for it. .... Page 11

**Magic (electric) bus** — The world's first bus powered by electric strips embedded in the road may soon be running on the St. Cloud State University campus. .... Page 12

**Airport study** — Rep. Dee Long wants to study whether airport runways should be moved to Rosemount while keeping the present terminal where it is. Passengers would shuttle between the two by commuter train. .... Page 13

**Saluting Persian Gulf vets** — Minnesotans who served in the Persian Gulf War would receive a financial thank you from the state under two bills heard Feb. 20 before the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee's Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs. .... Page 13

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On the cover: Charles Lindberg of Richfield, Minn., the sole survivor among the men who raised the American flag over Iwo Jima during WWII, was honored in a House resolution passed Feb. 23. The date marked the 50th anniversary of the flag raising. A total of 6,821 American lives were lost in the assault on Iwo Jima. Members also presented Lindberg with a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol. Lindberg will soon return to Iwo Jima for the first time since the war. He intends to climb Mount Suribachi, where the historic flag raising took place.

— photo by Andrew VonBank

# Highlights

Seat belt law. . .

## Police could stop drivers for failure to buckle up

Failure to wear a seat belt would be reason enough for a cop to pull you over and issue a ticket, under a bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 20.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), would make a seat belt violation a "primary offense." Currently, law enforcement officers need another reason to pull you over before issuing a \$25 seat belt citation.

Greenfield listed a series of reasons law enforcement officials can now pull you over, including a cracked windshield or having fuzzy dice dangling from your rear view mirror. Failure to wear a seat belt is not among them.

"The goal is to reduce the injuries that occur in accidents," Greenfield said. "This is health care legislation."

An August 1994 roadside study showed that 55 percent of Minnesotans wear their safety belts. The national average is 65 percent. In states where failure to wear a seat belt is a primary offense, the rate is 75 percent compliance, Greenfield said.

In the six months after California enacted a primary offense law, compliance rose 15 percent, Greenfield said. The National Safety Council estimates enacting such a law would increase compliance by 10 to 20 percent.

And the higher the compliance rate, the greater the cost savings to the state and others, proponents argued. If Minnesota could raise its compliance rate to 65 percent, the savings—in avoiding wage and productivity loss, medical and administrative expenses, motor vehicle damages, and employer costs—would be \$42 million per year, according to the Minnesota Medical Association.

By not making violation of the seat belt use law a primary offense, "this sends a message to our drivers that we are not serious about seat belts," said Frank Chavez of the Minnesota Board on Aging.

But opponents, including those from the Minnesota Motorcycle Riders Association (MMRA), disagreed.

"You've been given information that is—and I'll be kind—inaccurate, said Bob Illingworth, executive director of the MMRA. He said the seat belt compliance rates cited by



Failure to wear a seat belt would be reason enough for a cop to pull you over and issue a ticket, under HF471. The bill won approval from the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 20.

proponents were inflated, and their studies funded by "those who want laws such as these passed." He said there aren't enough law enforcement officials to enforce the laws currently on the books, and "this is just another law we don't need in this state."

Another MMRA representative, Steve O'Brien, worried that making HF471 law would "give the police carte blanche, unbridled authority to pull over whomever they want."

Failure to wear a seat belt is a primary offense in 10 states and a secondary offense in 35 others. As of February 1994, five states had no safety belt use law in effect.

Similar measures have been introduced in the last several legislative sessions. The most recent attempt, also sponsored by Greenfield, failed to pass the 1994 House. The vote was 46-83. Sixty-five of those 'no' votes are members of the 1995 Legislature.

Lawmakers passed the original mandatory seat belt law in 1986, but waited until 1988 to add a \$10 fine for failure to follow it. The fine was bumped to \$25 in 1991.

The fine generates about \$1 million per year, according to Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester). Ninety percent of the dollars fund the state's eight regional emergency

medical services systems for personnel education and training, equipment, and vehicle purchases. The remaining 10 percent goes toward traffic safety education programs conducted by state troopers.

Bishop tried to scuttle the bill by doubling the fine to \$50. He said it wasn't until Canada imposed a \$50 fine that they saw compliance rates jump to a significant level. He agreed that the main issue was safety, but said increasing the fine "would be more effective."

Bishop's amendment failed on a tie 9-9 vote.

The bill also would mandate that all children between the ages of 11 and 14 wear a seat belt while in the back seat of a car. Under current law, only the driver's children who are between 11 and 14 years of age must wear a seat belt. (All children under age 11 are required to wear a seat belt.)

The driver would then face a \$25 fine for each child under age 15 who isn't buckled up.

HF471 now moves to the Transportation and Transit Committee.

— John Tschida





## CHILDREN

### Out-of-home placements

County officials say that the growing number of children being placed in Minnesota treatment centers and foster homes has reached crisis proportions. Consequently, counties, which pay 90 percent of the cost of this placement, can expect their spending to triple within 10 years.

According to *Out-of-Home Placement Trends*, a report prepared by the Metropolitan Inter-County Association (MICA), which represents 10 counties across the state, counties' costs for placements are rising 13 percent per year and will triple by the year 2005.

In 1993, out-of-home placements for 18,000 youth cost Minnesota counties some \$131 million, according to Bob Orth, MICA's executive director.

"Obviously, we've got to do something to reverse this trend," Dave Rooney, director of Dakota County Community Services, told the House Judiciary Finance Committee Feb. 21.

Rooney explained that courts, probation officials, or social services agencies can remove a child from a home for various reasons, including parental abuse and neglect, severe emotional problems, and delinquent behavior. Also, parents can voluntarily have a child committed to a residential treatment program or foster home.

The spiraling costs for out-of-home placements largely reflect an increase in the child population, less community tolerance for disruptive behavior, and a more difficult group of children requiring care.

In the latter category, 35 percent of children entering private treatment centers in 1993 had been convicted of at least one felony. This is up from 19 percent in 1992 and 14 percent in 1991, according to the 1994 report of the Minnesota Council of Child Caring Agencies (MCCCA), which represents private agencies serving about 3,000 children and adolescents.

John Doman, MCCCA executive director, told the committee that compared to children of the same age receiving outpatient mental health services, children referred to residential programs are much more likely to vandalize property, run away, abuse or threaten someone, and consider suicide.

MICA's report suggests that the state offer property tax relief to counties based on incentives for controlling the rate of out-of-home placements, while providing "sufficient funding for effective treatment."



## CONSUMERS

### Replacing airbags

Motor vehicle airbags that have been "deployed or damaged" in an accident would have to be repaired or replaced, under a bill approved by the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee's Consumer Affairs Subcommittee Feb. 23.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), explained that under current law, airbags deployed in a collision do not have to be replaced. If a car or light truck is later sold, a new owner might think that the safety equipment was still in place—until he or she crashed and went through the windshield.

The bill would require that all automobile insurance policies include airbag repair or replacement as part of collision coverage.

The "down side" of the bill, according to Entenza, is that if a person has a high deductible on collision coverage, they might have to pay from \$400 to \$1,000 to replace an airbag.

Both the repair person and the vehicle owner who knowingly did not repair or replace an airbag would be guilty of a misdemeanor and could be sued later by someone injured in a crash, under the bill.

The real-life impact of the bill is uncertain, however.

"The vast majority of airbags are being repaired. . . . They are covered by insurance," explained Scott Lambert, director of government affairs for the Minnesota Automobile Dealers Association.

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul)

suggested that repair shops might abuse the proposed state law to ring up a "very expensive repair . . . I'm concerned about this because it's not going to be a trivial amount of money."

Instead of requiring a repair or replacement, he suggested that the seller be required to disclose that an airbag was missing when a vehicle is sold.

Both Entenza and Lambert responded that an individual might not necessarily want to disclose that an airbag was missing if it would lower the purchase price of a vehicle.

"The difficult issue is to find out the best way to get the airbags replaced," said Entenza.

**HF531** now moves to the full Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee for consideration.

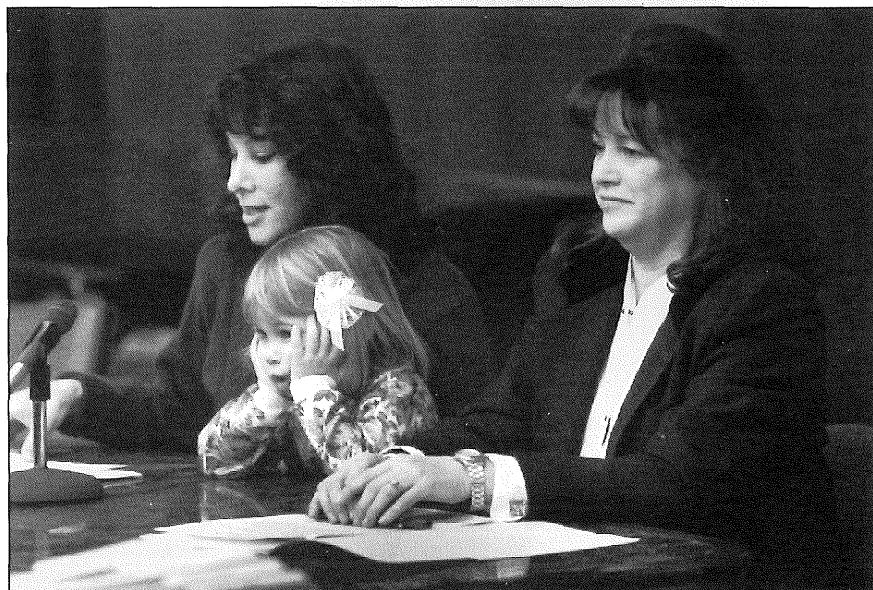
### Busting the chromium scam

Law enforcement officials would have an easier time cracking down on unethical telemarketers who sell "investment metals"—often to senior citizens.

A bill approved by the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee Feb. 21 would expand the definition of "investment metal" to include indium, chromium, and germanium.

That would subject the sellers of investments in these high technology metals, which are often used in military hardware and spacecraft, to the same laws that apply to gold and silver brokers.

"By expanding the definition [of investment metal] we just protect our consumers a



Tracy Hiebert, left, and daughter, Alyssa, testified before the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee Feb. 22 in favor of offering a tax break for families in which one parent stays at home. Rep. Darlene Luther, right, sponsored the amendment for the tax break.

little bit more," said the bill's sponsor, Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), a former prosecutor in the consumer division of the Office of the Attorney General.

People selling investment contracts for gold and silver coins, for example, must be licensed as securities brokers by the Department of Commerce, and must register their sales program with the department.

Getting licensed as a securities broker is an involved and costly process that requires meeting national certification standards and filing numerous documents with the Department of Commerce.

Licensed brokers also must register their sales programs with the department, which determines whether the sales pitches are fair and the commissions reasonable.

The same regulations would now apply to people who sell indium, chromium and germanium, under the bill.

The three metals named in the bill have been used over the years in telephone "boiler room" operations pitching strategic metals as an investment opportunity, according to Gary Lavasseur, deputy commissioner of the Department of Commerce.

He explained that a caller will state that instability in South Africa or Russia, the sole sources for these strategic metals, is driving up the price for these items. Buyers find out later that most of the purchase price has gone for outrageously high sales commissions.

The sales pitch "in reality is just a scam," said Lavasseur.

Unlicensed sellers of investment metals would be notified that they are in violation of state law and liable for civil and criminal penalties, according to Teresa Fischer, senior investigator at the Department of Commerce. On the civil level, victims could sue for damages and get their money back plus interest and attorney fees. On the criminal level, penalties could mean a fine of up to \$10,000 and up to five years in prison for each offense.

Legitimate sales of these metals as a commodity (like selling silver to jewelers) for use in manufacturing — as opposed to an investment — would not be affected by the bill.

**HF554** now moves to the House floor.

## Licensing for counselors

Mental health counselors in Minnesota would be licensed by the state, under a bill passed by the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 23.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island), would create new license categories for counselors: "licensed profes-

sional counselor" and "licensed associate counselor."

The bill (**HF66**) also would create a board to license mental health counselors and defines the field as offering counseling for compensation that includes aptitude appraisal, guidance, and personnel consulting; referral activities; and research activities.

Right now "anybody can say they are a psychotherapist," said Ludwig Spolyar, a member of the Minnesota Association of Counseling and Development who testified in favor of the bill.

"The licensure of professional counselors will help close the loop in providing the public with qualified and accountable mental health services," he told the committee.

The bill exempts school counselors and people employed to offer counseling by federal, state, county, or local governments. It also exempts doctors, nurses, social workers, attorneys, marriage and family therapists, and other already licensed professions.

Those counselors practicing without a license or using the titles "professional counselor," "licensed professional counselor," or "licensed associate counselor" would be subject to a misdemeanor.

The measure would take effect 90 days after enactment.

It also would set out education and training requirements for counselors. They include obtaining a master's degree from a regionally accredited college or university and passing a board exam. A "licensed professional counselor" would also need to complete 2,000 hours of postgraduate and supervised work in an appropriate counseling setting that the board would define. A "licensed associate counselor" would not have to meet that requirement.

Amy Lindgren, who runs a St. Paul career counseling business for dislocated workers, opposed the bill. She said she couldn't see the logic in requiring someone in her profession to have a master's degree in counseling.

She said it would hurt her business and raise her prices if she had to go back to school for a master's degree.

To help Lindgren and people like her, the committee adopted an amendment that is expected to exclude career counselors from the license requirement.

Originally, the Health and Human Services Committee defeated the bill 11-10, but Rep. Tom Huntley (DFL-Duluth) later asked to reconsider the measure. It passed 11-10.

**HF66** now moves to the Governmental Operations Committee for further consideration.



## EDUCATION

### Lockers, safety, truancy

Locker searches, school safety measures, and new ways to combat truancy are included in a bill the House Education Committee is currently considering.

The bill (**HF610**), which is sponsored by Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul), includes a locker check policy allowing public school lockers to be searched at any time without notice or consent. School districts would have to supply parents and students with advance notice of the policy. The House Judiciary Committee approved the language of the locker check policy in **HF107** on Feb. 13. (See Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 3)

**HF610** also tackles school safety issues, including measures to:

- require school districts to run criminal background checks on all applicants for employment, and require the Board of Education and the Board of Teaching to run such checks on all teachers and others licensed by the boards;
- make all school districts implement the federal Gun-Free School Act, which calls for at least a one-year expulsion for any student who is caught bringing a weapon to school;
- allow districts to require that students purchase school uniforms if the school has a uniform policy in place; and
- make parents guilty of a misdemeanor if they fail to exercise "reasonable care, supervision, protection, and control" over their children.

The bill would take on truancy by allowing county attorneys, law enforcement agencies, and school districts to set up programs and services to intervene in truancy cases and provide services and referrals.

Pat Diamond, first assistant to the Hennepin County attorney, called truancy a "gateway to delinquency" and testified in support of community-based efforts to deal with it.

"The savings to the rest of the system down the road and the potential to help the child are enormous," Diamond said.

The bill also would increase parental liability and stiffen some penalties for truants.

Parents who do not make sure their kids comply with compulsory attendance laws could face misdemeanor charges with maximum penalties of 90 days in jail and \$700 in fines. Under current law, the maximum penalty a parent could receive is 30 days in jail and a \$50 fine.

The bill would extend the authority of courts to deny driving privileges to habitual

truants until they turn 18. Courts would be able to order parents to deliver the child to school at the beginning of each day for a set period of time.

The Education Committee is expected to continue discussing **HF610** on Feb. 28.

## 'Baby truants'

A bill to get "baby truants" back in school was given final approval by the House Feb. 23. The vote was 94-36.

The "anti-truancy bill," sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), would make school children under 7 years old subject to compulsory attendance law.

State law does not require children to attend school until the age of 7, but many children begin kindergarten earlier.

Currently, school officials can do little about the chronic absence of some 5- and 6-year-olds, leaving a troubling outlook for the future of such "baby truants," Skoglund said. (See Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 5)

Under **HF341**, parents would be able to remove a child from school provided they had "good cause" and approval from the school board. Skoglund said "good cause" to remove a child could include an illness, a family move, or physical or psychological immaturity.

The bill drew criticism from some House members who argued the circumstances are ambiguous about when parents can pull a child from school.

Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester) called the bill a "clear interference with the power of the parents to look out for the best interests of the child."

But Skoglund said the bill would give school officials a chance to step in before it is too late.

"This bill is going to save lives," he said. "Kids are not going to end up in prison because of this bill."

The measure, which does not have a Senate companion, now moves to the Senate for its consideration.

## Superintendent buy-outs

Legislation on its way to the House floor would ensure that school districts know whether a candidate for superintendent left the same position in another district via a contract buyout.

The House Education Committee Feb. 23 approved a bill that would require superintendents who have their contracts bought out to disclose that information to would-be employers when applying for the same position elsewhere.

Bill sponsor Rep. Ron Kraus (IR-Albert Lea) said the disclosure requirements would provide protection for taxpayers who fund the sometimes costly buyout procedures.

The bill is the result of events in Kraus' hometown, where school district officials learned too late of their superintendent's earlier buyout.

In December 1994, the Albert Lea School District agreed to pay \$187,000 to buy out the contract of Superintendent Cy Kruse. When Kruse was hired in 1989, the district was not aware that his former employer, Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, had paid

\$100,000 to buy out his contract earlier that year.

The Albert Lea district may have made a different decision if it had known of the earlier buyout, according to Kraus. The expense of the buyout deals has people "outraged," he added.

"This legislation would prevent or help to prevent the recurrence of the scenario playing out in Albert Lea," said Gerald Skaar, an Albert Lea school board member.

The bill stipulates that superintendent candidates have to disclose the information even if the original buyout included a non-disclosure agreement. The bill contains a provision that would void the contracts of superintendents who fail to disclose the buyout information.

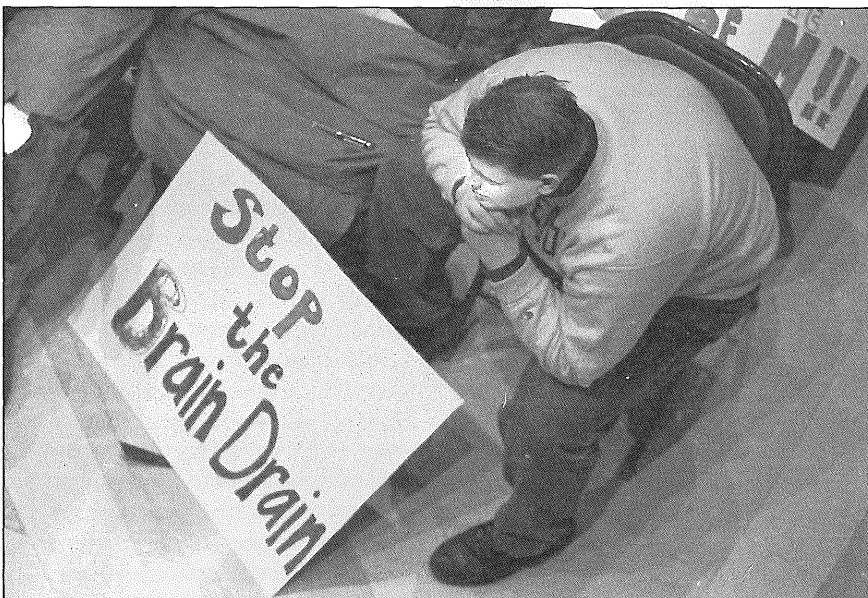
In testimony against **HF496**, Dale Jensen, of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators, said the bill is "designed for one person."

"I don't know of any people who have been bought out in two communities other than the situation [in Albert Lea]," he said.

Jensen warned the bill will add another barrier to keep people from pursuing superintendent positions.

Changes in the law in recent years have clamped down on some of the practices that made superintendent jobs more lucrative. In 1993, for example, the Legislature tightened salary cap restrictions to include car allowances and other items that had been paid to superintendents as "non-salary" items.

"This bill adds one more reason for people to not want to become a superintendent," Jensen said.



Jason Isaacson, a University of Minnesota student, listened to legislators and student leaders at a rally for affordable and accessible education in the Capitol rotunda Feb. 22.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Emissions impossible

Cars under six years old need not face an annual exhaust emissions test, under a bill approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 17.

But an amendment added to the bill (**HF2**) would require emissions tests for all used cars when they are sold, unless the buyer waives the right to have the test done.

The amendment's author, Rep. Bill Haas (IR-Champlin), said the provision would protect a consumer who could buy a vehicle and then possibly have to make expensive repairs in order to pass an emissions test.

The amendment would require that an emissions test be performed on a vehicle within 30 days of the date when its title is transferred.



The 1988 Minnesota Legislature enacted the vehicle emissions testing program, which went into effect in mid-1991, because the state was in violation of federal clean air requirements.

Bill sponsor Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) contends that testing newer cars doesn't help clean up the air because so few cars fail the test.

An MPCA report showed that during a six-month period last year, only 1 in 5,634 cars built in 1994 failed a test.

In recent years, more efficient auto engines and the use of oxygenated fuel — gas mixed with ethanol — have reduced carbon monoxide levels in the Twin Cities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently suggested that it might officially declare that the metropolitan area is meeting federal carbon monoxide standards. Both the EPA and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) have endorsed the Johnson bill. (See Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6, and Jan. 27, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7.)

Tom Binder, Midwest manager for program development for Envirotest Inc. of Phoenix, Ariz., the private firm that runs the emissions testing program for the MPCA, said that exempting newer cars would be "very debilitating" to his firm's business in Minnesota.

Envirotest runs 11 testing stations in the metropolitan area. The MPCA gets 93 cents of the \$8 test charge for administration costs. Envirotest gets the rest. Exempting newer cars would result in Envirotest losing 30 percent of its revenues, or about \$4 million annually; the state's loss would then be about \$526,000.

Unless his firm's contract with the state was modified, Binder said that Envirotest would not be able to continue running the emissions testing program.

HF2 now moves to the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.



## FAMILY

### Curbing teen pregnancies

To curb the trend of teens becoming pregnant at younger and younger ages, the state would help pay for communities to use a program that targets 12- to 14-year-old boys and girls.

A measure sponsored by Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope) would create a Minnesota ENABL (Education Now And Babies Later) program modeled after a similar program in California.

The bill passed the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 23 and now travels to the Ways and Means Committee for further consideration.

The program focuses on convincing 12- to 14-year-olds to postpone sex by using an existing curriculum that doesn't include birth control information.

Part of the program includes a statewide media campaign that would encourage parents to talk with their children about postponing sex. Older teens also would talk to their younger counterparts about postponing sex.

The state would give out grants to community organizations across the state to implement the ENABL program. School districts, churches, YMCAs, and other groups could apply as long as they could come up with 25 percent of the cost of the program.

HF517 does not specify the cost of the program but plans to seek money from the state's general fund.

Donna Fishman of Minnesota Planning told the committee that although the number of pregnant teens overall has declined in recent years, the number of pregnant teens under the age of 15 has increased.

The need to reduce teen pregnancy is a taxpayer issue, according to proponents. In 1993, Minnesota spent \$20 million on Aid to Families with Dependent Children welfare grants to families that began with a teen birth.

There are about 7,100 parents on AFDC who are either minors now or were under 18 when their oldest child was born. That accounts for about 14,000 children.



Women marched to the State Capitol carrying an enlarged version of "Contract With Minnesota Women and Children" as part of Women Come to the Capitol Day Feb. 20. The event was sponsored by the Minnesota Women's Consortium.



## GOVERNMENT

### State spending slashed

A bill to slash \$10 million from state agency budgets — which amounts to about 4 percent of their budgets in the current fiscal year — won approval from the House Ways and Means Committee Feb. 23.

Under the proposal, an additional \$500,000, or about 3.9 percent, would be cut from the Legislature's current budget.

"If the governor's budget is asking local governments to take a cut this year, then we must examine the state's budget as well," said bill sponsor Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope).

The governor has proposed cutting aid to local governments by \$55.2 million this fiscal year. Budgets for those governments have already been set.

In light of tough budget decisions that need to be made at the local level, "it's only proper that the pain be felt in state government and the Legislature," Rest said.

HF394 would give the governor the authority — and broad discretion — to reduce the current budgets of state agencies where he sees fit. The cuts could not include any K-12 or higher education programs or aid payments to local governments.

Rep. Jim Rice (DFL-Mpls) spoke against the bill, saying if there is truly \$10 million in extra funds in state agency budgets, then the legislative finance committees should identify where the cuts should come from.

"I don't like programs to be cut on the basis of what the governor does or doesn't like," Rice said.

The \$10 million would be trimmed from approximately \$76 million left in agency budgets that are not yet obligated to be spent.

HF394 now moves to the House floor for further consideration.

### Mille Lacs court fight

Costs continue to mount in the state's challenge of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians' claim to hunting and fishing treaty rights in a 12-county area of east-central Minnesota that includes Lake Mille Lacs, the state's premier walleye lake.

A bill to give the Office of the Attorney General another \$790,000 to pay for state expert witnesses in the treaty court case was approved by the House Ways and Means Committee Feb. 23.

The additional money was included in a \$3.1 million "deficiency" bill designed to set aside extra money for several departments

and programs that had unforeseen expenses during fiscal year 1995.

Peggy Willens, finance director for the Office of the Attorney General, told the State Government Finance Division Feb. 22 that none of the \$790,000 would pay for attorneys. She said the Legislature in 1993 appropriated about \$1 million for the attorney general's office to take the case to court. About half of that was to go to pay for expert witnesses.

Willens said, "\$500,000 was our estimate. It was low."

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) tried unsuccessfully to amend the bill so that half of the \$790,000 request would come from the general fund and half from the Department of Natural Resources Game and Fish Fund.

"The general fund is really strained right now," said Kahn, explaining that it makes sense for the DNR to chip in.

During the 1993 Legislative Session, lawmakers had a chance to vote for a settlement to the treaty rights dilemma and avoid the courts altogether. The attorney general's office and the DNR had negotiated the settlement with the Mille Lacs band but lawmakers narrowly defeated it.

Some lawmakers objected to the Kahn motion because they said it would punish the DNR which did its best to convince the Legislature to accept a settlement and avoid the courts.

In August 1994, a U.S. District Court in Minneapolis ruled that the Mille Lacs band does have special hunting and fishing rights under an 1837 treaty in east central Minnesota. The second phase of the trial is set to begin in 1996 and will decide how much of the resources are allocated to band members and how much to other anglers and hunters.

The state has filed an appeal with the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Nearly half the funds in the bill, or \$1.5 million, are marked for the State Board of Public Defense. The dollars are needed to confront changes in criminal laws affecting juveniles that were enacted by the 1994 Legislature.

HF355 now goes to the House floor for consideration

## International promotion

A Duluth lawmaker has renewed his effort to improve the state's performance as an international player.

Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth) is sponsoring a bill (HF373) to establish a Minnesota Office of International Affairs. The House International Trade and Economic Develop-

ment Committee discussed the bill Feb. 22.

The new office would coordinate international activities of the state government and advance efforts to promote cooperation and understanding between Minnesotans and international visitors.

"We should pay more attention to international affairs," Jaros said. "It's very important to our economy and to our well-being as a state."

Jaros sponsored similar legislation in 1994, but the bill died in conference committee.

Under HF373, the new office would oversee international relations activities, including attracting and hosting foreign visitors, providing information on protocol, and promoting cultural exchanges between Minnesota and other countries.

The office also would oversee efforts to improve international competitiveness and understanding through education in public schools.

The bill calls for the office to be designed to avoid duplication of the activities of the Minnesota Trade Office and the Minnesota World Trade Center Corporation.

The bill also calls for \$500,000 to be appropriated to the office in fiscal years 1996 and 1997. But Jaros acknowledged that that figure serves mainly as a point to begin discussion, given the constraints on new spending this year.

The committee took no formal action on the bill, which is expected to come up for discussion again later in the session.



## HEALTH

### No Canadian-style panacea

Would Minnesota save money if it adopted a single-payer health care system where the government (or an agency under its direction) takes over payment of all health care services — similar to the program in Canada?

No, says a report from the Office of the Legislative Auditor that was presented to the House Health and Human Services Committee's MinnesotaCare Finance Division Feb. 23. In fact, the costs would actually increase by 0.4 percent.

The \$65,000 study was authorized by the 1994 Legislature to help determine whether Minnesotans could save money through some form of single-payer system.

Although administrative costs would be reduced significantly under such a Canadian-style system, the overall spending on health care would actually increase because more people would use health care, states the report.

And that's because patients would use more health care services because they wouldn't have to share any of the costs.

Another type of single-payer system, however, could lead to modest savings, concluded the report.

Under this "single-payer cost sharing system" — where patients would share the cost of medical care through deductibles and co-payments for services — costs could be reduced by 3.4 percent.

Administrative costs wouldn't be reduced as much as under the Canadian-style system, but the deductibles and co-payments would lead to fewer people using health care services, said the report.

The study assumes Minnesota would offer health insurance to all citizens. In 1994, health spending in Minnesota amounted to \$15.8 billion, about \$2.4 billion (or 15 percent) of which was for administrative costs.

The study also looked at managed competition with traditional HMOs as well as a government-payer system that uses taxpayer dollars to buy private insurance for the public. Managed competition was expected to increase health spending by 0.6 to 0.8 percent, and a government-payer system by 1.5 percent.

"These results suggest that health care can be expanded to cover the uninsured without dramatically increasing overall health spending," states the report. "However, an analysis of financing suggests that implementing any of the reform options might require state government to assume a greater role in financing health care."

The study also notes that studying health care involves many variables and suggests a cautious interpretation of the study's results.



## HOUSING

### Easing landlords' eviction fee

A bill to make it cheaper for most landlords to evict their tenants won approval from the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 22.

The proposal would slash the current unlawful detainer filing fee from \$122 to \$66 in most cases. Technically, the half-price sale only applies to cases where the eviction proceeding can be resolved in one hearing.

But according to Joe Gockowski, court administrator for Ramsey County, 95 percent of all such eviction cases are resolved in one hearing.

Should any case go to trial, the current \$122 fee would be required. Those filing such an action pay \$66 up front, then pay the

additional \$66 should the matter go to trial. Bill sponsor Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) said the bill is designed to ease the burden on some landlords, "particularly those with multiple units and multiple buildings."

In 1994, 23,014 unlawful detainer actions were filed, according to the Department of Finance. Between 3 and 7 percent of the cases involved more than one hearing. The potential loss to the general fund, per year, would be about \$1.3 million.

Rep. Teresa Lynch (IR-Andover) suggested that the fee be sliced to \$66 for everyone.

But Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said the existing fee should remain in place "as an incentive for parties to settle" during a single court hearing.

**HF136** now moves to the Judiciary Finance Committee. (See Feb. 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11)

## Screening potential managers

A bill requiring criminal background checks on potential apartment building managers won approval from the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 22.

The bill stems from the 1994 abduction and murder of Kari Koskinen, a New Brighton woman believed to have been killed by her building manager. (See Jan. 27, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9; Feb. 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9.) It would be called the "Kari Koskinen Manager Background Check Act."

Sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) and Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka), the bill would require apartment building owners to have the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) conduct a criminal history check on every building manager applicant (or other employee) who would have the authority to enter a tenant's apartment.

Applicants who have lived in Minnesota for less than five years also would be subject to a nationwide search for state and federal offenses that may have occurred in other states. (A provision to mandate that managers be rechecked every two years was removed from the bill.)

Weaver estimates that a statewide check would cost \$8 to \$10. The nationwide check, which includes the fingerprints necessary to access the national computer system, would cost about \$50. The bill does not specify who must bear the cost for the background checks.

Owners who fail to conduct a background check would be guilty of a petty misdemeanor, punishable by up to a \$200 fine.

BCA background checks would need to be completed within 10 days. Federal checks

typically take six to eight weeks, according to Karen McDonald of the BCA. Nothing in the bill would prohibit the hiring of an applicant before the results of the checks are made available, or the hiring of an applicant who is shown to be a convicted criminal.

While the checks will aid in uncovering an applicant's past, they are not perfect. The BCA tracks only state offenses occurring within Minnesota — not federal offenses. Any applicant who has lived in Minnesota for more than five years who has committed crimes in other states also would not be detected by the BCA search, and would not be subject to the nationwide search.

Also included in the bill is a tenant's right to privacy section, which states that a landlord may only enter an apartment — after giving reasonable notice — for a "reasonable business purpose." This would include showing an apartment, or for maintenance reasons. Limited exceptions would be allowed for emergency or safety reasons.

A landlord privacy violation could result in a tenant being released from a lease, a recovery of a damage deposit, and up to a \$100 civil penalty for each violation.

**HF72** now moves to the Judiciary Finance Committee for further consideration.

## Easing tenant responsibilities

Landlords who own multi-unit apartment buildings and measure tenants' utility use with a single meter would be required to pay the utility bills, under a bill approved by the Housing Committee Feb. 20.

Beginning with leases signed after Aug. 1, 1995, landlords would either have to install separate utility meters for each apartment or become the utility company's customer of record, pay the bill, divide it among the tenants, and figure it into the rent.

Bill sponsor Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) told the Housing Committee that in some buildings with only one meter, tenants are now required to pay the electricity and other utility bills for all tenants. Later, they must seek out the other tenants to get them to pay their share.

Some tenants also are now being charged to light the common areas of a building, such as lights in the hallways and parking lots.

The problem, Dawkins said, is that the tenant who pays the utility bill has no recourse if the other tenants refuse to pay their share. The utility company will come after the person whose name is on the bill. A landlord, on the other hand, can pay the bill and then figure it into each tenant's rent.

Minneapolis and St. Paul already have

similar ordinances in place to do much of what the bill (**HF323**) proposes.

If the bill becomes law, landlords who refuse to abide by it could face a \$500 penalty and be mandated to pay their tenants' attorney fees.

Currently, all new multi-housing buildings in the state are required to install a separate utility meter for each unit.

Jack Horner of the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association opposed the bill saying: "I don't know if it is fair" to make landlords responsible for utility bills.

"We think the current system works pretty well," he said.

But Dawkins said it wasn't fair to make one tenant pay for everyone and then be responsible for collecting the money.

The bill now goes to the Regulated Industries and Energy Committee for further consideration.



## HUMAN SERVICES

### Welfare reform

A welfare reform bill, which no longer contains a controversial abortion waiting-period proposal, was approved by the House Ways and Means Committee Feb. 23.

For weeks the bill had been bogged down by the threat of a veto. Gov. Arne Carlson told the Legislature that the 24-hour abortion waiting period proposal had absolutely nothing to do with welfare reform and must be removed from the bill.

Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul) and Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester) introduced the amendment to remove the abortion language from **HF5**. It was adopted on an 11-9 vote.

"This amendment is not about abortion . . . it is about the responsibility of the Legislature to enact welfare reform," Orenstein said.

The bill has had its share of vocal opponents aside from the controversy surrounding the abortion language. Members of the public testifying against the bill focused on cuts to welfare programs and what they called the bill's "punitive approach" to the poor.

In all, the welfare reform bill totals about \$52 million but with cuts in some public assistance benefits such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children and the elimination of one \$24 million state jobs program, the net price tag falls to \$23.7 million for fiscal years 1996-1997.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Bob Anderson (DFL-Ottertail), would require all



teenaged moms to live at home or with a supervising adult and request the elimination of federal rules that some argue discourage welfare recipients from finding work.

A major component of the bill would establish a Work First pilot program. The new program would set out tough penalties, such as losing benefits, if participants don't stick to a contract to search for a job and accept work. Clay and Itasca counties would receive the pilot program.

The measure also includes \$18 million to help low- and moderate-income families pay for child care, thus removing a barrier to their returning to work.

**HF5** now goes to the House floor for debate.

(See Jan. 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; Jan. 20, 1995, *Session Weekly*, pages 6-7; Feb. 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10; and Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, pages 8-9.)

## Say 'no' to kid department

A coalition representing needy mothers and infants told the Health and Human Services Finance Division of the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 22 that creating a new department of children and education services is a bad idea.

Spring Davis, chair of the Minnesota Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition, said it isn't practical to create a new department and a new bureaucracy. Too many dollars would go to administering and merging programs that already work, she said.

Specifically, the coalition (composed of doctors, nutritionists, nurses, parents, and educators) is concerned that the health needs of disadvantaged families would become overshadowed by education if all were under one roof.

The group has targeted the following seven programs they want the state to continue to fund:

- maternal and child health grants which provide pregnancy, family planning, and child health services to low income people;
- family planning grants that provide pre-pregnancy services to reduce unintended pregnancies;
- Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children grants commonly known as WIC grants. The program provides nutrition education, dietary health screenings, and food vouchers for low income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women and their children under age 5;
- home visiting project grants which provide

home visits to prevent child abuse and neglect;

- HIV prevention and HIV services grants which provide confidential HIV counseling, testing, and education;
- subsidized child care grants which provide a sliding fee scale to help low-income working families afford child care. A House bill seeks more than \$18 million over the next budgeting cycle to help subsidize child care; and
- crisis nurseries which provide a safe place where a parent can take a child when they feel stressed and unable to care for the child.

The seven programs, Davis said, have proven track records and deserve continued funding.

Mary Peick, coordinator for the Ramsey County WIC program, told committee members WIC "is a health and nutrition program that works. ... WIC is a health program, not a welfare program."

Under the program, pregnant women and mothers of young children who have poor diets are given vouchers for peanut butter, eggs, milk, certain cereals, and other nutritious foods.

She added that it costs much less to have a mother and infant on the WIC program compared to how much it costs to deal with low-birthweight babies in a hospital.

Deborah Swenson-Klatt, a research coordinator with the Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association, told committee members how important subsidizing child care is for low income families. It removes a barrier to their keeping a job or returning to work.

She explained how often her association must tell families that the child care money has run out, and that they have to be put on a waiting list.

In December 1994, about 2,100 families in Hennepin County faced a wait of up to one-and-a-half years for child care help.

Swenson-Klatt shared with members her association's study of 270 randomly selected parents on the waiting list for subsidized child care.

A typical family on the list earns about \$1,521 a month and after housing, utilities, transportation, health care, food, clothing and other expenses, has \$31 a month to spend on child care. Child care costs for one toddler average about \$380 a month.

The child care subsidy is a benefit to taxpayers over the current welfare system, Swenson-Klatt said. Taxpayers spend about \$854 a month to support a family on Aid to Families with Dependent Children (including food stamps and Medical Assistance), \$405 a month to support a family on just food stamps and Medical Assistance, and \$259 a month to support a family receiving a child care subsidy.



## LAW

### Lawmakers turned judges

Minnesota should hire more judges to ease the current heavy district court caseloads, House Judiciary Finance Committee members were told Feb. 22.

The plea came from several former lawmakers who are now State District Court judges.

The judges, who served at various times in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1960 to 1992, identified problems and offered suggestions on how the Legislature could improve the courts.

Judge Terry Dempsey of New Ulm told lawmakers to authorize "more judges or cut the number of cases."

Judge Franklin Knoll of Minneapolis also asked lawmakers to "bear in mind the increases in caseloads" that might result from their funding and policy decisions.



Seven former House members who are now State District Court judges offered suggestions on how to improve the criminal justice system to the House Judiciary Finance Committee Feb. 22. From left to right, District Court judges: Spencer Sokolowski, Joseph Quinn, Richard Menke, John Lindstrom, Franklin Knoll, Terry Dempsey, and Howard Albertson.

As other judges discussed the stress from a daily court calendar comprising 100 or more cases, Knoll warned that "some members [of the bench] are going to start to crumble" under an increasing workload.

There are other problems facing judges as well. The increasing demand for translation services is among them.

Judge Richard Menke of Prior Lake said that on one morning, three of the first four cases before him required translators in Russian, Hmong, and Mandarin Chinese. He affirmed that foreign language interpreters are necessary to insure that people fully understand court proceedings, but the process "doubles the time" it takes to hear a case.

And when there are between 100 and 150 cases on a daily court calendar, extra time is something judges just don't have.

Legislators were encouraged to spend a day sitting on the bench with a judge — the judicial equivalent of the police "ride-along."

Spending five hours with a judge in family court or juvenile court would allow a legislator to see that judges are under "extraordinary pressure" to move along cases, while "dealing with people in incredible pain all the time," said Judge Joseph Quinn of Coon Rapids.

Having individuals with so many years of experience both in the Legislature and on the bench "openly willing to share their advice" was an opportunity that couldn't be passed up, Murphy later commented.

## Mighty morphin' inmates

Harley Davidson, Punisher X, and Jay De Lawless are Minnesota prisoners, but they didn't go behind bars with those names. Once incarcerated they obtained legal name changes at taxpayer expense.

A bill to curtail the occurrence of such name changes won approval from the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 22.

"There are too many of these proceedings going on," said bill sponsor Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester).

His proposal would limit prisoners to one name change while within the state prison system. And it would be done at public expense only when "failure to allow the name change would infringe on the constitutional rights of an inmate." Religious reasons would be an example of such a case.

A total of 305 name changes were made between 1990 and February 1995, said Jim Bruton, deputy commissioner of the Department of Corrections. Some inmates have changed their name as many as three times. Currently, there is no limit on the number of

name changes a prisoner may request.

Each change costs between \$400 and \$500, Bruton said. The most concrete cost is in the form of a \$142 filing fee that is waived for most prisoners because they can't afford it. The remainder of the cost is the price of bringing a judge, court reporter, and bailiff to the state prisons several times per year. Time spent by Department of Corrections staff renaming prison files also adds up, Bruton said.

Security is also a concern, Bruton said, because inmates are at times transferred between prisons. Failure to immediately recognize a potential security risk because of a name change could pose a problem, he said.

HF125 now goes to the House floor for consideration.



## TAXES

### Governor's tax bill

A little-noticed provision in the governor's proposed tax bill would eliminate the political contribution refund program that allows individual donors to give up to \$50 to a political candidate or political party.

Under the program, created by the Legislature in 1990, an individual can give up to \$50 to a candidate or party, obtain a receipt for the donation, complete a form from the Department of Revenue, and get the cash back from the state. Married couples can contribute up to \$100 and get it back.

Although the provision is a relatively small

part of the bill (HF630) that calls for a total \$76.5 million cut in state aid to local governments in fiscal years 1995 and 1996, House members spent most of the Feb. 21 House Taxes Committee meeting discussing the refund.

"What you have here is an interest-free loan," said Rep. Ron Abrams (IR-Minnetonka). "There is no contribution."

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Bill Macklin (IR-Lakeville), says the refunds cost the state \$4.7 million per two-year spending cycle. No other state has such a program.

"It's a question of [funding] priorities . . . and our ability to get re-elected should not be one of them," he said.

But supporters of the program say it has increased the participation of average Minnesotans in the political process.

"The idea was to get away from the very large donors," said Rep. Don Ostrom (DFL-Mankato). "This program has opened up the process to people of varying means."

The governor's bill also would establish an aid distribution council in each of Minnesota's 87 counties. The councils would administer the state's local government aid and homestead and agricultural credit aid. They would be composed of an equal number of county commissioners, city mayors or council members, and school district board members. (Townships and special taxing districts would be represented by county board members.)

The largest council would be composed of 21 members.

Matt Smith, commissioner of the Department of Revenue, said the goal of the councils



Rep. Karen Clark, left, and Sen. John Hottinger, right, held a press conference Feb. 21 to talk about Minnesota business tax subsidies, which they dubbed "corporate welfare." Also pictured are Mel Duncan, executive director of the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action (MAPA), and Alexa Bradley, also of MAPA.

is to "try and engender discussion at the local level as to how those dollars should best be spent."

Under the bill, councils that fail to reach an agreement on how to divide up the revenue would then divide the money in the same way it was parceled out the previous year. (See Jan. 27, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 4 and Feb. 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11).

But several members expressed lingering doubts about the councils which some say would be "another layer of government" that fostered competition, not cooperation.

"There's no incentive for governments to cooperate," said Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope). "Where are the consequences here?" The measure would also make permanent the sales tax exemption for used farm machinery (at a state revenue loss of \$1.9 million over the next biennium) and provide up to a \$500 tax credit for those buying specialized farm equipment designed to stem feedlot pollution.

The Taxes Committee did not take any formal action on HF630.



## TRANSPORTATION

### High-tech tollways

The state could help raise the money for major transportation projects — those with a price tag of more than \$100 million — by charging drivers a toll on metropolitan freeways and expressways.

That's the conclusion of the State Advisory Council on Major Transportation Projects. Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) who served on the council, presented its findings to the House Transportation and Transit Committee Feb. 22.

The council also proposed a five-cent hike in the gas tax, currently 20 cents, with future increases likely. The additional money would fund highway repairs and new roads not considered major projects.

The 1994 Legislature created the 15-member council, made up of lawmakers and private citizens, to find innovative ways to fund what the Legislature called "major transportation projects." Light Rail Transit is one example of a major project.

To pay for projects, the council recommended installing a toll-like billing system on all Twin Cities freeways and expressways by the year 2000.

The system would work much like a toll road, but with different technology, Lieder said. An electronic device along the road would note each vehicle as it passed and the owners would be billed by mail for the miles of road they used, he said.

The recommendation is tied to a 1994 law sponsored by Lieder. The law requires the Metropolitan Council and the Minnesota Department of Transportation to study putting optical scanners in Minnesota gas stations to read mileage information from a microchip connected to a vehicle's odometer.

The vehicle's owner would be charged a tax on miles of road driven, under Lieder's proposal. A gas tax (currently used to upkeep roads) is unfair, he has said, because older cars use more gas than do newer models.

Similar microchip technology could be used to determine how many miles of expressway or freeway a vehicle has used during a billing period, Lieder told committee members.

The council did not determine how much money the toll-like system could raise but said it should provide incentives for travelers to use mass transportation.

The council's gas tax hike proposal was met with skepticism by some lawmakers.

"I see this report as adding nothing to the debate about major transportation projects," said Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul). "They've come back with a report that says just raise the gas tax a nickel. That does us no service. We need a 20-cent or 25-cent raise just to keep the infrastructure we have now," he said.

Another council recommendation also raised eyebrows.

This one would allow the Metropolitan Council to impose up to a one-half cent sales tax in the metropolitan area to fund improvements to the busing system. The tax would take the place of most of the state dollars the Metropolitan Council receives from the Legislature for transit and would replace the property tax the council currently levies for transit needs.

But Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) said the council's proposal would unfairly impose double taxation — a gas tax and a sales tax — on metropolitan residents to pay for transportation needs.

### Electric bus project

The world's first bus powered by electric strips embedded in the road may soon be running on the St. Cloud State University campus.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport), would allocate \$625,000 from the state's general fund to set up a one-half-mile electric bus route on the St. Cloud State University campus. The route would demonstrate a road-powered electric

vehicle, or RPEV, Marko told members of the House Transportation and Transit Committee Feb. 17.

Members approved the bill.

The 1994 Legislature appropriated \$200,000 to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to examine the efforts of the Saints Road Project. The St. Cloud-based group has already constructed prototype vehicles — including a full-size passenger bus — that collect power from sections of the road that become energized as vehicles pass over them. The method is a visual improvement over the overhead electric lines now used by electrical buses, said Nick Musachio, who designed the technology.

The Saints Road Project would convert buses to run along power strips laid on specific routes. The buses could use batteries when making short forays off the track, and could also switch to gasoline power when necessary.

The bill also would earmark an additional \$100,000 for the Saints Road Project to study the possibility of building a 45-mile electric bus corridor linking Minneapolis and St. Paul with the southern suburbs. The bus would make stops at the airport and the Mall of America in Bloomington, Musachio said.

Also, \$25,000 of the appropriation would be used to set up a consortium of Midwest groups and businesses interested in electric vehicles.

But Bob Benke, director of MnDOT research administration, said the state should not appropriate more money to the Saints Road Project.

The department expects battery-powered cars to be a feasible transportation option in a number of years. Such cars would make the buses outdated and obsolete, Benke said. Also, the St. Cloud-based company has yet to complete a number of tests that were mandated as part of the 1994 legislation, Benke said.

"If funding is provided, the Legislature should be aware it's being asked to act as a market venture capitalist," Benke said.

But Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) said the state regularly provides money to aid research to enrich the state.

Should the dollars be allotted, Musachio claims the RPEV technology would be the first in the world.

Officials in Phoenix, Ariz., and in Copenhagen, Denmark, are already exploring the possibility of building such busing systems, Musachio told members. He said the technology, developed in Minnesota, could eventually be exported throughout the world.



**HF395** now moves to the Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee for consideration.

## Airport study

The Metropolitan Airports Commission would study whether the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport's runways should be moved to Rosemount, Minn. — while leaving the terminal at its present Bloomington site — under a bill approved by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Feb. 23.

Under a plan proposed by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), air passengers would drive to the present Bloomington airport terminal to check their baggage. They would then be shuttled by commuter train to the Rosemount site. The University of Minnesota owns a parcel of land of about 7,000-acres in Rosemount that is accessible by railway, Long said.

"This would involve much less than building a full new terminal," Long said.

In 1989, the Legislature charged the commission with studying the feasibility and cost of relocating the airport. The commission also was to look at the cost of adding additional runways at the existing airport.

The commission has since specified three parcels of land, each around 9,500 acres, near Hastings, Minn., as acceptable sites for a new airport.

But Long said expanding the airport by relocating only the runways makes sense. Critics of relocating the entire airport have maintained the Hastings site would be inconveniently located for Twin Cities residents. And incoming business people would face a longer commute to area business hubs.

The plan — which Long called the "remote runway option" — must address phasing out some or all the runways at the present airport. The study would determine how many runways should be built in Rosemount and how much the remote runways would cost.

The bill includes no cost estimate for the study, though Long said the cost would be addressed at the bill's next stop, the Transportation and Transit Committee.

Dave Osberg, Hastings city administrator, said Dakota County residents don't want to see the airport near Hastings. He spoke against Long's proposal, saying it would lengthen an already lengthy and costly relocation study.

The commission's relocation and expan-

sion study has cost about \$8.3 million through 1994.

The 1989 law says the commission must report its findings to the Legislature before July 1, 1996. The remote runway study also must be finished by that date under **HF385**.

## Hats and driver's licenses

A bill on its way the governor's desk would allow those suffering hair loss due to illness or head injury to wear a head covering in their driver's license photograph.

The House approved the bill Feb. 23 on a 129-0 vote.

House sponsor Rep. Jeff Bertram (DFL-Paynesville) proposed the bill (**HF52/SF33\***) after learning of a constituent who was told she had to take off her turban before her driver's license photograph could be taken. She wore the turban to cover up hair loss due to chemotherapy treatment for cancer.

"It was very traumatic to her," Bertram said.

Public safety employees now use their discretion in letting people wear hats or a head covering for photographs. The bill also would apply to state-issued identification cards. (See Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 12)

Additionally, the bill would allow Minnesotans with religious objections to leave their photographs off their state identification cards. Current law allows the practice for a state driver's license.

The Senate approved the bill Feb. 9 on a 60-0 vote.



## VETERANS

### Persian Gulf bonus

Minnesotans who served in the Persian Gulf War would receive a financial thank you from the state under two bills heard Feb. 20 before the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee's Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs.

Both bills call for voters in the 1996 general election to vote on a constitutional amendment authorizing the state to sell bonds to pay a bonus to Gulf War veterans. Voters must approve the state's intent to borrow money long-term through bonding if the state uses the money to pay individuals.

Such bonuses were paid by the state to

veterans of World War II and the Vietnam War. A constitutional amendment to sell bonds went before the voters both times. The state did not put a constitutional amendment before the people to pay World War I veterans' bonuses. The decision remains controversial. Korean War veterans were paid by a \$15 million state appropriation. The state did not bond for the money, so it did not put a constitutional amendment before the voters.

Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) introduced the first proposal for a Gulf War bonus in 1991, but it did not pass. Three more attempts have since been made.

**HF530**, sponsored by Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul), contains no provisions for how the bonus payment would be apportioned. If the constitutional amendment is approved, the 1997 Legislature would set the bonus amount and eligibility guidelines, McCollum said.

The second bill, **HF566** sponsored by Rep. Mike Osskopp (IR-Lake City), does detail how the bonus would be paid.

Under the bill, about 12,600 veterans would receive a one-time bonus of up to \$600 if they received a Southwest Asia Service Medal between August 1990 and July 1991. Veterans who received the medal served in Iraq or Kuwait during the war.

Around 28,600 other Minnesota veterans would receive up to \$300 if they were in the armed services from August 1990 to July 1991, were ready to be called to war, but did not serve in Iraq or Kuwait.

In total, **HF566** could cost the state about \$16.1 million, which the state would bond for, Osskopp said. His bill specifies no overall dollar amount to be spent on the bonus. The \$16.1 million figure is "very preliminary," he added.

The proposed bonus amounts are the same as those paid to Vietnam War veterans in 1974, Osskopp said. For the state to adjust the Vietnam War bonuses to keep up with inflation would have been too expensive, he added.

Robert David, veterans' service officer for Goodhue County, said the bonus would show the state's appreciation to its veterans.

"Nobody is going to get rich off this. But it may pay for some school books or some groceries," he said.

The subcommittee will discuss the two bills further and may include one or the other in some form in the omnibus veterans services bill it is assembling.

Minnesota state agencies have offices — and entire buildings — spread throughout the Capitol Hill area. More are located in and around downtown St. Paul. Still others are in Minneapolis, Roseville, and have divisions, branches, and field offices in all corners of the state.

In 1931, the various departments of state government were similarly scattered, "an arrangement both inconvenient and expensive," according to *The Minnesota Capitol*, published in 1939 by Stafford King, then state auditor.

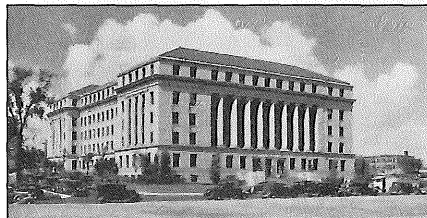
"To remedy this unsatisfactory situation, the Legislature, following the precedents of other states," commissioned the State Office Building.

At a cost of \$1.5 million, the building, located just west of the State Capitol, was completed on Nov. 15, 1932. The influx of state departments soon followed.

## It's a fact!

In came the departments of Agriculture, Banking, Conservation, Dairy and Food, Education, Health, Labor and Industry, and Rural Credit. A number of state boards also were housed there, including the boards of Barber Examining, Compensation Insurance, Live Stock Sanitary, Nurse Examining, Parole, and Poultry Improvement.

Additionally, the divisions of Closed Banks,



The State Office Building as it looked in the late 1930s.

Source: *The Minnesota Capitol Official Guide and History* originally written in 1907 by Julie C. Gauthier, revised in 1939.

Insurance, Oil Inspection, and Securities, the Public Institutions Department of the Board of Control, the Railroad and Warehouse Commission, the Criminal Apprehension Bureau, the Surveyor General of Logs and Lumber, the Employees' Retirement Association, and the Disabled American Veterans' and Spanish War Veterans' bureaus also occupied the building.

Today, Minnesota's 134 state representatives, 23 Independent-Republican senators, and legislative staff are housed in the State Office Building.

The sixth floor, which "is in reality an attic," according to *The Minnesota Capitol*, now houses the House Research Department and the Legislative Reference Library. The seventh floor, which originally housed "the elevator and ventilation machinery," is now home to about 50 employees of the Office of the Revisor of Statutes.

## Minnesota House and Senate Membership

<b>1</b> A • Jim Tunheim-DFL B • Tim Finseth-IR Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-DFL	<b>15</b> A • Tom Van Engen B • Roger Cooper-DFL Sen. Dean E. Johnson-IR	<b>29</b> A • Jerry Dempsey-IR B • Mike Osskopp-IR Sen. Steve L. Murphy-DFL	<b>43</b> A • Tom Workman-IR B • Barbara Sykora-IR Sen. Edward C. Oliver-IR	<b>57</b> A • Walter E. Perl-DFL B • Sharon Marko-DFL Sen. Leonard R. Price-DFL
<b>2</b> A • Bernie Lieder-DFL B • Edgar Olson-DFL Sen. Roger D. Moe-DFL	<b>16</b> A • Joe Opatz-DFL B • Jim Knobloch-IR Sen. David Kleis-IR	<b>30</b> A • Fran Bradley-IR B • Dave Bishop-IR Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-IR	<b>44</b> A • Steve Kelley-DFL B • Jim Rhodes-IR Sen. Ted A. Mondale-DFL	<b>58</b> A • James I. Rice-DFL B • Richard H. Jefferson-DFL Sen. Carl W. Kroening-DFL
<b>3</b> A • Irv Anderson-DFL B • Loren Solberg-DFL Sen. Bob Lessard-DFL	<b>17</b> A • LeRoy Koppendraye-IR B • Leslie Schumacher-DFL Sen. Dan Stevens-IR	<b>31</b> A • Don L. Frerichs-IR B • Gregory M. Davids-IR Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel-IR	<b>45</b> A • Ron Abrams-IR B • Peggy Leppik-IR Sen. Martha R. Robertson-IR	<b>59</b> A • John J. Sama-DFL B • Phyllis Kahn-DFL Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-DFL
<b>4</b> A • Bob Johnson-DFL B • Anthony G. "Tony" Kinkel-DFL Sen. Harold R. "Skip" Finn-DFL	<b>18</b> A • Jim Rostberg-IR B • Loren Jennings-DFL Sen. Janet B. Johnson-DFL	<b>32</b> A • Gene Pelowski Jr.-DFL B • Virgil J. Johnson-IR Sen. Steven Morse-DFL	<b>46</b> A • Ann H. Rest-DFL B • Lyndon R. Carlson-DFL Sen. Ember D. Reichgott Junge-DFL	<b>60</b> A • Dee Long-DFL B • Myron Orfield-DFL Sen. Allan H. Spear-DFL
<b>5</b> A • Tom Rukavina-DFL B • David Tomassoni-DFL Sen. Jerry R. Janeczki-DFL	<b>19</b> A • Mark Olson-IR B • Bruce Anderson-IR Sen. Mark Ourada-IR	<b>33</b> A • Arlon Lindner-IR B • Open Sen. Warren Limmer-IR	<b>47</b> A • Darlene Luther-DFL B • Phil Carruthers-DFL Sen. Don Kramer-IR	<b>61</b> A • Karen Clark-DFL B • Linda Wejcman-DFL Sen. Linda Berglin-DFL
<b>6</b> A • Thomas Bakk-DFL B • Thomas Huntley-DFL Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-DFL	<b>20</b> A • Robert Ness-IR B • Tony Onnen-IR Sen. Steve Dille-IR	<b>34</b> A • Steven Smith-IR B • H. Todd Van Dellen-IR Sen. Gen Olson-IR	<b>48</b> A • Bill Haas-IR B • Alice M. Johnson-DFL Sen. Don Betzold-DFL	<b>62</b> A • Lee Greenfield-DFL B • Wesley J. "Wes" Skoglund-DFL Sen. Carol Flynn-DFL
<b>7</b> A • Willard Munger-DFL B • Mike Jaros-DFL Sen. Sam G. Solon-DFL	<b>21</b> A • Jim Girard-IR B • Richard Mulder-IR Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski-IR	<b>35</b> A • Carol Molnau-IR B • Becky Kelso-DFL Sen. Terry D. Johnston-IR	<b>49</b> A • Charlie Weaver-IR B • Joel Jacobs-DFL Sen. Gene Merriam-DFL	<b>63</b> A • Jean Wagenius-DFL B • Edwina Garcia-DFL Sen. Jane B. Ranum-DFL
<b>8</b> A • Mary Murphy-DFL B • Becky Lourey-DFL Sen. Florian W. Chmielewski-DFL	<b>22</b> A • Ted Winter-DFL B • Elaine Harder-IR Sen. Jim Vickerman-DFL	<b>36</b> A • Eileen Tompkins-IR B • Dan McElroy-IR Sen. David L. Knutson-IR	<b>50</b> A • Tom Hackbarth-IR B • Teresa Lynch-IR Sen. Paula E. Hanson-DFL	<b>64</b> A • Matt Entenza-DFL B • Howard Orenstein-DFL Sen. Richard J. Cohen-DFL
<b>9</b> A • Kevin Goodno-IR B • Marvin Dauner-DFL Sen. Keith Langseth-DFL	<b>23</b> A • Barb Vickerman-IR B • Howard Swenson-IR Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-IR	<b>37</b> A • Dennis Ozment-IR B • Bill Macklin-IR Sen. Pat Pariseau-IR	<b>51</b> A • Mike Delmont-DFL B • Doug Swenson-IR Sen. Jane Krentz-DFL	<b>65</b> A • Andy Dawkins-DFL B • Carlos Mariani-DFL Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-DFL
<b>10</b> A • Bob Anderson-DFL B • Hilda Bettermann-IR Sen. Cal Larson-IR	<b>24</b> A • John Dorn-DFL B • Don Ostrom-DFL Sen. John C. Hottinger-DFL	<b>38</b> A • Tim Commers-IR B • Tim Pawlenty-IR Sen. Deanna Wiener-DFL	<b>52</b> A • Wayne Simoneau-DFL B • Richard Pellow-IR Sen. Steven G. Novak-DFL	<b>66</b> A • Tom Osthoff-DFL B • Alice Hausman-DFL Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-DFL
<b>11</b> A • Roxann Daggett-IR B • Ken Oremba-DFL Sen. Dallas C. Sams-DFL	<b>25</b> A • John Tuma-IR B • Lynda Boudreau-IR Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-IR	<b>39</b> A • Thomas Pugh-DFL B • Bob Milbert-DFL Sen. James P. Metzger-DFL	<b>53</b> A • Phil Krinkie-IR B • Sherry Broecker-IR Sen. Linda Runbeck-IR	<b>67</b> A • Jim Farrell-DFL B • Steve Trimble-DFL Sen. Randy C. Kelly-DFL
<b>12</b> A • Kris Hasskamp-DFL B • Stephen G. Wenzel-DFL Sen. Don Samuelson-DFL	<b>26</b> A • Gene Hugoson-IR B • Henry J. Kalis-DFL Sen. Tracy L. Beckman-DFL	<b>40</b> A • Mark P. Mahon-DFL B • Kevin Knight-IR Sen. Phil J. Riveness-DFL	<b>54</b> A • Mary Jo McGuire-DFL B • Mindy Greiling-DFL Sen. John Marty-DFL	
<b>13</b> A • Chuck Brown-DFL B • Doug Peterson-DFL Sen. Charles A. Berg-DFL	<b>27</b> A • Ron Kraus-IR B • Robert Leighton Jr.-DFL Sen. Pat Piper-DFL	<b>41</b> A • Alice Seagren-IR B • Ken Wolf-IR Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-IR	<b>55</b> A • Harry Mares-IR B • Betty McCollum-DFL Sen. Kevin M. Chandler-DFL	
<b>14</b> A • Steve Dehler-IR B • Jeff Bertram-DFL Sen. Joe Bertram Sr.-DFL	<b>28</b> A • Gary D. Worke-IR B • Steven A. Sviggum-IR Sen. Dick Day-IR	<b>42</b> A • Ron Erhardt-IR B • Erik Paulsen-IR Sen. Roy W. Terwilliger-IR	<b>56</b> A • Mark Holsten-IR B • Peg Larsen-IR Sen. Gary W. Laidig-IR	

Unofficial list as of February 17, 1995

# Minnesota House of Representatives 1995 - 96

## Members Seniority List

### 20th term

Munger, Willard (DFL)\*

### 13th term

Rice, James I. (DFL)

### 12th term

Anderson, Irv (DFL)\*  
Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)  
Jacobs, Joel (DFL)  
Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)  
Sarna, John J. (DFL)  
Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)

### 11th

Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)  
Osthoff, Tom (DFL)  
Simoneau, Wayne (DFL)

### 10th term

Anderson, Bob (DFL)  
Jaros, Mike (DFL)\*  
Murphy, Mary (DFL)  
Onnen, Tony (IR)  
Skoglund, Wesley J. "Wes" (DFL)\*

### 9th term

Greenfield, Lee (DFL)  
Long, Dee (DFL)  
Sviggum, Steven A. (IR)

### 8th term

Clark, Karen (DFL)  
Frerichs, Don (IR)

### 7th term

Bishop, Dave (IR)  
Johnson, Virgil J. (IR)  
Solberg, Loren (DFL)  
Tunheim, Jim (DFL)

### 6th term

Brown, Chuck (DFL)  
Jennings, Loren (DFL)  
Lieder, Bernie (DFL)  
Olson, Edgar (DFL)  
Ozment, Dennis (IR)  
Rest, Ann H. (DFL)  
Tompkins, Eileen (IR)

### 5th term

Bertram, Jeff (DFL)  
Carruthers, Phil (DFL)  
Cooper, Roger (DFL)  
Dauner, Marvin (DFL)

Dawkins, Andy (DFL)  
Dorn, John (DFL)  
Hugoson, Gene (IR)  
Jefferson, Richard H. (DFL)  
Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)  
Johnson, Bob (DFL)  
Kelso, Becky (DFL)  
Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony" (DFL)  
Milbert, Bob (DFL)  
Orenstein, Howard (DFL)  
Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)  
Rukavina, Tom (DFL)  
Swenson, Doug (IR)  
Trimble, Steve (DFL)  
Wagenius, Jean (DFL)  
Winter, Ted (DFL)

### 4th term

Abrams, Ron (IR)  
Girard, Jim (IR)  
Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)  
Hausman, Alice (DFL)  
Lynch, Teresa (IR)  
Macklin, Bill (IR)  
McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)  
Ostrom, Don (DFL)  
Pugh, Thomas (DFL)  
Weaver, Charlie (IR)

### 3rd term

Bettermann, Hilda (IR)  
Davids, Gregory M. (IR)  
Erhardt, Ron (IR)  
Farrell, Jim (DFL)  
Garcia, Edwina (DFL)  
Goodno, Kevin (IR)  
Koppendrayner, LeRoy (IR)  
Krinkie, Phil (IR)  
Leppik, Peggy (IR)  
Lourey, Becky (DFL)  
Mariani, Carlos (DFL)  
Orfield, Myron (DFL)  
Pellow, Richard (IR)\*  
Peterson, Doug (DFL)  
Smith, Steve (IR)  
Wejcman, Linda (DFL)

### 2nd term

Commers, Tim (IR)  
Dehler, Steve (IR)  
Delmont, Mike (DFL)  
Dempsey, Jerry (IR)  
Finseth, Tim (IR)  
Greiling, Mindy (DFL)  
Holsten, Mark (IR)

Huntley, Thomas (DFL)  
Kelley, Steve (DFL)  
Knight, Kevin (IR)  
Lindner, Arlon (IR)  
Luther, Darlene (DFL)  
Mahon, Mark P. (DFL)  
McCollum, Betty (DFL)  
Molnau, Carol (IR)  
Ness, Robert "Bob" (IR)  
Olson, Mark (IR)  
Opatz, Joe (DFL)  
Pawlenty, Tim (IR)  
Perl, Walter E. (DFL)  
Rhodes, Jim (IR)  
Seagren, Alice (IR)  
Tomassoni, David (DFL)  
Van Dellen, H. Todd (IR)  
Van Engen, Tom (IR)  
Vickerman, Barb (IR)  
Wolf, Ken (IR)  
Worke, Gary D. (IR)  
Workman, Tom (IR)

### 1st term

Anderson, Bruce (IR)  
Bakk, Thomas (DFL)  
Boudreau, Lynda (IR)  
Bradley, Fran (IR)  
Broecker, Sherry (IR)  
Daggett, Roxann (IR)  
Entenza, Matt (DFL)  
Haas, Bill (IR)  
Hackbarth, Tom (IR)  
Harder, Elaine (IR)  
Knoblach, Jim (IR)  
Kraus, Ron (IR)  
Larsen, Peg (IR)  
Leighton, Robert (DFL)  
Mares, Harry (IR)  
Marko, Sharon (DFL)  
McElroy, Dan (IR)  
Mulder, Richard (IR)  
Osskopp, Mike (IR)  
Otremba, Ken (DFL)  
Paulsen, Erik (IR)  
Rostberg, Jim (IR)  
Schumacher, Leslie (DFL)  
Swenson, Howard (IR)  
Sykora, Barbara (IR)  
Tuma, John (IR)

Note: Members of the House of Representatives serve two year terms.

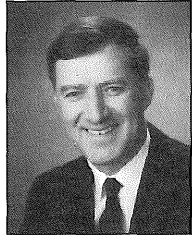
\* Non-consecutive



New members . . .

# Anderson wants to shrink government, help business

"People Running Government — Not Government Running People" reads an eye-popping orange campaign business card in Rep.



Rep. Bruce Anderson

Bruce Anderson's wallet.

"That what I wanted to express to people," Anderson said, adding that more people need to get involved in running their government, which has become too big and expensive.

The Independent-Republican from Buffalo Township lost his first bid to represent the people of District 19B in 1992. But he said he was encouraged to try again. So, with the help of his wife, Dottie, and some loyal campaign workers, he managed to "keep the campaign alive."

When the votes were tallied last November, Anderson had unseated his predecessor, Stephanie Klinzing, and won his first elective office.

"It's an awesome place to be at and it's a humbling experience," says Anderson about his new job at the Capitol.

From his seat on the House Governmental Operations Committee and its State Government Finance Division, Anderson hopes to do what he can to pare down the size of Minnesota government.

Thirty years ago, "the 3Ms, the Control Datas" and other large companies were the major Minnesota employers, Anderson points out. "Now it's government that's number one. So, we've lost our perspective, and we need to get business back into the running of the state, rather than government running the state."

One step to a leaner and more efficient government might be found in Nebraska's unicameral system, said Anderson. Having only one house could reduce the "time wasted in trying to get things done and the games people play." He said that a unicameral Legislature would eliminate the need for the conference committee process where House and Senate members meet — often into the wee hours of the morning — to iron out the their differing versions of bills.

Anderson mentioned that Gov. Arne Carlson, in his State of the State Address, proposed letting Minnesotans vote on changing to a unicameral Legislature.

To get Minnesota back on track also involves reforming the state's welfare system, Anderson said. Voters want "less of their hard-earned money being spent unwisely on people who can get out there and work."

There are plenty of jobs for those who really want to work, said Anderson. He thinks some people aren't sincerely motivated and cites the story of an Elk River woman. The business owner had a newly hired employee who worked for one day and then called to say she couldn't return to work because she had to watch a certain soap opera on TV.

"People are hearing that [kind of excuse] time and time again and they're fed up with it," Anderson said. "And they're saying the government's just giving our money away to every Tom, Dick, and Harry that comes in from Chicago, from Texas, from Mexico, from New York — you name it. They're coming in, and they can pick up a [welfare] check right now."

Anderson said his constituents are tired of what they perceive as abuse of the welfare

system and want government to enact "some meaningful reform."

"We can't continue to run on the same spend, spend, spend philosophy," Anderson said. "We need to realize that folks out here are living on less and less with all the taxes that are coming down on them, and we can't continue to spend the money foolishly."

"The burden rests on our shoulders to make decisions that affect not only the 4.5 million people here in Minnesota, but the future generations," he said.

When the hectic pace of politics and government allows, Anderson enjoys going to a health club with his wife, four teenaged daughters, and one son. He swims, plays a little golf, and is planning a deer hunting trip to Wyoming.

Serving in the Legislature promises to be a "big job but I love the challenge," Anderson said.

"My intent is to serve my constituents well and be available to them."

— Mordecai Specktor

## District 19B

**Population:** 32,913  
**Distribution:** 59.2 urban; 40.8 percent rural.  
**Counties:** Sherburne, Wright  
**Largest city:** Elk River  
**Location:** east central Minnesota  
**Unemployment rate:** 5.17  
**Residents living below poverty level:** 5.48  
**1992 presidential election results:**  
Bush/Quayle ..... 35.06 percent  
Clinton/Gore ..... 34.85 percent  
Perot/Stockdale ..... 29.21 percent  
Other: ..... 0.88 percent

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1-800-657-3717

### Lieutenant Governor

**JOANNE BENSON (IR)**

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State Capitol  
St. Paul 55155  
(612) 296-3391

### Secretary of State

**JOAN ANDERSON GROWE (DFL)**

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Election Division: 296-2805  
Open Appointments: 297-5845  
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UCC: 296-2434

### State Auditor

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### Attorney General

**HUBERT H. HUMPHREY III (DFL)**

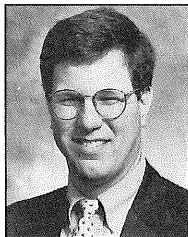
Room 102  
State Capitol  
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Consumer Division: 296-3353  
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New members. . .

## Tuma to press for education, legislative reform

Rep. Jim Tuma (IR-Northfield) is the first to admit it.

"I'm an anomaly in many ways," he said.



Rep. John Tuma

The first-term legislator comes from a long line of DFLers. His father has been politically active in the DFL Party, and Tuma himself sought DFL endorsement in 1992 for the legislative seat he presently occupies. The endorsement

and the race went to Kay Brown, who then lost the seat to an IR-endorsed Tuma this time around.

"I never changed parties, but the parties changed on me," Tuma said. He was always a moderate Democrat and now he's stepped over the line to become a moderate Republican, he said.

Voters in his district hold conservative stances on many issues, but, because many are farmers, they have a hard time shaking the image of Republicans as "all big bankers," Tuma said. Their idea of a Republican candidate is changing with time, he added.

Tuma's father was initially disappointed when his son declared as an IR candidate. He told friends and family his son was more an independent candidate than a Republican, Tuma said.

"But then my dad started realizing we aren't all rich people, just everyday farmers and small-business men like himself. He's now one of my biggest supporters," Tuma said.

His father, in many ways, gave Tuma his introduction to politics. As a third grader, Tuma was discovered to have dyslexia, a learning disability that affects reading and

spelling ability. His father, Leonard, believed the school district wasn't addressing his son's learning disability, so he took action. He joined the Lakeville School Board.

When it came time for college, Tuma became a political science major at Mankato State University. He attended three nominating conventions as a DFL delegate, served as a student chair for Tim Penny's first campaign for Congress in 1982, and came to the State Capitol to intern for then-Sen. Bob Schmitz (DFL-Jordan) in 1985.

Ten years later, Tuma again walks the Capitol halls, occasionally bumping into people he remembers from his time as an intern. He has a number of issues he plans to address. Legislative reform is one priority.

Tuma would like legislators to hold session every other year and to take a pay cut. He said the Legislature addresses too broad a slate of political issues each session. The state frequently passes laws relating to social and other issues that would be better left for local governments to decide, he said.

"Voters — taxpayers — would rather see us concentrating on the things we're good at — like roads and education — and not get into tangential issues," Tuma said. "For instance, we're over emphasizing social reform through desegregation. We're not leaving enough leeway for local discretion."

Tuma is an anomaly in another way. He works in Northfield as a workers' compensation lawyer representing injured employees. Many IR legislators speak about how Minnesota's workers' compensation system must be retooled to lower workers' compensation insurance costs.

"But I've had a chance to sit down with lawmakers and explain how the system works.

The reason why I'm needed [as an attorney] is . . . because the Legislature tinkers with the system every few years and makes it so confusing people need a lawyer to figure it out," he said.

But Tuma's first love remains education. He serves on the House Education Committee. He calls himself a "special education kid" shaped by his childhood educational experience. He wants to be a voice for other special education kids, and would like to see a low-cost program that would allow children with learning disabilities to be taught in the same classroom as other children.

Tuma lives in Northfield with his wife, Wendy, and their 22-month-old son, Cal. The couple is expecting another child in August.

He considers his new job training for his parental role.

"The long days here are physically preparing me to stay up 24 hours with a new baby," Tuma said.

— Jean Thilmany

### District 25A

**Population:** 32,603  
**Distribution:** 55.96 percent urban; 44.04 percent rural  
**Counties:** Dakota, LeSueur, Rice, Scott  
**Largest city:** Northfield  
**Location:** south central Minnesota  
**Unemployment rate:** 4.02 percent  
**Residents living below poverty level:** 8.51 percent  
**1992 presidential election results:**  
Bush/Quayle ..... 27.55 percent  
Clinton/Gore ..... 46.89 percent  
Perot/Stockdale ..... 23.89 percent  
Other: ..... 1.67 percent

Today's legislators, particularly those serving areas far from the Capital City, must spend a great deal of time away from their families.

Such was the case in 1927, when Rep. Chauncey Peterson of Duluth and 31 of his colleagues "thought they were entitled to at least three trips home during the session," wrote J.W. Witham in *The Minnesota Legislature of 1927*.

So Peterson sponsored HF373 as a way to fund member visits to the home district. As introduced, the bill set aside a maximum appropriation of \$10,000 to serve as a reimbursement fund for travel-

### Do you know?

ing expenses from the Capitol to a member's home. The funds were to be available to each member, for a maximum of three trips home, until the \$10,000 kitty had been spent.

But when the bill was reported back from the Committee on General Legislation, the only reference to an "allowance for additional mileage" was found in the bill's title. The bill itself now sought to raise the annual pay of legislators from \$500 to \$750.

When debated on the House floor, Rep. Hannah Kempfer was the only one of the 31 co-sponsors to speak against the bill. "She

repudiated the measure, declaring she had not signed as the co-author of such a bill and refused to vote for it," Witham wrote.

Then-Speaker John A. Johnson admitted that had anyone questioned the content of the bill it never would have been approved, because he would have ruled it was "not germane to the original bill."

The bill passed both the House and Senate and was promptly vetoed by Gov. Theodore Christianson.

The annual legislative salary stayed at \$500 until 1945, when it was raised to \$1,000.

# Bill Introductions

HF720-HF893

## Monday, Feb. 20

### HF720—Bertram (DFL)

#### Regulated Industries & Energy

Liquor retailer liability insurance financial responsibility proof requirement eliminated.

### HF721—Peterson (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Mourning dove hunting season authorized, mourning dove stamps required, fees established, and report required.

### HF722—Mariani (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services

Migrant seasonal farmworker statewide organization provided financial assistance, designation, and recognition.

### HF723—Bakk (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Youthful deer hunter license established, doe taking authority expanded, pelting fee increased, and family hunting license eliminated.

### HF724—Kelley (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services

Social worker home care provider, nursing home, and hospital licensure requirements modified.

### HF725—Harder (IR)

#### Agriculture

Grain Standards Act; grain weighing, sampling, and analysis law references clarified.

### HF726—McElroy (IR)

#### Housing

Manufactured home park retaliatory conduct provisions clarified.

### HF727—Wejcman (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services

Group residential housing supplementary rates provided.

### HF728—McGuire (DFL)

#### Judiciary

DWI; snowmobile, motorboat, and all-terrain vehicle forfeiture provided for violation of certain driving while intoxicated offenses, and vehicle forfeiture law expanded.

### HF729—Frerichs (IR)

#### Transportation & Transit

High speed rail corridor through Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois feasibility studied by Department of Transportation commissioner, and money appropriated.

### HF730—Winter (DFL)

#### Taxes

Cigarette tax accelerated payment requirement eliminated, and cigarette tax overage offset time period extended.

### HF731—Bakk (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Mineral resources data classified as nonpublic.

### HF732—Pugh (DFL)

#### Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Copyright enforcement regulation provided for certain nondramatic musical works and similar works, notices required, practices prohibited, and civil remedies provided.

### HF733—Bakk (DFL)

#### Labor-Management Relations

High pressure pipe installation licensure requirements modified, and penalties provided.

### HF734—Entenza (DFL)

#### Education

Breakfast school program funding continued and money appropriated.

### HF735—Entenza (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Concealing identity crime exception provided based on religious beliefs or cultural practices.

### HF736—Schumacher (DFL)

#### Housing

Housing and redevelopment authority federal tax exempt revenue bond use regulated.

### HF737—Tunheim (DFL)

#### Agriculture

Dead Animal Collection Joint Powers Board appropriated money.

### HF738—Peterson (DFL)

#### Education

Independent School District No. 129, Montevideo, authorized to levy for Adult Farm Management Program costs.

### HF739—Johnson, R. (DFL)

#### Labor-Management Relations

Workers' compensation technical corrections provided.

### HF740—Luther (DFL)

#### Education

Independent School District No. 279, Osseo, authorized to levy for provision of instructional services to at-risk children, low-income concentration grant program provided, and money appropriated.

### HF741—Luther (DFL)

#### Education

Independent School District No. 279, Osseo, authorized to levy for provision of instructional services to at-risk children, and low-income concentration grant program provided.

### HF742—Luther (DFL)

#### Education

Independent School District No. 279, Osseo, authorized to levy for provision of instructional services to at-risk children.

### HF743—Solberg (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services

Nursing home swing bed provisions modified.

### HF744—Tomassoni (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services

Nursing home administrator provisions modified.

### HF745—Bakk (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Deer baiting allowed during deer archery season.

### HF746—Jefferson (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Peace officer state aid regulated, and domestic mutual premium report required.

### HF747—Paulsen (IR)

#### Financial Institutions & Insurance

Department of Commerce insurance solvency, reinsurance, capital stock, general agent management, and variable contract information confidentiality regulation provided.

### HF748—Johnson, R. (DFL)

#### Labor-Management Relations

Workers' Compensation Fraud Investigation Unit provisions modified.

### HF749—Trimble (DFL)

#### Housing

Transitional housing services eligibility provisions expanded to include follow-up support services.

### HF750—Hasskamp (DFL)

#### Transportation & Transit

POW/MIA memorial highway designated on Trunk Highway No. 169 from Elk River to Garrison and State Highway No. 18 from Garrison to Brainerd.

### HF751—Davids (IR)

#### Financial Institutions & Insurance

Insurance agent life and health policy quotas prohibited.



**HF752—Pugh (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Probate code estate asset investment provisions modified.

**HF753—Jacobs (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Malt liquor and intoxicating malt liquor additional excise tax repealed.

**HF754—Rest (DFL)**

**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Genetic Discrimination Act adopted.

**HF755—Johnson, R. (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Insurance company gross premium tax rate modified for fire, lightning, and sprinkler coverage.

**HF756—Workman (IR)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Motor vehicle odometer disclosure requirements applied to all motor vehicles regardless of age.

**HF757—Cooper (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Physical therapy board established, physical therapist licensure requirements provided, and money appropriated.

**HF758—Jefferson (DFL)**

**General Legislature, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Voters required to sign polling place rosters on election day, and penalty imposed.

**HF759—Onnen (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Health care providers required to adopt uniform billing rates.

**HF760—Jefferson (DFL)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Elections held over a period of two consecutive days.

**HF761—McGuire (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

County offices previously elective filled by appointment.

**HF762—Erhardt (IR)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Korean War veterans' memorial created on capitol mall and money appropriated.

**HF763—Farrell (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

St. Paul tax increment financing districts exempted from certain aid offsets.

**HF764—Davids (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Medicare swing bed maximum increase provided.

**HF765—Delmont (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Visually handicapped reference changed to visually disabled for state services for the blind purposes.

**HF766—Ness (IR)**

**International Trade & Economic Development**

Public facilities authority maximum bonding amount changed.

**HF767—Clark (DFL)**

**Housing**

Family homeless prevention and assistance program age limitations changed, rental housing program modified, and municipal housing plan reporting requirement references corrected.

**HF768—Delmont (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Evidentiary privilege and confidentiality provided for public safety peer counseling debriefing information, and municipal tort liability provided.

**HF769—Vickerman (IR)**

**Agriculture**

Livestock Expansion Loan Program limits changed, and demonstration program restrictions provided.

**HF770—Hugoson (IR)**

**Agriculture**

Agricultural grain marketing interstate compact repealed.

**HF771—Farrell (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Witness and Victim Protection Fund scope clarified, and money appropriated.

**HF772—Farrell (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Protected witness name changes classified as private data.

**HF773—Farrell (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Crime victim emergency needs fund established, and money appropriated.

**HF774—Marko (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Prescription drug price negotiation authority granted to administration department, statewide drug formulary established, and pharmacists required to post signs relating to generic drug substitution.

**HF775—Carruthers (DFL)**

**Rules & Legislative Administration**

Legislature required to adopt budget targets, legislative meetings limited, bill introduction restrictions provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF776—Dawkins (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Crime victim bill of rights; neighborhood associations permitted to request notification of certain crimes.

**HF777—Winter (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Wind energy conversion system taxation provided.

**HF778—Orenstein (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Medical assistance asset and income requirements, and Minnesota supplemental aid eligibility requirements modified.

**HF779—Orfield (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Conservation easement assessment benefit determination, zoning and planning, Metropolitan Council land use decisions, and metropolitan agricultural preserves provisions clarified.

**HF780—Brown (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

County recorder real estate fee collection authority restricted.

**HF781—Abrams (IR)**

**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Health maintenance organization regulatory authority transferred to Department of Commerce.

**HF782—Munger (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Western Lake Superior sanitary district internal revenue code compliance provided.

**HF783—Bakk (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board appropriated money.

**HF784—Weaver (IR)**

**Judiciary**

Controlled substance offense penalty application clarified, drivers' license photograph use authorized in theft investigations, criminal record expungement precluded in diversion cases, victim restitution provided, and fine imposed.

**HF785—Weaver (IR)**

**Judiciary**

Burglary in the first degree scope expanded.

**HF786—Weaver (IR)**

## Judiciary

Theft statute definition of value modified.

## Thursday, Feb. 23

### HF787—Munger (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources

Wetland replacement, protection, and management provisions modified.

### HF0788—Marko (DFL) Ways & Means

State government efficiency and openness provided, state agency efficiency required and mission statements provided, and public participation encouraged.

### HF789—Pugh (DFL) Judiciary

Department of Administration commissioner opinion issuance authority and data treatment clarified, and sunset date eliminated.

### HF790—Jaros (DFL) Taxes

Adult and juvenile correctional facility project tax exemption provided for cities and counties, and money appropriated.

### HF791—Marko (DFL) Transportation & Transit

St. Croix River toll bridge authorized, and bonds issued.

### HF792—Dauner (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy

Restaurant seating capacity liquor license requirements modified, and local license issuing authorities granted power to establish minimum restaurant seating capacity.

### HF793—Commers (IR) Environment & Natural Resources

Deer archery and firearms license combination provided, and taking of one deer by each method per licensee authorized.

### HF794—Clark (DFL) Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance

Motor vehicle transfer fee sunset repealed, and fee receipts credited to the lead fund.

### HF795—Pugh (DFL) Judiciary

Hazardous waste liability limited to extent of trust assets, and trustee compensation payment provided.

### HF796—Carruthers (DFL) Ways & Means

License fee refunds required by state agencies if licenses are not issued within six weeks from application.

### HF797—Carruthers (DFL) Ways & Means

License fee refund required by Department of Public Safety if drivers' licenses, permits, or identification cards are not issued within six weeks from application.

### HF798—Clark (DFL) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Human rights information provided to national guard by governor related to participation in Operation Fuertes Caminos '95 in Guatemala.

### HF799—Trimble (DFL) Governmental Operations

St. Paul Bureau of Health former employee service credit purchase permitted.

### HF800—Carruthers (DFL) Labor-Management Relations

Minimum wage increased.

### HF801—Mariani (DFL) Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance

Children's Museum appropriated money.

### HF802—Greiling (DFL) Ethics

Ethical Practices Board public official gift enforcement authority extended, advisory opinions classified as public data, civil penalties provided, gift ban exceptions authorized and clarified, and money appropriated.

### HF803—Van Dellen (IR) Taxes

Dependent care income tax credit provisions modified.

### HF804—Ozment (IR) Environment & Natural Resources

Sewage sludge definition modified to conform with federal language.

### HF805—Lourey (DFL) Health & Human Services

Pharmaceutical Care Research Project provided medical assistance reimbursement, and money appropriated.

### HF806—Macklin (IR) Environment & Natural Resources

Scott County authorized to purchase trust fund land from Department of Natural Resources.

### HF807—Wagenius (DFL) Judiciary

Civil Commitment Act examiner qualifications modified.

### HF808—Marko (DFL) Transportation & Transit

Kids First special license plate issuance authorized and fees dedicated.

### HF809—Entenza (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Charitable organizations regulated and money appropriated.

### HF810—Dorn (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Mankato authorized to establish tax increment financing districts, and aid offset exemption provided.

### HF811—Jennings (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy

Telecommunication Access for Communication Impaired persons (TACIP) Board equipment recipient eligibility requirements modified, and cellular telephone user TACIP fee imposed.

### HF812—Ozment (IR) Environment & Natural Resources

Department of Natural Resources authorized emergency equipment material and use expanded.

### HF813—Brown (DFL) Health & Human Services

Intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation or related conditions temporary payment rate established.

### HF814—Swenson, D. (IR) Judiciary

Sentencing Guidelines Commission mitigated sentencing departures restricted.

### HF815—Mariani (DFL) Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance

Wabasha Bridge in St. Paul removal and replacement provided, money appropriated, and bonds issued.

### HF816—Clark (DFL) Governmental Operations

Public pension plan membership contractual right provided and pension payments guaranteed.

### HF817—Marko (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Residential real estate transaction disclosure form designed by Department of Commerce commissioner and use implemented.

### HF818—Haas (IR) Health & Human Services

MinnesotaCare; private sector administration evaluated by Department of Administration commissioner.

### HF819—Otremba (DFL) Agriculture

Agricultural improvement loan limits changed, and money appropriated.

**HF820—Mulder (IR)**

**Taxes**

Wind energy conversion system taxation provided.

**HF821—Mahon (DFL)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Amtrak; Congress memorialized to fund the Amtrak railroad system to ensure continued service to Minnesota.

**HF822—Mulder (IR)**

**Education**

School district noncompliance with unfunded state program mandates authorized.

**HF823—Abrams (IR)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Hennepin County authorized to lease hospital or nursing home facilities in certain instances.

**HF824—Rest (DFL)**

**Taxes**

School board approval required for tax increment financing plans and modifications.

**HF825—Munger (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Toxic Pollution Prevention Act provisions modified.

**HF826—Pugh (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Probationer detention by peace officers authorized based on an order from the chief executive officer of a community corrections agency.

**HF827—Lourey (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Consumer owned housing demonstration projects authorized for provision of residential services in homes owned by persons with developmental disabilities, and money appropriated.

**HF828—Cooper (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Case management demonstration projects authorized to determine effectiveness of alternative forms of case management for persons with developmental disabilities, and money appropriated.

**HF829—Carlson (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Crystal and New Hope consolidated volunteer firefighters' relief association authorized.

**HF830—Greiling (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Administrative rule adoption and review procedures revised.

**HF831—Perl (DFL)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Motor vehicle deputy registrar appointment authority clarified.

**HF832—Onnen (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Children helped in long-term development (CHILD) program planning required.

**HF833—Long (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan comprehensive municipal planning provisions modified.

**HF834—Ozment (IR)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Pollution Control Agency abolished, and environmental protection department created.

**HF835—Trimble (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Claims against governmental units liability limits increased, and inflation adjustment and medical expense exemption provided.

**HF836—Osskopp (IR)**

**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Cannon Valley Trail improvements provided, and bond issuance authorized.

**HF837—Clark (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Aging Board appropriated money for Indian elderly access program.

**HF838—Bishop (IR)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Olmsted County authorized to create a nonprofit corporation to own and operate a hospital and medical center.

**HF839—Weaver (IR)**

**Governmental Operations**

Public employee military leave of absence five-year contribution payment limitation removed.

**HF840—Kelley (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Crime victim information gathered and presented at bail hearings, hearing notification provided, defendant pretrial release notification required, child abuse telephone helpline established, and money appropriated.

**HF841—Kinkel (DFL)**

**Education**

Independent School District No. 2174, Pine River-Backus, provided combination and cooperation revenue.

**HF842—Jennings (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Day training and habilitation services vendor appeals authorized.

**HF843—Lourey (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Dental hospitalization and anesthesia coverage for dental procedures provided by health plans.

**HF844—Lourey (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Day training and habilitation services variance criteria clarified and payment rate continuance allowed.

**HF845—Swenson, D. (IR)**

**Judiciary**

Child support obligation and enforcement provisions modified.

**HF846—Erhardt (IR)**

**Taxes**

Senior citizen's property tax deferral program established, and money appropriated.

**HF847—Murphy (DFL)**

**Judiciary Finance**

Child sexual abuse victim interview training provided to criminal justice officials, and money appropriated.

**HF848—Luther (DFL)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Metropolitan Council transit vehicle security measure appropriations provided.

**HF849—Seagren (IR)**

**Education**

Education funding provisions modified, special and community programs provided, organization and cooperation provided, commitment to excellence provided, library provisions modified, and state agency duties provided.

**HF850—Munger (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Water pollution inflow and infiltration revolving fund created, and Department of Trade and Economic Development and Pollution Control Agency rule adoption required.

**HF851—Dehler (IR)**

**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Phenylketonuria insurance coverage for dietary treatment provisions modified.

**HF852—Jennings (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Department of Human Services health care program dental care service provisions modified, and money appropriated.

**HF853—Brown (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

National guard and Department of Military Affairs weapons prohibition exemption provided.

**HF854—Milbert (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Internal revenue code references updated.

**HF855—Erhardt (IR)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Term limits; legislative and executive service limited and constitutional amendment proposed.



**HF856—Bishop (IR)**

**Ethics**

Ethical Practices Board public official gift enforcement authority extended, advisory opinions classified as public data, civil penalties provided, gift ban exceptions authorized and clarified, and money appropriated.

**HF857—Kahn (DFL)**

**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Emerging communications services act adopted.

**HF858—Munger (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Duluth; Lake Superior Zoological Gardens appropriated money.

**HF859—Clark (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Minneapolis authorized to determine method for sale of unclaimed property.

**HF860—Lourey (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Adolescent pregnancy prevention equipment purchase provided, and money appropriated.

**HF861—Mulder (IR)**

**Education**

Independent School District No. 583, Pipestone, fund transfer authorized from debt redemption fund to capital expenditure fund.

**HF862—Mariani (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Midwest Farmworker Employment and Training, Inc. financial assistance reference modification provided.

**HF863—Knight (IR)**

**Governmental Operations**

Legislator defined contribution retirement coverage established.

**HF864—Jefferson (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Insurance company gross premium tax rate modified.

**HF865—Dehler (IR)**

**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Brewers and malt liquor wholesalers allowed to provide free samples to retailers.

**HF866—Osskopp (IR)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Home rule charter and statutory cities authorized to make grants to nonprofit community food shelves.

**HF867—Orenstein (DFL)**

**Ways & Means**

Customer service office created to provide assistance to state government service users.

**HF868—Johnson, A. (DFL)**

**Education**

Children's services assessment and case management procedures report required.

**HF869—Clark (DFL)**

**International Trade & Economic Development**

Businesses receiving state financial assistance required to pay a living wage and increase employment.

**HF870—Ness (IR)**

**Education**

School district capital expenditure revenue transfers between funds authorized in certain cases.

**HF871—Brown (DFL)**

**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Concrete and masonry contractors required to be licensed as residential contractors.

**HF872—Huntley (DFL)**

**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Long-term care insurance sales regulated, and technical modifications provided.

**HF873—Van Dellen (IR)**

**International Trade & Economic Development**

Advantage Minnesota Inc., economic development corporate structure modified.

**HF874—Cooper (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Health insurance counseling and assistance program established, and money appropriated.

**HF875—Greiling (DFL)**

**Rules & Legislative Administration**

Legislative committee and division chair rotation required.

**HF876—Dorn (DFL)**

**Education**

Mankato model school for truants appropriated money.

**HF877—Simoneau (DFL)**

**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Automobile insurance premium reduction provided for vehicles utilizing antitheft alarms or devices.

**HF878—Dehler (IR)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Firearms safety certification designated on driver's license.

**HF879—Jennings (DFL)**

**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Credit insurance unearned premium prompt refund required upon early loan repayment.

**HF880—Jennings (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Maintenance and support payment child equal right to support provided.

**HF881—Pugh (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Dangerous and career offender sentencing law scope expanded for murder, criminal sexual conduct, burglary, and harassment and stalking crimes, repeat sex offender sentence stay authority limited, and restitution laws expanded.

**HF882—Mahon (DFL)**

**Labor-Management Relations**

Employer wage payment provisions modified.

**HF883—Goodno (IR)**

**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Dog and cat sales regulated, and purchaser rights modified.

**HF884—Simoneau (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Nursing home moratorium exception added, moratorium exception medical assistance reimbursement provisions modified, and money appropriated.

**HF885—Lourey (DFL)**

**International Trade & Economic Development**

Microenterprise support program established, and money appropriated.

**HF886—Pugh (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Dram shop action liability imputed.

**HF887—Rice (DFL)**

**Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance**

St. Paul teacher training institute city authority expanded.

**HF888—Lieder (DFL)**

**Labor-Management Relations**

Workers' compensation insurance and benefits regulated, and money appropriated.

**HF889—McGuire (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Uniform conflict of laws-limitations act adopted.

**HF890—Molnau (IR)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Wetland replacement, protection, and management provisions modified.

**HF891—Johnson, R. (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Public employee and employer retirement contributions and annuities increased.

**HF892—Tomassoni (DFL)**

**Education**

School bus safety provisions modified, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

**HF893—Wejman (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Crime information systems office established in the Department of Public Safety.

# Committee Schedule

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

## MONDAY, Feb. 27

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Department of Trade and Economic Development.

### K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Analysis of Article 8 in governor's budget recommendations.

### University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** University 2000 discussion, Dr. Matthew V. Tirrell, Earl E. Bakken Chair of Biomedical Engineering, University of Minnesota.

### Sales & Income Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

**Agenda:** HF602 (Winter) Omnibus tax bill providing tax policy, collections, administrative changes, and penalties.

8:30 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

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

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

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Governor's budget recommendations for the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Children's programs.

10 a.m.

### AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

**Agenda:** HF440 (Winter) Horse feed and bedding exempted from sales tax.

HF363 (Winter) Farmer-Lender Mediation Act sunset date eliminated.

HF410 (Winter) Crop disaster insurance program designed and established, and money appropriated.

### JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** HF181 (Bishop) Sex offender release notification required; registered sex offender information release authorized; and HIV testing of convicted offenders law clarified.

HF74 (Johnson, A.) Foster care facilities for delinquent children local government notification required prior to licensing.

HF776 (Dawkins) Crime victim bill of rights; neighborhood associations permitted to request notification of certain crimes.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

**Agenda:** Department of Public Service telecommunications bill.

HF620 (Jacobs) Telephone company alternative regulation provided for limited periods, local exchange service competition promoted, and technical provisions modified.

### State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Budget reviews of the Lawful Gambling Control Board, the Lottery Board and the Racing Commission.

12:30 p.m.

### Elections Division/ GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** SF35 (Marty); HF167 (Jefferson) Voter registration and absentee voting requirements modified, and penalties imposed.

SF182 (Vickerman); HF229 (Schumacher) Town supervisor office vacancy filling procedure clarified.

HF621 (Lieder) Caucus and voter guides prepared and distributed by secretary of state, and money appropriated.

SF181 (Cohen); HF647 (Jefferson); Employees provided time off to vote in special legislative elections.

### HOUSING

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** HF726 (McElroy) Manufactured home park retaliatory conduct provisions clarified.

HF712 (Luther) Brooklyn Park rental tax equity pilot project established, and money appropriated.

### LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Johnson

**Agenda:** Overview of qualified rehabilitation counselors, Steve Holander, chair, MARP Legislative Committee; Lynn Hjelmeland, owner of rehabilitation company, MARP Legislative Committee.

HF375 (Perl) Local government pay equity law noncompliance penalties modified.

### Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs/ GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Betty McCollum, Joe Opatz

**Agenda:** HF185 (Osthoff) Armory building commission member appointment flexibility provided; armory construction fund use authorized; armory site provision by municipalities clarified; site disposal provisions modified; and tax levy authority granted.

HF206 (Osthoff) Adjutant general authorized to assign retired officers to active duty and recommend National Guard members for brevet rank; state service medal eligibility changed; military property disposition penalties changed; obsolete language removed.

HF208 (Osthoff) Governor's military duties and powers clarified; adjutant general designation language clarified; acceptance of money by adjutant general on behalf of state provisions clarified; land lease authority clarified; obsolete language removed.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

## After Session

### Subcommittee on Administration/ RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## 15 Minutes After Session

### LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Johnson

**Agenda:** Department of Labor and Industry overview of Worker's Compensation Program.

4 p.m.

### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** Continued discussion of governor's budget proposal and merger, Ed McMahon, vice chancellor, Administration and Budget, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities; Judy Borgen, assistant vice chancellor, Finance, Minnesota State University System; Jay Noren, interim chancellor, Higher Education Board.

7 p.m.

### Legislative Commission on Employee Relations

107 State Capitol

**Agenda:** Election of officers. Adoption of rules and proposed budget for FY 1996-97. Presentation of report on interest arbitration.

## TUESDAY, Feb. 28

8 a.m.

### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** HF610 (Farrell) Truancy prevention and school safety projects appropriated money. (Continuation.)

If necessary, action and testimony on above bill will continue on Thursday, March 2nd, 1995, from 6-10 p.m. in room 200 State Office Building.

### JUDICIARY FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Probation Standards Task Force Report, Mark Carey and Steve Holmquist, co-chairs. Reports from probation officers, Judicial Districts 1-10. Interactive TV will be used for probation officers in greater Minnesota.

### MinnesotaCare Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** HF690 (Cooper) University of Minnesota-Duluth Medical Education Program expanded, Federal Area Health Education Center Program grant request required, physician substitute demonstration project established, physician associate program, money appropriated. Continuation of MinnesotaCare budget presentations.

### Transportation Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** Continuation of MnDOT budget review.

8:30 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Minnesota Department of Natural Resources budget presentation, Ron Nargang, deputy commissioner.

10 a.m.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Rule 5.10 bill referrals.

HF446 (Leppik) Acupuncture practitioner licensure by Board of Medical Practice established, and rules and penalties provided.

Additional bills may be added. Bills not completed on Thursday, Feb. 23rd, 1995, except for HF139 (Pawlenty).

HF282 (Perlt) Vacation leave donations provided for a Department of Administration employee.

HF624 (Ostrom) Public employees running for elective office provided leave of absence.

HF473 (Trimble) Human development center established, and money appropriated for planning and development.

HF595 (Osskopp) Finance commissioner granted authority over debts owed to the state.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** HF492 (Lourey) Long-term care facility payment provisions modified.

HF778 (Orenstein) Medical assistance asset and income requirements, and Minnesota supplemental aid eligibility requirements modified.

HF417 (Luther) Public assistance payments paid directly to battered women shelters, battered woman definition modified, and appeals and payment requests directed to Department of Human Services commissioner.

HF432 (Sykora) Child abuse investigation liability provisions modified, attorney fees provided, abuse investigation protocols established, and data access provided.

HF511 (Lourey) Senior Citizen Nutrition Program reporting required, funding increased for congregate dining and home-delivered meals, and money appropriated.

HF516 (Lourey) Managed care health plans required to provide certain enrollees with expanded geographic access to primary care physician services.

### Sales & Income Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

**Agenda:** HF602 Omnibus tax bill providing tax policy, collections, administrative changes, and penalties. (If necessary)

HFXXX (Milbert) Federal update bill.

HF192 (Knight) Income tax personal exemption subtraction provisions modified.

HF153 (Tompkins) Motor vehicle registration tax overpayment refund time limit established.

12:30 p.m.

### CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Higher Education Asset Preservation and Repair Accounts (HEAPR) reports: technical colleges, Glenda Moyers; community colleges, Dan Brennan; state universities, Elaine Bellew; University of Minnesota, Harvey Turner.

### COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** HF564 (Mahon) Peace officers granted notary public powers for the administration of oaths upon information submitted to establish probable cause.

HF649 (Jaros) Designer selection state board membership increased, and representation from each congressional district required.

(If passed by the Subcommittee, the following will also be heard.)

HF340 (Pugh) Motor vehicle sales dealership establishment and relocation regulated.

HF531 (Entenza) Airbag passive restraint system repair and restoration regulated.



2:30 p.m.

**Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

3:30 p.m.

**Revisor's Subcommittee/Legislative Coordinating Commission**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Farrell  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

6 p.m.

**HOUSING**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark  
**Agenda:** Interactive video technology testimony on the closing of the Elm Lane Manufactured Home Park in Willmar, MN. (Spanish translators will be available.)

**WEDNESDAY, March 1**

\*\*\*Time and Room to be Announced\*\*\*

**Ramsey County Delegation**

Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire  
**Agenda:** Welfare reform and human services proposals.

8 a.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice  
**Agenda:** Department of Commerce, Minnesota Community Action Association.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield  
**Agenda:** Continuation of Feb. 27th agenda.

**Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

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

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson  
**Agenda:** Maximum effort loans.  
HF63 (Schumacher) Independent School District No. 727, Big Lake, provided capital loan and bond issuance, and money appropriated.

HF221 (Anderson, I.) Independent School District No. 362, Littlefork-Big Falls, capital loan approved, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF505 (Olson, E.) Independent School District No. 36, Kelliher, capital loan approved, money appropriated, and bonds issued.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ted Winter  
**Agenda:** HF127 (Kalis) Apartment class property tax rate reduction provided in certain municipalities.  
HF188 (Knight) Valuation exclusion for improvements to certain residential property (This Old House Law) provided.  
HF431 (Orfield) Metropolitan area property tax equalization provided.  
HF512 (Koppendrayer) Local government property tax aid provided for property exempted due to Bureau of Indian Affairs action, and money appropriated.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown  
**Agenda:** Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Agency budget presentation.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger  
**Agenda:** HF419 (Pellow) Pollution Control Agency required to meet with affected party prior to issuance of an administrative penalty order.  
HF672 (Wagenius) Waste Management Act provisions modified.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau  
**Agenda:** Testimony on genetic testing, Dr. Paul R. Billings, M.D., P.H.D., Stanford University.

**JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund  
**Agenda:** Any bill not completed at Feb. 27th meeting.  
HF177 (Skoglund) Patterened sexual offender sentencing law scope expanded; and sentencing law training required for judges, prosecu-

tors, peace officers, and sex offender assessors.  
HF178 (Skoglund) Sex offender registration law expanded, and registration law violation penalty increased.

HF176 (Skoglund) Criminal sexual conduct crimes statute of limitations lengthened.  
HF633 (Skoglund) Indecent exposure in the presence of a child under the age of 16 penalties increased.

Other bills to be announced.

**State Government Finance Division/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina  
**Agenda:** Budget review of governor's office bills.

12:30 p.m.

**Business Regulation Division/COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings  
**Agenda:** Presentation on administrative rule-making James Nobles, legislative auditor.

**TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim  
**Agenda:** HF342 (Garcia) High-speed bus service pilot project established by the Metropolitan Council in the metropolitan area.  
HF482 (Wenzel) Recreational trailer three year registration option provided.  
HF494 (Bertram) Milk truck length limitations extended and weight restrictions eased.  
HF586 (Bertram) Impound lots authorized to sell and dispose of unauthorized, abandoned, and junk vehicles.  
HF635 (Rhodes) Motor vehicle base value determination provided for taxation purposes.  
HF729 (Frerichs) High speed rail corridor through Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois feasibility studied by Department of Transportation commissioner, and money appropriated.

4 p.m.

**Joint University of Minnesota Finance Division/EDUCATION/INTERNATIONAL TRADE & TOURISM**

200 State Office Building  
Chrs. Reps. Becky Kelso, Mike Jaros  
**Agenda:** Overview of Minnesota's health care industry, Tom Meskan, president, Medical Alley. Historical factors leading to development of Minnesota's healthcare delivery system, Scott Anderson, president, CEO, North Memorial Medical Center. Historical factors leading to development of Minnesota's medical device industry, George Ingebrand, vice chairman, Lectec Corporation. "Looking to the future", Mike Mirvis, manager, Business Planning, 3M

Healthcare. Biomedical Engineering Center, Ron Matricaria, chairman, president, CEO, St. Jude Medical, Inc.; Paul Citron, vice president, Science and Technology, Medtronic, Inc.; Scott Augustine, chairman and founder, Augustine Medical, Inc.; Dr. Matt Tirrell, Earl E. Bakken Chair of Biomedical Engineering and Director of Biomedical Engineering Center.

4:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Administrative Rules/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mindy Greiling

**Agenda:** Discussion and testimony concerning the Omnibus Administrative Rules Bill.

5:30 p.m.

**Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** Consideration of commission's fiscal year 1996-97 budget request.

SF338 (Krentz); HF119 (Greiling) Part-time teacher retirement contribution payment by employer provisions modified.

SF361 (Metzen); HF669 (Pugh) Survivor benefit payment prohibited to survivor who has feloniously caused the death of a member of a public pension plan.

SF422 (Metzen); HF465 (Pugh) West St. Paul city attorney authorized to participate in a retirement incentive program.

SF460 (Metzen); HF689 (Pugh) West St. Paul Police Relief Association deceased member spouse benefit eligibility provided.

HF99 (Brown) Public employees prior service credit purchase authorized.

SF177 (Janezich); HF116 (Rukavina) Eveleth police and fire trust fund benefit payment increase authorized.

SF101 (Chandler); HF152 (Mares) Teachers Retirement Association member authorized to make lump-sum contributions to obtain full-service credit for sabbatical leaves.

SF148 (Solon); HF189 (Jaros) Duluth Teachers Retirement Fund Association future service credit purchase authorized for certain retired Duluth technical college teachers.

SF234 (Solon); HF293 (Jaros) St. Louis County employee authorized service credit purchase for on-leave military service.

SF187 (Hottinger); HF271 (Dorn) Teacher Retirement Association member provided bounce-back annuity. Increase in fire state aid apportionments.

SF17 (Bertram); HF48 (Bertram) Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

HF134 (Bertram) Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

HF155 (Cooper) Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

HF163 (Leighton) Firefighter state aid increase provided.

HF165 (Schumacher) Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

SF256 (Runbeck); HF313 (Hackbarth) Gross premium insurance company tax rates changed.

HF424 (Hasskamp) Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

HF755 (Johnson, R.) Insurance company gross premium tax rate modified for fire, lightning, and sprinkler coverage.

Increase in Police State Aid apportionments.

SF617 (Solon); HF746 (Jefferson) Peace officer state aid regulated, and domestic mutual premium report required.

7 p.m.

**Legislative Commission on Employee Relations**

107 State Capitol

**Agenda:** Presentation of commission bill implementing recommendations on interest arbitration. Testimony. Adoption of commission bill.

**THURSDAY, March 2**

8 a.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board Labor Interpretive Center.

**EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** HF679 (Winter) Independent School District No. 518, Worthington, residential program operation extension provided.

Other bills may be added.

**JUDICIARY FINANCE**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Report on county diversion programs, adult and juvenile. Introduction to budget books, Charlie Bieleck, Department of Finance.

**MinnesotaCare Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** Presentation of reports on hospital studies conducted by the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services. "HMOs and health care reform," a presentation by the Minnesota HMO Council.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Agency budget presentation.

10 a.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Rule 5.10 bill referrals.

HF123 (Opatz) Public contract oversight provided for certain state and metropolitan government contracts.

HF704 (Marko) Public contracts for consultant services requirements modified.

HF139 (Pawlenty) Tenth Amendment; federal government mandate reporting and analysis required.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** HF347 (Cooper) Emergency medical services regulatory board established.

HF481 (Marko) Osteoporosis prevention and treatment program established, and money appropriated.

Other bills may be added.

**TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** HF602 (Winter) Omnibus tax bill providing tax policy, collections, administrative changes, and penalties.

HFXXX (Milbert) Federal update bill.

12:30 p.m.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** SF188 (Samuelson); HF146 (Hasskamp) Brainerd Technical College appropriation use authorized for athletic facility relocation.

Report on status of revolving funds for capital improvements to municipal waste treatment, and for river clean-up, Terry Kuhlman, Public Facility Authority.

**Subcommittee on Economic Equality/ COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Darlene Luther

**Agenda:** Preliminary report on the study of women owned businesses in Minnesota.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

After Session

**RULES &  
LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

400N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

**Agenda:** To be announced.

One Half Hour After Session

**Government Efficiency &  
Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

**Agenda:** To be announced.

6 p.m.

**EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** HF610 (Farrell) Truancy prevention and school safety projects appropriated money. (Continuation, if necessary.)

**FRIDAY, March 3**

8 a.m.

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

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Public testimony. Mental health & state operated services. Economic Self-Sufficiency programs. Children's programs.

**Joint Higher Education Finance Division and  
University of Minnesota Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** To be announced.

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

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Analysis of Article 4 in governor's budget recommendations.

**Transportation Finance Division/  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** To be announced.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** HF321 (Jennings) Deer; authorization continuation provided for residents under the age of 16 to take a deer of either sex.

HF384 (Hackbarth) Fishing contest financial security required.

HF286 (Weaver) Angler's right-to-know act adopted, and water pollution discharge notification and posting required.

HF723 (Bakk) Youthful deer hunter license established, doe taking authority expanded, pelting fee increased, and family hunting license eliminated.

HF745 (Bakk) Deer baiting allowed during deer archery season.

HF683 (Milbert) Small game hunting provisions modified, protected wild animal classification expanded, trapping and fishing restrictions modified, fishing season opening and closing dates adjusted, and commercial fish license provisions modified.

Other bills may be added.

**Gambling Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

**Agenda:** HF83 (Kinkel) Compulsive gambling treatment provider eligibility provisions modified.

SF46 (Metzen); HF364 (Pugh) Lawful purpose expenditures; gross profit percentage increase provided for expenditure for allowable expenses. HF265 (Dorn) Lawful purpose expenditures to include contributions to certain compulsive gambling programs.

**Subcommittee on Data Practices/  
JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire

**Agenda:** Data practices overview, Don

Gemberling, director, Public Information Policy Analysis Division, Department of Administration.

HF567 (Dawkins) Hospital and health care provider tax data disclosure provided to state Department of Human Services commissioner and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

HF393 (Leighton) Occupational safety and health investigation data access provisions modified.

HF129 (Bishop) Medical examiner data sharing with certain investigative agencies authorized.

**TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** To be announced.

10:30 a.m.

**Government Efficiency &  
Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

**Agenda:** To be announced.

12:30 p.m.

**Select Committee on Technology**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

**Agenda:** To be announced.

1 p.m.

**JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

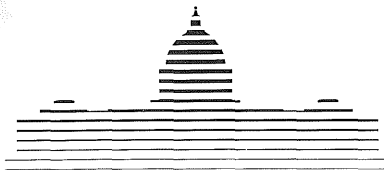
**Agenda:** Any bill not completed at March 1st meeting.

Any bill passed out of the Civil Law Subcommittee at its Feb. 24th meeting.

HF33 (Dawkins) Neuroleptic medication administration and prescription provisions modified.

Other bills to be announced.





MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Minnesota motor vehicle crash facts, 1993

Nationwide, number of deaths caused by motor vehicles .....	39,850
as a percent of all accidental deaths .....	46.7
Minnesota motor vehicle fatalities .....	538
percent decline since 1992 .....	7
Percent of fatal crashes occurring in rural areas .....	71
Percent of drivers in fatal crashes who were male .....	76
Ratio of men to women killed in crashes .....	2:1
Fatalities in 1968, highest in Minnesota history .....	1,060
Counties without a fatality (Cook, Lake of the Woods) .....	2
Minnesotans with a driver's license .....	3,223,153
Registered vehicles .....	3,480,507
Number of crashes .....	100,907
percent increase over 1992 .....	4
Crashes per hour, 1993 .....	11.5
Percent of crashes where only property damage was involved .....	70
In all crashes, ranking of driver inattention and distraction among factors listed by police as contributing to a motor vehicle accident .....	1
In fatal crashes, ranking of illegal or unsafe speed among factors listed by police as contributing to a motor vehicle accident .....	1
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Motorcycle fatalities .....	34
number of those who were wearing a helmet .....	2

Sources: *Minnesota Motor Vehicle Crash Facts*, Minnesota Department of Public Safety; *Accident Facts*, 1994 Edition, National Safety Council.



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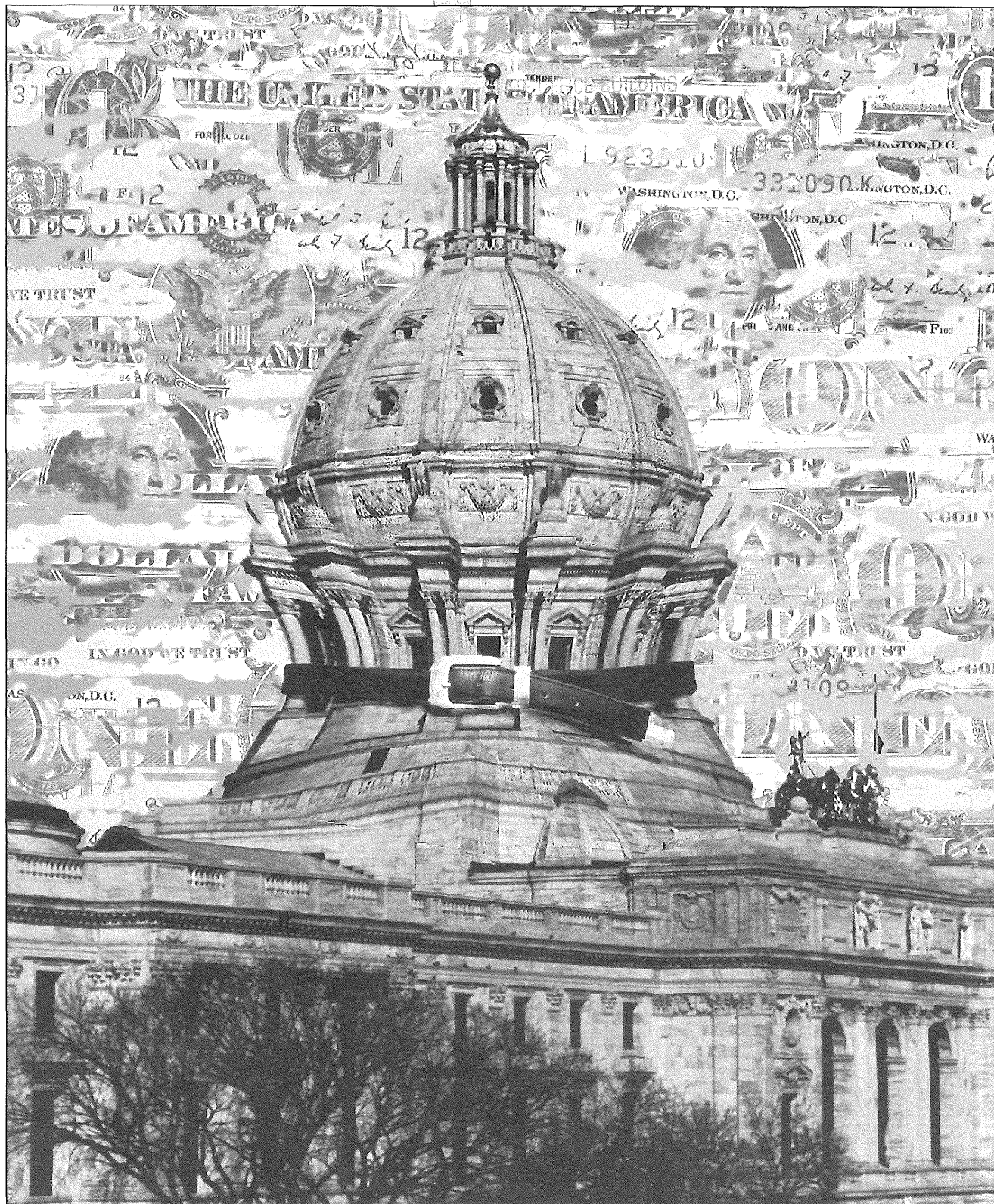
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# SESSION WEEKLY

A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ March 3, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 9



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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • March 3, 1993 • Volume 12, Number 9

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**Harder is softer on education** — Rep. Elaine Harder supports term limits for legislators, efforts to reduce the size of government, and efforts to hold the line on taxes or make cuts. But she does not want those cuts to hurt the public education system, an area in which she believes the state should provide more funding. .... **Page 16**

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On the cover: Gov. Arne Carlson and leaders of both political parties in the House and Senate have called for a tightening of the state budget. With the Feb. 28 release of the Department of Finance's budget forecast, the business of determining state spending for the next biennium will now begin in earnest.

— photo illustration by Andrew VonBank

# Highlights



Gov. Arne Carlson presented his Supplemental Budget Address at the World Trade Center Feb. 28. Behind him, *left to right*, are: Morrie Anderson, Carlson's chief of staff; Laura King, commissioner of finance; and Lt. Gov. Joanne Benson.

Revised budget forecast. . .

## Revenues bright, but Carlson braces for federal cuts

Cuts to more state programs and a revenue forecast \$129 million brighter than previously thought would help give Minnesota schools an extra \$100 million over the next two years and create a \$220 million rainy day account to brace for federal cuts.

"This is a true rainy day fund, because believe me it is going to rain," said Gov. Arne Carlson Feb. 28 during his supplemental budget address.

He also told the audience gathered at the World Trade Center that he plans to call lawmakers back for a special session in October of this year. At that time, the state should have a better idea how much in federal cuts the state will face in order to help fix the federal deficit.

Current estimates indicate that Minnesota could lose about \$1.8 billion in federal money over the next six years. Combine that with a Minnesota economy that is expected to slow down, and the governor says the state's headed for a big problem.

"Prudent people spend wisely," Carlson said, explaining the need for a \$220 million rainy day account.

An October special session also will fit with the completion of a four-year strategic state finance plan that Carlson has proposed. The governor has asked Vin Weber, a former IR

congressman, and John Brandl, a former DFL legislator, to come up with some budget cutting recommendations and to find ways to hold the line on education, health care, property tax relief, and other spending programs without increasing taxes.

DFL legislators met Carlson's budget proposals with little enthusiasm.

"We might be willing to go along with creating a special reserve fund dedicated to K-12 and higher education funding for 1998-99 that could only be used with legislative approval," said House Speaker Irv Anderson in a prepared statement. "But we are not bailing out the federal government."

Anderson also expressed doubt about the proposed finance plan from Weber and Brandl. "Will this end up like the CORE Commission — spending \$3 million to produce a report [on creating government efficiency that] the governor will ignore?"

Specifically, Carlson's state budget proposal amounts to about \$18 billion for the 1996-1997 budget period, or \$1.2 billion more in spending than the 1994-1995 budget cycle.

His proposal has winners and losers. Education is thought to be a winner with an additional \$100 million, about \$58.5 million of which would go toward reducing class

sizes in grades K-6. Schools also are slated to receive other extra money including \$10 million to improve school technology and \$14 million for school transportation.

The losers with the budget proposal are those people who are poor or disabled and use the state's medical assistance programs. Carlson proposes to cut more than \$39 million from those programs. Specifically, a program that provides personal care attendants for the disabled would be cut by \$11.5 million, dental coverage for the poor would be cut by \$11 million, and chemical dependency treatment by about \$4.6 million.

Another popular program slated for cuts allows families with disabled children the option to pay into the state's Medical Assistance (MA) plan, also known as Medicaid, for their long-term health coverage while still keeping their jobs and homes.

Under current MA guidelines, most people have to impoverish themselves — quit their jobs to meet low-income requirements and sell their homes — before they can qualify for help.

The state bureaucracy and the Legislature also would be cut, under the governor's proposal. The Legislature would lose \$665,000 and state agencies \$10.2 million during the current fiscal year. Agencies would see an-



## A few exceptions

Although Gov. Arne Carlson's supplemental budget request cuts millions from state agencies and programs, he does open state coffers for a couple of emergencies and development programs. They include:

- \$245,000 in fiscal year 1995 to help with the recent outbreak of meningitis in Mankato.
- \$14 million in fiscal year 1996 to clean up contaminated sites that have significant redevelopment potential.
- \$3 million to leverage private dollars for a bio-medical research center.
- \$450,000 to repay an outstanding loan to Norwest Bank for the World Trade Center in St. Paul.
- \$140,000 to repair a fire damaged building and equipment at O'Brien State Park near Marine on St. Croix.

other \$14.5 million cut during the 1996-1997 budget period.

In his supplemental budget, the governor also changed how the state would pay a \$320 million court settlement levied against it. The Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that the state had illegally taxed the interest that banks and other corporations paid on federal bonds over a four-year period in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Originally, the governor had proposed to pay \$160 million in 1996-1997 and another \$160 million in 1998-1999. The dollars would have come from the state's general fund.

Instead, under Carlson's revised budget, the state would make a \$75 million cash payment in fiscal year 1996 and sell state bonds totaling \$275 million to pay off the rest.

— K. Darcy Hanzlik



## AGRICULTURE

### A horse is a horse, of course

We all may have thought a horse is a horse, of course, of course. But nothing is ever that simple.

The House Agriculture Committee approved a measure Feb. 27 that would exempt from the state's sales tax most types of feed and bedding for horses that are a little like Mr. Ed of TV fame.

The bill, if approved, would essentially

nullify a Department of Revenue ruling that makes a distinction over how a horse is used when determining whether a sales tax is due.

Under current Minnesota law and rules, farmers don't have to pay the sales tax for such feed and bedding when it is clear that the horse is raised for sale, kept for agricultural production, or used for farm work.

"In order to qualify for this exemption, the person must sell horses in the normal course of their business and must hold themselves out to the public as being engaged in [the] business of selling horses," according to a Sept. 14, 1994, department memo.

But bill sponsor Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) and others said it doesn't make sense to determine a horse's purpose in life in order to assess a tax. In other words, a horse is a horse.

"They [the Department of Revenue] classify a horse as a pet . . . but you can't keep it in the house," testified Dan Ramberg, who operates Woodloch Stables in Hugo, Minn. "It's just mind-boggling."

Winter's bill would clear up the issue by adding a specific exemption from the sales tax for non-processed horse feed and bedding such as hay, oats, corn, and grass. The exemption doesn't apply to commercially processed horse feed and makes no distinction over how the horse is used.

The current law specifies that such exemptions apply only if the material is used in "agricultural or industrial production of personal property intended to be sold ultimately at retail."

The laws and rules in question are *Minnesota Statutes* 297A.25, subd. 9, and *Minnesota Rules* 8130.5500, subpart 11.

**HF440** now moves to the Taxes Committee for further consideration.

### State crop insurance

The state of Minnesota would create a new insurance program to entice more farmers to buy crop insurance, under a measure that was narrowly approved by the House Agriculture Committee Feb. 27.

The proposal (**HF410**) would appropriate \$250,000 in the current fiscal year to the Department of Agriculture to set up a broad outline of how the program should operate.

But the measure would leave it up to private insurance companies — under the state's "captive" non-profit insurance umbrella — to sell the policies to farmers and to administer much of the program on a day-to-day basis.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), grew out of three major con-

cerns: the reticence of farmers to buy crop insurance in the first place, inconsistencies in which insurance payments were made when there was a crop disaster and insurance was purchased, and expected cutbacks in the federal crop insurance program.

Under the proposal, private insurance companies would assume at least 80 percent of the total insurance risk, but the state would be liable for the balance. That is designed to make premiums more attractive to farmers.

The state program is designed to supplement — not replace — federal crop insurance. But it would also be set up to cover losses not covered by federal insurance programs, such as when a farmer is unable to plant.

Any profits the state realizes would be plowed back into the program to further subsidize insurance premiums.

The proposal, however, proved controversial with House members.

"Sanity and a state-run insurance company don't go together at all," said Rep. Greg Davids (IR-Preston), who owns an insurance agency. "I'm concerned about the 20 percent [state liability] . . . why the state would take that risk."

And Rep. Gene Hugoson (IR-Granada) questioned why the state should invest \$250,000 to get the program started when it is private insurance companies that stand to gain financially.

A key concern for several members was a provision in the bill that would allow private insurance companies to invest a portion of their portfolios in grain futures and commodities options — investments that some argue are very risky.

"This is something for the private sector," said Davids.

But Rep. Winter said that with recent changes in the Chicago Board of Trade, the program will be more advantageous and workable for farmers in Minnesota.

Winter argued that something needs to be done to provide better insurance for farmers — particularly in cases similar to ones created by the flood of 1993 and the drought of 1988.

Although disaster relief bills were approved following both of those natural disasters, it wasn't enough. And the funds that were approved were difficult to administer, said bill proponents, adding that such one-time appropriations will be less likely in the future.

A similar state-run insurance proposal was included in the 1994 farm relief bill but was deleted on the House floor. This proposal has a long legislative journey to get that far.

The bill must travel through the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee, Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee, Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee before reaching the floor.

Officials from both Crabtree Risk Engineers of Northbrook, Ill., and Jardine Insurance Brokers of Chicago, Ill., were at the meeting to outline the proposal.

HF410 now moves to the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee for further consideration.



## CRIME

### Diverting lawbreakers

A 1994 law that requires Minnesota county attorneys to establish pre-trial diversion programs for juveniles should be scrapped, according to the group representing the state's county attorneys.

The law requires that a report be filed with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) on every person who is diverted to a community corrections program prior to trial.

But these reports are "going into a box on the floor" at the BCA, according to Bill Jeronimus, staff attorney for the Minnesota County Attorneys Association. He testified before the House Judiciary Finance Committee March 2.

In a letter distributed to lawmakers, Winona County Attorney Julius Gernes explained that the BCA does not store data on individuals unless it has fingerprints to positively connect the information to a person.

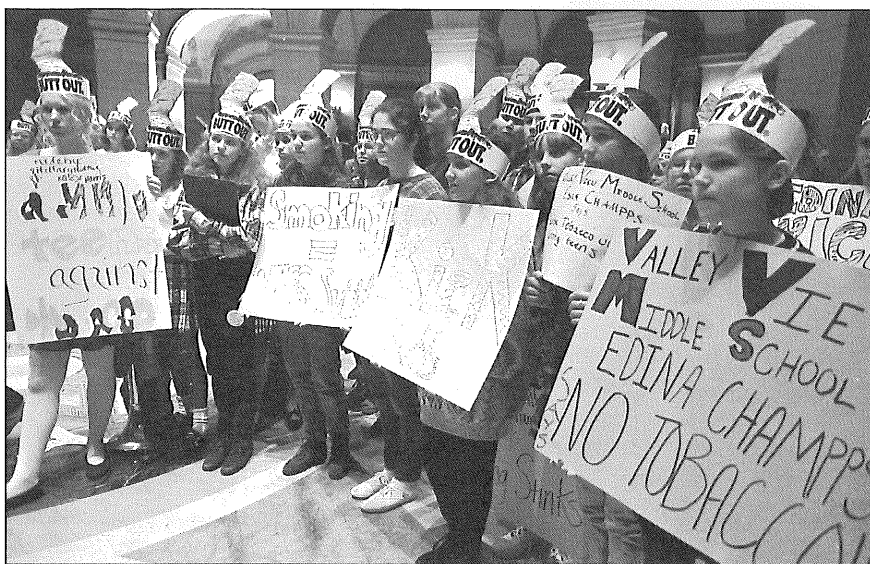
Gernes also questioned who would use the collected data or if it would be useful for making future policy. He said the law creates "significant additional work" both for county attorneys and the BCA.

"There may be good reasons for this legislation, but none come to mind," Gernes said.

The overburdened criminal justice system gets some relief through diversion programs, which are usually used for first-time, non-violent offenders who are offered the chance to participate in a community-based corrections program instead of going to court.

Diversion programs have been created in 21 counties, according to Jeronimus.

Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman told committee members that offering diversion to someone is the decision of the county attorney, who determines what charges will be filed against a person who has been arrested.



Sixth graders from Valley View Middle School in Edina wore "Butt Out" head bands during a rally in the Capitol rotunda Feb. 27. The students heard high schoolers speak in favor of a substantial increase in the tobacco tax, and on the importance of reducing youth access to tobacco products.

Diversion programs look at the offender's need for chemical dependency treatment or other behavioral therapy that might be needed.

"The goal is to fashion an individualized plan for each case," said Patty Moses, who directs Hennepin County's juvenile diversion program.

### Probation caseloads rising

Minnesota needs an additional 564 probation officers to handle the 90,000 adults and juveniles currently on probation, according to the Probation Standards Task Force's recently published report, *Probation in Minnesota: Putting the Pieces Together*.

The task force's findings were discussed during an interactive television hearing that brought probation officers in Hibbing, St. Peter, and St. Paul together with the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

Members were told that the proposed hirings would cost \$41 million over the next two-year spending cycle. But county corrections officials pointed out that even "intensive" probation supervision — at \$13 per day per offender — is a bargain compared to the \$72 per day cost of keeping someone locked up.

The governor has recommended \$15 million for probation caseload reduction in the 1996-97 budget.

"Probation is the brightest hope for corrections. It is far more economical to fund probation than to fund prisons," said Steve Holmquist, director of community corrections for Stearns County.

Speaking from the courthouse in Hibbing,

Jackie Frost, a probation officer in Virginia, said she has 140 clients who have been convicted of misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors.

"We're just not meeting the probationers' needs" due to the large caseload, Frost said. "We're not supervising like we should."

Probation officers explained that they meet one-on-one or in groups with clients, appear in court, conduct pre-sentence investigation interviews, track clients' compliance with court-ordered restitution and treatment, and spend almost half of their time completing paperwork.

"Our primary job is to protect the public," explained Stu Von Wald, a probation officer in Rice County, who spoke to the committee from the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center.

But such a task is increasingly difficult with expanding caseloads.

Lana Bjorgum, an Itasca County probation officer speaking from Hibbing, said her large caseload prevents her "from doing essential field work," including meeting with clients in their homes.

She begged lawmakers not "to pass a whole lot of new laws. We're just getting caught up."

An automated probation reporting system was touted as offering some relief from heavy caseloads. Mike Tate, a Duluth probation officer speaking from Hibbing, said that the pilot program, which verifies the identities of clients who check in from a computerized kiosk, has increased his efficiency "by 30 or 40 percent."

The 1993 Legislature appropriated \$100,000 to St. Louis County to demonstrate

the feasibility of the automated probation reporting system.

Decisions about funding county corrections officers will be made later this session.

## Fighting sex crimes

Patterned sex offenders could face up to 40 years in prison, under a bill heard by the House Judiciary Committee March 1.

Under Minnesota law, a patterned sex offender is a repeat offender or someone who has been determined likely to re-offend in the future.

Current law mandates that a judge sentence a patterned sex offender to twice the penalty called for under the state's sentencing guidelines for the crime they were convicted of.

This measure would allow judges to impose a prison term of up to 40 years — regardless of the penalty called for under the state's sentencing guidelines.

The 40-year maximum prison term would also apply to a first-time offender who planned the crime in advance.

And for the first time, crimes committed in other states would apply to the state's patterned sex offender law. Currently, only prior sex offenses in Minnesota can be considered.

The bill (HF177) was one of two proposals heard that were drafted by the 1994 Sexual Predators Task Force.

The second, HF178, would require those convicted of sex offenses in other states to register in Minnesota upon arrival. Such offenders would need to register for 10 years after they enter Minnesota.

Minnesota now requires all felony-level sex offenders to register their address with a probation officer for at least 10 years following release from a Minnesota prison.

Failure to register is now a gross misdemeanor. Under the bill, a second conviction for failure to report would be a felony offense. Other bills discussed by the committee were:

- HF176, which would extend the statute of limitations for criminal sexual conduct crimes from seven to nine years;
- HF633, which would increase, to a gross misdemeanor from a misdemeanor, the penalty for the crime of indecent exposure in the presence of a minor under age 16; and
- HF911, which would "stop time" on any statute of limitations while DNA testing is being conducted. A man was actually cleared of a possible rape charge because the limitation period expired while authorities waited for DNA test results, Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) told members.

Skoglund, chief sponsor of all five proposals, said the bills would resurface at a later

date, possibly as a single piece of legislation. He welcomed the suggestions of committee members.

Rep. Tom Van Engen (IR-Willmar) suggested the state get a mandatory DNA sample from any sex offender convicted in another state who wishes to relocate in Minnesota. Currently, all sex offenders convicted of crimes in Minnesota must submit a DNA sample.

Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) suggested making sex offender registration data available to apartment building owners who must conduct a background check on prospective landlords should HF72 become law. (Such data is now private).

(See Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9; Feb. 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9; Jan. 27, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9).

Skoglund also will seek to have those convicted of federal offenses brought under the state's sex offender registration program. Currently, such offenders are not required to register.

## Community notification

A bill that would require that neighbors be notified when a high-risk sex offender is released from prison was heard Feb. 27 by the House Judiciary Committee.

"We can make the community safer while balancing the rights of the released offender," said Ernest Allen, president of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

The measure would mandate that law enforcement officials disclose information about the high-risk offender "to those community

members and establishments to whom, in the agency's judgment, the offender may pose a direct or potential threat."

Offenders considered to be high risk would include those who refused or failed treatment and have been determined "highly likely to re-offend." Violent, repeat offenders who abuse children would also trigger a community notification.

Communities may also be notified of the release of other sex offenders at the discretion of the local law enforcement agency.

Patty Wetterling, whose son, Jacob, was abducted in 1989 and is still missing, said the bill is needed to protect kids from unknown dangers in the neighborhood.

And Clark Hussey, whose son, Grant, was abducted and later killed by a neighbor in 1993, told members the man who killed his son "was a trusted person in the neighborhood. . . . We had no idea he was a child molester."

HF181 is patterned after a Washington state law that has been in effect for five years. Fourteen states have similar notification laws.

"It [the bill] is designed to protect kids, not punish the offenders," bill sponsor Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester) said.

Only a small percentage of released offenders would trigger the notification. Bishop said he is targeting those with the most predatory and dangerous backgrounds.

The state of Washington has released thousands of sex offenders in the five years that the law has been in effect. In most cases, law enforcement officials are the only ones who have been notified. According to a December 1993 Washington study, members of the



Clark Hussey, left, whose son, Grant, was abducted and later killed by a neighbor, and Patty Wetterling, right, whose son, Jacob, was kidnapped and is still missing, testified before the Judiciary Committee Feb. 27 in favor of a bill that would require neighbors to be notified upon the prison release of a high-risk sex offender.



community were notified in just 176 cases. There were 14 cases involving harassment of the released offender after the community notification.

The notification would be an extension of the state's existing sex offender registration program. Currently, all felony-level sex offenders must register their address with the state for at least 10 years after being released from prison. Failure to register is a gross misdemeanor.

Offenders now register with their probation officers. Bishop's bill would require offenders to register with the local police or sheriff.

Although a federal judge Feb. 28 ruled unconstitutional a similar New Jersey law, Bishop said "Megan's Law" — as it is known in New Jersey — is much more broad than his proposal.

Bishop presented the bill "for discussion purposes" and made clear his intentions to amend the bill before it is considered further.

Since 1980, the number of sex offenders in Minnesota prisons has increased 230 percent. Today, 1 in 5 prisoners is incarcerated for a sex offense.



## EDUCATION

### School safety

At least one Minnesota parent thinks a bill designed to crack down on truancy and shore up school safety goes too far.

"The gist of this is too punitive," said Steve McKeown of Richfield, a single father of 12- and 16-year-old boys.

The House Education Committee heard continued testimony Feb. 28 and March 2 on a broad bill that includes stiffer penalties for truants and their parents, and safety measures ranging from criminal background checks on teachers and other school employees to penalties for parents who fail to control their children.

McKeown criticized what he called "very reactionary" anti-truancy ingredients of the bill, which would hit parents with up to \$700 in fines and 90 days in jail if they do not make sure their children comply with compulsory attendance laws.

"We need your support," McKeown said. "We don't need to have this sort of coming down on us where we're going to be called criminals."

Another provision of the bill would make parents who do not exercise "reasonable care, supervision, protection, and control" over their children "guilty of a misdemeanor."

Tom Pritchard, executive director of the

Minnesota Family Council, said that sending parents to jail will do little to help their children.

"I don't believe criminal sanctions are the way to go," Pritchard said.

Bill sponsor Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul) said few parents likely will end up doing time but that the bill will give prosecutors and school officials another option to pursue.

"Many times when you're in juvenile court you get frustrated that it's the child [in court] and not the parent," Farrell said.

Farrell's bill also includes a locker check policy to allow searches of public school lockers at any time without notice (the same language is contained in an entirely separate bill, **HF107**, that is also pending before the Education Committee).

**HF610** also contains a measure that would allow the courts to deny driving privileges to habitual truants until they turn 18.

The committee heard support for the bill from the Minnesota Education Association (MEA) and the state Board of Teaching.

Judy Wain, executive secretary of the Board of Teaching, spoke in favor of criminal background checks for teachers and other school employees and said the checks should be conducted in a way to uncover criminal convictions in other states as well as in Minnesota.

Cheryl Furrer of the MEA called background checks "one way to protect the safety of the students" but she expressed concerns about the cost of the checks.

The bill would require applicants for school jobs to pay for the background checks.

The committee has yet to vote on **HF610**. Testimony is expected to continue next week.

### School buses for sale

A bill that would allow advertising on school buses is headed to the House Transportation Committee after an amendment was added to allow ads on the outside as well as the inside.

When the bill reached the floor Feb. 27, it would have only allowed advertisements on the inside of school buses. But after the amendment allowing advertising on the outside was added, the chair of Transportation and Transit Committee — Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) — asked that the bill be referred to his committee for further review.

So in a relatively unusual move, the bill was re-routed there before members got a chance to vote on the entire bill. The amendment offered by Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) to allow ads outside the bus passed on a voice vote.

Supporters of the measure say outside advertising is where the real money will come from because the high-visibility ads would bring higher ad rates.

Bill sponsor Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) has said advertising would provide money for schools at no cost to the state and makes sense in an era of impending budget cuts.

"If you have to go out and pay \$100 for a pair of Nikes, you might as well get a little bit back into your school district," said Tomassoni when the bill (**HF326**) was before the House Education Committee Feb. 9.

Under the bill, school districts would be allowed to set their own standards for ads to be placed on buses and to reach their own deals with private bus companies.

The bill would require that all advertising proceeds to districts be deposited in their transportation accounts. When it comes to ad content, the bill only requires that districts devise policies and that ads comply with those policies. (See Feb. 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 5).



## ELECTIONS

### Voters' guide

Minnesota's eligible voters would receive booklets in the mail before caucuses and elections that would provide short biographies on candidates and other voter information, under a bill sponsored by Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston).

The bill stems from a recommendation of The Grove Commission on Electoral Reforms. The commission has proposed moving the primary to August and the precinct caucuses to April. It also recommends producing a voters' guide for the public, with information on where and how to vote, the candidates running for office, and constitutional amendments up for public vote.

The Elections Division of the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee approved **HF621** Feb. 27.

It calls for the guides to be mailed to voters at least 21 days before each election. Each candidate may submit a 50-word biographical sketch to be included in the guide in addition to their name, address, and telephone number.

The guides also would explain any proposed constitutional amendment and detail the effect it would have, if passed. It would inform residents on how to register to vote, how to vote by absentee ballot, and provide a map of

election districts and telephone numbers of state and county election officials.

A similar bill was considered during the 1993 Legislative Session.

Such guides are distributed in California, Oregon, and Washington, Secretary of State Joan Growe told committee members.

Election turnout has been declining in recent years, partly because voters don't know where to vote and don't know who the candidates are, Growe added.

"We always get questions at the secretary of state's office. But this year more than ever we've gotten questions about the candidates — on who they are. The newspapers do voters' guides, but it's sometimes around one issue or not exactly what the people want," Growe said.

The bill does not yet include an appropriation.

But distributing three separate guides could cost about \$1.8 million in election years — \$650,000 each for the primary and general election guides, and \$525,000 for the caucus guide, Growe said. The money would come from the general fund.

To help offset costs, candidates could pay a mandatory fee to have information included in the guide. That money would help offset the price of the guide, she said. The bill does not, at present, include such a provision.

**HF621** next will be heard in the full General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.

## June state primary election

Voters in the state's primary election would turn out nearly three months earlier — on the third Tuesday in June instead of in September — to cast their votes, under a bill approved March 2 by the House Elections Division of the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.

The precinct party caucuses would still be held the second Tuesday in March.

Bill sponsor Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) said the measure incorporates many suggestions of Secretary of State Joan Growe's Commission on Electoral Reform, an 18-member commission that focused on increasing voter turnout by making changes to state election law.

The commission originally called for the primary to be held in August and the caucus on an April weekend, but those dates were altered by the division members.

Moving up the primary elections — where members of the same political party face off to determine who advances to meet candidates

from the opposing party or parties in November — would give candidates more time to debate and the press more time to examine the issues, Growe told committee members.

A lengthened campaign season would mean less negative campaigning or "campaigning by sound bite" because candidates would have more time to explain their stances on issues, she said.

Rep. Tim Commers (IR-Eagan), who offered the amendment to change the primary date to June, said many people will be on vacation in August.

Also, the June primary reduces the amount of time from the March precinct caucuses, which lessens the time for candidates seeking their parties' nomination to engage in political infighting, Commers said.

The bill also calls for the elimination of the presidential primary election, which is now held in April. Commers also offered the amendment supporting that change, stating that Minnesota would save \$3 million by not holding the presidential primary.

Another provision in the bill calls for the Secretary of State to send a voters' guide to each Minnesota household with information on where and how to vote, the candidates running for office, and constitutional amendments up for public vote. A separate bill sponsored by Lieder outlines the voters' guide proposal. (See related article page 7).

Also under **HF142**, major party candidates for congressional or state constitutional offices must receive at least 20 percent of the vote on any ballot for that office at the party endorsing convention before their name could be placed on a state primary election ballot.

If such a candidate didn't receive the 20 percent, he or she could still make the ballot by submitting a petition signed by the number of eligible voters equal to 10 percent of

persons voting on the nomination for that office at the last state primary.

The 20 percent proposal would not apply to state legislative candidates.

The bill will next be heard by the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.



## ENVIRONMENT

### State park boundaries

Several state parks would have their legal boundaries expanded, under a bill approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 24.

The measure would allow parcels of land to be added to Forestville, Gooseberry Falls, and William O'Brien state parks.

In addition, John A. Latsch State Park would be created. The land was once a state park; then, for reasons unknown, it became a state wayside area.

"I think it was simply a mistake in 1969," explained Bill Morrissey, director of state parks for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Morrissey said that usually a bill is introduced each legislative session to modify state park boundaries. In some cases, landowners express a desire that their land become part of a park, or state forest land is added to a park.

Although the proposal would expand the legal boundaries of the state parks, future legislation would need to be approved to authorize the sale of state bonds to pay for acquiring private land to add to the parks, according to Morrissey.

The bill, which is sponsored by Rep. Thomas Bakk (DFL-Cook), would also allow vehicles without state park permits to enter Gooseberry Falls State Park and park in a new highway rest area that lies within the park. Parking would no longer be allowed along the highway.

Morrissey said that parked cars on U.S. Route 61 by a two-lane bridge near the park's visitors center pose a safety hazard. The DNR and the Minnesota Department of Transportation have begun work on a walkway underneath the bridge that will also be handicapped accessible.

"We're making the view of the falls handicapped accessible, too," he said.

It is hoped the project will be completed in a "year or two," said Morrissey.

**HF479** now moves to the House floor.



Johan Mikkel Sava, left, a member of the Norwegian Sami Parliament, and his cousin Per Sara, a reindeer herder, were recognized by members of the House Feb. 27.

## Emissions test eliminated

The metropolitan auto emissions testing program could be abolished in 1998, under a bill approved by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Feb. 28.

Sponsored by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), the bill would exempt cars under six years old from emissions testing.

(See Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; and Jan. 27, 1995 *Session Weekly*, page 7.)

The amendment calling for the testing program to end in July 1998 was sponsored by Rep. Eileen Tompkins (IR-Apple Valley).

Tompkins said a University of Minnesota study shows the testing program is of dubious help in cleaning up metropolitan air.

"Why shouldn't we do away with it? We're just putting money down a rat hole," Tompkins said.

Under the amendment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would have to approve the program's intended closure. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) also must show that the seven-county metropolitan area is meeting federal clean air requirements and will continue to do so, said David Thornton, MPCA manager of air analysis.

He said the emissions program may need to continue to show that the MPCA plans to meet federal clean air requirements in the future.

If Minnesota falls below standards set in the 1990 federal Clean Air Act, the EPA may withhold federal highway funds — potentially \$100 million annually — from the state, Thornton added.

Committee members also voted to remove a provision added to **HF2** Feb. 17 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

That amendment, sponsored by Rep. Bill Haas (IR-Champlin), would have required an emissions test be performed on a vehicle within 30 days of the date when its title is transferred.

Haas said the provision would protect a consumer who could buy a used vehicle and then possibly have to make expensive repairs in order to pass an emissions test.

"It's just one of those things that seemed like a good idea at the time, but nobody wants it now," Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) said.

The bill next moves to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.



## GAMBLING

### Gambling department — again?

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) is betting lawmakers — many of whom staked their political fortunes to promised cuts in government — will back legislation to merge state gambling agencies.

Kahn is the sponsor of **HF138**, a bill that would abolish several existing entities and create a state department to oversee gambling.

In a Feb. 24 hearing before the Gambling Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee, Kahn had a simple message for legislators who campaigned on vows to streamline government.

"This is the easiest vote you're ever going to make on that subject," Kahn said. Members of the division approved the bill.

Under Kahn's bill, the nine-member Minnesota Racing Commission, seven-member Gambling Control Board and seven-member Lottery Board would be abolished.

Currently, the boards function independently of each other. The racing commission oversees pari-mutuel horse racing. The Gambling Control Board regulates lawful gambling activities, such as bingo and pull-tabs. The Lottery Board advises the lottery director on games and rules.

A new gambling department, led by an appointee of the governor, would include divisions to oversee lawful gambling and pari-mutuel racing and to assume the gambling enforcement responsibilities of the Department of Public Safety.

The state lottery and its director would remain independent, but the gambling department would assume the advisory role of the current Lottery Board.

The consolidation of the gambling agencies, according to Kahn, would provide the state a more comprehensive approach to gambling issues. And the state would enjoy the savings of an unspecified amount, she said.

But some involved with gambling, especially those in the horse racing business, opposed the bill.

The "lean and knowledgeable staff" of the Racing Commission enforces complicated regulations to ensure "confidence in the integrity of racing," said Jim Olson, president of the Minnesota Quarter Horse Racing Association.

And Gerry Herringer, of the Minnesota Horsemen's Benevolent Protection Association, said horse racing is in a "very fragile" condition in the state and needs the "nurturing" of the commission.

A proposal similar to **HF138** passed the House as part of a 1994 omnibus gambling bill but was eliminated in conference committee. Kahn said she expects the current bill to find less Senate opposition.

If it's approved, it would not be the first time the state has used a consolidated gambling agency. In 1989, lawmakers created the Department of Gaming, but it was abolished two years later when former commissioner Tony Bouza recommended that the Lottery Board, Gambling Control Board, and Racing Commission become independent entities.

**HF138** now moves to the full Governmental Operations Committee.



## HEALTH

### Strengthening bones

A bill to start up a statewide osteoporosis prevention and treatment program won approval from the House Health and Human Services Committee March 2.

Bill sponsor Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport) estimated the program would cost \$200,000 but said it would be a good investment.

If people learn how to prevent the disease early, fewer will need to use hospitals and nursing homes for fractures and other osteoporosis problems. Many women entering nursing homes now do so because of osteoporosis, Marko said.

"The financial impact of osteoporosis is vast, let alone the human impact," said Dr. David Brown, who testified in favor of the bill.

**HF481** would require the Department of Health to assess how many Minnesotans have the disease which strikes mostly women but also has been found in men. The condition is characterized by a decrease in bone mass leading to fragile bones that can fracture easily.

The measure also calls on the state Department of Health to design a statewide educational program about the disease.

The program would implement strategies for raising public awareness on the causes and personal risk factors for the disease, as well as how to prevent, detect, and treat osteoporosis.

The Department of Health would be required to report to the Legislature by Jan. 31, 1997, on the program's accomplishments.

Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) called the bill "a great bargain" and reminded committee members that very few dollars are spent on women's health issues.



But Rep. Barb Vickerman (IR-Redwood Falls) opposed the bill, stating that a bill for a women's health center was in the works and that the committee should wait to see if osteoporosis is taken care of in that bill.

HF481 now goes to the House Health and Human Services Finance Division.

## UMD medical school

The University of Minnesota-Duluth School of Medicine is pitching an idea to expand its two-year program to a four-year program that includes placing students in rural clinics to learn from licensed doctors.

The MinnesotaCare Division of the House Health and Human Services Committee heard the bill (HF690) but as yet has made no recommendation.

The medical school is nationally recognized for producing rural doctors, an important key to improving health care access in rural Minnesota. Currently, the school offers the first two years of medical education. Students then transfer to the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus.

The goal is to increase the number of physicians in rural Minnesota and to further understand the health problems in rural areas. The bill, however, contains no provision requiring students in the program to set up or join a practice in a rural community after graduation, said bill sponsor Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island).

Because the UMD medical school places so many doctors in rural areas, Cooper said he believes they deserve state money to help with the program. "I'm going to fight like heck to keep this going."

Although the bill has no price tag on it yet, figures from the medical school show the

program would be phased in, costing about \$1.6 million during the upcoming two-year budget period, said Dr. Ronald Franks, dean of the medical school. Beginning in 1999, the program would be fully operational with 100 students and cost about \$6.5 million a year.

Franks said he would like the state to pick up the \$1.6 million during the upcoming biennium and eventually the yearly recurring costs of \$6.5 million. It is not clear, however, how much of the cost the bill would finance. The dollar figure is expected to be filled in when the MinnesotaCare Division takes up the bill again.

Another facet of the bill is a substitute doctor program to help out in rural areas when a community's regular doctor becomes ill or leaves for a vacation or for additional training. The program would start out in four pilot rural communities.

Sometimes the lack of substitutes in a rural area can cause a community's doctor to leave permanently because he or she is on call 24-hours a day, seven-days a week, all year long, said Rep. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick), who is sponsoring this portion of HF690.

The program could use doctors in their residency and those who have completed their residency but have yet to establish a practice. The clinics where they serve as substitutes would pay their wages, Lourey said.

The Department of Health would evaluate the program and report back to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 1996.

A dollar figure for the substitute program's startup costs has not yet been calculated. A similar provision in a 1994 bill, however, totaled \$137,000, Lourey said.

In 1994 the Legislature appropriated \$4 million from the sale of bonds to UMD's medical school to build additional laboratories and offices.



## HOUSING

### Homelessness in Willmar

Come Aug. 1, 1995, Willmar, Minn., may have hundreds of homeless on its streets, many of whom will be children.

That's what a group of citizens facing eviction from a Willmar mobile home park told the Housing Committee Feb. 28.

Elm Lane Trailer Court is scheduled to close July 31 leaving many of its residents, most of whom are Hispanic, without homes in a city that doesn't have enough affordable housing or vacant trailer sites to meet the new demand.

Even if they can find affordable housing, they may face discrimination, said Eileen Wallace, executive director of the Heartland Community Action Agency in Willmar.

"If you call up with a Spanish accent and a Spanish surname, the housing is not available. But if you call without an accent and have an Anglo surname, then it's available."

About 95 families currently live in Elm Lane, or about 500 people. There used to be about 120 families but some 25 already have moved out. Of those remaining, about 20 will be able to move their mobile homes to another trailer park in Willmar. But after that, there's no room left.

The group is asking the Legislature for help. Some would like emergency money to help people fix up their mobile homes so they meet housing codes and can be relocated. Some trailers just need the relocation money. Some residents also would like the state to step in and help more families afford to buy small, first-time homes.

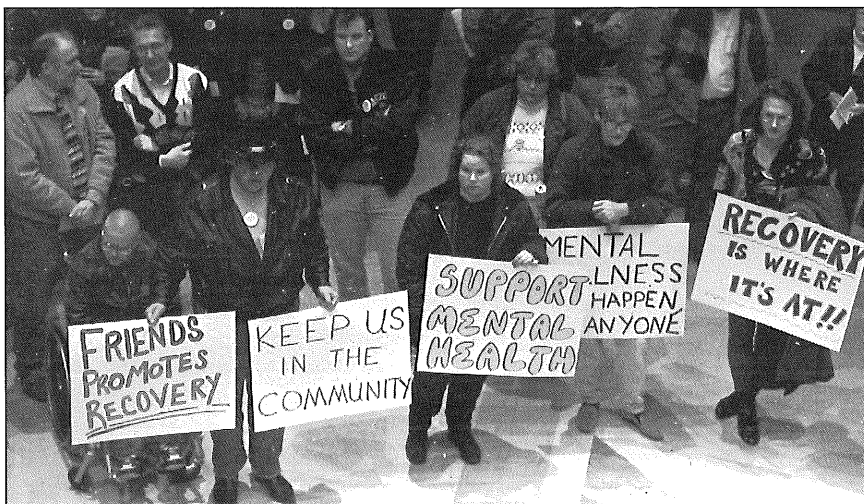
Housing Committee members listened to testimony both from the State Office Building in St. Paul and via interactive television from a site in Willmar.

Wallace told lawmakers that the people who live in Elm Lane hold down jobs but that Willmar offers them little affordable housing. Developers, she said, maintain there isn't enough return on their investment to build housing for workers who earn \$6 or \$7 an hour.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) asked how many homes in Willmar could be fixed up and resold with low interest rates and minimal down payments.

Testifiers thought there were about 20 to 30 homes that could be fixed up.

Dawkins said that compared to the state's buyout of the Target Center basketball arena in Minneapolis and the state's financial breaks granted to Fingerhut Co. to expand in St.



A March 2 rally in the Capitol rotunda brought attention to the needs of those with mental illness.

Cloud, fixing up and reselling those homes "seems like peanuts and small potatoes."

The mobile home park announced it would close in October 1994 after it could not meet city ordinances to clean up the park which had become known for fights and shootings. The living conditions of the park have been described as crowded, poor, and unruly.

The owner, William Begin, has said he gave up trying to run the place and wants to sell it. Begin, who illegally sold many of the mobile homes to the residents without a license and sometimes without giving them a title, was fined \$15,000 by the Office of the Attorney General, said Russ Adams of the All Parks Alliance for Change mobile home park advocacy group. The \$15,000 will be used to help families relocate.

The Willmar City Council did reach an agreement with Begin to pay \$150 for each family to relocate and an additional \$300 if they could relocate their trailer to another mobile home park, but, Adams said, not too many people are counting on that money.

Martina Diaz was an Elm Lane resident until about a week ago, when she moved into a Willmar house.

"I am worried about my people who are still residents of Elm Lane. July is just around the corner," Diaz said.

"They're tired of meetings. They're tired of waiting and still don't have an answer. . . . There has to be a way out."

It is unclear what action, if any, lawmakers will take.



## HUMAN SERVICES

### Welfare reform passes

The House gave final approval to a welfare reform bill March 2 after another attempt to attach a controversial abortion waiting-period proposal was thwarted. The vote was 125-8.

Under the threat of a veto by Gov. Arne Carlson, language that would require a 24-hour waiting period for abortions was removed from the bill Feb. 23 by the House Ways and Means Committee.

But when the bill came up for debate on the floor, Rep. Tony Onnen (IR-Cokato) renewed the effort to include the waiting period. His proposed amendment touched off an emotional debate.

Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) said the "informed consent" abortion proposal has the support of Minnesotans and he urged members not to let the threat of a veto affect their vote.

"Let the legislative process take its course,"

Wenzel said. "We have our job to do, and the governor has his rights by the constitution."

Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka) said he supports a mandatory abortion waiting period, but he urged members to vote against the amendment.

"In my view, this amendment guarantees the death of the right to know as well as welfare reform," he said. The amendment failed by a vote of 58-75.

The abortion waiting period was only one of a long string of proposed amendments to the reform bill.

An amendment was adopted that would require welfare applicants without children to live in the state for 60 days before they can receive General Assistance benefits. The measure, sponsored by Rep. Jim Knobloch (IR-St. Cloud), makes several exceptions, including allowing benefits for people who were born in the state and people who have, in the past, lived in the state for a year.

House members also approved an amendment that would cut off Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) benefits after two years. Families would be allowed no more than two years of benefits within a four-year period, but their eligibility for medical benefits would continue after their AFDC benefits expire.

The amendment, proposed by Rep. Todd Van Dellen (IR-Plymouth), makes exceptions in some cases, including those involving parents who are minors and people needed in the home to care for children under 3 years old.

The House rejected several proposed amendments, including a measure offered by Rep. Erik Paulsen (IR-Eden Prairie) that would have denied increases in AFDC benefits to parents who have additional children.



A coalition of welfare rights groups picketed in front of the House chamber March 2 as members debated a welfare reform bill. HF5 was later passed 125-8.

In all, HF5 totals about \$52 million but with cuts in public assistance benefits and the elimination of a \$24 million state jobs program, the net price tag falls to \$23.7 million for fiscal years 1996-1997.

The bill would require teenaged mothers to live at home or with a supervising adult, and it requests the elimination of federal rules that some argue discourage welfare recipients from seeking employment.

And the bill would establish a Work First pilot program, which would set out tough penalties, such as losing benefits, if participants do not stick to a contract to search for a job and accept work. The program would be tested in Clay and Itasca counties.

To remove a barrier keeping people from returning to work, the bill, sponsored by Rep. Bob Anderson (DFL-Ottertail), includes \$18 million for child care for low- and moderate-income families.

The Senate's welfare reform measure is pending in the Senate Finance Committee.

(See Jan. 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; Jan. 20, 1995, *Session Weekly*, pages 6-7; Feb. 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10; and Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, pages 8-9; Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9.)



## INSURANCE

### Coverage for good genes

Insurance companies should not be allowed to use genetic information to decide who will receive insurance coverage, said Dr. Paul Billings, an associate professor of medicine at Stanford University.

Speaking to the House Financial Institu-

tions and Insurance Committee March 1, Billings said the current "genetic revolution" is providing information people should be able to use to protect themselves.

"I would not like to see third parties use that information to exclude people," he said.

Billings is director of the Council for Responsible Genetics and a member of the Genetic Screening Study Group, two non-profit groups devoted to investigating the use of genetic information. He has spent 15 years researching genetics and its social impact.

He supports **HF278**, a bill that would bar Minnesota insurance companies from requiring applicants for health or life insurance policies to take genetic tests, or from refusing coverage based on information revealed by a voluntary test.

No date has been set for a hearing on the bill, which is sponsored by Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka).

Scientists in the rapidly developing field of genetics can identify at least 4,000 human genes and the indicators of 500 to 1,000 medical disorders, according to Billings. A complete map of all 100,000 human genes should be finished soon.

Recently, genes have been identified for such maladies as Huntington's Disease, colon cancer, and breast cancer. But the presence of a genetic indicator for a disease does not necessarily mean a person will contract the illness and does not provide any information about its onset or severity, Billings said.

The problem, according to Billings, is that insurance companies already have refused coverage to people on grounds of their genetic makeup and the future could bring

more such "genetic discrimination."

Billings also said the full potential of genetic research cannot be realized if people avoid testing out of fear they'll lose their insurance.

Donald Chambers, an official for the American Council of Life Insurance, told the committee life insurance providers must have access to genetic information to fairly decide who to cover and how to set rates.

"Insurers cannot afford to be denied the right to access existing medical information," he said, disputing claims that genetic testing leads to "cherry picking" clients, or granting coverage only to low-risk applicants.

He said people with "genetic disadvantages" could conceal their condition and buy costly policies if insurance companies are denied access to genetic information. And that could serve a costly blow to companies and other customers.

"Testing serves as a truth serum, if you will," Chambers said.



## LAW

### Prisoner name changes

The House gave final approval to a bill March 2 to limit the number of taxpayer-financed name changes by inmates in the state prison system. The vote was 132-0.

The bill (**HF125**) would limit prisoners to one name change during their confinement. And it would be paid for at public expense only when "failure to allow the name change

would infringe on the constitutional rights of an inmate." Religious reasons would qualify as such a case.

Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester) said the bill he sponsored would eliminate the cost to the public of "clearly frivolous" name changes.

Between 1990 and February 1995, 305 name changes were made by inmates. There currently is no limit on the number of changes a prisoner may request, and some have changed their name as many as three times.

Each change costs between \$400 and \$500, according to the Department of Corrections. (See Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11)

Similar legislation is pending in the Senate.



## METRO AFFAIRS

### Calling all cars

All Metro area public safety personnel eventually would be linked by a digital radio communications system, under a bill approved by the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee March 2.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins), would call for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to make available a block of radio channels in the 800 megahertz range, Kelley said. The channels would then be "trunked," or connected, so that several police, ambulance, or fire personnel could talk simultaneously across a number of channels.

"Right now, it's possible to connect all the agencies on the radio, but it's cumbersome," Kelley said.

Currently, individual police departments, for example, communicate on separate radio bands, which sometimes creates problems when different departments need to talk back and forth.

Such a problem occurred last summer during a massive search — involving several law enforcement departments — for the man who fatally shot two St. Paul police officers.

The bill would create what Kelley called the "backbone network" for the communications system. It would authorize about \$30 million in state bonds to build the radio towers and computer system necessary to link the public safety communications systems of local governments. Each local government could then determine whether they would use the trunked channels or rely on their current method of radio communication.

"So we're not creating a monolith all at once," Kelley said.

Of the \$30 million in bonds, half would be



Rep. Mike Delmont examined a chart showing the link between certain genes and the illnesses caused by them during a Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee hearing March 1. A bill (**HF278**) has been introduced to bar insurance companies from requiring applicants to submit to the tests.



let by the Metropolitan Council. Those Metropolitan Council bonds would be repaid by an unspecified increase in the four-cent 911-emergency surcharge that each Minnesota phone customer now pays.

Since the Department of Administration has already proposed raising the fee, legislative approval for the hike is not needed, Kelley said.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) said the additional 911-surcharge forces non-metropolitan area residents to fund a service which benefits only the Twin Cities area. And some other lawmakers agreed.

Mancel Mitchell, St. Louis Park chief of police, said the metropolitan area faces a "critical need" for such a new system. He served on the board that spent four years planning the radio system proposal.

"We're now building and laying communication systems one on top of another. Trunking increases capacity five or six times and insures access on a frequency," Mitchell said.

Paul Malone, a city council member from Arden Hills, Minn., spoke against the bill.

"The notion that the area's existing public safety frequencies are hopelessly jammed is untrue. Although a few become busy from time to time, most are quite quiet," he said.

In addition, most local agencies now use

cellular phones to augment their communications systems, which are cheap and effective, he added.

The bill now moves to the House Governmental Operations Committee.



## TRANSPORTATION

### Commuter bus project

Commuters who live in Minneapolis or St. Paul but work in the suburbs could one day hop a bus to work with the help of a bill sponsored by Rep. Edwina Garcia (DFL-Richfield).

The House Transportation and Transit Committee approved the bill March 1.

**HF342** would establish a 13-member advisory committee which would work with the Metropolitan Council in implementing a council pilot project. The project — now being carried out by the Metropolitan Council — sets up several express bus routes between eight southern Twin Cities suburbs and from downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul to those suburbs during morning and evening rush hours.

Garcia said residents who live in suburbs

such as Burnsville, Richfield, Apple Valley, and Edina find bus routes run mainly to Minneapolis and St. Paul. Few buses — especially "express" buses that travel on highways and interstates — operate between suburbs. Also, during morning and evening commuting hours, buses mainly shuttle commuters from the suburbs to downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. Those who wish to take mass transportation the opposite way during those hours find few routes available, Garcia said.

The Metropolitan Council expects its pilot project to cost around \$3 million. A federal grant takes care of \$2.5 million of that, said Nacho Diaz, manager of the Metropolitan Council's Office of Transportation and Transit Development. The council also has asked for a \$622,000 state appropriation to fund the remaining project costs. That request comes as part of the council's \$93.3 million transportation funding request for the 1996-97 biennium, Diaz said.

The Metropolitan Council's transportation program will work with independent busing systems, such as Southwest Metro Transit and Minnesota Valley Transit, in carrying out the project, Garcia said.

The Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Committee will hear the bill next.

## Preliminary dates and deadlines

**March 31** First committee deadline. For continued consideration, a bill must clear all policy committees in its house of origin by this date.

**April 7** Second committee deadline. For continued consideration, a bill must clear all policy committees in the other legislative body by 5 p.m. on this date.

**April 14** Good Friday. No committee meetings. No session.

**April 16** Easter

**April 17** No House and Senate committee meetings. House and Senate floor sessions.

**April 18** Regular schedule of committee meetings and 2:30 p.m. House floor session.

**April 21** Third committee deadline. For continued consideration in the House, all bills with a fiscal

impact and omnibus appropriation bills must clear their policy committees. For continued consideration in the Senate, all omnibus appropriations bills must clear their policy committees.

**May 22** This is the latest date the Legislature could meet in regular session. The Minnesota Constitution prescribes that the Legislature shall not meet after the first Monday following the third Saturday in May.

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Anderson, Irv (DFL)	463	4936
Joan I. Harrison	463A	7881
Bakk, Thomas (DFL)	429	2190
Laura M. DeRose	485A	2955
Bertram, Jeff (DFL)	571	4373
Cassie Sweeney-Truitt	571A	2959
Bettermann, Hilda (IR)	243	4317
Cheryl A. Burke	243A	4375
Bishop, Dave (IR)	343	0573
Joyce G. Rogers	343A	9710
Boudreau, Lynda (IR)	327	8237
Doris Ocel	327A	5355
Bradley, Fran (IR)	241	9249
Cheryl A. Burke	243A	4375
Broecker, Sherry (IR)	321	7153
Mary Lee	317A	5994
Brown, Chuck (DFL)	597	4929
Teri T. Edison	597A	7171
Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	379	4255
Dori Vaughan	379A	3367
Carruthers, Phil (DFL)	459	3709
Mary Ellen Langenberger	459A	5356
Clark, Karen (DFL)	503	0294
Kevin J. Morgel	503A	6586
Commers, Tim (IR)	217	3533
Gregory Marcus	217A	5360
Cooper, Roger (DFL)	549	4346
Shirley M. Covert	545A	5322
Daggett, Roxann (IR)	225	4293
Cathy Powell	229A	4295
Dauner, Marvin (DFL)	581	6829
Marree A. Boland	581A	4388
Davids, Gregory M. (IR)	371	9278
Cristina A. Lachman	357A	7-8139
Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	409	5158
Elizabeth L. Flentje	423A	4992
Dehler, Steve (IR)	203	7808
Betty L. McConnell	207A	5394
Delmont, Mike (DFL)	575	4226
Robert Humphrey	575A	6937
Dempsey, Jerry (IR)	251	8635
Patricia H. Parkhurst	247A	3316
Dorn, John (DFL)	533	3248
Kathleen K. Bruss	543A	4271
Entenza, Matt (DFL)	531	8799
Nancy K. Anderson	547A	1544
Erhardt, Ron (IR)	237	4363
Georgianne Hilker	237A	9183
Farrell, Jim (DFL)	423	4277
Laurie M. Nistl	477A	5497
Finseth, Tim (IR)	253	9918
Dolores B. Meyer	259A	5999
Frerichs, Don (IR)	247	4378
Patricia H. Parkhurst	247A	3316
Garcia, Edwina (DFL)	411	5375
Yvonne S. Amey	415A	7168
Girard, Jim (IR)	213	5374
Kathleen M. Kieffer	209A	5991
Goodno, Kevin (IR)	369	5515
Doris Ocel	327A	5355

Member Legislative Assistant	Room*	Phone 296-
Greenfield, Lee (DFL)	375	0173
Marguerite Maloney	375A	7189
Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	553	5387
Mary Ann Goschy	557A	7191
Haas, Bill (IR)	201	5513
Patricia L. Carter	291A	5399
Hackbarth, Tom (IR)	313	2439
Judd Schetnan	309A	5336
Harder, Elaine (IR)	277	5373
Sally A. Burmeister	273A	9471
Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)	451	4333
Jan Horner	453A	5496
Hausman, Alice (DFL)	449	3824
Bernadine A. Hyser	449A	5489
Holsten, Mark (IR)	345	3018
Kathleen S. Anderson	349A	8871
Hugoson, Gene (IR)	289	3240
Marlys C. Pearson-Purdy	289A	5992
Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	569	2228
Robert Humphrey	575A	6937
Jacobs, Joel (DFL)	485	4231
Laura M. DeRose	485A	2955
Jaros, Mike (DFL)	559	4246
Susan J. Maher	559A	4180
Jefferson, Richard H. (DFL)	577	8659
Susan J. Maher	559A	4180
Jennings, Loren (DFL)	537	0518
Joan M. Sweeney	537A	1340
Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)	539	5510
Joan M. Sweeney	537A	1340
Johnson, Bob (DFL)	551	5516
Nancy K. Anderson	547A	1544
Johnson, Virgil J. (IR)	207	1069
Betty L. McConnell	207A	5394
Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	367	4257
Judith Richardson	367A	7173
Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	543	4240
Kathleen K. Bruss	543A	4271
Kelley, Steve (DFL)	417	3964
Urszula M. Gryska	417A	5492
Kelso, Becky (DFL)	415	1072
Urszula M. Gryska	417A	5492
Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony" (DFL)	453	2451
Jan Horner	453A	5496
Knight, Kevin (IR)	307	4218
Catherine E. (Kathy) Ryan	307A	5998
Knoblach, Jim (IR)	215	6316
Betty L. McConnell	207A	5394
Koppendrayer, LeRoy (IR)	389	6746
Lola J. Popken	389A	0526
Kraus, Ron (IR)	279	8216
Sally A. Burmeister	273A	9471
Krinkie, Phil (IR)	303	2907
Catherine E. (Kathy) Ryan	307A	5998
Larsen, Peg (IR)	311	4244
Judd Schetnan	309A	5336
Leighton, Robert (DFL)	527	4193
Judith A. Bernet	539A	5491
Leppik, Peggy (IR)	393	7026
Lola J. Popken	389A	0526
Lieder, Bernie (DFL)	515	5091
Kathy L. Anderson	515A	3806
Lindner, Arlon (IR)	227	7806
Cathy Powell	229A	4295
Long, Dee (DFL)	591	0171
Elizabeth L. Murphey	591A	5402

\*All rooms are in the State Office Building unless otherwise noted.

As of February 28, 1995

Member Legislative Assistant	Room*	Phone 296-
Lourey, Becky (DFL)	421	4308
Yvonne S. Amey	415A	7168
Luther, Darlene (DFL)	525	3751
Paula K. Thompson	525A	7-8130
Lynch, Teresa (IR)	295	5369
Patricia L. Carter	291A	5399
Macklin, Bill (IR)	349	6926
Kathleen S. Anderson	349A	8871
Mahon, Mark P. (DFL)	401	7158
Audrey M. Engebretson	407A	5488
Mares, Harry (IR)	239	5363
Georgianne Hilker	237A	9183
Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	403	9714
Mabel S. Canty	491A	5372
Marko, Sharon (DFL)	507	3135
Barbara Moehrle	509A	4171
McCollum, Betty (DFL)	501	1188
Kevin Morge	503A	6586
McElroy, Dan (IR)	259	4212
Dolores B. Meyer	259A	5999
McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	567	4342
Cassie Sweeney-Truitt	571A	2959
Milbert, Bob (DFL)	579	4192
Marree A. Boland	581A	4388
Molnau, Carol (IR)	287	8872
Marlys C. Pearson-Purdy	289A	5992
Mulder, Richard (IR)	387	4336
Lola J. Popken	389A	0526
Munger, Willard (DFL)	479	4282
Norma S. Christensen	479A	7175
Murphy, Mary (DFL)	557	2676
Mary Ann Goschy	557A	7191
Ness, Robert "Bob" (IR)	335	4344
Karen Meyer	343B	3244
Olson, Edgar (DFL)	565	4265
Dorothy Sawyer	565A	7427
Olson, Mark (IR)	223	4237
Gregory Marcus	217A	5360
Onnen, Tony (IR)	273	1534
Sally A. Burmeister	273A	9471
Opatz, Joe (DFL)	377	6612
Paula J. Hoover	365A	9194
Orenstein, Howard (DFL)	529	4199
Judith A. Bernet	539A	5491
Orfield, Myron (DFL)	521	9281
Angie D. Bernhard	517A	3641
Osskopp, Mike (IR)	329	9236
Joyce G. Rogers	343A	9710
Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	585	4224
Kristine M. Henry	585A	5342
Ostrom, Don (DFL)	433	7065
Elizabeth L. Flentje	423A	4992
Otremba, Ken (DFL)	545	3201
Shirley M. Covert	545A	5322
Ozment, Dennis (IR)	283	4306
Lois J. Klostreich	283A	5413
Paulsen, Erik (IR)	221	7449
Gregory Marcus	217A	5360
Pawlenty, Tim (IR)	231	4128
Georgianne Hilker	237A	9183
Pellow, Richard (IR)	233	0141
Patricia H. Parkhurst	247A	3316
Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	517	8637
Kathy L. Anderson	515A	3806
Perlt, Walter E. (DFL)	473	7807
Debra M. Fastner	469A	8857
Peterson, Doug (DFL)	523	4228
Paula K. Thompson	525A	7-8130

Member Legislative Assistant	Room*	Phone 296-
Pugh, Thomas (DFL)	583	6828
Elizabeth L. Murphey	591A	5402
Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	443	4176
Lillian A. Pohlkamp	443A	9552
Rhodes, Jim (IR)	309	9889
Judd Scheinan	309A	5336
Rice, James I. (DFL)	381	4262
Mary Pat Speltz	381A	4178
Rostberg, Jim (IR)	323	5364
Doris Ocel	327A	5355
Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	471	0170
Debra M. Fastner	469A	8857
Sarna, John J. (DFL)	563	4219
Dianne Ruppert	565	4279
Schumacher, Leslie (DFL)	413	5377
Norma S. Christensen	479A	7175
Seagren, Alice (IR)	315	7803
Mary Lee	317A	5994
Simoneau, Wayne (DFL)	365	4331
Paula J. Hoover	365A	9194
Skoglund, Wesley J. "Wes" (DFL)	477	4330
Laurie M. Nisl	477A	5497
Smith, Steve (IR)	353	9188
Joyce G. Rogers	343A	9710
Solberg, Loren (DFL)	445	2365
Maxine J. Wiech	445A	4371
Sviggum, Steven A. (IR)	267	2273
Janna Dick	263A	8827
Swenson, Doug (IR)	255	4124
Dolores B. Meyer	259A	5999
Swenson, Howard (IR)	331	8634
Karen Meyer	343B	3244
Sykora, Barbara (IR)	357	4315
Cristina A. Lachman	357A	7-8139
Tomassoni, David (DFL)	593	0172
Teri T. Edison	597A	7171
Tompkins, Eileen (IR)	245	5506
Cheryl A. Burke	243A	4375
Trimble, Steve (DFL)	491	4201
Mabel S. Canty	491A	5372
Tuma, John (IR)	301	4229
Catherine E. (Kathy) Ryan	307A	5998
Tunheim, Jim (DFL)	509	9635
Barbara Moehrle	509A	4171
Van Dellen, H. Todd (IR)	291	5511
Patricia L. Carter	291A	5399
Van Engen, Tom (IR)	359	6206
Cristina A. Lachman	357A	7-8139
Vickerman, Barb (IR)	211	9303
Kathleen M. Kieffer	209A	5991
Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	439	4200
Mary M. Larson	439A	5486
Weaver, Charlie (IR)	261	1729
Julie Day	261A	5408
Wejcman, Linda (DFL)	431	7152
Barbara A. Klossner	437A	9463
Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	487	4247
Mary J. Hollenbeck	487A	6860
Winter, Ted (DFL)	407	5505
Audrey M. Engebretson	407A	5488
Wolf, Ken (IR)	317	5185
Mary Lee	317A	5994
Worke, Gary D. (IR)	229	5368
Cathy Powell	229A	4295
Workman, Tom (IR)	337	5066
Karen Meyer	343B	3244

\*All rooms are in the State Office Building unless otherwise noted.

As of February 28, 1995



New members . . .

## House tries Harder to make government efficient

Rep. Elaine Harder took on a challenging task in her first run for public office.

Harder (IR-Jackson) entered the race for the District 22B seat prepared to face a powerful four-term DFL incumbent, former Assistant Majority Leader Katy Olson.



Rep. Elaine Harder

Harder's battle plans changed when Olson announced her retirement at the end of the 1994 session. Instead of running against her opponent's record, Harder focused on putting forth a clear agenda to voters in her conservative-leaning southwestern Minnesota district.

She engineered a campaign that included six county fairs and 18 parades to win the three-way race. "The timing was excellent," Harder said. "People were ready for the kind of message I was bringing to them."

Harder supports term limits for legislators and efforts to reduce the size of government and to hold the line on taxes or make cuts. But she does not want those cuts to hurt the public education system, an area in which she believes the state should provide more funding.

Harder said she learned many of her political values while growing up on a Westbrook farm, which sits just outside the district she represents.

She left the farm to attend Mankato State University and has built a diverse resumé

since graduating with a bachelor's degree in secondary education.

Harder has worked as a home economics teacher, a sales representative for a printing and office supplies company, a sales and marketing agent for her family's purebred and feeder cattle company, and, most recently, as a 4-H youth development agent with the University of Minnesota Extension Service in Cottonwood County.

Her involvement in 4-H in Cottonwood County stretches back to her youth. In fact, that's how she met her husband, Ron.

The couple experienced life on the campaign trail when Ron ran unsuccessfully for the state Senate in 1990.

That campaign ignited political fires in Harder that eventually led her into a run for the House.

Running for office was another step in a new direction in a life of community involvement. In the past, Harder had served as Jackson County Fair Board secretary, working with farm and 4-H families and youth. In connection with the fair, she was one of the original volunteers in establishing the Pioneer Village, a project that developed over nearly two decades. Harder's work involved collecting items of historical significance, which are now on display in the village.

She and her husband, who have two children, own and operate an insurance agency in Jackson, and, in what free time there is, she enjoys photography and singing in her church choir.

During her early days in office, Harder is concerned about some of the demands placed on state government.

Sitting on House committees, Harder has found herself "frustrated with the concept that for every problem, government is expected to have a financial answer," she said.

Harder said she would like to focus on making government more efficient by eliminating duplications, such as having some 20 agencies dealing with some aspect of violence prevention.

"I know it will be painful when we cut," Harder said. "We're talking about people's jobs. We're talking about people's services. People realize it's necessary, but it's going to be difficult."

— Nick Healy

### District 22B

**Population:** 32,898

**Distribution:** 23.84 percent urban, 76.16 percent rural

**Counties:** Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, Redwood, Watonwan

**Largest city:** Windom

**Location:** southwestern Minnesota

**Unemployment rate:** 4.32 percent

**Residents living below poverty level:** 13.21 percent

**1992 presidential election results:**

Bush/Quayle ..... 34.09 percent

Clinton/Gore ..... 36.79 percent

Perot/Stockdale ..... 27.78 percent

Other: ..... 1.34 percent

Gov. Arne Carlson has proposed that the state pay \$183.7 million in the next fiscal year for the state's correctional institutions.

That's a far cry from the \$3.3 million the state paid in fiscal year 1955.

Back then the state had only five correctional institutions — about half the number that exist today — to support, and they were dramatically different.

Further, there were only about 1,200 inmates in 1955 — about a quarter of the 4,765 adult and juvenile inmates that are incarcerated today.

Delinquent boys were then sent to the "training school at Red Wing," which had a dairy farm, elementary school, and a few high school courses. Training was offered in blacksmithing, meatcutting, and

## It's a fact!

pipefitting, among other skills.

When the boys are discharged from the school, "most of them are prepared to live a normal life in society," wrote Joseph Kise in his 1959 book, *Minnesota's Government*.

Today, only the state's toughest youthful offenders are sent to the Red Wing facility. Before they arrive, each juvenile has committed an average of 13 prior offenses. According to a recent Legislative Auditor's report, up to 75 percent will reoffend upon release.

In the 1950s, the Home School for Girls at Sauk Centre offered opportunities in "gardening, beauty culture, sewing, business relations and other vocations."

There were 196 girls at the school in August 1957. "Only a few of the girls have been sent back after they are released. The officers and employees try to make the place congenial and homelike."

And while the crime problem facing the state was not as severe as it is today, the 34-year-old opinion of Kise is echoed today: "These institutions cost the State of Minnesota millions and millions of dollars each year. In addition, much money is spent in local communities for the upkeep of county and city jails. From a strictly economic viewpoint, these facts show that it pays to spend money for preventive measures. The public is learning that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

New members . . .

## Boudreau brings inside experience to welfare debate

Rep. Lynda Boudreau may be a rookie at the Legislature, but she's no stranger to the welfare system, the center of one of this session's most pressing issues.



Rep. Lynda Boudreau

Boudreau (IR-Faribault) has an up-close view of welfare in her job as a family health aide with the Rice County Public Health Nursing Services and the Women, Infants and

Children programs.

The decade-long experience helped shape her stance on welfare reform and her overall political ideology.

"My philosophy is [that] if you are provided the tools, you can learn to use them to get a job done," she said. "We are all capable of doing many things. We just need some direction and encouragement."

Her involvement in Independent-Republican politics started, oddly enough, after she attended a DFL caucus in the late 1980s. As a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters union and a county employee, Boudreau doesn't seem a natural for the conservative movement, but she found things more comfortable on the right.

"It seemed natural to adopt the philosophy of personal responsibility and fiscal conservatism," she said. "I don't believe in being wasteful, lazy, or apathetic."

Boudreau quickly became active with her local IRs. She was soon selected to sit on the board of the county IR committee, and while still "very green," found herself running caucuses in her district.

But the thrill of a political victory is what thrust Boudreau headlong into IR politics.

The thrill came when she helped in the campaign to get Sen. Thomas Neuville (IR-Northfield) elected in 1990.

"It was amazing to see that the process can be so rewarding," Boudreau said.

At the prodding of fellow party members, Boudreau decided to make her first run for public office in 1994 to fill an open seat. (DFLer Peter Rodosovich decided not to seek a seventh term.)

"It was not something I'd really considered doing, but I was somewhat intrigued and challenged to organize my own campaign," she said.

A lifelong resident of Faribault, she grew up in the same neighborhood as her husband, Jim, a professional tree trimmer. The couple, married for 24 years, has three children: an 18-year-old son and daughters, 20 and 23 years old.

Boudreau's involvement in her community made her a familiar face to many voters.

Stints as a volunteer Girl Scout leader and 4-H Club leader and Crisis Pregnancy Center counselor are included on her list. She also was a religious education teacher, a softball coach, a church cantor and choir member, a Faribault Senior High School parent adviser and a Booster Club parent.

Boudreau's personal endeavors further enhanced her visibility in the community. Among other things, she is a reserve officer for the Faribault police department and a bow hunting education instructor for the Department of Natural Resources. She continues to play on a women's softball team — her 25th year, and in the fall, she enjoys archery hunting.

Her political beliefs, including support of term limits for legislators, often fall in line with many basic conservative tenets.

Boudreau is an avid supporter of welfare reform, but she does so with the passionate and informed opinions of an insider. "I work in the system. I can tell you it needs to be reformed to provide incentives to work," she said.

"I often see a lack of motivation and feelings of hopelessness."

Part of her job for Rice County calls on Boudreau to teach single parents — some on welfare and some self-supporting — how to be good parents.

She supports measures in a reform bill (HF5) that would require welfare mothers who are minors to live with their parents and set work requirements for welfare recipients.

She offered an amendment to the bill that would remove fertility drugs from medical benefits for welfare recipients and successfully offered another amendment that would remove sex change surgery benefits from General Assistance Medical Care.

"We're giving people tools, and they should be utilizing them," Boudreau said. "If they choose not to, we're going to give them that little extra nudge."

— Nick Healy

### District 25B

**Population:** 32,664

**Distribution:** 52.31 percent urban; 47.69 percent rural

**Countries:** Le Sueur, Rice, Waseca

**Largest city:** Faribault

**Location:** southeastern Minnesota

**Unemployment rate:** 4.64 percent

**Residents living below poverty level:** 9.13 percent

**1992 presidential election results:**

Bush/Quayle ..... 31.16 percent

Clinton/Gore ..... 39.72 percent

Perot/Stockdale ..... 27.15 percent

Other: ..... 1.97 percent

# Bill Introductions

HF894-HF1077

## Monday, Feb. 27

### HF894—Clark (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services

Aging Board appropriated money for Indian Elderly Access Program.

### HF895—Vickerman (IR)

#### Agriculture

Agricultural processing facility tax increment financing districts provided aid reduction exemption.

### HF896—Brown (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Government Innovation and Cooperation Board authority and procedures clarified, cooperation planning grant application procedures established, and money appropriated.

### HF897—Pugh (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Rule of 85 reinstated, Public Employees Retirement Association member early retirement provisions modified, and reporting requirements eliminated.

### HF898—Carruthers (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Soft body armor peace officer reimbursement provisions modified, and public safety officer's death benefit modified.

### HF899—Kinkel (DFL)

#### Education

Semester system established by Higher Education Board, undergraduate state funding expenditures restricted, Akita Program efficiency increased, and campus efficiency increased.

### HF900—Broecker (IR)

#### Judiciary

Disabled parking certificate holders allowed to make names and addresses private.

### HF901—Swenson, D. (IR)

#### Transportation & Transit

DWI related laws and consequences included in drivers' education programs, driver's license application pamphlet, driver's license examination, and driver's manual.

### HF902—Swenson, D. (IR)

#### Judiciary

DWI related offenses and driving without a license offenses provided license plate impoundment and vehicle forfeiture penalties after second violation.

### HF903—Rest (DFL)

#### Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Tobacco retail license established, vendor compliance checks provided, and mandatory penalties provided for sales to minors.

### HF904—Tomassoni (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Sport shooting ranges in compliance with accepted operating practices provided liability protection, and rulemaking required.

### HF905—Pelowski (DFL)

#### Education

Kindergarten student transportation aid provisions modified.

### HF906—Onnen (IR)

#### Labor-Management Relations

Workers' compensation benefit claim dispute review board established.

### HF907—Bertram (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services

Nursing facility resident classification error correction provided.

### HF908—Lourey (DFL)

#### Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance

Foodshelf Program appropriated money.

### HF909—Olson, E. (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Wetland management and protection provisions modified.

### HF910—Lourey (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services

Children and education services department established, and money appropriated.

### HF911—Skoglund (DFL)

#### Judiciary

DNA crime evidence analysis statute of limitations provisions modified.

### HF912—Osskopp (IR)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Lake City tax increment financing district duration extended.

### HF913—Davids (IR)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Preston tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

### HF914—Peterson (DFL)

#### Education

Independent School District No. 128, Milan, provided an operating debt reduction grant, and money appropriated.

### HF915—Rukavina (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services

Prescription drug price negotiation authority granted to Department of Administration commissioner, statewide drug formulary established, and pharmacists required to post signs relating to generic drug substitution.

### HF916—Murphy (DFL)

#### Taxes

Local government aid distribution increase provided to certain cities.

### HF917—Hugoson (IR)

#### Agriculture

Wholesale food processor, manufacturer, packager, and salvage food processor permits, certification and training required.

### HF918—Winter (DFL)

#### Agriculture

Agricultural commodity supply management, orderly marketing, administration, and enforcement provided, minimum prices established for dairy and grain products, and money appropriated.

### HF919—Swenson, D. (IR)

#### Governmental Operations

Lottery advertising restricted.

### HF920—Mariani (DFL)

#### Education

American Indian tribal history, government, and culture included in staff development and teacher preparation curriculum, and graduation rule to include an understanding of American Indians.

### HF921—Goodno (IR)

#### Labor-Management Relations

Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

### HF922—Wejman (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services

WIC; Women, Infants, and Children Program appropriated money for modernization, outreach, and education.

### HF923—Johnson, R. (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Correctional employees contribution rates and annuity formulas modified.

### HF924—Winter (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Groundwater exploration matching grant program established and money appropriated.

### HF925—Johnson, R. (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Teacher retirement association members permitted to terminate membership in association.

### HF926—Davids (IR)

#### Education

Independent School District No. 238, Mabel-Canton, debt service aid eligibility provided.

### HF927—Bishop (IR)

#### Judiciary

Domestic abuse hearing requirement eliminated in certain cases, and notices provided.



**HF928—Harder (IR)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Lakefield tax increment financing districts established, state aid offset exemption provided, and regional tax capacity defined.

**HF929—Boudreau (IR)****Judiciary**

Law enforcement agency forfeited firearms use restricted and sale authorized.

**HF930—Kelley (DFL)****Regulated Industries & Energy**

Independent public pay telephone service providers granted access to telephone lines, and flat access rate provided.

**HF931—Wagenius (DFL)****Transportation & Transit**

Highway user tax distribution fund used for public highways, bicycle and pedestrian paths, and public transit, fund apportionment provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF932—Jaros (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

Duluth fire and police joint consolidation account benefit recomputations and adjustments provided for certain eligible retirees.

**HF933—Farrell (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Prescription drug price negotiation authority granted to administration commissioner, statewide drug formulary established, and pharmacists required to post signs relating to generic drug substitution.

**HF934—Delmont (DFL)****Regulated Industries & Energy**

Liquor sale practices restricted between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. to prohibit discounted prices, multiple drinks, and increased alcohol volume or percentage.

**HF935—Farrell (DFL)****Judiciary**

Child support and enforcement provisions modified.

**HF936—Swenson, D. (IR)****Judiciary**

Dram Shop Act extended imposing civil third-party liability for damages caused by intoxication of persons under 21, subrogation claims prohibited, and certain insurance exclusions prohibited.

**HF937—Swenson, D. (IR)****Judiciary**

Failure to stop and give notification at the site of a traffic accident crime sentencing guidelines severity level increased.

**HF938—Swenson, D. (IR)****Judiciary**

DWI; maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered for operation of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, and motorboats.

**HF939—Swenson, H. (IR)****Health & Human Services**

County welfare agency barred from court action to obtain child support in certain circumstances.

**HF940—Macklin (IR)****Health & Human Services**

Welfare fraud provisions extended to family investment plan, AFDC lien enforcement method provided, and AFDC voluntary vendor payments authorized.

**HF941—Osskopp (IR)****Environment & Natural Resources**

NSP; Radioactive waste management facility dry cask storage alternative site requirement eliminated.

**HF942—Swenson, D. (IR)****Judiciary**

Teacher, coach, and other professional school staff criminal background checks required prior to employment.

**HF943—Winter (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan Council diesel-powered transit buses to be installed with ethanol additive systems.

**HF944—Tomassoni (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

Workers' compensation premium collection, employment classification, and procedure and benefit data classified, and penalties provided.

**HF945—Swenson, D. (IR)****Judiciary**

Driving without a valid license and failure to provide or show proof of insurance crimes provided vehicle license plate impoundment penalty.

**HF946—Rest (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Certified public accountant certification and licensure education requirements modified.

**HF947—Johnson, R. (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

Department of Corrections and Department of Human Services security unit employees provided correctional employees retirement plan coverage.

**HF948—Leppik (IR)****Health & Human Services**

Women's health institute established, and money appropriated.

**HF949—Wagenius (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Carbon dioxide emission analysis included in the environmental review of proposed state projects.

**HF950—Wejcman (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

U.S. Army zinc cadmium sulfide aerial spraying report required and attorney general review required.

**HF951—Wejcman (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Mental health professional defined for medical assistance coverage purposes.

**HF952—Luther (DFL)****Transportation & Transit**

Professional sports team and olympic special license plate issuance authorized, fees dedicated to

the amateur sports commission account, and money appropriated.

**HF953—Milbert (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Walleye and Northern Pike size limits modified.

**HF954—Jefferson (DFL)****General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Campaigning on election day prohibition repealed.

**HF955—Dehler (IR)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Morrison County bond issuance authorized for fairgrounds improvements, and referendum required.

**HF956—Dehler (IR)****Housing**

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

**HF957—Goodno (IR)****Regulated Industries & Energy**

WAPA; President and Congress memorialized to abandon the proposed sale of the Western Area Power Administration.

**HF958—Dehler (IR)****Governmental Operations**

Legislators' retirement law clarification provided.

**HF959—Murphy (DFL)****Taxes**

Property tax value increase prohibited for homesteads owned by persons 65 years of age or older with certain income requirements.

**HF960—Bettermann (IR)****Education**

School district aid receipt effect clarified.

**HF961—Opatz (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Health promotion and disease prevention state agency program for state employees extended, and money appropriated.

**HF962—Hugoson (IR)****Education**

Independent School District No. 2536, Granada-Huntley-East Chain, allowed to make a fund transfer.

**HF963—Smith (IR)****Education**

University of Minnesota Board of Regents U.S. citizenship required.

**HF964—Murphy (DFL)****Education**

Independent School District No. 94, Cloquet, time and technology enhanced curriculum school pilot project funding continued, and money appropriated.

**HF965—Finseth (IR)****Education**

Independent School District No. 595, East Grand Forks, authorized to use capital expenditure facilities revenue to acquire and construct buildings.

**HF966—Entenza (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Child support and enforcement provisions modified, and money appropriated.

**HF967—Sviggum (IR)**

**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Canada; Fish importation from Canada to Minnesota restrictions removed.

**HF968—Smith (IR)**

**Governmental Operations**

Teacher Retirement Association member service credit purchase for previously exempt service authorized.

**HF969—Murphy (DFL)**

**Judiciary Finance**

Criminal background check fee authorized and fund dedication provided.

**HF970—Bertram (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Public Employees Retirement Association police and fire fund early retirement reduction factors changed.

**HF971—Tunheim (DFL)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Manufacturer motor vehicle test license plate issuance authorized.

## Thursday, March 2

**HF972—Clark (DFL)**

**Housing**

Lead abatement law technical recodification provided.

**HF973—Rukavina (DFL)**

**Labor-Management Relations**

Boiler inspection provisions modified.

**HF974—Vickerman (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Department of Health environmental laboratory certification fee payment time schedules modified.

**HF975—Boudreau (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Home care Hospice Program home care service definition modified.

**HF976—Orenstein (DFL)**

**Ways & Means**

Human resources, gainsharing, and procurement pilot projects established to improve state agency efficiency and effectiveness.

**HF977—Kelley (DFL)**

**Education**

Library accessibility grant requirements modified, internet revenue and access grants established, on-line service provider contracts provided, and money appropriated.

**HF978—Solberg (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Law enforcement agency use of forfeited weapons provisions modified.

**HF979—Osthoff (DFL)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Port development assistance provided, grant and loan application provisions specified, port development project cost payment provided, and money appropriated.

**HF980—Skoglund (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Manslaughter in the first degree definition modified.

**HF981—Skoglund (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Manslaughter in the first degree reasonable person standard clarified, and murder in the first degree acts clarified.

**HF982—Rest (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Wholesale drug distributor payments from federal agencies and instrumentalities exempted from gross revenue tax.

**HF983—Lourey (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Emergency medical services advisory council, maternal and child health advisory task force, and state community health advisory committee reinstatement provided.

**HF984—Wejcman (DFL)**

**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Minneapolis authorized to issue an on-sale intoxicating liquor license to the local branch of the American Association of University Women.

**HF985—Johnson, R. (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Akeley land conveyance from Department of Natural Resources commissioner required.

**HF986—Wenzel (DFL)**

**Education**

Independent School District No. 482, Little Falls, fund transfer authorized.

**HF987—Murphy (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Criminal arraignment and first court appearance interactive video system use provided.

**HF988—Perl (DFL)**

**Education**

New housing developer school impact fee permitted.

**HF989—Murphy (DFL)**

**Education**

Student operated business grant program established, and money appropriated.

**HF990—Entenza (DFL)**

**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Disabled and handicapped assistive device warranties provided.

**HF991—Sviggum (IR)**

**Education**

School district architectural barrier removal levy restrictions modified.

**HF992—Pugh (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Computer matching agreement requirement sunset eliminated.

**HF993—Jaros (DFL)**

**International Trade & Economic Development**

International council established to coordinate the international activities of state government.

**HF994—Pugh (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

National Guard and Department of Military Affairs weapons prohibition exemption provided.

**HF995—Johnson, R. (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Police state aid excess aid amounts disposition provided to fund an additional amortization aid program.

**HF996—Solberg (DFL)**

**Education**

Terminated education support employees of dissolved districts provided employment.

**HF997—Delmont (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Legislative joint administrative services provided, and legislative commissions and programs abolished.

**HF998—Wejcman (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Day care program licensure required for provision of services to preschool and school age children.

**HF999—Greiling (DFL)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Ethical Practices Board definitions clarified, enforcement powers strengthened, lobbyist activity disclosure requirements expanded, contribution report requirements modified, campaign finance requirements modified, and penalties provided.

**HF1000—Johnson, A. (DFL)**

**Education**

Late activity bus provisions clarified.

**HF1001—Rukavina (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Women in Military Service Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery contribution appropriation provided.

**HF1002—Rukavina (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

State accounting procedures modified, dollar threshold for gifts to the state changed, state debt collection procedures modified, and petroleum tank release cleanup account terminology modified.

**HF1003—Huntley (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

X-ray equipment operator examination and certification required, and advisory committee established.

**HF1004—Sviggum (IR)****Education**

School districts authorized to levy for special assessments.

**HF1005—Onnen (IR)****Health & Human Services**

Mental health services pilot projects authorized, related condition definition modified, consumer support grant program established, home care and waived services assessment provided, and home and community-based services modified.

**HF1006—Jaros (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Prescription drug price negotiation authority granted to administration commissioner, state-wide drug formulary established, and pharmacists required to post signs relating to generic drug substitution.

**HF1007—Ness (IR)****Education**

Advanced placement and international baccalaureate programs funded, and money appropriated.

**HF1008—Bradley (IR)****Judiciary**

Child support, custody, and visitation proceeding orientation and education program established.

**HF1009—McElroy (IR)****Transportation & Transit**

Drivers' license reinstatement fee waived in certain cases.

**HF1010—Kalis (DFL)****Capital Investment**

Water and Soil Resources Board project bond proceed financing report requirements modified.

**HF1011—McElroy (IR)****Transportation & Transit**

Radar speed measuring equipment jamming device sale, use, and possession prohibited.

**HF1012—Dorn (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

Gambling Control Board account created for payment of pull-tab dispensing test cost reimbursement, and money appropriated.

**HF1013—Greenfield (DFL)****Transportation & Transit**

Jerry Haaf memorial drive designated on Trunk Highway No. 55 in Minneapolis.

**HF1014—Hausman (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Wind energy conversion system siting regulated, and rulemaking authorized.

**HF1015—Hausman (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Environmental Quality Board Environmental Review Program modified.

**HF1016—Jaros (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

Duluth Teachers Retirement Association postretirement benefit increase mechanism modified.

**HF1017—Huntley (DFL)****Education**

Duluth Family Practice Residency Program facility capital loan provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1018—Trimble (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Chlorofluorocarbon state regulation brought into compliance with federal law.

**HF1019—Trimble (DFL)****Transportation & Transit**

Native plant program established for highway rest areas, and money appropriated.

**HF1020—Trimble (DFL)****Agriculture**

Aquatic pest control applicator licensure required.

**HF1021—Ness (IR)****Health & Human Services**

Nursing home geographic group provisions modified.

**HF1022—Carruthers (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Real property goods warranty transferability required.

**HF1023—Huntley (DFL)****Education**

Rural psychiatry program established at the University of Minnesota Duluth campus.

**HF1024—Lieder (DFL)****Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance**

Roseville; Water's Edge Building purchased by Department of Transportation commissioner, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1025—Huntley (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Day training and habilitation services payment rate variance provisions modified.

**HF1026—Entenza (DFL)****Judiciary Finance**

Crime Victim and Witness Advisory Council expiration date extended.

**HF1027—Peterson (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Environmental legal assistance pilot project established, and money appropriated.

**HF1028—Opatz (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

St. Cloud Hospital-Mayo Family Practice Residency Program appropriated money.

**HF1029—Milbert (DFL)****Taxes**

Manufactured home park property tax class rate changed.

**HF1030—Kahn (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

Lieutenant Governor office abolished, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1031—Van Engen (IR)****Health & Human Services**

Regional treatment center fund use designated.

**HF1032—Tuma (IR)****Education**

Children with specific learning disabilities pilot program established.

**HF1033—Greiling (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Prescription drug price negotiation authority granted to administration commissioner, state-wide drug formulary established, and pharmacists required to post signs relating to generic drug substitution.

**HF1034—Brown (DFL)****Judiciary Finance**

Corrections industries product purchase required by state agencies.

**HF1035—Wejcman (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Family Preservation Act modified, human services interpretive guidelines defined, and foster care licensure and Drop-in Child Care Program provisions modified.

**HF1036—Orenstein (DFL)****Ways & Means**

Department of Public Safety, Higher Education Coordinating Board, State Racing Commission, Gambling Control Board, State Lottery Board, and Department of Public Service abolished, duties transferred, and new agencies created.

**HF1037—Huntley (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Department of Health commissioner public pool rules enforcement and fee provisions modified, and penalties provided.

**HF1038—Delmont (DFL)****Judiciary**

Sport shooting ranges exempted from noise liability.

**HF1039—Milbert (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Dakota County administrator assigned county board clerk duties.

**HF1040—Kahn (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

State university and community college faculty retirement provisions modified, part-time faculty participation provided, and investment options provided.

**HF1041—Jennings (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Public building and construction contracts regulated, indemnification and insurance agreements provided, and mechanics liens regulated.

**HF1042—Dawkins (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association articles of incorporation and bylaw amendments authorized to provide postretirement adjustments.



**HF1043—McElroy (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Office of the State Treasurer abolished and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1044—Tomassoni (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
School districts authorized to offer early retirement incentives, and teachers permitted to purchase service credit for teaching service in other states.

**HF1045—Marko (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Vietnam veterans claims assistance provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1046—Kinkel (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Teacher licensure alternative measures task force established.

**HF1047—Bakk (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Landfarming contaminated soil reporting to unincorporated townships requirements modified.

**HF1048—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Videotape distribution, sale, and rental regulated, and captioning for deaf or hearing-impaired persons required.

**HF1049—Mahon (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Emergency rescue vehicles exempted from registration tax and fees.

**HF1050—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Rental-purchase agreement lease services cost regulation provided.

**HF1051—Koppendrayr (IR)**  
**Education**  
Education Board eliminated, State Education Advisory Council created, and duties transferred.

**HF1052—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Federal Lien Registration Act provisions modified.

**HF1053—Kelso (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Federal special education references provided, state aid provided for certain school district litigation costs, and money appropriated.

**HF1054—Van Dellen (IR)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Railroad grade crossing repair and safety device installation provided by cities and counties, and cost apportionment provided.

**HF1055—Dauner (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Water and Soil Resources Board secretary position eliminated, board members' compensation increased, and rule approval procedure, review exemption, rule appeals, dispute resolution, and levy authority provided.

**HF1056—Garcia (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Senior citizen driver's license and identification cards to contain transit symbol, employer payroll transit program tax imposed, and public transit route and schedule change planning and consultation required.

**HF1057—Hugoson (IR)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Feedlot local government regulatory authority limited.

**HF1058—Orenstein (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Housing Finance Agency Civil Service Pilot Project waiver requirement clarification provided.

**HF1059—Orenstein (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Government Innovation and Cooperation Board to study the elimination of unfunded state mandates, and money appropriated.

**HF1060—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
South St. Paul fire and police department employees excluded from civil service.

**HF1061—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Education**  
STARS telecommunication program to include public and private schools as eligible system recipients and users.

**HF1062—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Product liability claim state-of-the-art defense established.

**HF1063—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Duluth storm water infiltration and inflow prevention demonstration project authorized.

**HF1064—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Automatic sprinkler installation required in existing high-rise buildings.

**HF1065—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
St. Louis County road and bridge fund accounting and expenditure requirements modified.

**HF1066—Knoblach (IR)**  
**Capital Investment**  
Department of Finance commissioner to establish listing of state bonds and certificates of indebtedness.

**HF1067—Van Engen (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Health Care Provider Transition Plan, birth registration, immunization and other health related data access provisions modified.

**HF1068—Abrams (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Bipartisan congressional and legislative reapportionment commission established, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1069—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Contract for deed mortgagees required to provide vendees with default notice.

**HF1070—Abrams (IR)**  
**Ways & Means**  
State agency fee cap provided.

**HF1071—Vickerman (IR)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Workers' compensation rate calculation modified.

**HF1072—Vickerman (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Springfield hospital and clinic physicians provided public employees retirement association membership termination.

**HF1073—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Transit and paratransit facilities and equipment financing authorized, and metro mobility capital cost funding limitations removed.

**HF1074—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Unicameral legislature provided with 102 to 135 members, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1075—Vickerman (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
State adoption exchange listing required for all children freed for adoption within 20 days.

**HF1076—Rhodes (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Absent parent child support liability and parentage recognition provisions modified, administrative proceedings added, and child support collection provisions expanded.

**HF1077—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
MinnesotaCare; integrated service network requirements established, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

# Committee Schedule

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

## MONDAY, March 6

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Department of Public Service. Minnesota Community Action Association: weatherization, energy assistance, head start, community services block grants.

### University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Presentation of reports by Dr. Josie Johnson, associate vice president for Academic Affairs with responsibility for Minority Affairs, University of Minnesota. A five year progress report on tenure and tenure track faculty and academic administrators of color: recruitment and retention. A five year progress report on the status of students of color: enrollment and graduation rate.

### K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Public testimony on Article 4 (community education) and Article 8 (other education programs) of the governor's budget recommendations.

### Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing Division/ TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** HF91 (Johnson, V.) Conservation credit pilot program established in Houston County, property tax credits provided, and money appropriated.

HF260 (Munger) Western Lake Superior sanitary district bonding authority allocation provided.

HF322 (Pugh) Apartment property tax class rate reduction provided over a two-year period.

HF449 (Mulder) Pipestone County bond issuance authorized for county courthouse repair.

HF684 (Van Engen) Recreational property occupied by a relative homestead qualification time period reduced.

HF188 (Knight) Valuation exclusion for improvements to certain residential property (This Old House Law) provided.

8:30 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources budget presentation.

10 a.m.

### AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

**Agenda:** HF363 (Winter) Farmer-Lender Mediation Act sunset date eliminated.

HF486 (Peterson) Value-Added Agricultural Product Loan Program eligibility expanded, and money appropriated.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Presentation on appropriation authority of the legislative and executive branches, Office of the Legislative Auditor.

HF595 (Osskopp) Finance commissioner granted authority over debts owed to the state.

HF625 (Orenstein) Debt collection entity established within the Department of Revenue, duties and powers imposed, data disclosure provided, collection penalty imposed, and money appropriated.

### JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** HF544 (Hasskamp) Informal probate guide prepared by state court administrator, and money appropriated.

HF344 (Leighton) Common Interest Ownership Act modified, curative and validating law for mortgage foreclosures changed, and assignment form and record provided.

HF367 (Macklin) Municipal subcontractor prompt payment provided; and statutory lienholder rights and performance bond provisions modified.

HF651 (Macklin) Uniform probate code provi-

sions modified, safe deposit box search authority expanded, division and merger of trusts provisions modified, and power-of-attorney granted to spouses in certain cases.

HF529 (Pugh) Eminent domain notice of pendency provisions modified.

HF272 (Lynch) Interference with privacy crime to include intrusion on occupants of hotel sleeping rooms and tanning booths.

HF735 (Entenza) Concealing identity crime exception provided based on religious beliefs or cultural practices.

HF279 (Solberg) Public defender dismissal causes restricted, and dismissal and appeal procedures provided.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

**Agenda:** Department of Public Service telecommunications bill.

HF620 (Olson, E.) Telephone company alternative regulation provided for limited periods, local exchange service competition promoted, and technical provisions modified.

HF323 (Dawkins) Nursing facility rental per diem adjustment allowed.

### Reports, Mandates, Litigation and Free Speech Issues Working Group/Joint Higher Education Finance Division and University of Minnesota Finance Division/EDUCATION

300N State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Continuation of agendas from past meetings.

12:30 p.m.

### Elections Division/ GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

400N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** SF35 (Marty); HF167 (Jefferson) Voter registration and absentee voting requirements modified, and penalties imposed.

HF289 (Jefferson) Election law modification and clarification provided.

### HOUSING

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** HF712 (Luther) Brooklyn Park rental tax equity pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF380 (Dawkins) Metropolitan area home-

stead program established; contract for deed home purchase assistance provided; construction community impact statements required; rental tax equity pilot project established, and money appropriated.

#### **LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Johnson

**Agenda:** HF414 (Peterson) Businesses receiving state financial assistance required to pay a living wage.

HF733 (Bakk) High pressure pipe installation licensure requirements modified, and penalties provided.

#### **Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs/**

#### **GENERAL LEGISLATION,**

#### **VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS**

300N State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Betty McCollum, Joe Opatz

**Agenda:** To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

Immediately following Session

#### **REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

**Agenda:** Continuation of morning agenda.

4 p.m.

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

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** HF307 (Pelowski) Higher Education Coordinating Board abolished, and higher education services office and higher education administrators council established.

Presentations by Frank Viggiano, executive director, Minnesota State University Student Association; Chris Lynch, president, Minnesota Community College Student Association; Roy Taylor, executive director, Minnesota College Student Association.

6 p.m.

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

St. Paul Technical College

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Governor's budget recommendations.

## **TUESDAY, March 7**

8 a.m.

#### **EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Continuation of presentation by the State Board of Education on proposed draft of the desegregation rule.

#### **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Agency budget presentations: Tax Court, Sentencing Guidelines Commission. Working groups will be assigned. Agency and program directors should be present to meet with working group members.

#### **Transportation Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** HF210 (Carlson) Minnesota identification card fee changed.

HF395 (Marko) Road powered electric vehicle (RPEV) demonstration project and study appropriated money.

HF794 (Clark) Motor vehicle transfer fee sunset repealed, and fee receipts credited to the lead fund.

SF50 (Ourada); HF6 (Anderson, B.) Betty Adkins Bridge designated in Elk River on trunk highway Nos. 101 and 169 connecting Wright and Sherburne counties.

8:30 a.m.

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

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources budget presentation.

10 a.m.

#### **Financial Aid and Tuition Policy Working Group/Joint Higher Education Finance Division and University of Minnesota Finance Division/EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Continuation of agendas from past meetings.

#### **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Any bills not completed at the March 2nd meeting.

HF138 (Kahn) Gambling department created; Racing Commission, Gambling Control Board, and State Lottery Board abolished and duties transferred.

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

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** HF432 (Sykora) Child abuse investigation liability provisions modified, attorney fees provided, abuse investigation protocols established, and data access provided.

HF61 (Onnen) Long-term care localization advisory commission established, and report and plan required.

HF510 (Clark) Pesticide poisoning treatment included as an emergency service for general assistance medical care eligibility purposes, pesticide poisoning reporting and education required, and money appropriated.

HF682 (Carruthers) Health plan carrier organizational provisions modified.

HF765 (Delmont) Visually handicapped reference changed to visually disabled for state services for the blind purposes.

HF813 (Brown) Intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation or related conditions temporary payment rate established.

#### **Property Tax &**

#### **Tax Increment Financing Division/ TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** HF431 (Orfield) Metropolitan area property tax equalization provided. (continued)

All committee members are welcome to attend the hearing for testimony and debate on the bill.

12:30 p.m.

#### **COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** HF108 (Simoneau) Tobacco retailer inspections, training, and reports required.

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

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** HF653 (Perlt) Oakdale tax increment financing districts exempted from certain restrictions.

HF810 (Dorn) Mankato authorized to establish tax increment financing districts, and aid offset exemption provided.

HF928 (Harder) Lakefield tax increment financing districts established, state aid offset exemption provided, and regional tax capacity defined.

HF955 (Dehler) Morrison County bond issu-

ance authorized for fairgrounds improvements, and referendum required.

HF585 (Orfield) Metropolitan government obsolete references removed and language clarified.

HF763 (Farrell) St. Paul tax increment financing districts exempted from certain aid offsets. HF912 (Osskopp) Lake City tax increment financing district duration extended.

2:30 p.m.

#### HOUSING

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** HF380 (Dawkins) Metropolitan area homestead program established; contract for deed home purchase assistance provided; construction community impact statements required; rental tax equity pilot project established, and money appropriated.

4:30 p.m.

#### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** HF610 (Farrell) Truancy prevention and school safety projects appropriated money.

### WEDNESDAY, March 8

8 a.m.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Minnesota Technology, Inc.

#### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** HF412 (Bertram) Community colleges, state universities, and technical colleges required to use construction plans prepared through the Department of Administration. HF487 (Pelowski) State university and college library appropriations exempted from the one-third debt service requirement.

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

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Article 10 of governor's budget (public libraries). Any bills relating to Article 10.

#### Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing Division/ TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** HF147 (Ozment) Tax increment financing use restricted, and additional disclosure required.

HF824 (Rest) School board approval required for tax increment financing plans and modifications.

8:30 a.m.

#### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources budget presentation.

#### Higher Education

##### Board Candidate Advisory Council

123 State Capitol

**Agenda:** Election of 1995 chair and vice chair. Briefings by Governor Carlson or his representative; Gary Mohrenweiser, chair, HEB; Jay Noren, chancellor, HEB. HEB/CAC procedures: statute review, Tom Stafford, Senate Counsel and Research. Recruitment finalized. Selection and balloting process finalized (including issue of attendance at interviews).

10 a.m.

#### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** HF672 (Wagenius) Waste Management Act provisions modified. (Meeting to be continued at 4:30 p.m. or after caucus, whichever comes first).

#### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

**Agenda:** HF677 (Tomassoni) Insurance coverage regulated, and notice provisions, enforcement provisions, fees, and licenses modified, and technical changes provided.

HF747 (Paulson) Department of Commerce insurance solvency, reinsurance, capital stock, general agent management, and variable contract information confidentiality regulation provided.

#### Subcommittee on Civil Law/JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Pugh

**Agenda:** HF348 (Kinkel) Child support arrearage interest accrual provisions modified.

HF935 (Farrell) Child support and enforcement provisions modified.

HF966 (Entenza) Child support and enforcement provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF1076 (Rhodes) Child support modifications. HF845 (Swenson, D.) Child support obligation and enforcement provisions modified.

12:30 p.m.

#### Business Regulation Division/ COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

**Agenda:** Begin work on division bill.

#### TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** HF439 (Onnen) Alternative fuel vehicle permit fee partial refund allowed, and money appropriated.

HF175 (Knoblach) Bridge of hope designated on Trunk Highway No. 15 crossing the Mississippi River near St. Cloud.

HF654 (Lieder) Town board authority clarified to alter or vacate town roads dedicated by plat. HF568 (Frerichs) Eye protection required for motorcycle riders.

#### WAYS & MEANS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

**Agenda:** Report on February forecast, Laura King, commissioner, Department of Finance.

1 p.m.

#### INTERNATIONAL TRADE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

**Agenda:** HF869 (Clark) Businesses receiving state financial assistance required to pay a living wage and increase employment.

HF873 (Van Dellen) Advantage Minnesota Inc., economic development corporate structure modified.

HF885 (Lourey) Microenterprise support program established, and money appropriated.

HFXXX (Jaros) Establishing the Minnesota International Council.

4 p.m.

#### University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Presentation on the future of the Academic Health Center at the University of Minnesota, William Brody, M.D., Ph.D., provost,



Academic Health Center, University of Minnesota.

4:30 p.m. or after caucus

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** Continuation of morning agenda.

4:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Administrative Rules/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mindy Greiling

**Agenda:** HF830 (Greiling) Administrative rule adoption and review procedures revised.

**Subcommittee on Data Practices/  
JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire

**Agenda:** HF772 (Farrell) Protected witness name changes classified as private data.

HF257 (McGuire) Tax data classification provisions modified.

HF538 (McGuire) Secretary of state authorized access to individuals' social security numbers in certain circumstances.

HF546 (McGuire) Child abuse victim videotape release limited.

HF376 (Van Engen) Department of Economic Security data classification provided.

Other bills to be announced.

**Subcommittee on Rules/RULES &  
LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

400N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Betty McCollum

**Agenda:** Permanent Rules of the House.

6 p.m.

**Legislative Commission on  
Pensions and Retirement**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** HF99 (Brown) Public employees prior service credit purchase authorized.

SF234 (Solon); HF293 (Jaros) St. Louis County employee authorized service credit purchase for on-leave military service.

HF493 (Jefferson) Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund health insurance administrative provisions modified.

SF460 (Metzen); HF689 (Pugh) West St. Paul Police Relief Association deceased member spouse benefit eligibility provided.

Increase in Fire State Aid apportionments.

SF17 (Bertram); HF48 (Bertram) Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

HF134 (Bertram) Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

HF155 (Cooper) Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

HF163 (Leighton) Firefighter state aid increase provided.

HF165 (Schumacher) Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

SF256 (Runbeck); HF313 (Hackbarth) Gross premium insurance company tax rates changed.

HF424 (Hasskamp) Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

HF755 (Johnson, R.) Insurance company gross premium tax rate modified for fire, lightning, and sprinkler coverage.

SF754 (Solon); HF864 (Jefferson) Insurance company gross premium tax rate modified.

HF947 (Johnson, R.) Department of Corrections and Department of Human Services security unit employees provided correctional employees retirement plan coverage.

SF149 (Chandler); HF128 (McCollum) North St. Paul city manager allowed to retain membership in public employees police and fire fund.  
HF223 (Skoglund) Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund member granted temporary survivor benefit option.

SF643 (Langseth); HF688 (Dauner) Water quality best management practices assessment required, well sealing cost share grants increased, and money appropriated.

SF725 (Kelly); HF799 (Trimble) Conservation easement assessment benefit determination, zoning and planning, Metropolitan Council land use decisions, and metropolitan agricultural preserves provisions clarified.

HF968 (Smith) Teacher Retirement Association member service credit purchase for previously exempt service authorized.

SF189 (Morse); HF463 (Johnson, R.) State trooper retirement contribution rates and annuity formulas modified.

SF766 (Metzen); HF923 (Johnson, R.) Correctional employees contribution rates and annuity formulas modified.

7 p.m.

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

Central Middle School, White Bear Lake  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Governor's budget recommendations.

**Joint Working Group on Victim Services/  
Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/  
WAYS & MEANS/JUDICIARY FINANCE**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

**Agenda:** Open testimony.

**THURSDAY, March 9**

8 a.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Public Utilities Commission.

**EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** HF702 (Lieder) School safety patrols authorized to include nonpupil adults as members.

HF868 (Johnson, A.) Children's services assessment and case management procedures report required.

HF849 (Seagren) Education funding provisions modified, special and community programs provided, organization and cooperation provided, commitment to excellence provided, library provisions modified, and state agency duties provided.

**JUDICIARY FINANCE**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Agency budget presentations: Private Detectives Board, Ombudsman for Corrections, Board of Judicial Standards. (If agenda is not completed, it will be continued later at an announced time.)

**MinnesotaCare Finance Division/  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources budget presentation.

10 a.m.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** HF431 (Orfield) Metropolitan area property tax equalization provided.

12:30 p.m.

**Elections Division/  
GENERAL LEGISLATION,  
VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dee Long  
**Agenda:** HF859 (Clark) Minneapolis authorized to determine method for sale of unclaimed property.  
HF715 (Schumacher) Town board adoption of recorded town road map damages paid to property owners.  
HF717 (Cooper) Town roads crossing state lands official confirmation provided.  
HF866 (Osskopp) Home rule charter and statutory cities authorized to make grants to non-profit community food shelves.

**Subcommittee on Real Estate and Commerce/  
COMMERCE, TOURISM &  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Walter Perl  
**Agenda:** HF817 (Marko) Residential real estate transaction disclosure form designed by Department of Commerce commissioner and use implemented.  
Other bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

After Session

**AGRICULTURE**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel  
**Agenda:** HF622 (Tunheim) Wetland management and protection provisions modified.

**RULES &  
LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

400N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers  
**Agenda:** Permanent Rules of the House.

One half hour after Session

**Government Efficiency &  
Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein  
**Agenda:** HF1036 (Orenstein) Relating to state departments; abolishing the Department of Public Safety, the Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Minnesota Racing Commission, the Gambling Control Board, and the Department of Public Service; transferring certain responsibilities and personnel to other state agencies; creating new agencies; reducing certain appropriations.

(Testimony only. No vote will be taken.)

**FRIDAY, March 10**

8 a.m.

**Joint Higher Education Finance Division and  
University of Minnesota Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso  
**Agenda:** Overview of private colleges, Dr. Larry Osnes, president, Hamline University; other private college faculty and students. Overview of private college financial aid report, Jon McGee, vice president, Research and Policy Development, Minnesota Private College Council; Dr. David Laird, president, Minnesota Private College Council.

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

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson  
**Agenda:** Presentation of Article 11 of governor's budget (discontinued/nonrecurring programs).

**Transportation Finance Division/  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger  
**Agenda:** HF713 (Winter) Feedlot regulatory authority granted to local governments.  
HFXXXX (Johnson, V.) Pollution Control Agency water quality initiative.  
Other bills to be announced.

**Gambling Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Dorn  
**Agenda:** SF46 (Metzen); HF364 (Pugh) Lawful purpose expenditures; gross profit percentage increase provided for expenditure for allowable expenses.  
HF542 (Pellow) Lawful purpose expenditures by or to tax exempt organizations regulated.  
Other bills may be added.

**Government Efficiency &  
Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein  
**Agenda:** HF976 (Orenstein) Relating to state government; establishing various pilot projects to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state agencies.  
HF1036 (Orenstein) Relating to state departments; abolishing the Department of Public Safety, the Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Minnesota Racing Commission, the Gambling Control Board, and the Department of Public Service; transferring certain responsibilities and personnel to other state agencies; creating new agencies; reducing certain appropriations.  
Testimony only, no vote.

**JUDICIARY**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund  
**Agenda:** Public input and reaction to the legislative auditor's report, *Residential Facilities for Juvenile Offenders*. Interactive TV will be used for citizen input from Duluth.

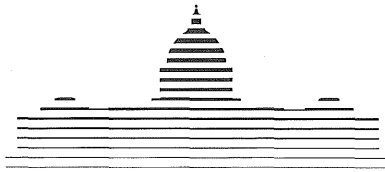
**Subcommittee on Transportation Safety/  
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Mahon  
**Agenda:** HF848 (Luther) Metropolitan Council transit vehicle security measure appropriations provided.

1:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Civil Law/JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Pugh  
**Agenda:** Any bill not completed on March 8th agenda.  
HF628 (Bishop) Parental right termination; presumption of refusal or neglect of parental duties created.  
HF53 (Lourey) Grandparent and great-grandparent visitation rights expanded.  
HF117 (Smith) Visitation interference or denial provided as grounds for custody order modification.  
HF118 (Smith) Child support fund use accounting required by support recipients.  
HF421 (Smith) Noncustodial parent child care authorized in certain cases.  
HF418 (Hackbarth) Child support order modification grounds established by existence of other children.  
HF239 (Osskopp) Marriage contracts provided and pre-marriage counseling required.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
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Speaker of the House: Irv Anderson  
Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Minnesota housing

Number of Minnesota households, 1990 .....	1,647,853
Households without a telephone .....	39,548
Households made up of people who live alone .....	1 in 4
Percent of households that are renters .....	28.2
Median rent, statewide .....	\$422
Percentage of change in the number of households in Dakota County during the 1980s .....	53.4
Percentage of change in the number of households in Big Stone County during the 1980s .....	-14.3
Hennepin County homes valued at more than \$100,000 .....	1 in 4
In Dakota County .....	1 in 3
Number of Minnesota households paying more than \$1,000 monthly rent ....	3,480
Number paying less than \$250 .....	103,986
As a percent of all rental households .....	22.4
Number of Minnesota's 87 counties with no rental housing priced over \$499 per month, 1990 .....	3
Number of mobile homes and trailers in Minnesota, 1990 .....	90,546
In St. Louis County, most in Minnesota .....	5,052
In Jackson County, fewest in Minnesota .....	108
Median household income for mobile home and trailer owners .....	\$25,724
For all other homeowners .....	\$41,988
Reported median purchase price paid by residents of a mobile home .....	\$13,553
Median price of an existing single-family home in the 7-county Metro area, 1993 .....	\$98,740
Residential building permits issued in the seven-county Metro area, 1993 ...	15,882
In 1988 .....	18,850
Funds allocated for the state Transitional Housing Program, FY1993-94 ..	\$860,000
Households served by the program, FY1993 .....	667

Sources: *Population Notes*, May 1992, Minnesota Planning Agency; *1990 Census of Housing, Detailed Housing Characteristics: Minnesota*, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, 1993; *Manufactured Homes and Manufactured Home Parks, Treatment in Minnesota Law*, House Research Department; Minnesota Department of Economic Security.



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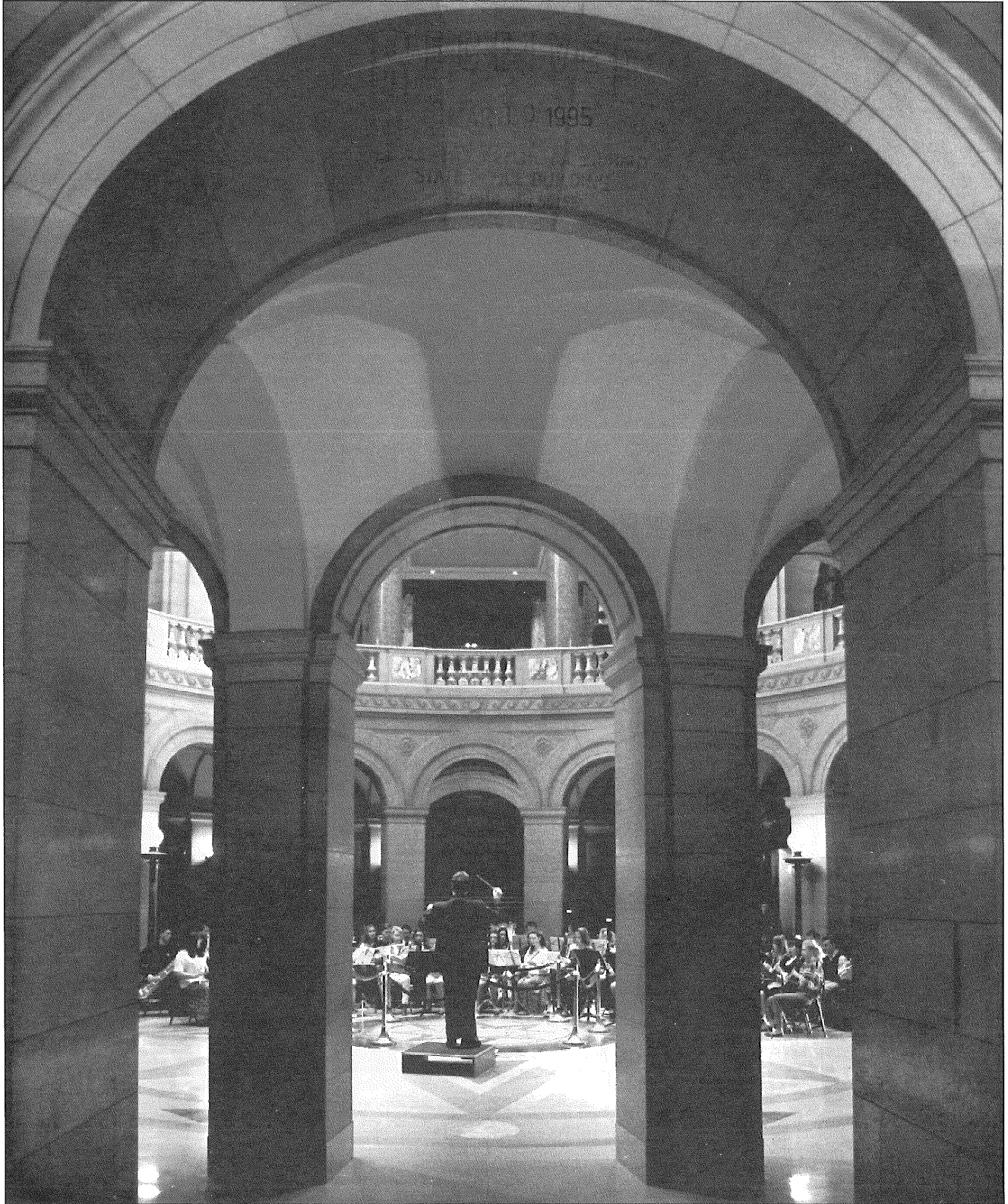
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# SESSION WEEKLY

A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ March 10, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 10





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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • March 10, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 10

## Week at a glance

**Living wage** — Businesses receiving more than \$25,000 per year in state financial assistance — whether grants, loans, or tax breaks — would have to pay their employees more than \$7 per hour, under a bill moving through the House. .... **Page 5**

**Pay it or park it!** — Parents who are at least \$1,000 behind in their child support payments could lose their driver's license, under a bill heard by a House panel. .... **Page 5**

**Punishing more peepers** — Currently, it is a crime to peep in windows or secretly photograph or video tape outside someone's home. But a bill moving through the House would extend the Peeping Tom law to include hotel rooms and tanning booths. .... **Page 6**

**Absentee expansion** — Any eligible voter could cast an absentee ballot up to 30 days before any election, under a bill approved by a House panel. Currently, Minnesota allows only absentee votes from people who will be absent from their precinct on election day, are hospitalized, ill, disabled, or can't vote on election day for religious reasons. .... **Page 7**

**Money back guarantee** — A House panel approved two bills that would enable Minnesotans to get their money back from a state agency if they apply for a license, permit, or other type of document — including a driver's license — and don't receive it within six weeks. .... **Page 9**

**Pesticide poisoning** — A bill to establish a voluntary pesticide poisoning reporting network and to conduct a study of the extent of pesticide poisoning in Minnesota passed the House Health and Human Services Committee. .... **Page 10**

**A sense of timing** — Rep. Jim Knoblach believes timing is everything. He knew when to sell his direct mail business, and he knew when to run for office. He had planned to seek public office for a while but waited. And, when his state representative, Dave Gruenes, decided not to run again, the door opened. .... **Page 14**

**House doctor writes Rx for Minnesota** — Rep. Richard Mulder isn't filling out prescriptions for his fellow lawmakers and staff but has one for Minnesota: "reinvent the family" and ensure that people "have a proper income so that the state won't have to do everything for them because the state's a poor mother. The state just can't raise children like good parents can." .... **Page 15**

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On the cover: Bruce Felt, band instructor at Lincoln Senior High School in Thief River Falls, conducts the wind ensemble during a concert in the Capitol rotunda March 7. The performance, sponsored by the Minnesota Music Educators Association, promoted arts in education.

—photo by Tom Olmscheid

# Highlights

Redistributing the wealth . . .

## Plan shifts tax wealth to central cities, older suburbs

A measure that would shift a portion of the property tax base from some richer suburbs to less wealthy inner ring suburbs, St. Paul, and Minneapolis was narrowly approved by a House tax division March 7.

The controversial measure, sponsored by Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls), was approved on a 7-5 vote of the Taxes Committee's Property Tax and Tax Increment Financing Division. **HF431** now moves to the full Taxes Committee for consideration.

The bill would mandate that property taxes drop in 85 percent of the metro area. But critics of the plan say that means taxes would increase in the remaining 15 percent of the region — particularly in the wealthy western suburbs.

The "Metropolitan Area Fair Tax Base Act" is the latest in a three-year legislative effort by Orfield to get the wealthier suburbs to play a greater role in sharing the social burden faced by central cities and aging, middle class suburbs.

But while his efforts in the last two years focused on housing — which were both vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson — this bill is aimed at sharing tax wealth. (Orfield does, however, have a second bill that addresses housing concerns.)

"Any kind of taxing should be related to justice," said the Rev. John Buttrey of United

Church of Christ in New Brighton, who testified in support of Orfield's bill.

The Orfield measure is designed to shift property taxes collected on expensive homes to areas where the homes are generally more modest.

Here's how it would work:

Local communities would keep the property tax revenue generated on the first \$200,000 of market value of homesteaded property.

But tax revenue generated from the value of homes that is greater than \$200,000 would be shifted into an area-wide pool that would then be redistributed.

That redistribution would occur in the same way as is currently the practice under the 1971 "fiscal disparities" law, which served as the model for Orfield's bill.

Under that law, individual communities in the seven-county area share with other communities a portion of the taxes raised on commercial and industrial property.

While that program results in a pool of about \$270 million that is shared every year, it is estimated that Orfield's bill would initially produce just \$44 million — or about 16 percent as much revenue to be shared.

Orfield argues that distributing the wealth throughout the region will help stem the exodus of businesses and people from older communities to newer ones. State Farm In-

surance of Roseville, for example, moved its headquarters to Woodbury, and West Publishing recently moved to Eagan from downtown St. Paul.

As for counties, the losers would be Carver and Hennepin, while Anoka, Dakota, Ramsey, Scott would stand to gain. (The effect on Washington County is too close to call.)

That led Hennepin County Commissioner Mike Opat to call the bill "a misplaced effort."

And as for cities, the losers would largely be in western Hennepin County (see chart, page 4).

But affluent areas in nearly every county — except Anoka and Scott — would also suffer losses.

That led several Independent-Republican committee members, who represent some of those wealthier communities, to sharply criticize Orfield's plan.

Rep. H. Todd Van Dellen (IR-Plymouth) said residents in many of the wealthier areas already pay a greater share of their incomes in property taxes than do residents in many of the poorer, northern suburbs, which would gain under Orfield's bill (see chart, page 4).

"If anything, they [the statistics] should cause the Legislature to reconsider whether current tax-base sharing programs have over-compensated northern tier suburbs," Van Dellen wrote in a memo to committee members.

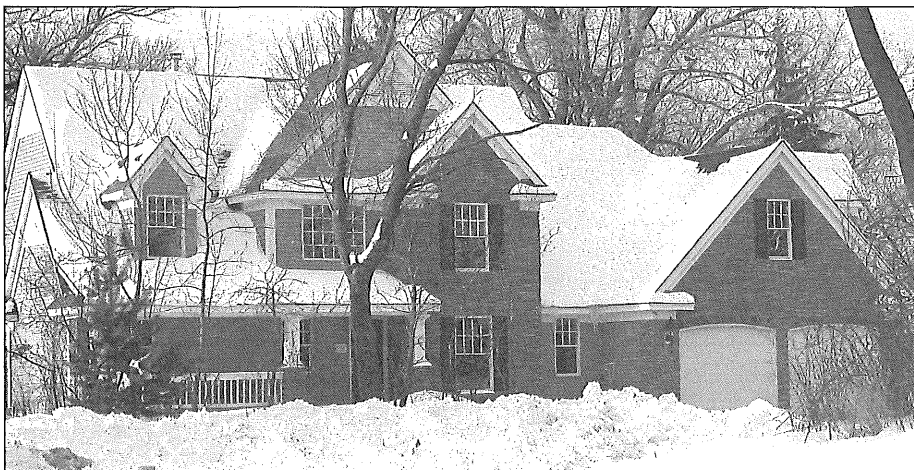
Orfield's plan would cause taxes in the Plymouth area to jump even higher, which would drive more senior citizens from their homes, he said.

Van Dellen characterized Orfield's bill as a "meat ax approach" to a problem that would be better served through a program similar to the "circuit breaker" tax break, which is designed to give property tax relief for people with modest incomes.

Orfield, however, attempted to minimize the partisan rift by repeatedly referring to former Republican Rep. Charlie Weaver Sr., who authored the original fiscal disparities law after which his bill is patterned.

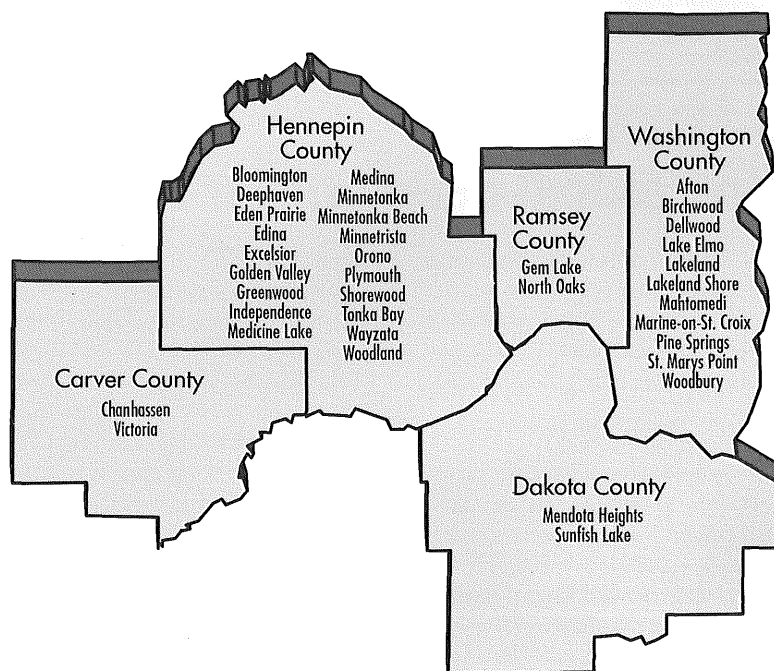
"We should expand gently that wonderful program of Mr. Weaver's," he said.

— Grant Moos



A portion of the property taxes on some homes valued at more than \$200,000 would go into a special pool to be distributed to less wealthy areas, under a bill being considered by the House.

## Cities that would lose property tax income



Source: House Research Department

House Information graphic

According to preliminary calculations these cities would stand to lose a portion of their property tax revenue under HF431. Although Excelsior, Golden Valley, and Lake Elmo are listed, they are very close to the break-even point.

### Percentage of average individual income spent on property taxes in 1993

#### Western suburbs

Eden Prairie .....	2.85
Orono .....	2.76
Minnetonka .....	2.76
Edina .....	2.63
Plymouth .....	2.42

Source: House Research Department

#### Northern suburbs

Blaine .....	2.25
Brooklyn Center .....	2.35
Brooklyn Park .....	2.25
New Hope .....	2.31
Champlin .....	2.18
Anoka .....	2.57



## BUSINESS

### May I see some ID, please?

Store owners would have to tell their employees it is illegal to sell tobacco products to minors, under a bill the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee approved March 7.

Another part of the proposal would require cities and counties to conduct "sting" operations (send underage teens into stores to try to purchase cigarettes) to test compliance with state law barring tobacco sales to minors.

Sponsored by Rep. Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley), the bill (HF108) would make employers "conduct a training program" for their employees that "instructs them about

the law, the related penalties, and the employer's policy with regard to tobacco sales."

"Is there a store that doesn't do that already?" asked Assistant Attorney General Doug Blanke.

The Office of the Attorney General, along with anti-smoking groups, is supporting an alternate bill (HF903) that would license tobacco sellers and institute graduated fines against retailers who sell to minors.

Simoneau told the committee that his measure was part of the omnibus health and human services bill that passed the House and Senate in 1994, but was vetoed by the governor.

Although HF108 eventually won approval by a large margin, most of those testifying criticized the proposal.

A flyer distributed to lawmakers by the

Smoke Free 2000 Coalition characterized the measure as a "tobacco industry bill... a sham solution to the problem of reducing illegal sales to minors."

Judy Knapp, the coalition's director, said "minors can easily purchase tobacco products 50 to 75 percent of the time" both in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and in greater Minnesota.

A store employee who sells tobacco to a minor can be charged with a gross misdemeanor, punishable by one year in jail and a \$3,000 fine, but "current law puts no responsibility on the retail establishment itself," said Blanke. He suggested that tougher measures are needed to "break the cycle of teenage cigarette addiction."

Rep. Jim Rice (DFL-St. Paul) termed the bill a "thinly veiled attempt to keep us from doing something meaningful to help our kids."

Committee chair Rep. John Sarna (DFL-Mpls) assured members they will have an opportunity to vote on the more stringent HF903, which will be considered by the committee on March 14.

HF108 now goes to the House floor.

### 'Corporate welfare'

What goes for people on welfare should go for "corporate welfare" recipients, according to Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls).

Clark is sponsoring a bill (HF869) to require businesses that receive state money for economic development and job creation to meet standards concerning the addition of new jobs and employee salaries.

"If we're going to invest in a business, then let's get something back and let's know what it is," Clark told members of the House International Trade and Economic Development Committee March 8.

The bill stipulates that companies receiving more than \$25,000 from the state in the form of grants, loans, or some tax breaks such as tax increment financing, must pay employees "a livable wage" and produce net job growth within two years.

The bill does not spell out a livable wage, but committee members discussed figures between \$7 and \$14 per hour.

The wage and job growth standards would not apply to companies that receive other tax cuts or other waivers, but the bill would require the legislative auditor to report on the jobs created and wages paid by companies receiving all forms of corporate help.

Mel Duncan, executive director of the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action, said scrutiny of state spending should not stop

with the "spotlight focused thus far" on reforming the welfare system.

"We have not yet seen a flashlight that has been focused on corporate public assistance," he said during testimony in support of the bill.

Under the bill, companies that fail to pay a "livable wage" would have to pay their local county human services department a sum double the difference between the wages required and the wages actually paid.

Companies that fit the state definition of a small business — those with no more than 20 employees and a gross annual revenue of less than \$1 million — would be exempt from the requirements.

Opposition to the bill came from business officials who said it would hurt companies and their employees.

Judy Cook, president of Minnesota Retail Merchants Association, said the bill could cause inflation and job loss and put Minnesota at a disadvantage in the "fierce competition among states" to attract new businesses.

"It certainly sends a message to the business community. . . that you're not wanted here," she said.

But Gordon Voss, a former House member who said he was testifying as a citizen, supported the "concept of the bill" to improve accountability in state spending. "We're talking hundreds of millions of dollars with very little reflective look back on it," Voss said.

The committee is expected to take up the bill again soon.

## Let's make a deal

Businesses receiving more than \$25,000 per year in state financial assistance — in the form of grants, loans, tax increment financing (TIF) or other tax breaks — would have to pay their employees over \$7 per hour, under a bill heard by the House Labor-Management Relations Committee March 6.

The bill would require such companies to pay a "living wage" to all their employees. A "living wage" is defined as the "federal poverty level for a family of four" — or \$7.28 per hour.

The Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED) would have to compile an annual list of all businesses that meet the \$25,000 annual aid standard.

Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison), the bill's sponsor, said Minnesota supports businesses through various subsidies but at the same time tells workers that "you have to live on substandard wages."

Many Minnesotans "can't buy the cars, can't buy the things on Main Street, can't partake in this society" because of stagnant

and falling wage levels, according to Peterson.

He said that "if it's good public policy to make sure economic development goes forward in the state," then companies receiving state aid should "pay up."

It was unclear exactly how many companies would be affected by the legislation.

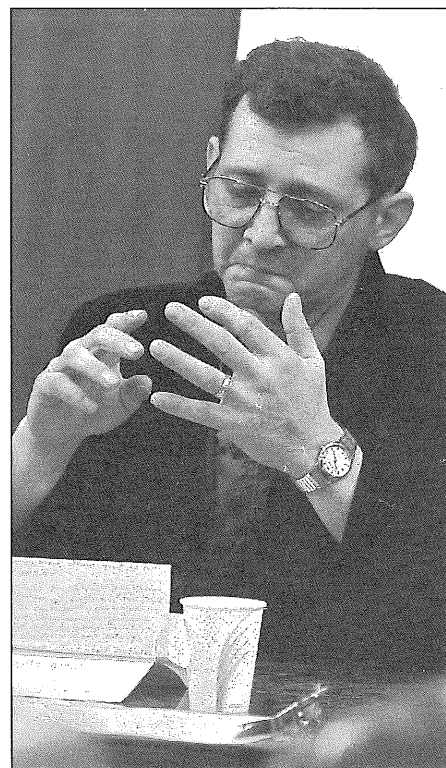
Jenny Engh, DTED deputy commissioner, said that the "definitions are so broad" — the inclusion of all companies within TIF districts, for example — that it's hard to know which businesses would come under the law.

Engh mentioned four DTED programs that offered loans and grants to a total of 155 state businesses last year. Because some of these companies are just starting up, and are paying lower starting wages to trainees, the bill "would hurt the very companies we're trying to assist," she said.

Representatives of several business associations also spoke against the measure.

The "high cost of doing business in Minnesota" forces companies to seek state financial aid, according to David Olson, president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce.

Olson suggested that lowering commercial and industrial property taxes and workers' compensation insurance premiums would



Ray Avelsgard of Park Rapids testified before members of the House Judiciary's Civil Law Subcommittee March 8. He was in favor of a bill that would encourage parents who are behind in their child support to pay up. Interest would stop accumulating on delinquent child support for those parents who are on time with their payments for three years straight.

be a better course than mandating wage levels that employers must pay.

Peterson said that some changes will be made to the bill. **HF414** will be considered again at a future meeting of the Labor-Management Relations Committee.



## CHILDREN

### Collecting child support

Parents who are at least \$1,000 delinquent in their child support payments could lose their driver's license, under a bill heard by a House panel March 8.

The driver's license suspension is just one of several new tools lawmakers are seeking to garner the hundreds of millions that are owed to Minnesota kids in failed child support payments.

The "pay it or park it" provision would notify those owing at least \$1,000 in child support that they have 90 days to work out a payment plan with the county or the court. Failure to do so would result in a suspended driver's license. (The debtor may request a hearing on the matter.)

Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey III told members of the House Judiciary Committee's Civil Law Subcommittee that as of July 1994, Minnesota kids were owed \$551 million in delinquent support payments.

"This is real money. . . This [provision] is welfare reform, and would do more for reform than anything else [now] being considered," Humphrey said.

There are currently 91,600 Minnesota child support cases involving families on public assistance.

The provision of **HF966** is modeled after a current Maine law which has generated \$21 million in collections since its 1992 inception. It cost the state \$70,000 to implement the program. Only 39 drivers' licenses have been suspended.

Bill sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) called the Maine program a successful deterrent. He said the goal is to collect money, and to "make sure individuals are not unfairly treated."

But Mark Nygaard, speaking for Remember Kids in Divorce Settlements (R-KIDS), called the bill punitive, and its methods "Draconian."

"If you want compliance, you don't treat people like a piece of garbage . . . that's what we are doing here," Nygaard said. He questioned what percentage of non-payment cases were due to "willful noncompliance" and



how many were simply because of an inability to pay.

Other provisions of the bill include:

- making the state (or person owed child support) a "secured party" listed on the motor vehicle title of someone at least \$1,000 delinquent in child support payments. When such a vehicle, valued at more than \$4,500, is sold, the seller keeps \$4,500 and the state or the person owed child support would get the rest;
- establishing a "support or service" pilot project which would make able-bodied debtors without jobs perform community service work. They could be made to work up to 32 hours per week for six weeks. Entenza said a similar Wisconsin program has proven to be an incentive for debtors to find work, and has resulted in improved child support compliance;
- creating a "cooperation for the kids" pilot project designed to address issues of custody and visitation in a mediation setting without judges or attorneys; and
- creating a centralized employment database at the Department of Human Services. Business owners must report all new hires to the department or face up to a \$500 fine, per employee, for repeatedly (and intentionally) failing to report. Its purpose is to track those who drift from job to job to avoid having wages garnished to pay child support.

Further discussion of **HF966** is expected next week.



## CRIME

### 'Peeping Tom' law expansion?

A bill to include hotel rooms and tanning booths under Minnesota's 'peeping Tom' law was heard March 6 before the House Judiciary Committee.

Current law applies to those peeping in windows or secretly photographing or videotaping outside someone's home. Such a crime is a misdemeanor.

But offenses occurring away from the home have frustrated county attorneys, who lack the legal tools to slap offenders with real consequences.

A recent case in Windom, Minn., attracted the attention of bill sponsor Rep. Teresa Lynch (IR-Andover).

Cyndi Berg was in a tanning bed at a local business when she discovered she was being watched by the business owner, who was also in the room with her. She was the only customer in the building, "and he outweighed

me by about a hundred pounds," Berg told members. She ignored him, "concentrating on breathing normally," so he wouldn't suspect she knew he was there. Eventually, the man left.

"It was only 15 minutes, but it has affected the rest of my life," Berg said.

Prosecutors considered charging the man under a section of the state's stalking law, but the incident didn't quite fit there, either. In the end, the business owner agreed to pay a \$500 fine to close the case.

Laurie Middleton, assistant county attorney for Beltrami County, said there was nothing else that authorities could do. Local police can now spot check the business, "but they must call to warn [the business owner] they are coming."

Berg said the same Windom tanning business is booming, "filled with girls getting ready for prom."

**HF272** would make it a misdemeanor to secretly "gaze, stare, or peep" into a hotel room or tanning booth "with the intent to intrude upon or interfere with the privacy" of an individual.

Photographing or videotaping a person in such a setting would also be a misdemeanor.

Members expressed concern that there were other places where the law should apply, such as dressing rooms, saunas, or bathrooms.

No vote was taken on the proposal, which is without a companion in the Senate. Further discussion on the proposal is expected at a later date.

### A crime to conceal

Covering one's face in public for religious reasons would not be a crime, under a bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee March 6.

Bill sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) says the law is simply unconstitutional.

The bill stems from the Sept. 28, 1994, arrest of Tayyibah Amatullah, a Muslim. While dressed in traditional Muslim attire, Amatullah was approached in a downtown skyway by St. Paul police officers and asked to uncover her face. When she refused, police issued her a citation.

The local Islamic community was outraged, calling the incident a clear violation of her First Amendment rights.

The law, which prohibits concealing one's identity by means of a "robe, mask, or other disguise," dates to 1923. It targeted the Ku Klux Klan, which had a significant presence in the state at the time. (See related story, page 17)

Entenza said that the Ramsey County Attorney's Office dropped the Amatullah case when the American Civil Liberties Union made clear its intention to challenge the law.

Committee members also added an exception to the law for wearing a mask for "medical reasons." An exception the Senate adopted — to allow wearing a mask for "protection from weather" — was deleted from the bill. Committee members noted that police are "not in the habit" of arresting snowmobilers and others protecting their faces from the winter elements, and agreed the exception was unnecessary.

**HF735/SF214\***, which passed the Senate 63-1 on Feb. 27, now moves to the House floor for consideration.



## EDUCATION

### Preserving school safety

New ways to ensure school safety and to battle truancy are included in a bill approved March 7 by the House Education Committee.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul), would hit truants and their parents with stiffer penalties and would allow courts to deny driving privileges to habitual truants until they turn 18.

School safety measures in the bill include locker searches, criminal background checks on teachers and other school employees, and misdemeanor charges for parents who fail to control their children.

Much of the debate among committee members focused on the proposed penalties for parents who fail to "make a good faith effort" to exercise "care, supervision, protection and control" over their children.

Rep. John Tuma (IR-Northfield) said he wants parents to be held accountable for their children but that the bill is too vague in its definition of what is required.

"It opens up far too many areas for arbitrary and discriminatory implementation," Tuma said.

And Rep. Alice Seagren (IR-Bloomington) said the vague language in the bill could create an adversarial situation between parents and officials.

An amendment by Tuma that would have deleted that portion of the bill was defeated on a close vote.

Farrell, a public defender in Ramsey County, said the language is similar to what exists in other areas of state law, and that the justice system needs new tools to deal with troubled youth.

"I'm tired of defending children in court

when I should be defending parents," he said.

His bill also would increase the maximum legal penalty to 90 days in jail and \$700 in fines for parents who fail to make sure their children comply with compulsory attendance laws. (See Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 5 and March 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7)

In addition, the bill would allow school officials to search lockers any time without prior notice or consent.

The House Judiciary Committee already approved a separate bill, **HF107**, that would allow such searches. But the Education Committee attached an amendment to Farrell's bill requiring officials to notify students whose lockers have been searched as soon as possible afterward, unless the search was conducted as part of an on-going investigation.

**HF610** now goes to the Judiciary Committee.

## Libraries and the Internet

A House member is pushing legislation that he says would eliminate the barriers that block many Minnesotans from the "source of wealth" in today's economy: information.

Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) is the sponsor of a bill that aims to support and improve the state's public libraries and to link them with the Internet, or information highway.

Kelley said his bill would be a sound investment in the future. "Doing this I believe will expand the wealth of all Minnesotans," he said.

Library officials, school officials, and students testified in support of the bill before the House K-12 Education Finance Division on March 8.

Marlys O'Brien, of Kitchigami Regional Library System, said libraries are "essential" to their communities and need funding. And she said the bill would provide funding to support the systems linking libraries in the state and allowing them to share resources.

Jane Prestaback, of the Minnesota Educational Media Organization, said funding to extend the Internet in schools is crucial to students who "need the infrastructure to connect" to the information superhighway.

A middle school student from Mankato illustrated the importance of the Internet in schools. Eighth grader Pete Ekstam used the Internet to get information on a report he did for school about the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz — information he couldn't get in his middle school library.

"Everything you need is on there," he told members of the K-12 Education Finance



Chuck Clark, an eighth grader at Cleveland Quality School in St. Paul, and other participants in the Youth Summit on Violence Prevention, listened March 8 as Rep. Jim Farrell explained a section of his bill that allows schools to search students' lockers (**HF610**). The bill was approved by the House Education Committee.

Division on March 8. "It's pretty cool."

Although the bill does not yet contain a specific funding request, Kelley said he is seeking about \$32.6 million in the coming two-year spending cycle.

The division is expected to take up **HF977** again later this session.

## Superintendent buyouts

The House gave final approval March 9 to a bill that would require school superintendency candidates to disclose if they have been paid to leave the same position elsewhere. The vote was 114-16.

The bill (**HF496**) would ensure school districts know if a would-be superintendent left the job in another district via a contract buyout.

Bill sponsor Rep. Ron Kraus (R-Albert Lea) said the disclosure requirements would provide protection for taxpayers who fund the sometimes costly buyout procedures.

The bill drew opposition on the House floor March 6 from lawmakers including Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown).

Murphy said the bill would create "an unfair labor practice" by singling out people who have been the subject of a buyout and

limiting their chances to become a superintendent in another district.

"Where's the responsibility of the school board that's hiring those people," she said.

Rep. Becky Kelso defended the bill, saying it would provide added protection for school boards and taxpayers.

She said buyouts can cloud the already atypical process of searching for a superintendent. "There is not the flow of communication that I think you would normally see from one employer to another employer," Kelso said.

The bill stipulates that superintendent candidates have to disclose the information even if the original buyout included a non-disclosure agreement. And the bill would void the contracts of superintendents who fail to disclose the information during the hiring process only to have it come to light later. (See Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6)

Similar legislation is pending in the Senate Education Committee.



## ELECTIONS

### Voting absentee

Any eligible voter could cast an absentee ballot up to 30 days before any election, under a bill approved by a House panel March 6.

Currently, absentee ballots can be requested only by voters who will be absent from their precinct on election day, are hospitalized, ill, disabled, or can't vote on election day for religious reasons.

But Joe Mansky, director of the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State's, told members of the House General Legislation, Veteran's Affairs and Elections Committee's Elections Division that many other voters have difficulty voting in their home precinct.

"People can't get to the polls for a number of reasons — maybe they work in a distant community from their home or maybe they have difficulty because of child care," he said.

The Legislature allowed anyone in Ramsey, Hennepin, Anoka, and Becker counties to vote absentee in the 1992 election. Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) said voters favored the experiment.

The bill (**HF167/SF35\***) would allow voters statewide to cast ballots in person at their county auditor's office or a site designated by the auditor's office during the 30 days before an election.

Also under the bill, those hospitalized, in

nursing homes or in another health facility could authorize a delegate to deliver their ballot to the auditor's office. Such a delegate could deliver up to three voters' ballots.

Members voted to remove a controversial section of the bill which would have allowed voters to transmit ballots via fax machine.

That provision was requested by the U.S. Department of Defense to allow a faster voting method for Minnesota military personnel overseas, Mansky said.

Bill sponsor Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) said voters would lose some privacy because an elections judge would see the fax and know how the person voted.

The full House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee will hear the bill next.

The Senate approved the bill Feb. 13 on a vote of 42-22.

## Election day campaigning

Candidates would be able to campaign on election day, under a bill approved by the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee's Elections Division March 6.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), would make a number of changes to current election law, including repealing a provision prohibiting candidates from campaigning on election day.

The state Office of the Attorney General has said the prohibition is virtually unenforceable and is most likely unconstitutional, said Joe Mansky, director of the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

Minnesota's county attorneys, who are required to prosecute anyone who campaigns on election day, have asked for the law change, Mansky said.

The law was originally passed during a 13-day special session in 1912. It was part of a radical election reform package that also included campaign spending limits, a state-wide political primary election, and a popular vote for U.S. senators who were previously chosen by the Legislature.

In 1988, the no-campaigning law was ruled unconstitutional by a District Court judge in Hennepin County. Technically, the ruling affected only Hennepin County, and was never appealed.

Another provision in **HF289** would allow election judges to serve as unpaid volunteers if they agree in writing 10 days before the election. Such judges are currently paid for their services. The city, school board, or county board hosting the election determines how much to pay election judges.

The bill now goes to the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Angler's right to know

Fishermen and others using Minnesota waters would have an easier time tracing the source of effluent being discharged into the state's rivers and lakes, under a bill approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee March 8.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka), would require companies that are legally discharging toxic substances into Minnesota waters to "post a sign that is visible and legible" near the point of discharge.

Under the proposed "Angler's Right-To-Know Act," the sign would indicate the name of the company and that it was discharging "low levels of toxic substances" under a permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). A contact name and telephone number at the company would be listed, along with the general telephone number of the MPCA.

Weaver said his intention was to provide Minnesotans with more information about pollution in waterways.

Weaver said that he has encountered fluids coming out of pipes and into the Mississippi River by Anoka, and had no idea what was being discharged.

"An informed public is a happy public," he said.

But business community representatives said **HF286** would unfairly target private companies, clutter scenic waterways with

signage, and even endanger people by providing targets for trigger-happy delinquents.

Jim Jackson, a regional manager for Boise Cascade, said that the bill would "unnecessarily alarm the public" and "would have no environmental benefit."

The question for anglers is whether fish are safe to eat, according to Jackson. He said that fish consumption advisories — issued for many years in a cooperative effort by the departments of natural resources, health, and the MPCA — provide the public with the information they need about pollution and health risks.

The arguments by Jackson and others came at the committee's March 3 meeting, when the bill failed on an 11-11 vote.

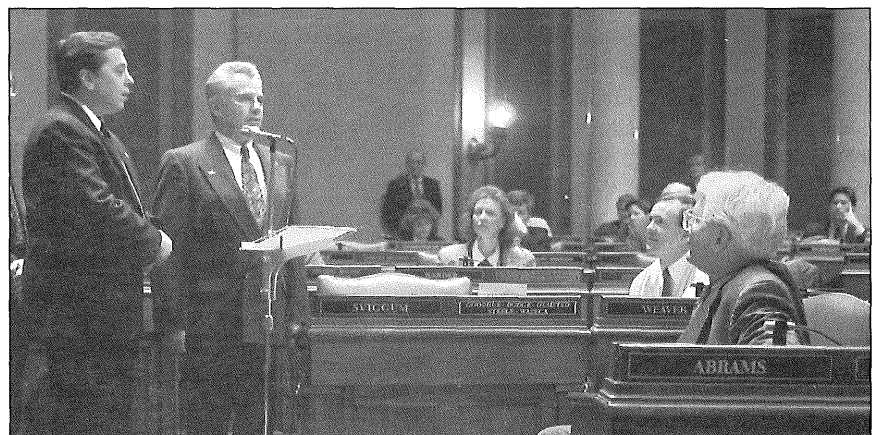
The bill was reconsidered March 8 and passed easily. An amendment by Rep. Peggy Leppik (IR-Golden Valley) changed the bill's definition of a "toxic substance" to exclude chlorine and ammonia — two of the more common substances discharged by industrial companies and waste water treatment plants.

Leppik said this change makes the proposal "less onerous on businesses."

The amended bill would require that about 100 businesses and about 50 municipal water treatment plants — which have permits that cover toxic limits on discharges — post signs, Marvin Hora of the MPCA's water quality division explained later.

The amendment by Leppik also specifies that signs "may not exceed 14 inches by 18 inches," so they would be visible but less obtrusive.

**HF286** now moves to the Judiciary Committee.



Alexander Nazerchuk, standing right, Minister of Agriculture and Food for the Russian Federation, and his interpreter, Vladimir Tiurin, addressed members of the House during a floor session March 6.





## GAMBLING

### Treating compulsive gamblers

Public funds for the treatment of compulsive gamblers would be available to private, for-profit agencies, under a bill approved March 3 by the Gambling Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee.

Bill sponsor Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) said it would "level the playing field" between non-profit agencies already eligible for state funds and their for-profit counterparts.

For-profit agencies would be able to compete with non-profits for the grant funding. Kinkel said the bill is necessary to give Minnesotans, especially in outstate areas, more opportunities for treatment.

"There are some parts of the state that are a long distance away from non-profit programs," he said. "If [for-profit agencies] are selected by [the Department of] Human Services, it will provide greater access and a greater variety of services to people with gambling problems."

During the current biennium, the state will spend a total of about \$1.2 million to treat problem gamblers. Non-profit treatment facilities are selected to receive some of that money through Department of Human Services grants.

Jay Bamberg of the Department of Human Services gambling program supported the bill. He said for-profit agencies would have to meet the same requirements as non-profits.

According to Bamberg, for-profit agencies lacked a well established track record for treatment of compulsive gambling when lawmakers excluded them from eligibility for state funds as gambling began to grow in Minnesota.

"I think there was a fear that there would be some companies making money by exploiting people's weaknesses," Kinkel said. But in reality "the for-profit folks have acted very responsibly."

The House passed legislation similar to Kinkel's bill in 1993, but it did not survive a conference committee.

This year, the Senate already has approved **HF83/SF91**\*. The bill now goes to the full Governmental Operations Committee.



## GOVERNMENT

### Government contracts cut

A bill to cut the state's use of private contracts and consultants by 10 percent during the 1996-1997 biennium won approval from the House Governmental Operations Committee March 6.

The bill calls on the state's 20 main agencies to cut 10 percent off the aggregate amount they spent on consultants in fiscal years 1994-1995. They could not make the cuts from grant money or federal funds. Instead, they must cut from the dollars allocated to them by the state.

Under the bill, sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), the governor would decide which agencies would face contract cuts. Some could increase their use of consultants as long as others decreased enough for an overall reduction of 10 percent.

The bill (**HF123**) also would apply to the House of Representatives, the Senate, the Legislative Coordinating Commission, and the Metropolitan Council. Each would be required to cut 10 percent in their consultant spending.

There are exemptions in the bill, such as contracts for highway construction and maintenance; consultants hired by a Minnesota state college or university to teach public or private organizations, agencies, or businesses; and consultants used to help with pension plans.

Opatz said the bill is designed to save money and force state agencies, the Legislature, and the Metropolitan Council to really look at whether a specific project warrants the hiring of a consultant or whether a current state employee could do the job.

Part of the bill would require agencies to seek prior approval before hiring a consultant for a contract exceeding \$5,000. The agency must determine that no state employee, including employees outside its own agency, could do the job. The agency must also certify that it has publicized the contract.

A successful amendment by Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport) would require any new legislation that could potentially result in the hiring of a consultant to include a cost comparison between a private consultant and a state employee.

Some, such as Rep. Mike Osskopp (IR-Lake City), worry that cuts in consultants will only cause increases in the number of state employees. He said he wanted assurances such an event wouldn't happen, under the bill. "If we don't have assurances, I think we've wasted our time."

The bill does contain a provision stating that cuts to state agency consultants would occur after agencies have set their budgets so, there'd be little leeway to hire new employees.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), chair of the committee, said it is difficult to see how a 10 percent cut in consultants would cause an increase in state employees. The cut, she said, isn't large enough to do that.

The bill now goes to the State Government Finance Division of the Governmental Operations Committee.

(See Jan. 27, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8, and Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7.)

### Money-back guarantee

A House panel approved two bills March 3 that would enable Minnesotans to get their money back from a state agency if they apply for a license, permit, or other type of document — including a driver's license — and don't receive it within six weeks.

"These are money-back guarantee bills," sponsor Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) said.

The Government Efficiency and Oversight Division of the House Ways and Means Committee approved both bills.

Under **HF797**, the Department of Public Safety would have to refund the \$18.50 fee for a new or renewed driver's license if the applicant doesn't receive the license within six weeks.

Carruthers said his bill is a response to a problem last year at the Driver and Vehicle Services Division of the Department of Public Safety, which issues driver's licenses.

Many applicants waited three months or longer to receive their new licenses after applying, Carruthers said.

Katherine Burke Moore, who heads the Driver and Vehicle Services Division, has said the problem arose after the department found a new vendor to create the licenses. That company, Deluxe Corp. of Shoreview, Minn., did not have enough time to work the considerable kinks out of its system before it began distributing new licenses, Burke Moore has said.

Carruthers' bill would be effective in July 1995 and would not be retroactive. So people who waited more than six months to receive new licenses in the past could not receive their money back.

Burke Moore said the bill should make exceptions to the six-week money back guarantee to allow for employee strikes or software failure at the Driver and Vehicle Services Division. In its current form, the bill does not.

**HF797** also includes a provision asking the Office of the Legislative Auditor to evaluate the division to determine "what happened and why" with the license delay, Caruthers said. The office must report to the Legislature by Jan. 1, 1996.

Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington) told Burke Moore the provision is not intended to call the division's actions into question.

"It's not a witch hunt," he said. "It's just to ease the public's mind that everything that could have been done to prevent [the delay] was done," he said.

The second bill, **HF796**, would allow those who apply to any state agency for licenses, permits, variances, orders, or other documents to get their fee returned if they don't receive their document within six weeks. Exceptions would be made for documents requiring public hearings.

Applicants, which can include small businesses and family farm corporations, must specifically ask for their money back, Caruthers said.

The Ways and Means Committee soon will hear both proposals.

## Economic development, politics

Most of a bill to grant counties the power to refuse to include their share of tax collections when a city in its region offers tax breaks to lure employers was defeated in the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee March 7.

The only surviving section of **HF149** would eliminate the annual limit on how much a county can spend on economic development. Current law sets the limit at \$50,000.

Bill sponsor Rep. Edgar Olson (DFL-Fosston) told the committee March 7 that the \$50,000 limit was too low to attract new companies and help existing ones expand, especially in rural Minnesota where many cities are too small and too poor to help out.

The most controversial section of Olson's bill — giving counties a say in tax breaks offered to expanding companies — almost caused the death of the entire bill. Instead, committee members eliminated that provision.

Under Minnesota law, cities can offer tax breaks to companies to help create jobs in their community. The agreement, called a Tax Increment Financing District, involves a company expanding and creating jobs in exchange for the city forgiving property taxes for a set number of years. In some cases the city might agree to sell bonds to pay the upfront costs of an expansion and then use the property taxes generated from the expansion to pay off the debt.



Master violinist Isaac Stern spoke on the importance of the arts in our society during an informal meeting of House and Senate members March 9.

Currently, when a city creates a TIF district, the property taxes they forgive include the county's share, but the county has no say in the matter.

Olson's bill would have allowed counties to decide whether their share of tax revenues could be pledged as part of tax breaks offered by cities to attract companies and jobs.

On average, for every dollar in property taxes collected in 1994, the counties' share amounted to 28 cents, the cities' 15 cents, the schools' 45 cents, with the remainder coming from special taxing districts.

Don Diddams of the Association of Minnesota Counties, said that in some cases cities and counties in Minnesota do work together when establishing a TIF district. But, he added, that is not always the case.

He said the bill was important to stress accountability.

That section, however, drew opposition from the League of Minnesota Cities.

Joel Jamnik of the league said that allowing counties to hold hearings on TIF districts would delay expansion projects and simply add another layer of government to the process.

He also noted that because county commissioners represent specific areas in a county, some wouldn't represent the area in which an expansion is locating. This could "foster political battles that are unnecessary."

For some lawmakers, one piece of information seemed to help sway their decision. Lawmakers learned that in cases where a city

sells bonds to help pay for an expansion and then uses the property taxes levied against the expansion to pay off the bonds, only the city assumes the risk of the bonds.

**HF149** now goes to the House Taxes Committee for further review.

## Tax limits

A resolution to set limits on state and local taxes was approved March 9 by both the House and Senate.

The Price of Government resolution, which holds state and local taxes to a percentage of the total income of all Minnesotans, is a goal lawmakers use when putting together a state budget. (See Jan. 20, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8)

But, it is not just numbers on a piece of paper, said House Minority Leader Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon).

"This is something that is going to bring some discipline" to the Legislature, he said.

The resolution, required by a 1994 tax law, would allow state and local revenue during the 1996-97 budgeting period to equal no more than 18.2 percent of the collective income of state residents. Tax revenues would have to be at or below 17.8 percent during the 1998-99 biennium.

During the current 1994-1995 biennium, the tax burden equals 18.3 percent of Minnesotans' total income.

Gov. Arne Carlson has recommended a Price of Government goal for state and local taxes that declines over the next four years to a fiscal year 1999 target of 17.7 percent.



## HEALTH

### Pesticide poisoning

A bill to establish a voluntary pesticide poisoning reporting network and to conduct a study of the extent of pesticide poisoning in Minnesota passed the House Health and Human Services Committee March 7.

Bill sponsor Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) said she estimates the study by the Department of Health would cost about \$70,000. The department would report back to the Legislature by Jan. 1, 1997.

Clark's bill (**HF510**) also would include pesticide poisonings as an emergency service under the state's General Assistance Medical Care program.

The Department of Environmental Medicine and Pathology at the University of Minnesota would coordinate the volunteer pesticide poisoning network.

Dr. Vincent Garry, director of the university department, said he would volunteer his time and work with doctors across the state to educate them on how to recognize, report, and follow up with pesticide poisonings. The term pesticides includes herbicides and insecticides, he said.

Pesticides are often used in farming and in lawn and garden care. Some pesticides end up in the water supply and some can be absorbed through clothes and the skin.

Currently, various state and county agencies collect scattered information on pesticide poisonings, but there is no coordination. As a result, the size of the problem is unclear. And, Garry said, "my fellow physicians don't know a heck of a lot about this area" and need to be taught how to identify a pesticide poisoning in order to report it.

Southern Minnesota has documented problems and it is expected that western Minnesota has similar problems, Garry said.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), the only doctor in the Legislature, said he supported the bill because he has treated people who have been poisoned by pesticides.

"We're dealing with really poisonous stuff out there," he said.

The bill (HF510) now goes to the Health and Human Services Finance Division for consideration.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### HECB eliminated

A proposal to eliminate the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) won approval from the Higher Education Finance Division March 6.

Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), who sponsors HF307, said the move would save about \$3.7 million over the next biennium.

The bill would eliminate 27 of the 67 HECB employees, Pelowski said. The remainder would be transferred to the new Higher Education Services Office (HESO).

Besides administering financial aid, the current board's duties include maintaining financial aid and enrollment records and negotiating reciprocity agreements between states. It is also charged with setting Minnesota's higher education policy and recommending which higher education programs could be eliminated. All of these duties would be transferred to the HESO.

The bill also would set up an 11-member Higher Education Administrators Council (HEAC) made up of campus presidents, the president of the private college council, the

commissioner of education and others. The HEAC would be responsible for consulting with a newly established student advisory council, appointing the HESO director, and communicating with the Legislature and the governor.

The council would replace the current board, which is composed of 10 citizens and a student member.

The HECB was originally established in 1966 as an impartial office to distribute financial aid to Minnesota students, Pelowski said.

"But it has been performing at various levels of competency ever since. It's been absent from merger talks and from financial aid changes and it's missed the mark by huge margins in predicting enrollments," Pelowski said.

The office did not take a strong role in planning a revision in the higher education funding system passed last year by the Legislature. The office also did little to offer input on the administrative merger — slated for July 1995 — of Minnesota's state university, technical college and community college systems, Pelowski said.

But Duane Scribner, HECB president, told division members the higher education system needs an impartial board to advocate higher education issues.

"If you lose the HECB, an independent voice is lost you won't receive in a council made up of system members," he said, referring to HEAC.

Members of that group will tend to lobby for their individual systems or schools, Scribner said.

Last year's House voted to abolish the HECB and transfer its duties to — among other agencies — the board created to oversee the merger. The provision was deleted during conference committee negotiations. Instead, the bill asked the HECB to study its effectiveness as an organization.

Scribner said the study showed a continued need for the HECB.

HF307 will next be heard by the full House Education Committee.

### Freed from bonding debt

Three state universities would not have to pay back a portion of the state-issued bonds authorized in 1994 to help build their school libraries, under a bill approved by the House Higher Education Finance Division March 8.

As part of the 1994 bonding bill, Winona State University received \$20 million to help fund a new library, Bemidji State University received \$8.3 million to remodel and expand its library and St. Cloud State University received about \$1.8 million to prepare drawings for a new library.

Higher education projects receiving state-issued bonds must reimburse the state one-third the cost of the bond plus interest. Prior to a 1990 law change, state universities were exempted from repaying bonds when they were used to finance school libraries.

The bill would apply only to the 1994 library bonding projects, which totaled \$30.1 million. So the three schools in total would be exempted from paying back about \$10 million plus interest accrued on their library projects.

Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), sponsor of HF487, said state universities should not be responsible for helping pay off their libraries because entire communities use them.

"The library is used by everyone so why make only people at the school pay for it? With electronic mediums, people can access library information via computer. We're looking at access that goes way beyond what we anticipated," he said.

Pelowski's words were of note because his



Two vice presidents of university relations: Gary Evans of Winona State University, left, and Dorothy Simpson of St. Cloud State University, testified with Rep. Gene Pelowski at a hearing of the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee March 8. Pelowski used his laptop computer to access information during his testimony.



presentation before the Higher Education Division of the House Education Committee marked the first time a representative has used a laptop computer when presenting a bill. Pelowski, who chairs the House Select Committee on Technology, did not have a paper copy of **HF487** before him. Instead, he called up the bill on his wireless, laptop computer and referred to that copy when discussing bill specifics.

The 1994 bonding bill, as passed by the House, called for state universities to be exempted from paying back one-third the amount of state-issued bonds received for libraries. The provision, however, was taken out during conference committee negotiations, Pelowski said.

The bill will be heard next by the full House Education Committee.



## HOUSING

### 'Greenlining' in the city

A bill that would help people buy and fix up dilapidated housing, create tax breaks for landlords to fix up their rental properties, and establish a pool of money to help outstate cities create affordable housing is being considered by the Housing Committee.

The bill (**HF380**) seeks approximately \$46 million and is set to be included in the committee's omnibus housing bill.

"I'm trying to target neighborhoods that have historically been redlined from housing investment," said bill sponsor Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), referring to the largest portion of his bill which would help people buy and fix up dilapidated housing. He calls it "greenlining."

This program would set aside about \$30 million to help people buy and repair about 1,000 homes in worn-down neighborhoods across the state. Loans would average about \$30,000 each. The idea, Dawkins said, is to target "eye-sore" neighborhoods and make them owner-occupied again instead of overcome by rental properties with absentee landlords.

With ownership comes the desire to maintain and take pride in the neighborhood, said Dawkins.

Only low-income neighborhoods would qualify for the program under the bill. Some of the other qualifications include a neighborhood where at least 70 percent of the single-family homes are at least 35 years old and at least 60 percent of the homes are owner-occupied. Another requirement speci-



Rep. Karen Clark, left, chair of the Housing Committee, showed legislators and community representatives vacant properties in the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis. The tour took place prior to a meeting of the Reclaiming and Recycling Vacant Property Subcommittee March 8.

fies that the number of owner-occupied homes in a neighborhood must have declined by at least 5 percent between 1980 and 1990.

Dawkins pointed to St. Paul's Frogtown neighborhood in his district as an example where the bill could do some good.

"There are folks that need help investing in the neighborhood," he said, adding that the program could target crack houses and run-down homes in the area.

Johnny Howard of the Thomas-Dale Block Club said his neighborhood has gone downhill in the past five years with more shootings and violence.

"Bad people and bad property sometimes go hand-in-hand," Howard said. He said the bill would allow people to have an opportunity to have something they can call their own.

But not everyone testifying before the Housing Committee March 6-7 supported the bill.

Maria Somma of the Community Stabilization Project said of the bill: "This is clearly tenant bashing," adding that the bill suggests that tenants are to blame for run-down neighborhoods.

But that led Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) to question why she would criticize Dawkins, the author of several laws in recent years that aid low-income people.

"You have a champion here. . . . If there is anybody who fights for low-income people, it is Rep. Dawkins," said Skoglund.

Other aspects of the bill include a provision to set aside about \$1 million to \$3 million to help people convert contracts for deed on their homes to traditional mortgages, which would eliminate the need for large balloon payments. Coming up with the

money for those payments has been a problem for many low-income families.

About \$7.8 million is set aside in the bill to help Greater Minnesota cities, especially those with housing shortages, such as Willmar, create affordable rental housing.

**HF380** also works to help improve rental property in St. Paul, Minneapolis, South St. Paul, and Duluth. It would set aside \$8 million over two years to offer tax breaks to landlords who volunteer to fix up their rental properties which includes houses, apartments, duplexes, and triplexes.

"The pilot project's primary objective is to help stabilize costs for the conscientious, industrious landlord who is already providing safe, decent, and affordable housing," states the bill.

The program would require a landlord who wishes to participate to have a city inspector inspect his or her property and identify what repairs are necessary.

This section of the bill is an extension of a 1994 pilot project in St. Paul. The project offered \$1 million in tax breaks to St. Paul landlords with rental single-family houses and duplexes. Only about \$503,000 of the money was used because the program got a late start and was only technically operational for four months.

A successful amendment to the bill offered by Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) proposes that the remaining \$497,000 be used to make sure renters don't see a decrease in their annual renters' credit refunds.



## TRANSPORTATION

### Electric bus advances

A bill seeking state funding to help build the world's first bus powered by electric strips embedded in the street moved one step closer to the House floor March 7.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport), would allocate \$750,000 from the state's general fund to help set up a one-half-mile electric bus route on the campus of St. Cloud State University.

Though the Transportation Finance Division approved the bill, Rep. Jim Rice (DFL-Mpls), who serves on the division and chairs the full House Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee — the bill's next stop — said the bill may not move from his committee unless research studies accompany it.

The 1994 Legislature appropriated \$200,000 to the St. Cloud-based Saints Road Project to study how the bus would move through ice and snow. The studies also will assess the safety of electric buses. Nick Musachio, who designed the electric bus technology, said the studies will be ready in two weeks.

When approved Feb. 17 by the House

Transportation and Transit Committee, the bill (HF395) also carried a \$750,000 price tag. Of that amount, \$550,000 would have come from the general fund with an additional \$200,000 available if the project could match that amount. (See Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 12)

As approved March 7, \$250,000 would come directly from the state with no strings attached. The remaining \$500,000 would be available only if Saints Road Project officials raise \$250,000 from private or public sources.

A portion of the funds also would help pay for the Saints Road Project to study the possibility of building a 45-mile electric bus corridor linking Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The bill also includes a provision that would repay the \$750,000 to the state, should the venture be commercially successful.

Eventually, Saints Road Project members hope to convert buses to run along power strips laid on specific routes. The buses could use batteries when making short forays off the track, and also could switch to gasoline power when necessary. They hope to see their buses used in Minnesota and to sell their technology to other states and countries, Musachio said.

### Helping Amtrak survive

A resolution that would ask Congress to continue federal funding for the Amtrak passenger rail system won approval from the House Transportation and Transit Committee March 8.

Congress is now discussing severely cutting the federally subsidized Amtrak budget. The reduction would threaten the continued existence of the nation's only passenger rail service, said Rep. Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington), who sponsors HF821.

"No passenger rail service in the world makes money," he said. "Once abandoned, we know the service would never come back."

Last year, Amtrak received a \$952 million subsidy from the federal government.

One Amtrak route passes through St. Paul on a line that runs from Chicago to Seattle.

In December, Amtrak officials announced it will scuttle more than one-fifth of its route service and fire 5,500 employees. As part of the plan, service from the Twin Cities to Seattle was cut from five to four times per week.

About 160,000 people take the train each year in Minnesota. About 130,000 of them board or leave it in St. Paul, Mahon said. Also, the 74 Amtrak employees who live in Minnesota make a combined \$3 million annually, he added.

The bill now moves to the House floor.

The Civil War was not yet over when, on March 3, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln signed a joint congressional resolution stating that "veterans should be preferred for appointments to civil offices."

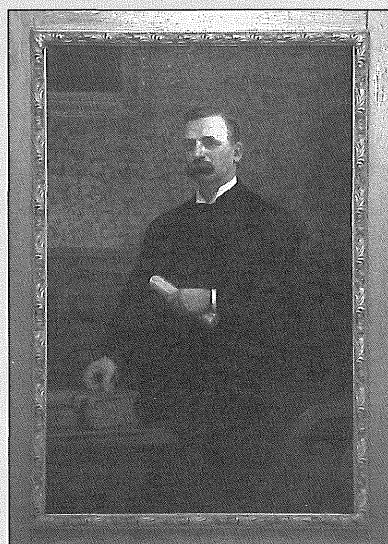
But it wasn't until February 1887 that Gov. Andrew McGill signed Minnesota's first law — which was passed unanimously by the Minnesota Legislature — that was designed to help veterans secure public employment.

The law applied to all levels of government, and was perhaps also the state's first anti-discrimination statute. It expressly stated that "age, loss of limb, or other physical impairment, which does not in fact incapacitate, shall not be deemed to disqualify [veterans]" from employment, according to *The Civil War Veteran in Minnesota Life and Politics*.

However, author Frank Heck noted the law "could easily be sabotaged by an uncooperative appointing officer."

And compliance was a problem. In fact, Paul Van Der Voort, commander in

### Do you know?



Gov. Andrew McGill

chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, admitted that "even some ex-soldiers in positions of authority were guilty of failure to accord due prefer-

ence to their comrades when hiring and firing subordinates."

Veterans protested, and their organizations rallied in support of members who were denied jobs or were fired from those they held.

"All in all, one suspects that no article in the old soldier credo was more enthusiastically recited and believed than was the one which called for veterans' preference," Heck wrote.

In 1896, a lawsuit was brought against the commissioners of St. Louis County for the purpose of testing the "constitutionality, force, and effect" of the veterans' preference law. It was upheld by the Minnesota Supreme Court, but in practice was still largely ignored outside of St. Louis County.

Although a series of legal skirmishes followed, the concept of veterans' preference continues today. Veterans who achieve a passing score on an examination for state employment receive a five-point bonus added to their test score. Disabled veterans receive a 10-point bonus.

New members . . .

## Knoblach brings an 'eclectic' background to House

Rep. Jim Knoblach (IR-St. Cloud) believes timing is everything.

He had thought in the past about running for public office, but as a business owner, he needed to devote himself first to the direct mail company he owned in St. Cloud, Minn. But in 1993, Knoblach received a phone call "out of the blue" from someone interested in buying his company, North Star Direct. He sold.

Soon after, Knoblach heard that his state representative, Dave Gruenes, would not seek re-election. Knoblach figured his opportunity had arrived. He announced his candidacy.

The campaign went without a hitch, he said. He faced no challenger for the Independent-Republican nomination, and had no primary opponent. And he and his DFL opponent, whom he describes as a "great guy," agreed not to engage in negative campaign.

In addition to knocking on doors, Knoblach used his business knowledge to campaign by direct mail. He also knew many people in his district because he grew up in St. Cloud. He called on high school, family, and business contacts for support.

Though Knoblach had never held public office, he's no stranger to the legislative process. He earned a master's degree in American government from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. While attending school there in 1986, he worked for one year with the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations.

Knoblach also holds an undergraduate degree in economics and business administration from St. John's University in

Collegeville, Minn., and a master's degree in business administration from Harvard University.

One of the best parts of his new job is the sheer number of issues that come before the Legislature, he said. Knoblach enjoys studying, debating, and forming an opinion about different issues, he said.

"There's no one burning issue that caused me to run for public office," Knoblach said. "Instead, it was a feeling of obligation to give something back to a state and community that have been very good to me."

Knoblach said he is very concerned about the size and growth of government and wants to improve the way services are delivered so the public is better served. He is also particularly concerned about children's issues.

Knoblach serves on the Capital Investment Committee, Governmental Operations Committee and its Gambling and State Government Finance divisions. He also serves on the Legislative Commission on Employee Relations and the Advisory Council on Gambling.

"I was happy with the committee assignments because I like working with numbers," he said. Besides being a certified public accountant, Knoblach has had a hand in a number of businesses. He calls his business background "eclectic."

Knoblach remains a part owner of a real estate business as well as a small publishing company in St. Cloud. In an earlier career, he was in management at MediSense, an international biotechnology company that manufactures and markets blood glucose meters for diabetics and also did hazardous waste cleanup research.

"It's hard, at times, answering people when they ask me what I do for a living," Knoblach said.

As a legislator, Knoblach finds that on

most days, he's busy all day long.

"I expected that," he said.

But he easily found time to take off in late February to be present for the birth of his daughter, Laura Ellen, who was born Feb. 23. He and wife, Janet, also have a two-year-old son, Daniel.

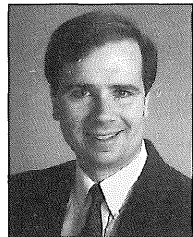
In their spare time, which he says is now "almost non-existent," the couple enjoys camping and hiking. Knoblach is also an avid runner and in past summers has done a "fair amount" of mountain climbing. He has a certificate in his office earned five years ago for climbing Mount Rainier in Washington state.

"But with two kids, my wife has encouraged me to put the days of serious mountain climbing behind me," he said. "It's too risky."

Instead, Knoblach looks forward to a busy legislative session. He praised the freshmen legislators.

"I'm impressed with the other legislators. And with the freshmen. We have a great class on both sides of the aisle," he said.

— Jean Thilmany



Rep. Jim Knoblach

### District 16B

Population: 33,231

Distribution: 86.23 percent urban; 13.77 percent rural

County: Stearns

Largest city: St. Cloud

Location: central Minnesota

Unemployment rate: 4.87 percent

Residents living below poverty level: 13.76 percent

1992 presidential election results:

Bush/Quayle ..... 36.58 percent

Clinton/Gore ..... 38.28 percent

Perot/Stockdale ..... 24.08 percent

Other: ..... 1.06 percent

## Richard Stanek elected to House

The latest member of the Minnesota House is Rep. Richard Stanek, a 33-year-old Minneapolis police officer who won a special election bid March 7.

He fills the District 33B seat vacated by former Rep. Warren Limmer (IR-Maple

Grove) who won a special election to the Senate Feb. 2.

Stanek (IR-Maple Grove), who holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in public administration, is the chair of the Peace Of-

ficers Standards and Training Board, which handles ethical concerns and licensing standards for police officers.

He is expected to receive his House committee assignments soon after he is sworn in March 13.



New members . . .

## Dr. Mulder wants to improve quality of rural life

Is there a doctor in the House?

Yes, indeed. He's Rep. Richard Mulder, who has spent the past 25 years as a family physician in Ivanhoe, Minn., a town of 751 people in the southwestern corner of the state.



Rep. Richard Mulder

After treating more than 17,000 patients, Mulder believes he has learned some things that should serve him well at the Capitol.

Mulder has been active in "medical politics" for many years — as a trustee of the Minnesota Medical Association and a past president of the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians. And he was appointed, in 1992, by Gov. Arne Carlson to the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice.

In that same year, Mulder won Independent-Republican endorsement for a seat in the Minnesota House of Representatives. That campaign did not end in victory, but when he ran again last November, he won the District 21B seat, formerly occupied by DFL Rep. Andy Steensma.

As a member of the minority party, Mulder said he doesn't have "any illusion" that he will be able to change major state policies, but he hopes to communicate his ideas to legislators on both sides of the aisle. His membership on the Health and Human Services Committee and its finance division will give him a voice in the ongoing health care policy debate.

Mulder is convinced that government involvement in health care, including this state's MinnesotaCare program, has "increased the cost of health care."

"Rural health care has been an area where I've developed expertise," Mulder said. He

has made more than 30 lobbying trips to Washington, D.C., to correct what he contends are inequities in Medicare payments to rural doctors and hospitals.

Mulder also is concerned about the "continued gradual deterioration of the quality of life out in rural Minnesota."

He recalled that 25 years ago, he used to deliver 75 to 100 babies a year. The babies were born to married couples who wanted and "could afford the child."

In recent years, he has delivered about 25 babies a year. The mothers are "almost all on welfare, many of them are not married," and some of the babies are not wanted.

The plight of mothers and their babies leads Mulder to conclude that "there's been a radical change in this state the last 25 years and it's not for the better."

Instead of relying on government, Mulder says a way must be found "to reinvent the family . . . to solidify the family unit," and ensure that people "have a proper income so that the state won't have to do everything for them because the state's a poor mother. The state just can't raise children like good parents can."

In Mulder's view, government taxation has become too burdensome on people who have "lost their discretionary income, and they've said: 'No, enough's enough!'"

Bringing government budgets back in line means cutting spending, and Mulder says that is "going to hurt and everybody's going to feel the pain."

But there's pain for legislators, too, as they endure the stress of long legislative sessions. "I've already treated a few," said Mulder.

The House doctor has done some " cursory examinations " of legislators and staff members and, in one case, recommended that a person

see a doctor to get a prescription. (He won't write prescriptions because he "can't keep medical records" at his legislative office.)

"Without practicing medicine, I've tried to give some good advice to several people," he said. "It's worked out . . . medicine, like government, is a lot of common sense stuff."

Mulder and his wife, Ruth, who campaigned with him and works in his office at the Capitol, have four children: Ricky, 28; Angela, 27; Stefani, 24; and Curtis, 21.

As for hobbies, Mulder says, "I love to fly." He towed a banner behind his Cessna 182 while campaigning the 100-mile length of his district. He also finds time to play penny ante poker, scuba dive, and build radios and stereos.

Mulder appreciates the complexity of problems facing Minnesotans and admits that he doesn't have "all the answers."

He pledges to do his best for his constituents. "I hope I have some knowledge and experience that I can bring to the people here, and maybe I can help them make the right decisions."

— Mordecai Spektor

### District 21B

**Population:** 33,068

**Distribution:** 52.31 percent urban; 47.69 percent rural

**Counties:** Lincoln, Lyon, Nobles, Pipestone, Rock

**Largest city:** Pipestone

**Location:** southwestern Minnesota

**Unemployment rate:** 3.97 percent

**Residents living below poverty level:** 13.82 percent

**1992 presidential election results:**

Bush/Quayle . . . . . 35.73 percent

Clinton/Gore . . . . . 36.79 percent

Perot/Stockdale . . . . . 25.75 percent

Other: . . . . . 1.73 percent

## Rep. Joel Jacobs retires from House

Rep. Joel Jacobs (DFL-Coon Rapids) resigned from the House of Representatives March 5 when he was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) by Gov. Arne Carlson.

Jacobs, who was first elected to the House in 1972, was in his 12th term. He chaired the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee.

The governor has called an April 4 special election to fill the vacated seat in District 49B. If necessary, a special primary election will be held March 21.

In valedictory remarks at the close of the

House floor session March 2, Jacobs said he was moving to the PUC "with mixed emotions. I have always loved this body like my family."

Jacobs praised the "absolutely superb" House staff members, and thanked fellow lawmakers.

"I've really enjoyed working with you. This is a great place, a great body. It's true we have differences of opinion, but nevertheless we are friends and continue to be friends."

The five-member PUC regulates the prices and services of telephone, natural gas, and electric utilities.

House Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) on March 7 appointed Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) to take Jacobs' position as chair of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee.

Trimble is a teacher who was elected to the House in 1986. This will be his first time as a committee chair.

Anderson said that Trimble's "familiarity with energy issues and his ability to promote healthy discussion and consensus-building will make him an excellent chairman."

# 1995 House Subcommittees

Note: The subcommittees listed below were formed after we published the Committee Information section in the Jan. 13, 1995, issue of the *Session Weekly*, pages 10-13.

## Agriculture

### Agriculture Finance & Rural Development

**Chair:** Winter

**Vice Chair:** Schumacher

Cooper	Kraus
Dauner	Otremba
Finseth	Peterson
Harder	Sarna
Hugoson	Wenzel
Koppendrayner	

### Dairy Policy & Soil & Water Conservation

**Chair:** Otremba

**Vice Chair:** Lourey

Davids	Peterson
Hugoson	Schumacher
Jaros	Swenson
Koppendrayner	Wenzel
Molnau	Winter

## Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

### Consumer Affairs

**Chair:** Entenza

Farrell	Pellow
Goodno	Pugh
Holsten	Sarna
Jennings	Swenson, H.
Lynch	Tomassoni
Milbert	

### Economic Equality

**Chair:** Luther

Daggett	Mulder
Hasskamp	Peterson
Kelso	Sarna

### Real Estate & Commerce

**Chair:** Perl

Bradley	Pugh
Erhardt	Rice
Kelso	Swenson, D.
Kraus	Sarna
Ness	Smith
Peterson	Tomassoni

### Tourism

**Chair:** Hasskamp

Daggett	Lynch
Farrell	Ness
Holsten	Sarna
Kelso	Swenson, D.
Kinkel	Tomassoni

## General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

### Veterans Affairs

**Co-Chair:** McCollum

**Co-Chair:** Opatz

Davids	Osthoff
Knight	Rhodes
Munger	Rostberg
Orfield	Simoneau

## Governmental Operations

### Administrative Rules

**Chair:** Greiling

**Vice Chair:** Perl

Anderson, Bruce	Knoblach
Johnson, B.	Pugh
Kahn	Rostberg

### Housing

### Reclaiming & Recycling Vacant Housing

**Co-Chair:** Dawkins

**Co-Chair:** Wejcman

Clark	Olson, M.
McElroy	Sykora
Kinkel	Trimble

## Judiciary

### Civil Law

**Chair:** Pugh

Dawkins	Skoglund
Entenza	Smith
Lynch	Solberg
Orenstein	Swenson, D.
Seagren	

### Data Practices

**Chair:** McGuire

Luther	Skoglund
Macklin	Van Engen
Pugh	
Rhodes	

## Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

### Local Government

**Co-Chair:** Otremba

**Co-Chair:** Schumacher

Bertram	Long
Broecker	Opatz
Johnson, V.	Rostberg
Larsen	Wenzel

## Metropolitan Government

**Chair:** Kelley

McGuire	Garcia
Orfield	Krinkie
Osskopp	Long
Tompkins	Mahon
Weaver	

## Rules & Legislative Administration

### Administration

**Chair:** Carruthers

Abrams	Rest
Anderson, I.	Sarna
Lynch	Svigum
Pugh	Weaver

### Personnel

**Chair:** Carlson

Anderson, I.	Lynch
Carruthers	Rest
Delmont	Svigum
Koppendrayner	

### Rules

**Chair:** McCollum

Anderson, I.	Pawlenty
Bettermann	Svigum
Carruthers	Trimble
Lynch	Winter
Munger	

## Transportation & Transit

### Transportation Regulation

**Chair:** Schumacher

Broecker	Mariani
Cooper	McElroy
Kelso	Workman
Krinkie	Tunheim

### Transportation Safety

**Chair:** Mahon

Bradley	Wagenius
Kalis	Winter
Rhodes	Tunheim
Tompkins	

### Transportation Systems

**Chair:** Marko

Frerichs	Lieder
Hugoson	Osthoff
Kalis	Tunheim
Knight	

Minnesota's past . . .

## Ku Klux Klan made inroads during the 1920s

In the early 1920s, Warren Harding was in the White House, middle America was discovering the automobile, and the Ku Klux Klan was in its heyday in Minnesota.

"How many members it had in the state is unknown, but certain it is that there was hardly a village or township that did not have some Knight of the Invisible Empire who went forth . . . and in the presence of a flaming cross pledge allegiance to the cause of Caucasian-Protestant-Gentile supremacy," wrote Theodore Christianson in *Minnesota, The Land of Sky-Tinted Waters*.

Membership dues were \$10, and a 1921 congressional investigation of the Klan gave the organization "much free publicity and many new members," Christianson wrote.

Minneapolis was reported to have 10 separate Klan groups, and there was even an official Klan publication.

*The Call of the North* was a weekly newspaper started in July 1923 devoted to promoting the Klan agenda and reporting news of the day. It was replaced by the *Minnesota Fiery Cross* in February 1924.

A newspaper ad sold "fiery crosses," emblems made of stone with the KKK insignia fashioned from the "famous Pipestone quarries." Watch charms sold for 90 cents. And emblems that were 14 inches high "on a natural stone base" sold for \$35.

The Klan was indeed spread throughout Minnesota. The first Klan parade was staged Aug. 31, 1923, in Albert Lea, according to a *Call of the North* article. New members were inducted, or "naturalized," at the Blue Earth County fairgrounds, "so located that outsiders may assemble in the grandstand and get a full view of a very beautiful ceremony."

Klansmen were encouraged to complete an order form at the parade and order their robes "at the earliest possible date." The Klan had their own plant to manufacture the robes, which sold for \$5 apiece.

The *Mankato Free Press* reported an Aug. 17, 1923, cross burning. It was a "class of candidates" who were taken to Pigeon Hill and were "naturalized according to the ritualism of the Invisible Empire," the *Call of the North* reported. "Tell the world, Murphy, the Kluxers are in Kato and there to stay."

Other clan gatherings outside the Twin



A 1922 St. Paul Klu Klux Klan gathering. The early 1920s marked the Klan's heyday in Minnesota. There was an official Klan newspaper and Klan paraphernalia such as watch charms and fiery cross emblems made of stone.

Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

Cities were reported in Duluth, Red Wing, and Sherburne.

But the Klan had its detractors as well.

"People have a right to be protected from masked mobs who take the law into their own hands and commit the most heinous crimes under the guise of enforcing public morality — their own pet variety of morality," wrote C.J. Buell, in the *Minnesota Legislature* of 1923.

The Legislature agreed with Buell.

Rep. Myrtle Cain, one of the first women elected to the Legislature, gained nationwide acclaim for tackling the Klan.

The bill she introduced in 1923 seemed innocent enough. It prohibited the wearing of masks or other disguises to conceal a person's identity. Violation of the law was a misdemeanor. Designed to stop the Klan from hiding behind their white masks, it passed the House on a 96-2 vote.

During Senate deliberations on the proposal, G.F. Clark appeared before the General Legislation Committee. He claimed to represent the KKK of Oregon, and declared that if the bill was passed, "he would see to it that all parochial schools were abolished in Minnesota as they had been in Oregon," Buell wrote.

Not dissuaded, the Senate unanimously passed the bill the following day.

Buell noted that "masked mobs who ride by night, by the very masks and regalia which conceal their identity, thereby proclaim themselves cowards, lawbreakers and criminals."

Today, Minnesota lawmakers are revisiting the same law, this time to allow concealing one's identity for religious purposes. (See related story, page 6.)

Evidence detailing the decline of the Klan is sketchy. A 1967 book by Kenneth T. Jackson notes that the Klan's hopes for success in the Twin Cities were "damaged severely" by a 1923 lawsuit. Minneapolis Mayor George Leach brought a successful libel suit against five Klansmen, one of whom aspired to take Leach's office.

"By and large," wrote Theodore Blegen, in *Minnesota: A History of the State*, "Minnesota good sense did not bow to the furtive intimations of intolerance. The Klan was anathema to most Minnesotans."

— John Tschida

Research provided by Elizabeth Lincoln of the Legislative Reference Library.



# Bill Introductions

HF1078-HF1260

## Monday, March 6

**HF1078—Farrell (DFL)**

**Education**

School district crime related cost levy increase provided.

**HF1079—Ostrom (DFL)**

**Education**

Junior and senior high school talented student needs assessment conducted, and money appropriated.

**HF1080—Jefferson (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Local government official participation limited in Public Employee Retirement Association defined benefit plan.

**HF1081—Boudreau (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Faribault Regional Center downsized and governance transferred to Department of Corrections, Southern Cities Community Health Clinic provisions modified, and crisis intervention services provided for developmentally disabled persons.

**HF1082—Olson, E. (DFL)**

**Agriculture**

Cooperative optional voting systems provided.

**HF1083—Lieder (DFL)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Highway user tax distribution fund apportionment maintained.

**HF1084—Kahn (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Indian Gaming Regulatory Act; Congress memorialized to provide an expiration date on tribal-state gaming compacts.

**HF1085—Farrell (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

St. Paul police and fire consolidation account postretirement benefit reductions limited.

**HF1086—Seagren (IR)**

**Education**

School districts authorized to levy for insurance costs.

**HF1087—Leighton (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Used motor oil and filter collection required, reimbursement provided, and contaminated used motor oil reimbursement account established.

**HF1088—Pellow (IR)**

**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Sign contractor state licensure authorized, penalties and rule adoption provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1089—Johnson, A. (DFL)**

**Education**

School district referendum allowance reduction discontinued.

**HF1090—Wejcman (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Inpatient psychiatric coverage for children provided medical assistance coverage.

**HF1091—Entenza (DFL)**

**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Transient merchant sales of baby food and health related items regulated, and penalties provided.

**HF1092—Kahn (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

State university and state community college systems individual retirement account plans recodified.

**HF1093—Lynch (IR)**

**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Telecommunication Access for Communication-Impaired Persons Board (TACIP) eliminated, and duties transferred to the Department of Public Service and Department of Human Services.

**HF1094—Johnson, A. (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Legislative Commission on Children, Youth, and their Families responsibilities extended, and money appropriated.

**HF1095—Rest (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Crime victim and witness identity public access provisions modified.

**HF1096—Milbert (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Wild animal and plant emergency protection rule adoption authority granted to Department of Natural Resources commissioner.

**HF1097—Osthoff (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Gambling banned and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1098—Mariani (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Contract for deed and assignment recording required.

**HF1099—Greenfield (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare health data institute data and research initiatives modified.

**HF1100—Munger (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Packaging Act; packaging and products provided recycled content requirements, and transport, disposable, and reusable packaging regulated, deceptive environmental claims prohibited, wood waste and residue plan required, penalties provided.

**HF1101—Trimble (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Water resources protection laws provided technical corrections.

**HF1102—Jefferson (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Transitional housing services recipient identity data classified as private.

**HF1103—Hausman (DFL)**

**International Trade & Economic Development**

Civic and convention center benefit assessment required.

**HF1104—Hausman (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Prairie Island; radioactive spent fuel storage cask testing, certification, and approval required prior to use, and penalties provided.

**HF1105—Leighton (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Parentage Act; paternity presumption for husbands eliminated in certain cases, and husbands allowed to join in parentage recognition.

**HF1106—Cooper (DFL)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Lobbying prohibited by campaign committees or political party committees that issue refund receipt forms.

**HF1107—Ness (IR)**

**Education**

Higher education career planning and job placement activities required.

**HF1108—Bettermann (IR)**

**Labor-Management Relations**

Little Davis-Bacon Act; prevailing wage provisions modified.

**HF1109—Luther (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation pilot project provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1110—Lynch (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Woman's right to know act adopted, and money appropriated.

**HF1111—Rostberg (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Isanti County Lake Francis tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

**HF1112—Knoblach (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Civil action witness contingency payment prohibited.

**HF1113—Kelley (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Volunteer services office duties to include citizen participation activities, and money appropriated.

**HF1114—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Housing**  
Affordable housing policies implemented by Metropolitan Council.

**HF1115—Osskopp (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Goodhue County removed as the specified alternative site for dry cask nuclear waste storage.

**HF1116—Lynch (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Interpreter employed by Legislature to assist hearing impaired persons in interaction with the Legislature.

**HF1117—Long (DFL)**  
**International Trade & Economic Development**  
Tourism office to devote 20 percent of budget to international tourism development.

**HF1118—Schumacher (DFL)**  
**Ways & Means**  
License fee refund required by Department of Public Safety if drivers' licenses, permits, or identification cards are not issued within six weeks from application.

**HF1119—Hasskamp (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Resort and recreational area civil liability limited, and attorney fees provided in certain cases.

**HF1120—Pelowski (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Public legislative information television transmission funding provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1121—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Gasoline tax rate changed, Metropolitan Council transit bonding limits removed, metropolitan area sales tax imposed, road pricing study continued, and trunk highway turnback study required.

**HF1122—Ozment (IR)**  
**Agriculture**  
Livestock freeze branding identification authorized.

**HF1123—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Criminal justice information system fingerprinting and diversion data provisions modified, and money appropriated.

**HF1124—Ozment (IR)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Liquor license and permit requirements modified.

**HF1125—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
County auditor, treasurer, and recorder offices filled by appointment, and conforming changes provided.

**HF1126—Kelso (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Charter school provisions modified to allow additional schools and sponsors.

**HF1127—Orfield (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Student skills statewide assessment provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1128—Johnson, V. (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Wastewater treatment dispute mediation provided, sewage sludge definition modified, and permit fee increase rules provided.

**HF1129—Van Engen (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Transition services established and defined, children's out-of-state services cost payment continued, community based service grants provided for emotionally disturbed adolescents, early childhood care committee and family safety provided.

**HF1130—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
MinnesotaCare waiting period eliminated, comprehensive health association benefits modified, and enrollment freeze date changed.

**HF1131—Krinkie (IR)**  
**Taxes**  
Residential homestead property tax class rates modified.

**HF1132—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Brewer retail restrictions not applicable to brewers who only manufacture in a brewery-restaurant.

**HF1133—Farrell (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Hospital zone defined and drug related crimes expanded to include conduct within hospital zones.

**HF1134—Schumacher (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Minimum vehicle clearance required when passing a bicycle or pedestrian on a roadway or bikeway, certain conduct toward bicycle riders prohibited, and penalties imposed.

**HF1135—Kelley (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Minnesota institute for telecommunications applications and education established at the University of Minnesota, duties and responsibilities specified, and money appropriated.

**HF1136—Clark (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Marijuana and Tetrahydrocannabinols prescription by physicians allowed for medical treatment.

## Thursday, March 9

**HF1137—Wagenius (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Public nuisance violation grounds and procedures modified, and resolution meetings provided.

**HF1138—Brown (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Environment and natural resources appropriations reduced.

**HF1139—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Oxygenated gasoline standards prescribed.

**HF1140—Johnson, A. (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Education appropriations reduced.

**HF1141—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
New democracy act adopted, fusion candidacy provided, citizen campaign jury established, minors aged 16 and over allowed to vote in school board elections, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1142—Jaros (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Duluth Teachers Retirement Association benefit computation formulas increased.

**HF1143—Bertram (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Public Employees Retirement Association police and fire fund members prior military service credit provided.

**HF1144—Rest (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Candidates for elective office residency requirement provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1145—Perlt (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Reemployment insurance provisions modified.

**HF1146—Bettermann (IR)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Collective bargaining agreements provided to address certain obligations and procedures relating to workers' compensation.

**HF1147—Van Engen (IR)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Workers' compensation supplementary benefits eliminated.

**HF1148—Dehler (IR)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Election judges permitted to serve outside of the counties in which they reside in certain cases.

**HF1149—McElroy (IR)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Noise abatement provided along freeways and expressways.

**HF1150—Bertram (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Volunteer firefighter training funding provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1151—Opatz (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Higher education merger restructured, campus functions and duties altered, and higher education allocation ranges specified.

**HF1152—Schumacher (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Independent School District No. 51, Foley, employee authorized prior service credit purchase.

**HF1153—Schumacher (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Paratransit operation outside of service area authorized for cities, counties, and transit commissions.

**HF1154—Lynch (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Independent living skills training and support services for hearing impaired persons pilot project established.

**HF1155—Ostrom (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Insurance benefit reinstatement provided for certain state employee.

**HF1156—Long (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Metropolitan livable communities advisory board and fund established, and Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission and district provisions modified.

**HF1157—Kelley (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Psychology Board duties, licensure provisions, and discipline procedures modified, and penalties provided.

**HF1158—Davids (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Woman's right to know act adopted.

**HF1159—Jefferson (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Municipalities authorized to establish trust or escrow accounts for losses due to destruction of

uninsured real property, and municipal control over such property provided.

**HF1160—Trimble (DFL)**  
**Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance**  
Contamination cleanup grants funded, and money appropriated.

**HF1161—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Interstate Highway No. 394 parking ramp high occupancy vehicle incentives expanded to users of other highways.

**HF1162—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
County state-aid highway system mile limitation removed, screening board composition changed, gasoline excise tax rate modified, and money appropriated.

**HF1163—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Independent School District No. 604, Mentor, fund transfer authorized.

**HF1164—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Hazardous substance release action funding provided.

**HF1165—Lynch (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Sport shooting range assumed risk description provided.

**HF1166—Krinkie (IR)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Limited driver's license issuance hearing procedures and standards adopted by Department of Public Safety commissioner.

**HF1167—Seagren (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Woman's right to know act adopted.

**HF1168—Weaver (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Fleeing a peace officer and obstruction of legal process penalties increased.

**HF1169—Wagenius (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Kindergarten student funding increased, kindergarten preparedness program prescribed and required, levy created, and money appropriated.

**HF1170—Kelley (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Post-secondary learning needs statewide consortium established, open learning institution studied, and money appropriated.

**HF1171—Holsten (IR)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Amateur radio station licensee vehicle special license plate appearance modified.

**HF1172—Macklin (IR)**  
**Taxes**  
Airport property tax exemption provided.

**HF1173—Wagenius (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Commercial industrial property located in transit zones provided reduced property tax class rate.

**HF1174—Marko (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Special transportation service providers regulated by Department of Transportation commissioner, data classified, and fees and penalties provided.

**HF1175—Molnau (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Dangerous weapon criminal code definition modified related to weapon possession in school zones.

**HF1176—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Agriculture**  
Farmed cervidae provisions modified.

**HF1177—Hugoson (IR)**  
**Agriculture**  
Department of Agriculture reporting requirements modified.

**HF1178—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
No-fault automobile insurance rental vehicle coverage provisions modified.

**HF1179—Lourey (DFL)**  
**Agriculture**  
Federal milk marketing order legal action provided continued funding, and money appropriated.

**HF1180—Mariani (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Teachers of Color Program provided appropriation carryover.

**HF1181—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Conciliation court contempt citation provided for judgment payment failure.

**HF1182—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Rental equity tax program established in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, and certain other cities.

**HF1183—Boudreau (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Human services health insurance coverage provisions modified, committed persons firearms background check, paternity and child support provisions modified, and pediatric vaccine coverage by medical assistance provided.

**HF1184—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
Omnibus financial institutions technical corrections bill.



**HF1185—Smith (IR)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Uniform Commercial Code revised Article 8 enacted regulating investment securities.

**HF1186—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Ways & Means**  
Strategic and Long-Range Planning Office abolished, and powers, duties, and responsibilities transferred.

**HF1187—Clark (DFL)**  
**Housing**  
Low-cost housing service grant provided to certain community organization, and money appropriated.

**HF1188—Van Engen (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Health care access offices provided grants, and money appropriated.

**HF1189—Leppik (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Guardian ad litem juvenile and family court responsibilities specified.

**HF1190—Leppik (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Woman's right to know act adopted.

**HF1191—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Trout and salmon stamp required to possess trout or salmon taken by angling.

**HF1192—Hasskamp (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Breezy Point lodging tax proceeds disposition specified.

**HF1193—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Crisis Nursery Grant Program appropriated money.

**HF1194—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance**  
Regional arts councils appropriations allocated.

**HF1195—Carruthers (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Criminal surcharge and assessment provisions modified.

**HF1196—Rice (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Corporate franchise tax differential rate imposed on banks.

**HF1197—Farrell (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Department of Labor and Industry occupational safety and health definitions and procedures modified.

**HF1198—Hasskamp (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Wild animal special possession and transportation permit issuance authorized.

**HF1199—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Post-secondary education credit bank established, and money appropriated.

**HF1200—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Crookston tax increment financing district exempted from state aid offset.

**HF1201—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Health and human services appropriations reduced.

**HF1202—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance**  
Department of Transportation and Department of Public Safety appropriations reduced.

**HF1203—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Human services alternative health care and waived service programs appropriated money.

**HF1204—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Messenger and courier employment status clarified for workers' compensation purposes.

**HF1205—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Department of Administration, Department of Employee Relations, Department of Finance, Department of Human Rights, Department of Military Affairs, and Department of Revenue appropriations reduced.

**HF1206—Jaros (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
State convention center construction materials and supplies exempted from sales and use tax.

**HF1207—Winter (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Vehicle combinations over 65 feet in length permitted when safe.

**HF1208—Tompkins (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Human Services Employment and Training Program eligibility expanded, stepparent's needs disregards applied, and assistance unit eligibility expanded.

**HF1209—Orfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Work readiness programs in Ramsey and Hennipen counties replaced with public works training program.

**HF1210—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Home care service provider registration required for elderly service providers.

**HF1211—Lieder (DFL)**  
**International Trade & Economic Development**  
Public contractor performance bond posting requirements modified for certain manufacturers.

**HF1212—Leighton (DFL)**  
**Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance**  
Minnesota Project Innovation provided funding for government marketing assistance and small business innovation research partnering programs, and money appropriated.

**HF1213—Macklin (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Uniform partnership act of 1995 adopted.

**HF1214—Cooper (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
First responder defined, licensure required, and penalties provided.

**HF1215—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
WAPA; President and Congress memorialized to abandon the proposed sale of the Western Area Power Administration.

**HF1216—Bertram (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Farm electricity use sales tax exemption extended.

**HF1217—Ottremba (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Independent School District Nos. 789, Clarissa, and 790, Eagle Bend, provided alternative debt service plans.

**HF1218—Carruthers (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Certified and licensed public accountant biennial licensure renewal provided.

**HF1219—Holsten (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Leif Erikson statue on State Capitol grounds rehabilitation provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1220—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Special education cooperatives and intermediate school districts provided special education aid payment.

**HF1221—Rest (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Public employment labor relations provisions modified.

**HF1222—Long (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Charitable organizations exempted from downtown taxing area sales tax.

**HF1223—Long (DFL)**  
**International Trade & Economic Development**  
Community organization provided funding to provide business opportunities, and money appropriated.

**HF1224—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Automobile insurance proof of coverage enforcement provided.

**HF1225—Lourey (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Rural physician substitute demonstration project established, and money appropriated.

**HF1226—Sviggum (IR)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Recall provided for elected state officers and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1227—Holsten (IR)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Sport shooting ranges provided civil and criminal liability immunity.

**HF1228—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Affirmative action officers provided for state universities, community colleges, and technical colleges.

**HF1229—Osthoff (DFL)**  
**International Trade & Economic Development**  
Job Skills Partnership Board in St. Paul appropriated money.

**HF1230—Leighton (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Extended employment program audits provided, payments required, and money appropriated.

**HF1231—Rest (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metro Affairs**  
Municipal population estimates provided for annexed territory.

**HF1232—Mariani (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Ramsey County residential facility for persons with mental illness downsized.

**HF1233—Goodno (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Business name certificate filing failure cost assessment exception provided.

**HF1234—Carruthers (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Emotional anguish and grief civil cause of action provided as a result of a wrongful death.

**HF1235—Brown (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Review organization data and information subject to subpoena and discovery.

**HF1236—Schumacher (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Sand Dunes State Forest shooting area established, and money appropriated.

**HF1237—Jaros (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Duluth special service district creation area provisions modified.

**HF1238—Trimble (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Metropolitan area surface and groundwater management planning, development, review, and reporting provided.

**HF1239—Commers (IR)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Candidates prohibited from accepting certain contributions.

**HF1240—Kinkel (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Students allowed to participate in extracurricular activities of other schools.

**HF1241—Luther (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Prostitution profits benefit limitation provided.

**HF1242—Farrell (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Occupational safety and health requirements extended to independent contractors.

**HF1243—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Prescription drug purchasing authority created, senior citizen drug purchasing benefit program established, and money appropriated.

**HF1244—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
St. Paul Relief Association former member service credit provided.

**HF1245—Bettermann (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Minnesota quality college program established in Department of Employee Relations, and money appropriated.

**HF1246—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Child care operations for school aged children not operated by schools provided licensure requirement.

**HF1247—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Trial court judgeships increased, and money appropriated.

**HF1248—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Peace Officers Standards and Training Board licensee discipline basis specified.

**HF1249—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Adult basic education funding expanded, and money appropriated.

**HF1250—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Education**  
School breakfast and lunch programs appropriated money.

**HF1251—Davids (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Nursing home swing bed provisions modified.

**HF1252—Vickerman (IR)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Cellular telephone service providers required to notify users of 911 call procedures.

**HF1253—Seagren (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Crime Victim Ombudsman Office duties clarified.

**HF1254—Larsen (IR)**  
**Education**  
School district referendum allowance reduction discontinued.

**HF1255—Weaver (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Anoka land sale provisions modified.

**HF1256—Kelley (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Federal energy standards adopted for air conditioners, certain gas burning equipment, lamps, showerheads, and faucets.

**HF1257—Pelowski (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Political parties issuing contribution refund receipts required to adopt party rules under the administrative procedures act.

**HF1258—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Housing**  
Metropolitan housing system established to encourage development of housing options.

**HF1259—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Watershed district project property taking procedures clarified.

**HF1260—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Amateur Sports Commission ice arena authority increased, bond use authorized, and money appropriated.

Coming Up Next Week . . . March 13 - 17, 1995

# Committee Schedule

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

## MONDAY, March 13

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Minnesota Community Action Association, Inc. Minnesota Food Shelf Association. Minnesota Right to Housing.

### K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** HF507 (Koppendrayner) Education finance appropriations bill.  
HFXXX (Johnson, A.) Agency budget reduction bill.

### Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** Discussion of seasonal recreational property taxes.

### University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Overview of state specials, Ettore Infante, senior vice president, Academic Affairs, provost, University of Minnesota.

8:30 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** HFXXX (Brown) Unallotment bill. Pollution Control Agency testimony on the Delta Project.

10 a.m.

### AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

**Agenda:** Continuation of March 9 agenda.

### JUDICIARY

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

**Agenda:** HF344 (Leighton) Common Interest Ownership Act modified, curative and validating law for mortgage foreclosures changed, and assignment form and record provided.

HF1105 (Leighton) Parentage Act; paternity presumption for husbands eliminated in certain cases, and husbands allowed to join in parentage recognition.

HF771 (Farrell) Witness and Victim Protection Fund scope clarified, and money appropriated.

HF772 (Farrell) Protected witness name changes classified as private data.

HF773 (Farrell) Crime victim emergency needs fund established, and money appropriated.

HF807 (Wagenius) Civil Commitment Act examiner qualifications modified.

HF129 (Bishop) Medical examiner data sharing with certain investigative agencies authorized.

HF179 (Skoglund) Sentencing to Service Program expanded, and money appropriated.

HF371 (Skoglund) Truancy service center pilot projects established, community based truancy action projects implemented, and money appropriated.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

**Agenda:** HF396 (Tompkins) Memorializing the TV networks to actively reduce the amount of violence-laden, sexually explicit material on TV programs and to produce TV material that promotes wholesome family values and helps to strengthen the family.

HF957 (Goodno) WAPA; President and Congress memorialized to abandon the proposed sale of the Western Area Power Administration.  
HFXXXX (Kelley) Regulating intervenor compensation in certain proceedings related to electric and gas service utilities.

Bills introduced March 9 will be added to this agenda.

### State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

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

12:30 p.m.

### GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

**Agenda:** SF182 (Vickerman); HF229 (Schumacher) Town supervisor office vacancy filling procedure clarified.

SF181 (Cohen); HF647 (Jefferson) Employees provided time off to vote in special legislative elections.

SF315 (Sams); HF289 (Jefferson) Election law modification and clarification provided.

SF590 (Flynn); HF621 (Lieder) Caucus and voter guides prepared and distributed by secretary of state, and money appropriated.

SF115 (Flynn); HF142 (Lieder) Precinct caucus, state, and presidential primary dates changed, absentee ballot deadline modified, voters guide distribution provided, presidential primary by mail allowed, filing fee increased, duties modified, and money appropriated.

SF35 (Marty); HF167 (Jefferson) Voter registration and absentee voting requirements modified, and penalties imposed.

### HOUSING

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** HF509 (Clark) Affordable home investment account established, and money appropriated.

### LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Johnson

**Agenda:** HF414 (Peterson) Businesses receiving state financial assistance required to pay a living wage.

HF733 (Bakk) High pressure pipe installation licensure requirements modified, and penalties provided.

HF1204 (Dawkins) Courier bill.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.  
(Session will be televised on Metro Cable  
Channel 6.)

7 p.m.

#### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Rooms 50 and 51, Pine Technical College,  
Pine City, Minn.

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** Testimony from students, faculty, staff, administration, and community members on: financial aid; developmental education; reports, mandates, litigation and free speech issues; caps and the effect on institutions; telecommunications enhancements and updates. (Rainy River Community College, Mesabi Community College, Fond du Lac Community College and Duluth Government Center will be connected via interactive telecommunications.)

### TUESDAY, March 14

8 a.m.

#### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Johnson, A.) Agency budget reduction bill.

HF307 (Pelowski) Higher Education Coordinating Board abolished, and higher education services office and higher education administrators council established.

#### JUDICIARY FINANCE

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Agency budget presentations. Public safety: emergency management (Rep. Farrell, Rep. E. Olson), Emergency Response Commission (Rep. Farrell, Rep. E. Olson), fire marshal (Rep. E. Olson), capitol security (Rep. Murphy), gambling enforcement (Rep. Farrell), crime victims services, (Rep. McGuire, Rep. Luther, Rep. Macklin, Rep. Smith) and crime victims ombudsman (Rep. Luther, Rep. Swenson). If the agenda is not completed, it will be continued in the evening at an announced time.

#### MinnesotaCare Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** Public testimony on Minnesota's health care reform efforts. The public is invited to offer their perspectives on the state of health care reform in Minnesota.

#### Transportation Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** HF205 (Luther) Brooklyn Park right-of-way acquisition Metropolitan Council loan for

proposed trunk highway No. 610 paid by MnDOT commissioner, and money appropriated.

HF342 (Garcia) High-speed bus service pilot project established by the Metropolitan Council in the metropolitan area.

HF815 (Mariani) Wabasha Bridge in St. Paul removal and replacement provided, money appropriated, and bonds issued.

HF1024 (Lieder) Roseville; Water's Edge Building purchased by Department of Transportation commissioner, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

8:30 a.m.

#### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Discussion of the Mille Lacs Treaty litigation, Department of Natural Resources and Office of the Attorney General.

10 a.m.

#### Financial Aid and Tuition Policy Working Group/Joint Higher Education Finance Division and University of Minnesota Finance Division/EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Higher Education Coordinating Board financial aid proposals.

#### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Legislative auditor's report on early retirement incentives.

HF625 (Orenstein) Debt collection entity established within the Department of Revenue, duties and powers imposed, data disclosure provided, collection penalty imposed, and money appropriated.

HF138 (Kahn) Gambling department created; Racing Commission, Gambling Control Board, and State Lottery Board abolished and duties transferred.

HF997 (Delmont) Legislative joint administrative services provided, and legislative commissions and programs abolished.

(Bills not heard on Tuesday will be heard at the March 16 meeting.)

#### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** HF598 (Greenfield) Vulnerable Adults Reporting Act modified, and penalties provided.

HF1077 (Greenfield) MinnesotaCare; integrated service network requirements established, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

Interactive hearing with the Brainerd Regional

Treatment Center from 7 - 9 p.m., 5 State Office Building. Staffing-related issues.

#### TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** HF431 (Orfield) Metropolitan area property tax equalization provided.

12:30 p.m.

#### CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Tour

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Tour of the Waters Edge Building. (MnDOT metro district headquarters). Tour group will depart from State Office Building at 12:30 p.m. To arrange transportation, members should contact Pat Lindgren, committee administrator, at 296-5398.

#### COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** HF817 (Marko) Residential real estate transaction disclosure form designed by Department of Commerce commissioner and use implemented.

HF460 (Entenza) Department of Commerce service of orders regulated and enforcement powers modified, and notaries public regulated.

HF903 (Rest) Tobacco retail license established, vendor compliance checks provided, and mandatory penalties provided for sales to minors.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** HF1156 (Long) Metropolitan livable communities Advisory Board and fund established, and Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission and district provisions modified.

2:30 p.m.

#### Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

**Agenda:** HF1036 (Orenstein) Department of Public Safety, Higher Education Coordinating Board, State Racing Commission, Gambling Control Board, State Lottery Board, and Department of Public Service abolished, duties transferred, and new agencies created.

HF976 (Orenstein) Human resources, gainsharing, and procurement pilot projects established to improve state agency efficiency and effectiveness.

Agenda is tentative and subject to change. Continuation of March 9 agenda, if needed.



## HOUSING

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** HF509 (Clark) Affordable home investment account established, and money appropriated.

## State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Department of Finance budget review.

4:30 p.m.

## WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg  
**Agenda:** Budget resolution.

6 p.m.

## ETHICS

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

**Agenda:** HF802 (Greiling) Ethical Practices Board public official gift enforcement authority extended, advisory opinions classified as public data, civil penalties provided, gift ban exceptions authorized and clarified, and money appropriated.

HF856 (Bishop) Ethical Practices Board public official gift enforcement authority extended, advisory opinions classified as public data, civil penalties provided, gift ban exceptions authorized and clarified, and money appropriated.

7 p.m.

## Subcommittee on Reclaiming and Recycling Vacant Housing/HOUSING

Thomas-Dale Block Club  
689 N. Dale, St Paul, Minn.

Co-Chrs. Reps. Linda Wejcman, Andy Dawkins  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## WEDNESDAY, March 15

8 a.m.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** HF1053 (Kelso) Federal special education references provided, state aid provided

for certain school district litigation costs, and money appropriated.

## Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** HF147 (Ozment) Tax increment financing use restricted, and additional disclosure required.

HF824 (Rest) School board approval required for tax increment financing plans and modifications.

8:30 a.m.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** HF504 (McCollum) Park, recreation area, and natural and scenic area grants provided to school districts and municipalities.  
HF361 (Farrell) Contamination Cleanup Grant Project costs to include site tests and studies. Public testimony on the governor's budget. Please notify Teri, 296-7171, or Scott, 296-7185, if you wish to testify.

10 a.m.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** HF368 (Munger) Soil and water conservation districts provided annual fund allocation.

HF1055 (Dauner) Water and Soil Resources Board secretary position eliminated, board members' compensation increased, and rule approval procedure, review exemption, rule appeals, dispute resolution, and levy authority provided.

HF1018 (Trimble) Chlorofluorocarbon state regulation brought into compliance with federal law.

HF1027 (Peterson) Environmental legal assistance pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF1015 (Hausman) Environmental Quality Board Environmental Review Program modified.

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

**Agenda:** HF747 (Paulsen) Department of Commerce insurance solvency, reinsurance, capital stock, general agent management, and variable contract information confidentiality regulation provided.

HF365 (Jennings) No-fault automobile insur-

ance taxi coverage priorities regulated.

HF570 (Davids) Crop hail insurance rate filing date changed.

HF751 (Davids) Insurance agent life and health policy quotas prohibited.

## State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Minnesota Planning budget review.

## Subcommittee on Civil Law/JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room  
Chr. Rep. Tom Pugh

**Agenda:** HF170 (Rhodes) Bias crime victims provided cause of action, and liability imposed for parents of minors who commit bias crimes.  
HF835 (Trimble) Claims against governmental units liability limits increased, and inflation adjustment and medical expense exemption provided.

HF795 (Pugh) Hazardous waste liability limited to extent of trust assets, and trustee compensation payment provided.

HF261 (Bishop) Occupational therapists included in civil action limitation period for health care professionals.

12:30 p.m.

**The House meets in Session.**  
(Session will be televised on Metro Cable Channel 6.)

After Session

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** HF525 (Jennings) Public assistance provider hearings permitted, state agency hearing conduct modified, medical assistance prior authorization requirements modified, and prior authorization advisory task force established.

HF722 (Mariani) Migrant seasonal farmworker statewide organization provided financial assistance, designation, and recognition.

HF862 (Mariani) Midwest Farmworker Employment and Training, Inc. financial assistance reference modification provided.

HF765 (Delmont) Visually handicapped reference changed to visually disabled for state services for the blind purposes.

HF950 (Wejcman) U.S. Army zinc cadmium sulfide aerial spraying report required and attorney general review required.

HF843 (Lourey) Dental hospitalization and anesthesia coverage for dental procedures provided by health plans.

HF446 (Leppik) Nursing home moratorium exception provided, and total replacement rates established.

4 p.m.

**Joint Higher Education Finance Division and  
University of Minnesota Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Student Organizations lobby day.

4:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Data Practices/JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire

**Agenda:** HF376 (Van Engen) Department of Economic Security data classification provided. HF538 (McGuire) Secretary of state authorized access to individuals' social security numbers in certain circumstances.

HF257 (McGuire) Tax data classification provisions modified.

HF546 (McGuire) Child abuse victim videotape release limited.

HF768 (Delmont) Evidentiary privilege and confidentiality provided for public safety peer counseling debriefing information, and municipal tort liability provided.

6 p.m.

**Legislative Commission on Pensions  
& Retirement**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** HF99 (Brown) Public employees prior service credit purchase authorized.

SF234 (Solon); HF293 (Jaros) St. Louis County employee authorized service credit purchase for on-leave military service.

SF189 (Morse); HF463 (Johnson, R.) State trooper retirement contribution rates and annuity formulas modified.

SF766 (Metzen); HF923 (Johnson, R.) Correctional employees contribution rates and annuity formulas modified.

SF863 (Morse); HF995 (Johnson, R.) Police state aid excess aid amounts disposition provided to fund an additional amortization aid program.

SF561 (Stumpf); HF617 (Johnson, R.) Teachers Retirement Association administration and benefit practices modified.

SF767 (Stumpf) MSRS; Administrative and other provisions.

SF922 (Riveness); HF1092 (Kahn) State university and state community college systems individual retirement account plans recodified. SF862 (Reichgott Junge); HF829 (Carlson) Crystal and New Hope consolidated volunteer firefighters' relief association authorized.

SF806 (Morse); HF1040 (Kahn) State university and community college faculty retirement provisions modified, part-time faculty participation provided, and investment options provided.

SF743 (Metzen); HF925 (Johnson, R.) Teacher retirement association members permitted to terminate membership in association.

**THURSDAY, March 16**

8 a.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** HF1046 (Kinkel) Teacher licensure alternative measures task force established.

HF996 (Solberg) Terminated education support employees of dissolved districts provided employment.

HF453 (Weaver) Parenting and ethics education curricula established; disruptive students barred from open enrollment program; school buffer zones established; lengthened schoolyear repeal removed; tort liability limit increased; and money appropriated. Other bills may be added.

**JUDICIARY FINANCE**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Agency budget presentations. Public safety: liquor control (McGuire), drug policy and violence prevention (Wejcman, Broecker, McGuire), Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (Farrell, Skoglund, Smith). If the agenda is not completed, it will be continued in the evening at an announced time.

**MinnesotaCare Finance Division/  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** HF1077 (Greenfield) MinnesotaCare; integrated service network requirements established, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF690 (Cooper) University of Minnesota-Duluth Medical Education Program expanded, Federal Area Health Education Center Program grant request required, physician substitute demonstration project established, physician associate program, money appropriated.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Continuation of March 15 agenda. Public testimony on the governor's budget.

10 a.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Completion of agenda from March 14 meeting.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** Department of Health bills.

HF983 (Lourey) Emergency medical services advisory council, maternal aid child health advisory task force, and state community health advisory committee reinstatement provided.

HF1003 (Huntley) X-ray equipment operator examination and certification required, and advisory committee established.

HF1037 (Huntley) Department of Health commissioner public pool rules enforcement and fee provisions modified, and penalties provided.

HF975 (Boudreau) Home care Hospice Program home care service definition modified.

HF974 (Vickerman) Department of Health environmental laboratory certification fee payment time schedules modified.

**Property Tax**

**& Tax Increment Financing Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** HF777 (Winter) Wind energy conversion system taxation provided.

12:30 p.m.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Presentation on Cambridge Bank decision & bond financing, Greg Huwe, Office of the Attorney General; Peter Sausen, Department of Finance; Greg Crowe, committee fiscal analyst.

**Elections Division/**

**GENERAL LEGISLATION,  
VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** Any bills not completed at the March 9th meeting. Remainder of agenda to be announced.

## **Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs/ COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza

**Agenda:** HF1048 (Entenza) Videotape distribution, sale, and rental regulated, and captioning for deaf or hearing-impaired persons required. HF809 (Entenza) Charitable organizations regulated and money appropriated. HF990 (Entenza) Disabled and handicapped assistive device warranties provided.

2:30 p.m.

## **Business Regulation Division/ COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

**Agenda:** HF1064 (Johnson, R.) Automatic sprinkler installation required in existing high-rise buildings.

## **Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

**Agenda:** HF1036 (Orenstein) Department of Public Safety, Higher Education Coordinating Board, State Racing Commission, Gambling Control Board, State Lottery Board, and Department of Public Service abolished, duties transferred, and new agencies created. HF976 (Orenstein) Human resources, gainsharing, and procurement pilot projects established to improve state agency efficiency and effectiveness.

Agenda is tentative and subject to change. Continuation of March 9 agenda, if needed.

## **TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** HF979 (Osthoff) Port development assistance provided, grant and loan application provisions specified, port development project cost payment provided, and money appropriated.

HF575 (Erhardt) Motor vehicle transfer notification by buyer required within ten days of purchase, and fees and penalties imposed. HF878 (Dehler) Firearms safety certification designated on driver's license.

HF1073 (Simoneau) Transit and paratransit facilities and equipment financing authorized,

and Metro Mobility capital cost funding limitations removed.

HF808 (Marko) Kids First special license plate issuance authorized and fees dedicated.

HF952 (Luther) Professional sports team and olympic special license plate issuance authorized, fees dedicated to the Amateur Sports Commission account, and money appropriated.

HF1009 (McElroy) Drivers' license reinstatement fee waived in certain cases.

HF1011 (McElroy) Radar speed measuring equipment jamming device sale, use, and possession prohibited.

HF426 (Simoneau) Parking violation delinquent fine notification, recording, and collection system established; vehicle registration prohibited pending parking violation fine payment; parking violation warrant issuance prohibited; and fee imposed.

HF901 (Swenson) DWI related laws and consequences included in drivers' education programs, driver's license application pamphlet, driver's license examination, and driver's manual.

4:30 p.m.

## **EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** HF849 (Seagren) Education funding provisions modified, special and community programs provided, organization and cooperation provided, commitment to excellence provided, library provisions modified, and state agency duties provided.

7 p.m.

## **Subcommittee on Reclaiming and Recycling Vacant Housing/HOUSING**

500S State Office Building  
Co-Chrs. Reps. Linda Wejcman, Andy Dawkins  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **FRIDAY, March 17**

8 a.m.

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

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** HF251 (Kelso) Interactive television capital levy access increased.

HF378 (Solberg) Independent School District No. 698, Floodwood, provided interactive television grant.

HF539 (Garcia) Technology support aid provided to school districts, and money appropriated for Internet access.

HF674 (Olson, E.) North Central Minnesota

Educational Television Consortium authorized a grant to establish an interactive television network.

Any other bills relating to technology.

## **Transportation Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** Continuation of March 14 agenda.

10 a.m.

## **Gambling Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

**Agenda:** HF660 (Dehler) Lawful purpose expenditures; gross profit expenditure increase provided for items not directly related to the conduct of lawful gambling.

HF1084 (Kahn) Indian Gaming Regulatory Act; Congress memorialized to provide an expiration date on tribal-state gaming compacts. Other bills may be added.

## **Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

**Agenda:** HF1036 (Orenstein) Department of Public Safety, Higher Education Coordinating Board, State Racing Commission, Gambling Control Board, State Lottery Board, and Department of Public Service abolished, duties transferred, and new agencies created.

HF976 (Orenstein) Human resources, gainsharing, and procurement pilot projects established to improve state agency efficiency and effectiveness.

Agenda is tentative and subject to change.

## **Subcommittee on Civil Law/JUDICIARY**

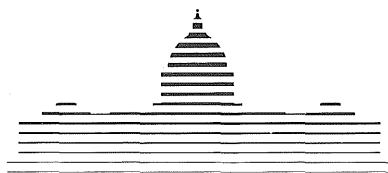
Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Pugh

**Agenda:** Discussion and preparation of omnibus child support/family law bill. (This meeting will last all day. The committee will recess for lunch and return in the afternoon to continue working.)

## **TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** Continuation of any bills not heard at March 16 meeting. Other bills may be added.



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

Speaker of the House: Irv Anderson  
Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Women in the U.S. and Minnesota

Year that the U.S. Congress designated March as Women's History Month .....	1987
Nationwide, private sector managerial jobs held by women, 1992 .....	3 in 10
professional jobs held by women .....	1 in 2
Percent of K-12 principals, nationwide, who were women, 1975-76 school years .....	12.8
in 1992-93 .....	37.3
Number of women veterans in Minnesota .....	15,812
in the armed forces .....	381
Percent of adult women in Minnesota who are living in poverty (according to federal poverty guidelines) .....	11
percent of adult men living in poverty .....	7.5
Minnesota senior citizens who live alone .....	167,001
women .....	132,219
men .....	34,782
Minnesota women who were single, 1900 .....	1 in 3
in 1990 .....	1 in 4
Ratio of marriages to divorces, 1930 .....	8:1
in 1990 .....	2:1
Percent increase in the number of unmarried women giving birth, 1980-1990 ..	100
Nationwide, percent of women with a bachelor's degree, 1990 .....	14
in Minnesota .....	17
Percent of men in Minnesota with a bachelor's degree, 1990 .....	17
Median annual income, all Minnesota families, 1990 .....	\$36,916
female heads of families .....	\$18,199
in Aitkin County, lowest in Minnesota .....	\$9,168
in Washington County, highest in Minnesota .....	\$24,383
Percent of women in the seven-county metro area working full-time .....	62
percent of non-metro women working full-time .....	38
Women as a percent of the labor force, 1900 .....	14.9

Source: Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women; *Indicators of Equal Employment Opportunity — Status and Trends*, U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission.



### For more information . . .

For general information, call:  
**House Information Office**  
(612) 296-2146 or  
1-800-657-3550

To obtain a copy of a bill, call:  
**Chief Clerk's Office**  
(612) 296-2314

To find out about bill introductions or  
the status of a specific bill, call:  
**House Index Office**  
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**House Calls (612) 296-9283**



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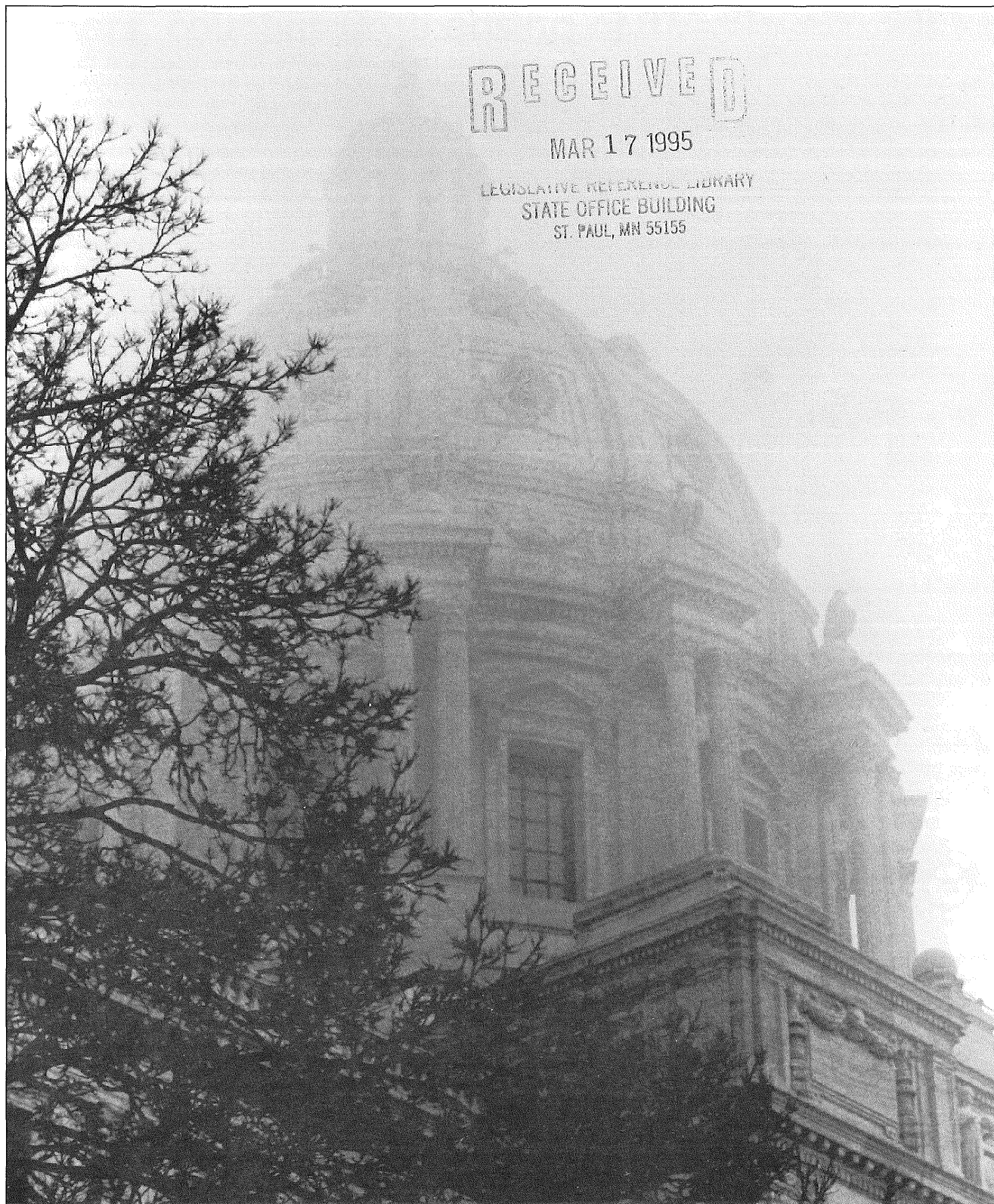


95. March 17

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# SESSION WEEKLY

A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ March 17, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 11



# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • March 17, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 11

**Session Weekly** is a non-partisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1995-96 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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## Week at a glance

**Silent movies** — A bill requiring open- or closed-captioning on all prerecorded videotapes sold or rented in Minnesota won approval from a House panel. The measure would apply to videotaped material released after Dec. 31, 1995, and would be limited to videotaped productions of more than 2,500 copies. .... **Page 6**

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**"Deer baiting" rejected** — A bill that would have allowed bow hunters to set out fruit and grain to attract deer — a practice called "deer baiting" — was rejected by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee. .... **Page 10**

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**Bus battle stations** — Security cameras and Plexiglas shields to protect drivers would be installed on city buses with the money included in a bill moving through the House. Bill sponsor Rep. Darlene Luther said that the growing violence on public buses demands action. .... **Page 14**

**An education in hard work** — Rep. Leslie Schumacher knows hard work. She is a mother, wife, freelance artist, former trucker, and former county commissioner. Now, the first term lawmaker is busy learning about the Legislature and a different kind of hard work. .... **Page 15**

**From business to politics** — Rep. Ron Kraus owns six Dairy Queens and five convenience stores. The first-term lawmaker sees the similarity between politics and business. "Retail is not a business of brick and mortar. Retail is a business of relationships, and politics is a lot like that." .... **Page 16**

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On the cover: Dense fog envelopes the Capitol dome March 16, giving the St. Paul landmark an ethereal aura.

— photo by Andrew VonBank



# Highlights

Wetlands Conservation Act . . .

## Farmers, counties urge easing of 1991 wetlands law

Counties would have more authority to determine what local wetlands should be saved — and many northern counties would be allowed to fill more wetlands — under a bill approved by the House Agriculture Committee March 15 that would relax standards set forth in the 1991 Wetlands Conservation Act.

"This has been a real thorn in the side of people in agriculture for many years," said bill sponsor Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy). "Hopefully, this is something we can all live with."

Approval of the bill (HF622) came after several days of testimony before the Agriculture Committee, where farmers, county officials, and others outlined problems with the law.

"We're putting a cattail ahead of a person's life," said Crow Wing County Commissioner Art Wagner, referring to the money his county spends on replacing wetlands that he argued could be better spent on safety improvements for roads.

Wagner, like many others, complained that the law mandating the preservation of wetlands doesn't make a lot of sense in much of northern Minnesota.

Lake County, in the northeastern corner of the state, for example, still has 98 percent of the wetlands it had when Europeans arrived on the scene. (This standard is referred to as "presettlement wetlands.")

"Obviously, we haven't been destroying a lot of them," said Lake County Commissioner Sharon Hahn.

The measure would allow local governments to adopt their own "comprehensive wetland protection and management plan" in lieu of the rules adopted by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), which currently oversees the law.

And it would significantly increase the size of the wetlands that would be exempt from the law. Currently, wetlands that are less than 400 square feet in size can be destroyed without being replaced elsewhere.

Under Tunheim's bill, that cap would be raised to 1,000 square feet in counties with



A bill (HF622) to give counties more control over which wetlands should be protected or replaced won approval from the House Agriculture Committee March 15. It would particularly ease the burden in northeastern Minnesota, where few wetlands have been lost since European settlers came to the area.

less than 50 percent of their presettlement wetlands, 5,000 square feet in counties with 50 to 80 percent of their presettlement wetlands, and 10,000 square feet in counties with more than 80 percent of these wetlands.

The original wetlands law was adopted because of growing awareness of the role of wetlands in serving as a natural filter to cleanse water in lakes, rivers, and underground aquifers.

Another key provision of the bill would require that the state Office of the Attorney General represent local governments in cases where landowners file lawsuits over the "taking" of wetland property.

That sticky legal issue was one reason why five northern Minnesota counties — Beltrami, Koochiching, Lake, Marshall, and Pennington — have refused to abide by the 1991 law because they say it unfairly discriminates against counties with many wetlands. Those five counties have formed a joint powers board which helped draft HF622.

Tunheim unsuccessfully attempted to amend the bill to require that the state be liable — instead of counties — for damages awarded to landowners who sued over the implementation of the wetlands law.

Although BWSR representatives objected to several sections of the bill, they conceded that changes in the law are needed.

Greg Larson of BWSR said the many different state and federal agencies that have authority over wetlands have created a sort of paper-shuffling "purgatory" for landowners that "they can't get out of."

And he conceded that the 400-square-foot threshold for exemption from the law was too low and that the current "one size fits all" wetlands law needs to be changed.

"We believe there is some middle ground," added BWSR Executive Director Ron Harnack, referring to other wetlands bills introduced by Reps. Carol Molnau (IR-Chaska) and Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth). Munger is chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, which is the next stop for HF622.

"I envision a compromise on this issue," said Agriculture Committee Chair Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls).

—Grant Moos



## Farmer-lender mediation

The farmer-lender mediation program — borne out of the farm crisis of the mid-1980s — would continue for another two years, under a bill approved by the House Agriculture Committee March 13.

If signed into law, it would mark the sixth time the program has been extended since it was originally created in 1986 to help farmers and bankers work through their mutual economic problems.

The measure (**HF363**) would authorize that \$400,000 in state money be spent over the next two-year spending period to help pay for the program that employed 35 mediators in the 1994-95 biennium.

The program, which is operated by the Minnesota Extension Service, mediated 1,251 disputes between October 1993 and October 1994. Of those, 47 percent of the debtors agreed to pay their delinquent loans, according to the Minnesota Extension Service.

"It brings the family, along with the lenders, together," said the bill's sponsor, Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda). "This is a face-the-wall situation for a lot of farmers."

Added Brent Waddell, an attorney for the Legal Services Advocacy Project in St. Paul, "Mediation is a fast growing alternative to legal action. . . . To let the farmer-lender mediation program sunset would clearly be a step backward."

Others, however, weren't so sure.

"It's day has come and should [be allowed to] sunset," said Jerry Schoenfeld, a lobbyist for the Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota.

Schoenfeld, a former House member and a key architect of agricultural law in the 1980s, said that 13,000 farmers descended on the Capitol at the peak the farm crisis in 1986.

At an earlier agricultural committee meeting March 6, Schoenfeld questioned whether there were any farmers — other than committee members — in the room to voice support for the program.

Schoenfeld explained that farmers now have several more safeguards in law to protect their farms than were available in 1986. And he argued that these safeguards — in addition to the mediation program — actually add costs to farmers because bankers charge higher interest rates for farm operating loans.

The measure also calls on the Minnesota Extension Service to study how the program could mesh with a new federal law that mandates the mediation of wetlands, pesti-

cides and other disputes involving farmers.

Winter's bill originally called for making the mediation program permanent, but that provision was eliminated when some members objected.

HF363 now moves to the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee for further review.



## BONDING

## New building for MnDOT

A bill that would authorize \$9 million in state bonds so the Minnesota Department of Transportation could purchase the Roseville building that now serves as its Metropolitan Division headquarters won approval from the House Transportation Finance Division March 14.

Most MnDOT Metropolitan Division employees have office space at the Water's Edge building in Roseville, near the Rosedale Center off Highway 36, said Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) who sponsors **HF1024**.

Other occupants share the top floor of the building, he said. The lease expires in September and the department would like to purchase the building to use as its metropolitan headquarters.

The other occupants would then lease from MnDOT, Lieder said.

It would cost \$11 million for MnDOT to purchase and maintain the building over a 10-year period and \$14 million to continue renting, Lieder said.

The Water's Edge building has recently been appraised at \$8.9 million, he added.

"We're in continued negotiations with the

owners. It makes me nervous when there's that much difference between appraisal and asking price," Lieder said.

MnDOT officials are also currently negotiating with Roseville city officials about the potential property tax loss for the city should the building be sold to the state, Lieder added.

The bill now moves to the Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee. If approved, the bill also must stop at the Capital Investment Committee, whose members toured the building March 14.



## BUDGET

## Budget resolution adopted

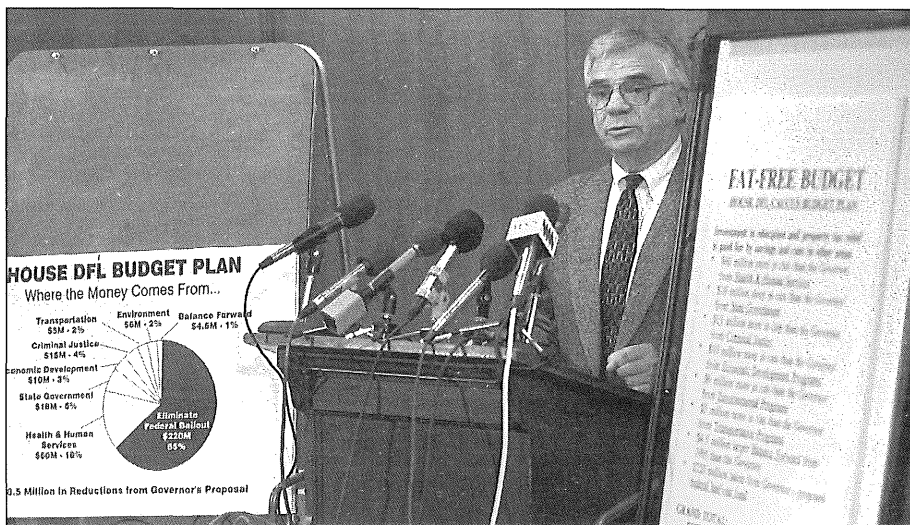
The House Way and Means Committee approved a budget resolution March 14 that calls for \$18.3 billion in state spending over the next biennium.

The amount is roughly \$220 million more than Gov. Arne Carlson has detailed in his budget proposal. Carlson's budget would stash \$220 million in a rainy day fund, in anticipation of fewer federal dollars being funneled to Minnesota.

Current estimates indicate Minnesota could lose about \$1.8 billion in federal money over the next six years, Carlson has said.

House Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) spoke against the rainy day fund amendment offered by House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon).

"If the federal government can't manage its own affairs, why should we be expected to bail them out," he asked committee members.



House Speaker Irv Anderson presented the House majority caucus budget proposal March 15. It would not set aside the \$220 million rainy day fund Gov. Arne Carlson has called for, and would boost education spending by \$240 million above Carlson's recommendations. The House Ways and Means Committee approved a budget resolution March 14 that calls for \$18.3 billion in state spending over the next biennium.



Sviggum said by failing to plan for federal cuts "we are sticking our heads in the sand... [and] ignoring the storm that is approaching."

The amendment failed on a party-line vote.

House DFL leaders released a detailed budget proposal March 15 which would shave \$118.5 million from the governor's budget recommendations. Those dollars — combined with the \$220 million DFLers refuse to set aside for potential federal cuts — would go toward increased education spending and to local governments.

House DFLers propose to spend \$240 million more than the governor has recommended for K-12 education, \$29 million more for higher education and \$57 million more for aid to local governments. (Carlson's budget would cut anticipated local government aid by \$57 million for fiscal year 1995.)

Carlson has proposed spending \$5.7 billion for K-12 education and about \$2.1 billion for higher education.

To finance the extra spending, the DFL budget proposal would cut the governor's budget in the following places:

- \$60 million from health and human services programs;
- \$18 million from state government;
- \$15 million from criminal justice programs;
- \$10 million from economic development programs;
- \$6 million from environmental programs; and
- \$5 million from transportation programs.

Specific program cuts were not outlined by DFLers, and Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, admitted the task won't be easy.

The House finance committees and divisions are charged with slashing the budgets under their purview, Solberg said.

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls).

The bill requires companies receiving more than \$25,000 from the state in the form of grants, loans, or some tax breaks, including tax increment financing, to pay employees enough to at least meet the federal poverty level for a family of four. That amounts to about \$14,900 a year, Clark said.

The wage standards would apply only to employees hired after the state money is received, she said.

The bill was amended to require a wage no lower than the poverty level instead of the hazily defined "livable wage" originally proposed. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 4)

The companies also would have to show a net job growth or the retention of jobs that would have been lost without help from the state. Businesses that fail to meet the wage and job standards would face state penalties.

Companies receiving grants, loans, or tax increment financing to redevelop blighted areas would be exempt under an amendment attached to the bill. Small businesses — those with no more than 20 employees and gross annual revenues of less than \$1 million — also would be exempt.

Under the bill, the legislative auditor would be required to report every two years on the jobs created and wages paid by companies receiving any form of tax reduction or waiver.

The bill, which passed on a 10-9 vote, drew opposition from several committee members, including Rep. Mike Osskopp (IR-Lake City), who said the bill would cost Minnesotans jobs and cause businesses to leave the state.

"We can call this the western Wisconsin, northern Iowa, and eastern Dakotas employ-

ment enhancement bill," Osskopp said.

But Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) defended the bill. "I don't think it's wrong to ask for accountability for the welfare we give to businesses," she said.

The bill now goes to the House Taxes Committee.

## Tobacco proposal fails

A bill that would have required retail shops statewide to purchase a license to sell tobacco products, and slapped steep fines on business owners for repeat tobacco sales to minors, failed to pass a House panel March 14.

The vote on **HF903** before the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee was 12-12.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope), would have fined a store owner \$50 for a first offense of selling tobacco to a minor. A second offense would have brought a \$200 fine, and a third violation within two years would have meant a \$400 fine. Four-time violators would have lost their tobacco retailer's license for a minimum of 30 days.

Under current law, only a store employee who sells tobacco to a minor can be charged with a gross misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$3,000 fine; a store owner has no liability.

The committee previously approved a bill (**HF108**) that would require store owners to instruct their employees about the law prohibiting tobacco sales to minors. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 4)

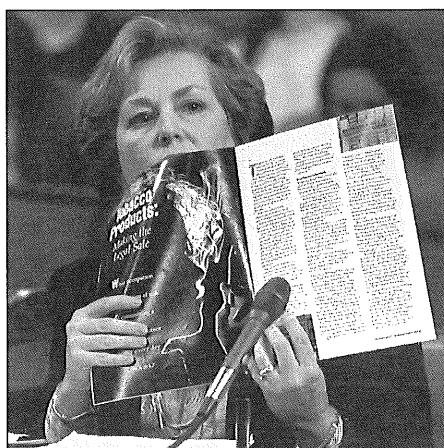
**HF108** also would require cities and counties to conduct "sting" operations (send underage teens into stores to try and purchase cigarettes) to test compliance with current state law barring tobacco sales to minors.

**HF903** also would have required that such annual "compliance checks" be conducted at every retail outlet licensed to sell tobacco.

Anti-smoking groups argued that **HF108** — which does not hold a store owner liable for illegal tobacco sales — represented the interests of the tobacco industry and would not have a significant effect in curbing teenage smoking. Those groups campaigned for passage of the more stringent **HF903**.

They were backed by Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey III, who told lawmakers that store owners need to face "real consequences" if they sell cigarettes to minors.

"We should have some shared responsibility here," said Humphrey, by holding both store owners and employees liable for violating state law.



Nancy Christenson, executive director of the Minnesota Grocers Association, testified against **HF903** before the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee March 14. The proposal would have called for stiff fines for business owners who repeatedly sell tobacco to minors. It failed on a 12-12 committee vote.



## BUSINESS

### Corporate welfare

A bill to reform "corporate welfare" won approval March 16 from the House International Trade and Economic Development Committee.

**HF869** would require businesses that receive state money for economic development or job creation to meet certain standards concerning employee salaries and the addition of new jobs.

"This is so we know what we're getting for our dollar, so we have some idea whether it was a good investment," said bill sponsor

Representatives of the Minnesota Grocers Association and the Minnesota Retail Merchants Association argued that the bill would unfairly punish responsible proprietors for the actions of employees.

Some lawmakers agreed.

Rep. Ron Kraus (IR-Albert Lea), who owns five convenience stores where tobacco is sold, asked fellow legislators to consider the "fairness issue" of punishing absentee owners.

"What if the owner is serving in the Legislature and is gone for five months?" he asked.

The bill is not expected to be reconsidered by the committee.



## CONSUMERS

### Silent movies

A bill requiring open- or closed-captioning on all prerecorded videotapes sold or rented in Minnesota won approval from a House panel March 15.

The measure would apply to videotaped material released after Dec. 31, 1995. It would be limited to videotaped productions of more than 2,500 copies. Retailers' and rental outlets' existing stock of videos would not be affected by the bill.

Minnesota would be the first state to make videotaped movies accessible to those who are deaf or hard of hearing — 9 percent of the state population — explained bill sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul).

Only 12 percent of videos now available are close-captioned, according to Doug Bahl, president of the Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens.

"Is that fair?" Bahl asked members of the Consumer Affairs Subcommittee of the Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee. "Children sitting here in the audience don't have full access to educational materials."

During a meeting which was interpreted in American Sign Language (ASL) for the dozens of deaf people in the audience, Entenza said that captioning a master videotape involves a minimal cost — \$5,000 for a multi-million dollar feature length film.

(Open-captioning is the term for subtitles, like those added to foreign language films. Closed-captioning refers to subtitles — encoded on a videotape or in a live broadcast — that can be decoded and switched on or off by a computer chip that is required in all new televisions sold in the U.S.)

Those testifying before the committee said the bill would offer incalculable rewards for those who previously have been unable to understand and enjoy movies on videotape.

Anne Barlow of Maple Grove told lawmakers that her deaf son would "learn how to read better and faster" with captioned videos.

"I want my son to enjoy the same types and the same numbers of videos as everyone else," she said.

Displaying "The Secrets of Magic," an instructional videotape she bought for her son, Barlow said, "The secrets of magic remain secret to my son — it's not captioned."

Doug Kelm, representing the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), spoke against the bill. He said that the motion picture industry is sympathetic to the goals of the deaf community and is making progress on a voluntary basis.

About 90 percent of new movies on video are now close-captioned, according to Kelm.

HF1048 now moves to the full Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee.

### Cleaning up state debts

A bill to give the state more authority to collect overdue student loans, back taxes, fines, and other debts owed to state agencies won approval from the House Governmental Operations Committee March 14.

The bill (HF625) would assess an extra penalty to debts referred for collection, which would make debtors rather than the general public pay for the cost of collection.

The bill also would allow the state, under some circumstances, to garnish wages until a debt is paid off.

Currently, the state and other creditors can garnish a person's wages for up to 70 days. Under the bill, the state could garnish wages until the debt is paid as long as there are no

other creditors garnishing the wages. Debtors who prove the garnishment is a hardship and that they need more money for necessities such as shelter, food, and work transportation, could reduce a garnishment.

In addition, the legislation would allow state agencies to charge interest on debts, a practice most state agencies already carry out.

The bill is designed to bring in more revenue for the state, said bill sponsor Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul). He assured members that collection agents would provide adequate notice before actions are taken or penalties are enforced.

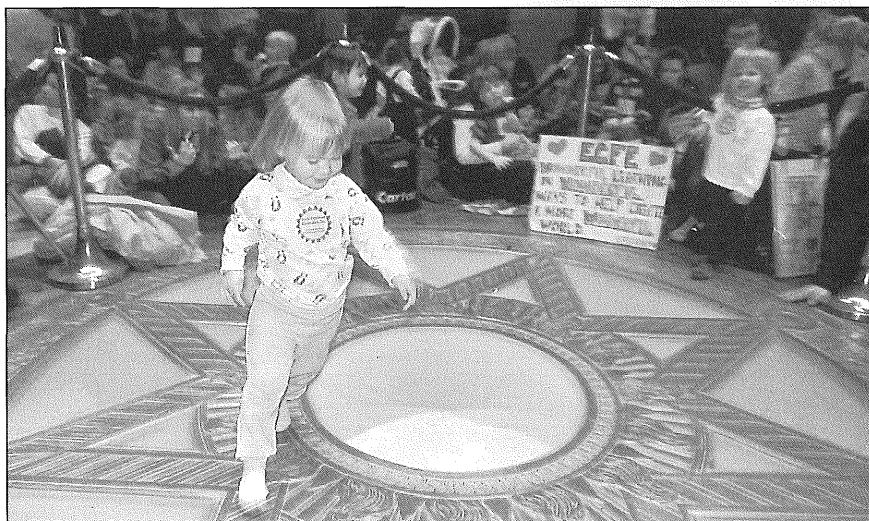
Under current law, the Department of Finance is responsible for state debt but the Department of Revenue, other state agencies, and private collection agencies help to bring in past due bills. In 1994, the Minnesota Collection Enterprise (MCE) was established to coordinate a statewide effort on bill collections.

As of Sept. 30, 1994, the state was owed \$641 million to the general fund and \$587 million to other state accounts, according to the MCE.

The MCE estimates that over the next two-year budgeting period, the bill would help it collect an additional \$21 million, said Jerry McClure, MCE director and director of collections for the Department of Revenue.

The penalties would vary. Beginning July 1, 1995, overdue bills would see an additional 15 percent of the total debt tacked on as a penalty. It could be as high as 25 percent of the total debt if the state has to serve a summons and complaint or enter into a court judgment against the debtor.

The penalty would be withdrawn in some cases if the debtor meets certain federal pov-



Two-year-old Charlotte Johnson of Minneapolis danced on the Star of the North in the Capitol rotunda March 14 as the Teddy Bear Band played at a rally for continued funding of Early Childhood and Family Education (ECFE) programs.

erty guidelines, or if, within 60 days after being contacted, the debtor has just cause for not paying.

A provision to add counties and cities to the list of agencies that may refer debts to the state for collection was deleted from the bill.

The bill now moves to the Judiciary Committee.



## CRIME

### Protecting witnesses

Known criminals still walk the streets because witnesses are afraid to identify or testify against them, a House panel was told March 13.

"We have a number of cases every year that simply can't go forward," said Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman. "Far too many witnesses are afraid . . . too many simply just don't show up."

Three bills designed to better protect witnesses in hopes of securing their help to prosecute offenders won approval from the House Judiciary Committee.

According to Minneapolis police Sgt. Pete Jackson, one of the first questions a victim or potential witness asks of him is "what can you do to protect me?"

Since witnesses often come from the same neighborhood as the offender, they fear retribution, Freeman said. Having the financial means to temporarily remove the witness from the neighborhood to secure a statement or trial testimony would take more offenders off the streets, Freeman said.

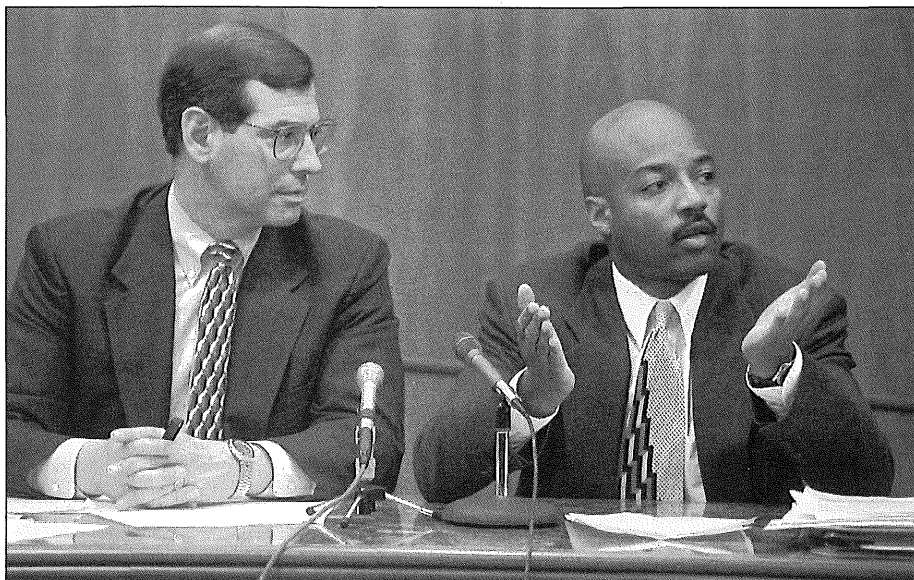
**HF771** would earmark an unspecified amount of state money to keep witnesses safe and available to testify at trial. The funds would pay to repair broken locks, restore phone service, or lease short-term security alarms. They also could be used for short-term housing or relocation services.

Last year, Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed \$200,000 earmarked for the creation of a witness and victim protection fund.

**HF772** would allow the court to seal the records in name change proceedings if the change was made to protect a crime victim or witness.

It would also close a loophole in the current witness tampering statute. Current law only makes it a crime to threaten to retaliate should a witness decide to testify, but not for carrying out the threat and causing injury.

**HF773** would allocate an unspecified amount of money for the emergency needs of crime victims. Such funds could be used for replacing property stolen in a crime, or for



Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman, left, and Minneapolis Police Sergeant Pete Jackson testified March 13 in favor of three proposals (HF771, HF772, HF773) that would help law enforcement officials increase witness protection efforts. Freeman said cases are at times dismissed because eyewitnesses fear for their safety. The House Judiciary Committee approved all three proposals.

transportation to locations related to the victims' needs, such as a hospital or clinic, court, or police station.

Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul), sponsor of all three bills, told members he had three crime witnesses slotted to testify before the committee, "but all three disappeared . . . they were afraid to come here," he said.

**HF771** and **HF773** now move to the Judiciary Finance Committee. **HF772** will be incorporated into the year's omnibus data practices bill.

### Resurrecting vetoed projects

Two bills that would resurrect projects vetoed in 1994 by Gov. Arne Carlson won approval from the House Judiciary Committee March 13.

**HF179** would extend the state's current "sentence to service" program to include graffiti removal teams. A \$60,000 appropriation vetoed last year would have funded two supervisory positions for the graffiti squad.

**HF371** would establish three two-year pilot centers designed to help truant youth. Their purpose would be to coordinate the efforts of schools, parents, police, community members, and social service agencies.

A total of \$200,000 in grants to local law enforcement agencies to develop three truant service centers was vetoed last year.

"The degree to which we can prevent truancy is largely the degree to which we can prevent delinquency," said Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls).

Both proposals, sponsored by Skoglund,

now move to the Judiciary Finance Committee. No dollar amounts have as yet been attached to the proposals.



## ELECTIONS

### Equalizing campaign spending

Major party candidates for a state office would not be bound by campaign spending limits when running against an independent candidate who plans to exceed the spending limits, under a bill approved by the House Elections Division March 9.

Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), who sponsors **HF667**, said it would close a loophole in current campaign finance law which affected her personally in the 1994 election.

Currently, a candidate is held to campaign spending limits only if he or she is a member of a major political party and accepts a public subsidy. Independent candidates can spend as they wish and don't qualify for public subsidies. Under state law, only major party candidates — either DFLers or IRs — are eligible for the subsidy. (Also, the Independence Party is now considered a major party and will be eligible to receive the subsidy in the 1996 election.)

But if, for example, a DFL candidate's IR opponent doesn't accept the subsidy and ignores the spending limits, the DFL candidate can also ignore limits — even if he or she has already accepted the public subsidy. Under current law, this only applies when both candidates are from a major party.

The hitch came for Long because her op-

ponent did not attach herself to a major party. Because Long's opponent ran as an independent, her spending levels did not trigger the clause that would have allowed Long to ignore spending limits.

**HF667** would change current state law to say that the candidate not agreeing to spending limits need not be from a major political party in order for the opponent to also ignore the limits.

Long accepted a \$10,000 public subsidy for her 1994 campaign so she remained bound by a spending limit of about \$21,000. Her independent opponent spent about \$50,000.

Another provision of **HF667** says that all candidates who raise or spend \$1,500 before the September primary would be subject to the same restrictions as major-party candidates.

The bill will be heard next by the full House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.

## A possible June primary

A bill that would move the state primary election from September to the second Tuesday in June won approval March 13 from the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.

Proponents want to reduce the amount of party infighting and focus on general election opponents earlier in the election season.

The bill (**HF142**) originally called for an August primary date, but members of the committee's Elections Division changed it to the third Tuesday in June. (See March 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8)

Election administrators preferred the second Tuesday in June because fewer voters will be on summer vacation. The committee adopted the change.

(Party caucuses still would be held on the second Tuesday in March as is done now.)

The bill also calls for major party candidates for congressional or state constitutional offices to receive at least 20 percent of the vote on any ballot for that office at the party-endorsing convention. Only then could their names be placed on a state primary election ballot.

If such a candidate didn't make the 20 percent cut, he or she could still make the ballot by submitting a petition signed by the number of eligible voters equal to 10 percent of people voting on the nomination for that office at the last state primary.

The provision would expire following the 1996 general election.

"I'm not convinced this is a good idea. We can try it out and see, and if it works out, we can bring it back," Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) said.

Another provision of the bill calls for the elimination of the presidential primary election, now held in April. The move is expected to save about \$3.1 million, said Secretary of State Joan Growe.

The bill goes now to the House floor.

## Election day campaigning

A bill that would allow candidates to campaign on election day won approval from the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee March 13.

The proposal (**HF289/SF315\***) sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) would make a number of changes to current election law, including repealing a provision prohibiting candidates from campaigning on election day. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8)

The state Office of the Attorney General has said the prohibition is virtually unenforceable and is most likely unconstitutional, said Joe Mansky, director of the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

Minnesota's county attorneys, who are required to prosecute anyone who campaigns on election day, have asked for the law change, Jefferson said.

Although the bill is moving through the House under the Senate file number, it contains the House language. The Senate version of the elections bill does not contain the provision against campaigning on election day.

The bill next will be heard on the House floor.

## Absentee ballots

Any eligible voter could cast an absentee ballot up to 30 days before any election, under a bill approved March 13 by the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.

Currently, absentee ballots can be requested only by voters who will be absent from their precinct on election day, are hospitalized, ill, disabled, or can't vote on election day for religious reasons. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7)

The bill (**HF167/SF35\***) would allow voters statewide to cast ballots in person at their county auditor's office, or a site designated by the auditor's office, during the 30 days before an election.

Also under the bill, those in hospitals, nursing homes, or in another health care facility could authorize an agent to deliver their ballot to the auditor's office.

Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) sponsors the bill, which now goes to the House floor for consideration.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Used motor oil disposal

Gas stations and repair shops performing oil changes and businesses selling motor oil would have to accept used oil and oil filters from the public, under a bill approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee March 10.

Any retail outlet selling more than 3,000 gallons of motor oil per year — or about 33 quarts per day — would have to accept used motor oil. Gas stations and repair shops would have to take up to five gallons of used oil and five used oil filters per person per day, under the proposal.

Businesses either would have to set up their own collection facility or contract with another business — less than one mile away — to accept used oil and filters. Businesses could charge up to 50 cents per used oil filter to help cover their costs.

Making businesses accept used motor oil "would increase the number of collection sites . . . and distribute responsibility to those who benefit from the sale of oil," said bill sponsor Rep. Robert Leighton (DFL-Austin).

Under current law, a retailer selling motor oil is required only to post a notice advising consumers of a location within 10 miles where they can dispose of used oil.

Leighton explained that an environmental hazard has been created by those changing their own oil who are improperly disposing of the used oil.

About 775,000 gallons of used motor oil — 11 percent of the total oil disposed of by individuals in the state — was poured down drains or dumped on the ground in 1992, according to a study by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Such disposal is illegal. Used oil should be taken to an oil recycling facility.

The MPCA study says that "just one gallon of oil can contaminate one million gallons of drinking water."

Speaking in support of the bill, Sharon Meyer of the MPCA Hazardous Waste Division told lawmakers that the proposal would provide "predictable, convenient opportunities" for individuals to dispose of used oil and filters.

Dale Feste, who runs an auto repair shop in Hopkins and represents the Automotive Service Association, told members that repair shops should not have to accept used oil from individuals.



He said that he comes to work on Monday and finds containers of used motor oil on the doorstep to his shop. Feste said it's impossible to know what other chemicals have been dumped in with the used oil.

For example, if a person has added bug spray or acetone to the oil, "now it's a hazardous waste" and requires special handling, explained Feste.

The bill provides that persons who accept contaminated motor oil must dispose of it as a hazardous waste, and the MPCA will reimburse 75 percent of the disposal cost.

**HF1087** now moves to the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.



## ETHICS

### Ethics law conundrum

Two bills that would revise the 1994 ethics law that banned most gifts to lawmakers were heard before the House Ethics Committee March 14.

Among the more significant changes sought in the law is a proposal that would allow lawmakers to accept coffee and refreshments from lobbyists that do not exceed \$3 in value. The other bill would allow legislators to receive "anything that does not exceed \$5."

The bills, one sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester) in the House and Sen. Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) in the Senate, and the other by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) in the House and Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville) in the Senate, are expected to be considered again by the committee March 27.

In the months since the passage of Minnesota's new ethics law, the Ethical Practices Board has issued about three dozen opinions at the request of lobbyists, special interest groups that hire lobbyists, and public officials who want to make sure of the boundaries set forth in the new law.

The dilemmas range from whether pamphlets or booklets given to legislators are prohibited to whether a wildlife portrait on loan to a lawmaker from a hunting association can be loaned for display in a legislator's office. (The Ethical Practices Board said yes to one booklet but no to the wildlife portrait.)

Since the passage of the law, there have been several questions over just what is, and what isn't, prohibited.

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) shared a story about how she was invited to speak at a luncheon in Greater Minnesota about a bill she had sponsored.

She wondered whether it was permissible

for her, or other lawmakers in a similar situation, to carpool with someone who is either a lobbyist or belongs to a group that employs a lobbyist.

Both bills, **HF856** sponsored by Bishop, and **HF802** sponsored by Greiling, seek many of the same changes. Among other things, both would:

- Require all advisory opinions offered by the Ethical Practices Board to be public. Under the current law, the specifics of advisory opinions are not public data unless the individual or group requesting the opinion signs a waiver. But the board is still required to hear all requests in a public meeting which makes maintaining confidentiality difficult.
  - Remove "promise of future employment" from the definition of a gift. Because many corporations, private non-profits, schools, and other local governments have lobbyists or belong to a group that uses lobbyists, some have interpreted the law to mean that elected officials and staff must resign or be fired before they can even begin to look for a new job.
  - Allow lawmakers to accept some refreshments. Greiling's bill specifically exempts coffee and refreshments that do not exceed \$3. Bishop's bill exempts "anything that does not exceed \$5."
  - Allow lawmakers to receive reimbursement for reasonable travel and lodging expenses when they give a speech or answer questions as part of an organization's event. Greiling's bill would limit the provision to travel costs within the state.
  - Allow officials to participate in gifts to family members when the gift is provided by that family member's employer. Some officials and staff couldn't participate in their spouse's company picnics because the company either uses a lobbyist or belongs to a group that does.
  - Better define "local officials" subject to the law. It would limit the definition to those officials who have the authority to make, or to vote on, final recommendations and decisions on spending or investing public money.
  - Extend the enforcement for both the local and state officials gift ban to the Ethical Practices Board and allow the board to impose a \$1,000 civil penalty for violations of the law. Under current law, there is no penalty for state officials but local officials face a misdemeanor for violating the law.
- The 1994 law banned lawmakers from accepting any gift from lobbyists. Such gifts include money, property, a service, a loan, or

a promise of future employment. Although not specifically listed, food and beverages were also considered gifts and prohibited. The same goes for tickets to sporting events and other entertainment.

In addition to elected officials such as representatives, senators, and the governor, other public officials and all employees of the Legislature also are forbidden from accepting gifts from lobbyists. Many local elected officials in the seven-county metropolitan area are also covered under the law.

There are a few exceptions to the ban on gifts. For instance, a lawmaker may accept a plaque or similar memento recognizing service, or a meal after he or she has appeared at a meeting to give a speech or answer questions on an issue.



## FAMILY

### 'Positive family values'

A resolution calling on television programmers to promote "positive family values" and reduce portrayals of sex and violence was approved by the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee March 13.

The resolution contends that television programs showing "violence and sexually explicit material contribute to a rise in the incidence of sexual crimes, violent assaults, and family breakdowns."

Television networks also encourage an "acceptance of divorce" through programs displaying a "liberalized attitude toward divorce," according to the resolution.

Networks are directed by the resolution to "actively reduce the amount of violence-laden, sexually explicit material" on TV and to produce "television material that promotes positive family values and helps to strengthen the family."

Bill sponsor Rep. Eileen Tompkins (IR-Apple Valley) told lawmakers that television is not the only cause of social problems "but is certainly part of the problem."

She said that television contributes to "promiscuity and unfaithfulness in marriage," which have a "devastating" impact on children.

"We have to have a moral rudder, which we don't seem to have anymore," said Tompkins.

Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) questioned the meaning of the phrase "wholesome family values," which appeared in the original text of the resolution.

Kelley was concerned that such language would imply that children of divorce living

with a single parent did not belong to "real families."

He suggested that the resolution instead call for the promotion of "strong family relationships."

Committee chair Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) broke the linguistic impasse by suggesting that members could all agree that television should promote "positive family values."

The resolution directs the Minnesota Secretary of State to send copies of the resolution to the "presidents of the television networks."

**HF396** now goes to the House floor.

## GAME & FISH

### Enticing deer

A bill that would have allowed bow hunters to set out fruit and grain to attract deer — a practice called "deer baiting" — was rejected by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee March 10.

Up to 10 gallons of "grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, hay, or other foods" could be set out in a hunting spot "for the purpose of attracting and enticing deer," under the proposal sponsored by Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook).

The reason for setting out "biodegradable bait" is to bring deer "in close enough to get a clean shot," according to Bakk, who pointed out that **HF745** would have allowed deer baiting only during the archery season.

Bakk said that Wisconsin allows deer baiting and has not experienced significant problems. He also said there are current programs that pay farmers to leave standing rows of corn to feed wildlife, which is really a form of baiting.

But the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) remains "strongly opposed" to baiting as a method for taking deer, according to Tim Bremicker, director of the DNR's wildlife section.

"Once it starts, baiting increases," said Bremicker, noting that in Michigan "it's a large commercial industry." He said that the deer baiting issue is "extremely divisive . . . extremely controversial" in both Wisconsin and Michigan.

Bremicker said that baiting affects the movement of deer, creates conflicts among hunters defending their personal bait sites, and increases the use of vehicles on public lands.

The Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, which has 20,000 members, supports the current ban on deer baiting, which was instituted in 1991.

## Open season on Wil E. Coyote

Four more of the state's fur-bearing animals would fall under the regulatory authority of the state Department of Natural Resources, under an omnibus game and fish bill approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee March 10.

The least weasel, short-tailed weasel, long-tailed weasel, and spotted skunk would be included under the DNR's umbrella, meaning that the department could regulate and set hunting seasons for these small game species in the same way it does for many others.

But lawmakers drew the line at adding the coyote and the striped skunk to the DNR's list. Those animals were deleted from the list in an amendment offered by Rep. Tim Finseth (IR-Angus).

That leaves the coyote and striped skunk as "unprotected wild animals," meaning they can still be hunted or trapped at anytime in Minnesota.

Elevating the striped skunk from its unprotected status is "ridiculous. They're a nuisance up north," said Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook). He said that skunks are "destroying the duck population" by eating duck eggs they find along shorelines.

DNR fur-bearer specialist Mike DonCarlos acknowledged that the number of coyotes and striped skunks are not dwindling in Minnesota. But he said bringing them under the DNR's purview now would help should the need to protect them arise in the future.

There is, however, concern about the spotted skunk and the least weasel, DonCarlos said after the meeting. The DNR is proposing that its department rules be amended to classify the spotted skunk as a "threatened species," and the least weasel a "special concern" species. Both classifications would provide those animals greater protection.

The game and fish bill, sponsored by Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul), also would:

- allow an ice angler to stray further away from a "tip-up," which is a mechanical device that raises a small red flag when a fish tugs on the line. Under current law, a person has to be within 80 feet of a tip-up. A successful amendment offered by Bakk would allow winter anglers to be within "unaided visual contact" of the tip-up. Bakk said this would allow Minnesota anglers to build a bonfire on the shore for warmth and still be fishing within the law;
- allow an angler to buy a 24-hour fishing license for a specified future date. Under current law, the 24-hour license is issued

only for the day it is purchased. It costs \$7.50; and

- require residents 13 and older to have a trapping license. Under current law, those 14 and older must obtain a license.

**HF683** now moves to the House floor.



## GOVERNMENT

### Committee chair terms limited

A change in the permanent rules of the House will limit the number of terms a representative may serve as chairperson of most committees.

An amendment by Rep. Tim Pawlenty (IR-Eagan) limits members to three consecutive terms, or six years, as the chair of the same standing committee or a committee "with substantially the same jurisdiction."

Pawlenty said long-time committee chairs gain too much power and that limiting their time in control would allow "some fresh perspective."

But Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) said committee chairs are appointed to their positions because of knowledge and understanding of the issues. "No one on either side would tell you experience is an evil thing," he said.

The limits will not apply to the chairs of the Ways and Means Committee or the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee. Time served as a committee chair before the beginning of the current session does not count, under the new limits.

Pawlenty's amendment, adopted on a 95-37 vote, was among changes to the House rules approved by members March 13. Other changes will ban committee meetings between midnight and 7 a.m. and allow the House to invite the governor to appear to answer direct questions from members. The governor can decline the invitation.

About 30 proposed rules changes, offered largely by Independent-Republicans, were rejected during debate on the House floor.

The failed amendments included proposals to guarantee minority party representation on committees, boards, commissions, and task forces in proportion to the party's number of House members and to guarantee minority party representation in conference committees.

Members also voted down an amendment by Rep. Erik Paulsen (IR-Eden Prairie) to require a three-fifths vote, or "super majority," for all income tax or sales tax hikes.

Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (IR-

Kenyon) said the adoption of the rules changes, while including some "positive steps," represents "a number of greatly missed opportunities" to improve the input of the minority party.

## Paying for treaty lawsuit

State taxpayers are on a course to spend millions of dollars in the next few years on federal court fights over American Indian hunting and fishing rights.

So far, the state is losing the legal battle. A federal court ruled in August 1994 that the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians retains its rights under an 1837 treaty to hunt, fish, and gather in a 12-county area of east-central Minnesota that includes Lake Mille Lacs, the state's premier walleye lake.

The state had argued that the Mille Lacs band's hunting and fishing rights under the treaty were no longer valid.

Assistant Attorney General Scott Strand told the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee March 14 that Minnesota has spent \$2 million so far defending itself against the 1990 lawsuit and could spend millions more as the litigation continues.

The money paid so far has gone for attorneys, historical and anthropological research, and other expenses involved in the court case.

The Mille Lacs band's lawsuit calls for the state to stop enforcing its hunting and fishing laws in a vast area of east-central Minnesota ceded by the Ojibwe Indians.

The case went to trial in a St. Paul federal court after the 1993 Legislature declined to

ratify a negotiated settlement of hunting and fishing rights worked out between the Mille Lacs band and the state of Minnesota. The proposed agreement called for the state to give the band 15,000 acres of land and \$8.6 million in exchange for relinquishing commercial harvesting rights in much of the ceded territory.

The Legislature then provided \$1 million to the Office of the Attorney General to defend the state against the lawsuit brought by the band in federal court.

The attorney general's office spent that money and requested another \$790,000 to cover the costs of litigating the Mille Lacs lawsuit and a separate similar lawsuit brought by the Fond du Lac band. That money would be made available as part of a "deficiency" bill (HF355) awaiting action on the House floor. (See Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7)

The governor's budget request for the next two-year spending cycle proposes that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) receive an additional \$1 million in "treaty litigation expenses" to fund appeals of the Mille Lacs band lawsuit, and to prepare for a second trial in late 1996 to determine how natural resources will be allocated between the Mille Lacs band and the state, and to what extent the state can exercise its conservation and public safety functions in the ceded territory.

(The governor has also recommended that the DNR receive an additional \$808,000 over the next two years to survey fish and wildlife resources "in the counties covered by the 1837 Treaty.")

At a March 8 committee meeting, Rod

Nargang, DNR deputy commissioner, said that the state intends to fight the treaty rights lawsuits "to the limit." He said that Wisconsin spent \$17 million over 14 years litigating hunting and fishing rights lawsuits with Ojibwe bands in that state.

With the state's present and proposed legal bill in the Mille Lacs and Fond du Lac cases approaching \$4 million, some lawmakers were not pleased with the prospect of continued spending to challenge Indian treaty rights claims in federal court.

"Where we come from, we call it pouring money down a rat hole," said Committee Chair Rep. Chuck Brown (DFL-Appleton).



## HEALTH

### Amending MinnesotaCare

Minnesotans who can afford to buy health insurance but refuse to do so would be penalized under a bill heard by members of the House Health and Human Services Committee March 14.

The bill (HF1077), sponsored by Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island), also would redefine the universal health coverage mandate now in law. Under that law, all Minnesotans must have health insurance by July 1, 1997.

The bill would do away with the mandated date and say universal coverage has been achieved "when every Minnesotan has access to the full range of health care services. . . ."

To encourage all Minnesotans to be insured, the bill proposes to penalize those with annual incomes above 275 percent of the federal poverty guideline who don't have health insurance. (That's \$37,592 for a family of four.) Those people would face a reduced tax deduction — with a maximum penalty of \$2,000 for an individual and \$5,000 for a household.

The bill would also delay the implementation of the regulated all-payer option (RAPO) portion of the current MinnesotaCare law until the year 2000.

The RAPO, now set to be implemented by July 1, 1997, would require the state to set prices and fees for services charged by health care insurers, including the government. It also would require insurers and providers to operate under uniform rules.

In addition to suspending RAPO until July 1, 2000, the bill would require the commissioner of health to report to the Legislature by Feb. 1, 1998, on whether RAPO should be implemented.

Two bills heard by the committee in Feb-



Rep. Mary Jo McGuire, left, and Sen. Ellen Anderson outlined a proposal they intend to introduce that would call for handgun owners to complete a firearms safety course before getting a gun license from the state. The registration also would be used to track the weapons throughout the state. McGuire noted that teddy bears are more heavily regulated than guns.

ruary seek to repeal RAPO entirely. (See Feb. 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8)

Rep. Todd Van Dellen (IR-Plymouth) sponsors **HF255** and Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth) sponsors **HF254**.

The Van Dellen bill also would repeal the universal coverage mandate.

The Huntley-sponsored bill would keep the universal coverage mandate but calls for an additional 40-cent-per-pack cigarette tax to help fund MinnesotaCare.

The bill put forth by Cooper also would ensure that integrated service networks are solvent before they begin operating.

An integrated service network is a non-profit organization that agrees to provide health care in exchange for a fixed charge. The 1994 MinnesotaCare Act calls for ISNs to begin operating on July 1, 1996.

To become licensed, **HF1077** calls for an ISN to have a minimum \$1.5 million net worth or a specific sum equal to a portion of all expected expenses for the first year. An ISN must also maintain a \$1 million net worth after the first year of operation, under the bill.

The Van Dellen bill would allow ISNs to operate for profit.

**HF254**, **HF255**, and **HF1077** next will be heard by the MinnesotaCare Finance Division of the House Health and Human Services Committee.

## Protecting vulnerable adults

A bill that would increase criminal penalties for those who neglect or abuse vulnerable adults won approval from the House Health and Human Services Committee March 14.

The bill (**HF598**) amends the 15-year-old law that protects adults who are vulnerable to abuse because they suffer from a physical or mental disability or because they're dependent on care givers or institutionalized services.

The bill strengthens provisions under which someone can be prosecuted for neglecting or abusing a vulnerable adult, said Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), who sponsors the bill.

Under current law, a person who intentionally fails to supply food, clothing, shelter, or other necessities to a vulnerable adult may be charged with criminal neglect, a gross misdemeanor offense.

The bill would change the definition of criminal neglect to include someone acting with "conscious disregard for human life." Such a crime would be a felony offense, Greenfield said.

It would also make someone who financially exploits a vulnerable adult guilty of a felony offense. Currently, it is a gross misdemeanor.

The bill also would streamline the current mandated reporting system, Greenfield said. People such as health care providers who suspect a vulnerable adult is being abused are legally mandated to report the suspected abuse to the state.

Those reports are sometimes investigated by more than one agency, which leads to needless duplication, Greenfield said. The bill would ensure that only "the most appropriate" agency would conduct an investigation, Greenfield said.

The bill now goes to the Judiciary Committee.



## HIGHER EDUCATION

### Eliminating HECB

The House Education Committee March 14 approved a proposal to eliminate the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB).

A bill (**HF307**) sponsored by Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona) would transfer many of the board's duties to the new Higher Education Services Office.

Pelowski said the bill would save \$3.7 million in next biennium and would eliminate 27 of the 67 HECB employees. The remaining staff members would be transferred to the HESO.

The HECB currently administers the state's financial aid programs, compiles financial aid and enrollment records, and negotiates tuition reciprocity agreements between states. The board is also charged with setting the state's higher education policy and recommending programs to cut.

The bill also would create an 11-member Higher Education Administrators Council (HEAC) made up of campus presidents, the president of the private college council, the commissioner of education and others. The HEAC would be required to consult with a newly established student advisory council to appoint the HESO director and communicate with the Legislature and the governor.

The council would replace a current board made up of 10 citizens and a single student.

Student groups from state universities, community colleges, and technical colleges support the bill.

Chris Lynch, president of the Minnesota Community College Student Association, told committee members the bill would take "the

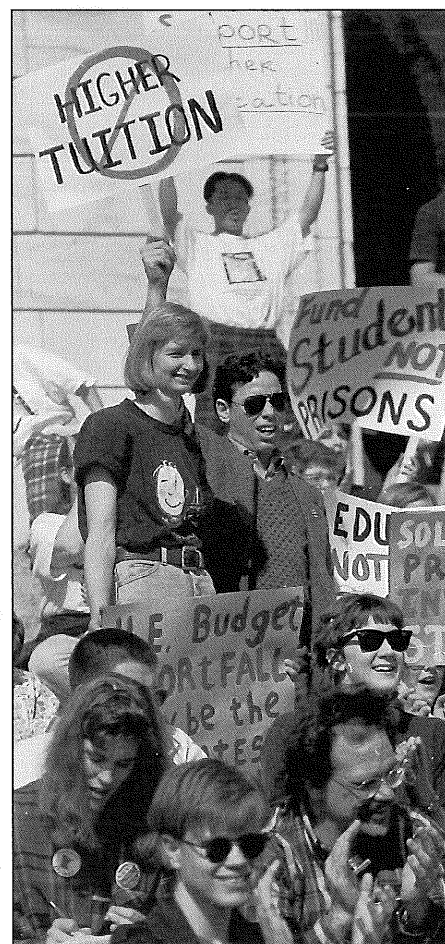
politics out of student financial aid and make the process much more open and direct."

But Duane Scribner, past president and a 12-year member of the Higher Education Coordinating Board, said "not having turf to defend" makes the views of the HECB valuable.

"Your choices are diminished if you cannot hear our independent citizen voice at all," Scribner said. Members of the new Higher Education Administrators Council likely would lobby for their individual schools or systems, he added.

The HECB was created in 1966 to be an impartial office to distribute financial aid to students. The House last year approved a proposal to eliminate the board, but the provision was deleted in conference committee. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11)

**HF307** next will be considered by the House Ways and Means Committee.



Hundreds of student representatives from Minnesota's state universities, community and technical colleges, and the University of Minnesota rallied on the Capitol steps for higher education funding March 15.





## HOUSING

### Landlords pay utility bills

Landlords who own multi-unit apartment buildings and measure tenants' utility use with a single meter would be required to pay the utility bills, under a measure approved by the House March 15.

Beginning with leases signed after Aug. 1, 1995, landlords would either have to install separate utility meters for each apartment or become the utility company's customer of record, pay the bill, divide it up among the tenants, and figure it into the rent.

The bill (HF323), sponsored by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), passed on a 120-9 vote.

In some buildings with only one meter, tenants are now required to pay the electricity and other utility bills for all tenants. Later, they must seek out the other tenants to get reimbursed.

Some tenants also are now being charged to light and heat the common areas of a building, such as lights in the hallways and parking lots.

The problem, Dawkins said, is that the tenant who pays the utility bill has no recourse if the other tenants refuse to pay their share. The utility company will come after the individual whose name appears on the bill. A landlord, on the other hand, can pay the bill and then figure it into each tenant's rent. (See Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9)

A similar bill is pending in the Senate.



## METRO AFFAIRS

### Affordable housing

A bill promising a "new approach" to problems with affordable housing shortages in Twin Cities suburbs failed to survive the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

The bill (HF1156), sponsored by committee chair Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), failed on a 11-11 vote.

Long's bill would have captured a portion of the property taxes on high-value homes in metropolitan communities and allowed the cities to use the funds to pursue affordable housing goals.

"This makes the state a constructive player in an area where I think there has been too much name calling and throwing of bricks," Long said before her bill was defeated.

Under the bill, each city would have been required to negotiate affordable housing goals with the Metropolitan Council. The property-tax money would have gone into a regional pool only if the city refused to work toward the housing goals it negotiated.

The bill also included a provision that would tap an existing commercial and industrial tax surcharge on the Mall of America to help finance the clean up of polluted land. This, Long argued, would revitalize the tax base in urban areas by encouraging more development.

The proposal also called for the creation of alternative development projects to slow low-density suburban sprawl.

Much of the opposition to Long's bill focused on the effects it would have had on mosquito control efforts in the seven-county metro area.

The bill would have slashed the budget of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission by 83 percent, or about \$8.3 million annually. The role of the commission would have been reduced to disease control only, ending efforts to control the mosquito population.

But that money saved from cutting the mosquito control program would have been used instead to help fund alternative development projects.

While Long's bill has stalled in the House, similar legislation, sponsored by Sen. Ted Mondale (DFL-St. Louis Park), passed the Senate Metropolitan and Local Government Committee and is pending in the Jobs, Energy and Community Development Committee.



## TAXES

### Spreading tax dollars

A bill to shift property tax dollars from some wealthy suburbs to aid struggling inner ring suburbs and the core cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul won approval from the House Taxes Committee March 14.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) was approved on a party-line vote, 13-10. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 3)

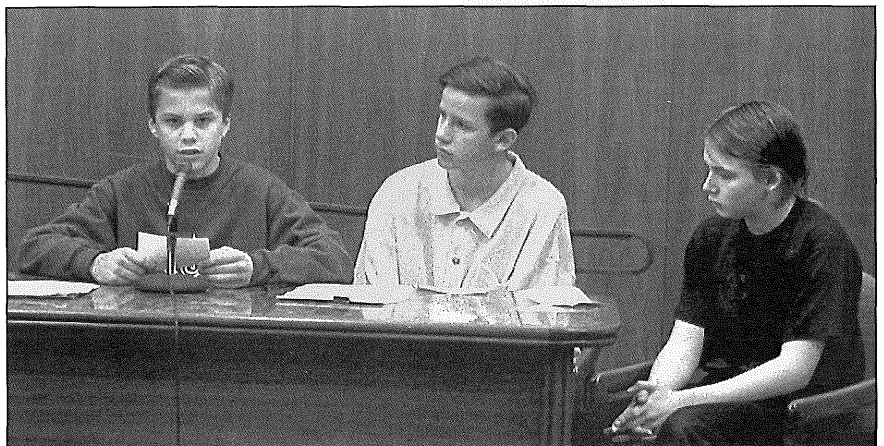
The bill's threefold purpose is to achieve greater equity in basic public services provided by metro area communities, ease competition for tax base, and make land-use planning more possible, Orfield said.

HF431 would accomplish this by shifting property tax revenue generated from the value of homes greater than \$200,000 into a pool for metro redistribution. (Local communities would keep the tax revenue generated on the first \$200,000 of a homesteaded property's market value.)

An estimated \$44 million would be redistributed, under the bill, which Orfield termed a "gentle enhancement" of the 1971 fiscal disparities law. Under that law, about \$270 million in commercial industrial property tax revenue is pooled each year and shared among seven-county metro area communities.

Under the Orfield proposal, those cities receiving funds from the new redistribution program in its first year must use half of the windfall for tax relief, rather than on increased spending. Many northern metro area suburbs would be the biggest beneficiaries of the Orfield bill.

That means property taxes would drop in



Eighth graders from St. Elizabeth Seton School in Minneapolis, left to right, Paul Witt, Nathan Morneau, and Morgan McLaughlin, testified before the House Judiciary Committee's Civil Law Subcommittee March 15 in favor of a proposal (HF170) that would make parents liable for their minor children who commit a bias hate crime.

85 percent of the metro area, but taxes would likely increase in the remaining 15 percent of the region.

Bob Erickson, representing the Municipal Legislative Commission, a coalition of 12 cities that stand to lose revenue under the bill, called it "inequitable and inefficient." He noted that the cities he represents may have higher property tax bases, but they get less local government aid from the state as a result.

"The cities I represent have 12 percent of the state's population, but get only 0.5 percent of the state's local government aid," Erickson said.

Those cities also pay a larger portion of their income in property taxes than do those in many of the northern suburbs, said Rep. H. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth).

But the bill's supporters see a bigger picture.

"This is not a north versus south or us versus them issue," said Al Tinklenberg, mayor of Blaine and head of the North Metro Mayors Association. "This [bill] is for the well-being and vitality of the region as a whole."

**HF431** now moves to the House floor.



## TRANSPORTATION

### City bus safety

Security cameras and Plexiglas shields to protect drivers would be installed on city buses with funds included in a bill approved March 16 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

Bill sponsor Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) told members of the panel's Transportation Safety Subcommittee March 10 that the growing violence on Metropolitan Council Transit Operations (MCTO, formerly MTC) buses demands action.

"Drivers and passengers have every right to ride these buses free from physical assault and harassment," she said.

The bill includes \$354,000 to install safety devices on 59 buses. Combined with the planned purchase this year of similarly equipped buses, there would then be cameras and shields on 150 of the approximately 1,000-bus fleet.

These buses would run on the six Twin Cities routes considered to be the most dangerous. The shields would protect drivers from blind attacks from the rear or side, and the cameras would record the behavior of passengers.

The recent assault of a 20-year-old passenger in Minneapolis adds urgency to the bill, but Luther said the need for safety improvements existed "long before" the incident.



Ron Hippie, a Metropolitan Council Transit Operation (MCTO) bus driver, recounted being attacked and having his nose broken by a passenger while driving his route. He testified before the House Transportation and Transit Committee's Transportation Safety Subcommittee March 10 in favor of **HF848**, which would appropriate \$354,000 for security measures on MCTO vehicles.

Latell Chaney, who is deaf, lost his sight in one eye and suffered damage to the other in a Feb. 26 attack by a group of men whom police believe mistook his sign language for gang signs or obscene gestures. One of the men broke a bottle over Chaney's head and gouged his eyes with the sharp edges.

Luther said the idea for the bill came from one of her neighbors, Al Peterson, a bus driver who was assaulted on the job twice within an eight-month span in 1993.

Peterson was one of three bus drivers who testified in support of the bill. All three are long-time drivers, and all three have been assaulted in the past few years.

The drivers said threats are commonplace and that they are increasingly likely to get spit on, punched, or worse. "It's gotten to the point where you don't know whether or not you're going to come home from work anymore," Peterson said.

In January the MCTO began a 90-day test of video surveillance on select buses, and officials said results so far are promising.

Videotaping bus passengers has reduced the number who fail to pay the proper fare or refuse to pay at all, a common starting point for bus drivers' troubles, and has improved conduct on the buses.

"The behavior is substantially different on a bus with cameras than on a bus without cameras," said Tom Sather, general manager for MCTO.

And the tapes will improve chances to identify and apprehend people who do commit crimes on the bus, Sather said.

**HF848** now goes to the Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee.

### Rescuing rail travel

A resolution asking Congress to continue funding the Amtrak passenger rail service was passed March 15 by the House. The vote was 121-7.

Congress is discussing severe cuts to the federally subsidized Amtrak budget. Rep. Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington), who sponsored **HF821**, said the nation's only passenger rail service would not be viable without federal funding.

"No passenger rail service in the world makes money," he said.

Last year, Amtrak received a \$952 million subsidy from the federal government. One Amtrak route passes through St. Paul on a line running between Seattle and Chicago.

About 160,000 people take the train each year in Minnesota. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 13)

The resolution now goes to the Senate.

### Dedicated highways

The House gave final approval March 15 to two bills that would designate portions of two Minnesota highways as memorials — one to Minnesota's veterans and the other to POW/MIAs.

**HF413**, sponsored by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) would designate Highway 115 as the "Veterans Memorial Highway." The 15-mile highway in central Minnesota runs along the south side of the Camp Ripley Military Reserve adjacent to the future site of the Minnesota veterans memorial cemetery.

The vote was 128-2.

**HF750**, sponsored by Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby), would designate the nearly 100-mile stretch of Highway 169 and Highway 18 from Elk River to Brainerd as the "POW/MIA Memorial Highway." (Highway 169 intersects with Highway 18 in Garrison, Minn.) The vote was 130-0.

Signs designating the highways would be placed at the beginning and end of the routes and — in the case of the POW/MIA Memorial Highway — at major intersections with other highways. Those signs cost about \$50 apiece, with money coming from the state trunk highway fund.

Both bills now move to the Senate.

New members . . .

## From heavy lifting to art, Schumacher has done it all

When Rep. Leslie Schumacher traveled the campaign trail in rural Sherburne County, district farmers asked to look at her hands.



Rep. Leslie Schumacher

"They know hard work. . . . I had farmers who looked at my hands to see if I had dirt under my nails, if my hands had calluses."

They did.

Schumacher (DFL-Princeton), who has co-owned a trucking company with her husband and hauled freight, knows hard work, too.

"I worked for 10 years in a field dominated by men and during that time my hide toughened. . . . I wasn't too shy to unload my own freight."

"There's something about being a truck driver pushing 20,000 pounds of freight that gains you a level of confidence."

Her trucking career gave way to local politics — a position on the Sherburne County Board of Commissioners — and now the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Schumacher is busy learning about the Legislature and a different kind of hard work. As a first-term lawmaker she's trying to understand all of Minnesota's laws, rules, and programs. Everything from agriculture and education to health care and taxes.

"I want to know it all now," she said. "I have this sense of running in a race. That's part of the reason I'm not sleeping."

The 39-year-old mother of two said there are many issues she plans to focus on during her tenure including reducing the state's unfunded mandates placed on local governments. She also wants to examine the state's property tax system and how it affects senior citizens on fixed incomes and other property owners as well.

Schumacher is considered a backer of local

governments. In a recent debate on a bill that would freeze salaries of top county administrators, the first-term lawmaker spoke out against the measure.

Not because she wanted county officials to earn more, but because she saw the Legislature micromanaging. The Legislature, she said, forgets that counties already have boards to set county policies. They don't need the state to do it for them.

Schumacher, who served on the Sherburne County Board of Commissioners for four years, said she noticed right away the difference between local governments and the Legislature.

"Local government is extremely independent. You're one of five [on a county board]. What you do has more effect. . . . Down here, you are one of 134. There is more team-playing. You can't get things done independently here. You have to work as a team."

Because the margin between the DFL majority party and the IR minority party is very close, "I sense the need to get along," she said. "No one can be left out right now."

Schumacher was raised in New Hope which taught her well about growth and prepared her for Sherburne County's boom. She was born in the fifth house built in one of the first housing developments in what was then the Village of New Hope. But by the time she graduated from Armstrong High School, she had been in seven different schools in the district while living in the same house.

In addition to her past work as a trucker and in politics, Schumacher is also a freelance artist who creates pet portraits, wildlife art, and carvings.

Schumacher wanted to be a veterinarian when she was little. "And I grew up to be an animal artist. As soon as I found out I had to put them to sleep on occasion, I decided it wasn't the route for me. I'd rather shoot them with a camera."

In 1982, she married and moved to her husband's farm in Mille Lacs County. Five years later, they moved to their current home in Santiago Township. Her political career followed.

Schumacher said she uses a sense of humor in life and in politics. A few years ago, she was quoted in a St. Cloud newspaper story on women in male-dominated local politics. She joked:

"There's a lot of old-school politicking that goes on here. I tend to think that if I could join the other four [male] commissioners in the bathroom, I'd be better informed."

She wrote a letter to the editor sharing the good-humored response of her fellow commissioners.

"... my board has informed me that they intend to place a sign on the bathroom door alerting me to when it is safe to enter."

When it is all said and done, Schumacher said she will know she's done a good job representing District 17B if she has conducted herself in an "ethical, honest and forthright manner." And, she added, retained "the credibility to this House seat that [former Rep. Jerry] Bauerly left it in."

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

### District 17B

**Population:** 32,739

**Distribution:** 18.38 percent urban; 81.62 percent rural

**Counties:** Benton, Sherburne

**Largest city:** St. Cloud

**Location:** central Minnesota

**Unemployment rate:** 6.28 percent

**Residents living below poverty level:** 9.33 percent

**1992 presidential election results:**

Bush/Quayle ..... 31.22 percent

Clinton/Gore ..... 33.04 percent

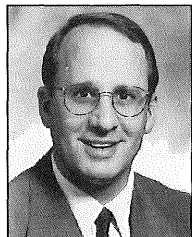
Perot/Stockdale ..... 28.06 percent

Other: ..... 7.68 percent

New members . . .

## 'Well done is better than well said,' says Kraus

Coming or going, Rep. Ron Kraus gets a helpful reminder from one of America's founding fathers.



Rep. Ron Kraus

A tiny piece of paper taped just below his office light switch bears a simple but meaningful quote from Ben Franklin: "Well done is better than well said."

And that, says Kraus (IR-Albert Lea), is how he intends to represent his constituents in District 27A in southern Minnesota.

He aims to serve with an open ear and a determination to act on the will of the people, and to be "a real watchdog" over the taxes they pay and how that money is spent.

And he is looking to help education thrive and to bolster employment in the state.

"If government had \$3 to spend, I'd spend the first dollar on education, I'd spend another dollar to create real, meaningful jobs and I'd give the third dollar back to the taxpayers because they're better at spending it than we are," Kraus said.

The owner of five convenience stores and six Dairy Queen restaurants in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa, Kraus was elected in 1994 to fill the seat left open by former Rep. Bob Haukoos (IR-Albert Lea), who retired after eight terms in the House.

Before making his first run for state office, Kraus served as a member of the Albert Lea Planning Commission and the Community Foundation Board, and he was chairman of the board for the Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife, Kathy, have two sons: John, 11; and Chad, 13.

Business and politics have long been among Kraus' passions, and he sees some clear simi-

larities between the two.

"Retail is not a business of brick and mortar," Kraus said. "Retail is a business of relationships, and politics is a lot like that. It's listening and doing your best to work with people. In one case, you've got customers; in the other, you've got constituents."

Communication is the key to Kraus' plans to serve constituents in the 16 communities in his district. He writes a weekly column for three newspapers to let people know where he stands, does a weekly radio show, and uses a toll-free phone line and frequent town hall meetings to get input straight from the people.

"I encourage people's participation. It's really hard to represent somebody who is silent," Kraus said. "I want them to let me know what they're thinking."

Still, the Waltham native doesn't expect to have every constituent agree with him on every vote. "I think the biggest compliment for one in public office is when people say, 'I don't always agree with you, but I always trust you,'" he said.

The similarity between politics and business seems especially clear this year, Kraus said. With no room for more government or more taxes, he believes the state, like many businesses, must find a way to do more with less. "The challenge of government is to make things work without raising prices," he said.

One thing Kraus said the state must do is to provide people the chance to get a quality education.

"A dollar well spent on education is more than a dollar saved later," he said. "Education will allow a person to find meaningful employment, and a person with a good job doesn't need much government."

Realizing the importance of education, Kraus said, will help reduce the need for

costly government services to help people who can't afford essentials including food, housing, transportation, and health care.

Supporting business and fostering job growth also is crucial to reducing the burden on government, Kraus added.

He would like nothing more than to see the Legislature hold a session exclusively to consider matters relating to job creation. That way, lawmakers could focus on what they can do to help businesses succeed and, in the process, create good jobs for Minnesotans, Kraus said.

"Government's role is to create an atmosphere for others to find solutions," he said. "Government's role is never to be the solution to a problem."

During his first year in a place where "we hold meetings about meetings," Kraus plans to mind Ben Franklin's advice and push for results.

"I'm hoping that we really do get a lot accomplished," Kraus said. "I think the voters are expecting their money's worth now more than ever."

— Nick Healy

### District 27A

**Population:** 33,060

**Distribution:** 55.38 percent urban, 44.62 percent rural

**County:** Freeborn

**Largest city:** Albert Lea

**Location:** south central Minnesota

**Unemployment rate:** 8.54 percent

**Residents living below poverty level:** 10.25 percent

#### 1992 presidential election results:

Bush/Quayle ..... 28.31 percent

Clinton/Gore ..... 43.17 percent

Perot/Stockdale ..... 27.14 percent

Other: ..... 1.38 percent



# Bill Introductions

HF1261-HF1440

## Monday, March 13

**HF1261—Kinkel (DFL)**

### **Transportation and Transit**

Single strand barriers prohibited across roads, driveways, and trails, and penalty imposed.

**HF1262—Olson, E. (DFL)**

### **Judiciary**

Property entry by government officials regulated and notice requirement provided.

**HF1263—Macklin (IR)**

### **Health & Human Services**

Supervised visitation facilities for children provisions modified.

**HF1264—Entenza (DFL)**

### **Judiciary**

Child support payment failure provided drivers' license suspension penalty, and money appropriated.

**HF1265—Sviggum (IR)**

### **Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Government Innovation Board abolished, and Strategic and Long-Range Planning Office and legislative auditor to monitor local government waiver and combination requests.

**HF1266—Koppendrayner (IR)**

### **Ways & Means**

Legislative and state agency appropriations reduced and supplemental appropriations provided.

**HF1267—Osskopp (IR)**

### **Agriculture**

Federal food standard uniformity provided.

**HF1268—Solberg (DFL)**

### **Judiciary**

Snowmobile operation regulations modified.

**HF1269—Long (DFL)**

### **Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Contaminated site cleanup loan program established within Metropolitan Council, and money appropriated.

**HF1270—Tunheim (DFL)**

### **Environment & Natural Resources**

Red River Interstate Flood Control Project funding task force established.

**HF1271—Long (DFL)**

### **Judiciary**

Survival of cause of action for personal injury after death of injured person provided.

**HF1272—Carlson (DFL)**

### **Governmental Operations**

Minneapolis Teachers Retirement Association former teacher authorized prior service credit purchase.

**HF1273—Hausman (DFL)**

### **Regulated Industries & Energy**

Wind energy conversion systems property tax imposed and recovery provided.

**HF1274—Dawkins (DFL)**

### **Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

First Class City Home Rule Charter Commission expenses increased, and home rule charter amendment drafting and election provisions modified.

**HF1275—Wolf (IR)**

### **Environment & Natural Resources**

Motor Vehicle Inspection Program advertisement disclaimers required.

**HF1276—Trimble (DFL)**

### **Environment & Natural Resources**

Aquatic plant harvesting permit fee limits removed.

**HF1277—Hausman (DFL)**

### **Transportation & Transit**

County state-aid highway apportionment formula modified, and screening board composition changed.

**HF1278—Van Engen (IR)**

### **Health & Human Services**

Department of Economic Security rehabilitation programs and services provisions modified.

**HF1279—Rest (DFL)**

### **Environment & Natural Resources**

State park handicapped access trail plan required.

**HF1280—Milbert (DFL)**

### **Environment & Natural Resources**

Game and fish provisions modified, all-terrain vehicle definition modified, game and fish license revocation provided, special permit issuance provisions modified, one-day fishing licenses provided, migratory game bird provisions modified.

**HF1281—Pugh (DFL)**

### **Governmental Operations**

Pull-tab and tipboard tax modified, lawful purpose expenditure definition modified, bingo occasion increase authorized, and bingo prize determination provisions clarified.

**HF1282—Carlson (DFL)**

### **Education**

Education staff development and Parental In-

volvement Program revenue provisions modified, and money appropriated.

**HF1283—Wagenius (DFL)**

### **Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Minneapolis authorized to issue an on-sale wine and 3.2 malt liquor license to a restaurant.

**HF1284—Peterson (DFL)**

### **Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Swift County authorized to establish a redevelopment tax increment financing district, and state aid offset exemption provided.

**HF1285—Lourey (DFL)**

### **Education**

Independent School District No. 95, Cromwell, provided an interactive television grant.

**HF1286—Onnen (IR)**

### **Health & Human Services**

Human services base level funding definition modified, children's mental health provisions modified, Integrated Fund Task Force provisions modified, cost-effective AIDS coverage provided, Indian health facility provisions modified, etc.

**HF1287—Rostberg (IR)**

### **Governmental Operations**

Minnesota State Retirement System reemployed annuitant provided retroactive earnings limitation exception.

**HF1288—Girard (IR)**

### **Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

County record and account examination by certified public accountants authorized.

**HF1289—Girard (IR)**

### **Agriculture**

Corporate farm limitations modified, authorized farm corporation definition expanded, and enforcement clarification provided.

**HF1290—Delmont (DFL)**

### **Regulated Industries & Energy**

Emergency 911 telephone system regulated, private switch telephone service requirement imposed, and civil penalty provided.

**HF1291—Anderson, B. (IR)**

### **Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Sherburne County ditch conveyance to Elk River provided.

**HF1292—Van Dellen (IR)**

### **Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Residential contractor licensure requirement provisions modified for contractors licensed by St. Paul or Minneapolis.

**HF1293—Mulder (IR)****Health & Human Services**

Rural hospital alternative licensing model study by health commissioner required, and Rural Health Advisory Committee regulatory barrier study required.

**HF1294—McGuire (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Motor vehicle broker licensure required, and service provisions modified.

**HF1295—Ostrom (DFL)****Transportation & Transit**

Alternative fuel vehicle permits eliminated and fee refund provided, and gasoline and special fuel taxes specified.

**HF1296—Ness (IR)****Education**

Assurance of mastery program funded, and money appropriated.

**HF1297—Leighton (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Shooting Star Trail land acquisition and construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1298—Macklin (IR)****General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Recall provided for elected city officials.

**HF1299—Huntley (DFL)****Education**

Secondary vocational education aid formula funded, and money appropriated.

**HF1300—Bertram (DFL)****Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Mortgage prepayment regulated, and waivers provided.

**HF1301—Rhodes (IR)****Health & Human Services**

Nursing home moratorium provided.

**HF1302—Finseth (IR)****Agriculture**

Agricultural chemical response definition modified.

**HF1303—Mariani (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

Spanish-Speaking Affairs Council and Asian-Pacific Minnesotans Council administration department coordination report required, and public agency multi-lingual services provided.

**HF1304—Finseth (IR)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Natural resources board created to direct and supervise the Department of Natural Resources.

**HF1305—Osskopp (IR)****Health & Human Services**

Dakota, Fillmore, Olmsted, and Wabasha county

intermediate care facilities for persons with developmental disabilities downsized.

**HF1306—Holsten (IR)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Citizen hunting and fishing rights affirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1307—Ostrom (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Ice fishing houses identified by owners driver's license numbers.

**HF1308—McCollum (DFL)****Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Rental vehicle automobile insurance rate provisions modified.

**HF1309—Pugh (DFL)****Judiciary**

Civil action proceedings in forma pauperis modified, action dismissal provided for false allegations of poverty, and hearings and fees provided.

**HF1310—Van Dellen (IR)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Hennepin County public land sale by Department of Natural Resources commissioner authorized.

**HF1311—Mariani (DFL)****Education**

Teacher licensure skills test eliminated.

**HF1312—Mariani (DFL)****Education**

Americans of Mexican origin education act adopted.

**HF1313—Davids (IR)****Health & Human Services**

Omnibus mortuary science regulation bill.

**HF1314—Jefferson (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Underground storage tank regulation by local units of government provisions modified.

**HF1315—McCollum (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

North St. Paul tax increment financing district time limit extension provided.

**HF1316—Jennings (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Distilled spirits fill standards regulated.

**HF1317—McElroy (IR)****Health & Human Services**

Voluntary foster care AFDC payment waiver request provided by Department of Human Services commissioner.

**HF1318—Garcia (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Temporary restroom facilities provided at certain construction and engineering project sites.

**HF1319—Mulder (IR)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Ambient air health risk values for pollutants established.

**HF1320—Leighton (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Hazardous waste abandonment cause of action provided.

**HF1321—Lourey (DFL)****Taxes**

Cigarette and tobacco product tax rate increase provided, and proceeds provided for Tobacco Prevention and Control Program.

**HF1322—Clark (DFL)****Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance**

Minnesota Youthbuild Program funded, and money appropriated.

**HF1323—Hausman (DFL)****Education**

Year-round education funding established for school districts, and bonds issuance authorized.

**HF1324—Winter (DFL)****Labor-Management Relations**

Mutual employer self-insurance group creation and operation regulated.

**HF1325—Tomassoni (DFL)****Education**

School district levy authority extended for retired employee health benefit costs, levy equalization provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1326—Skoglund (DFL)****Judiciary**

Booking photograph release and classification provided.

**HF1327—Garcia (DFL)****Housing**

Richfield low and moderate income housing non-profit corporation development authorized.

**HF1328—Dehler (IR)****Governmental Operations**

Pull-tab device testing cost reimbursement fund account created.

**HF1329—Dehler (IR)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Turtle taking by hooks authorized.

**HF1330—Sviggum (IR)****Governmental Operations**

Teacher retirement plans modified to account for certain extracurricular activity management compensation accounts, and rules required.

**HF1331—Sviggum (IR)****Governmental Operations**

Bond issuance authorized for payment of a judgment against the state, and lottery and health care

reimbursement revenues appropriated for payment of debt service.

**HF1332—Cooper (DFL)**

**Agriculture**

Pesticide dealer and applicator requirements modified, and bioremediation required in certain cases.

**HF1333—Kelley (DFL)**

**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Electric and gas utility intervenor compensation regulated.

**HF1334—Bertram (DFL)**

**Education**

Class-size reduction revenue use provisions modified.

**HF1335—Lynch (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Hearing aid dispensers required to disclose telecoil information.

**HF1336—Otremba (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Teachers Retirement Association annuity reduction provisions waived for certain retired members.

**HF1337—Clark (DFL)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Motor vehicle sales tax requirement exemption provided.

**HF1338—Rest (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Partnership name and filing requirements modified.

## Wednesday, March 15

**HF1339—Skoglund (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Parolee and probationer transfer interstate compact report required by corrections commissioner.

**HF1340—Bakk (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Deer archery, firearm, and muzzle-loading firearm license established.

**HF1341—Osthoff (DFL)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Turn on red arrow traffic signal allowed under certain conditions, residential area speed limits regulated, work zone speed limit violation fine disposition provided, and technical corrections provided.

**HF1342—Wagenius (DFL)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Hazardous material transporters regulated, motor carrier manager fingerprints required for criminal background checks, and international registra-

tion plan proportional mileage calculation provisions modified.

**HF1343—Bradley (IR)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

State representatives provided four-year terms of office, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1344—Dehler (IR)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Legislature size modified, committee organization and term limits provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1345—Lynch (IR)**

**Education**

School interpreters appropriated money to upgrade skills.

**HF1346—Entenza (DFL)**

**Education**

Adult graduation aid funding provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1347—Frerichs (IR)**

**Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance**

Displaced Homemaker Program appropriated money.

**HF1348—Jefferson (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Public employee normal retirement age of 65 years established.

**HF1349—Murphy (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Amateur Sports Commission ice arena authority increased, bond use authorized, sales tax exemption provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1350—Opatz (DFL)**

**Education**

Higher education merger technical and statutory provisions modified.

**HF1351—Molnau (IR)**

**Taxes**

Green Acres Program applicant income requirements modified, and property classification provided.

**HF1352—Tompkins (IR)**

**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Sales of goods and services to adults under the age of 21 regulated, and contract voidability provided.

**HF1353—Daggett (IR)**

**Labor-Management Relations**

Workers' compensation permanent partial disability provisions modified.

**HF1354—Abrams (IR)**

**Taxes**

State auditor tax increment financing approval required.

**HF1355—Knobloch (IR)**

**Governmental Operations**

Gambling Control Board, Racing Commission, and Lottery Board abolished, gambling regulation board created, and duties transferred.

**HF1356—Kelley (DFL)**

**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Telephone company local exchange service territory sales regulated.

**HF1357—Lourey (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Home Health Visiting Program expanded, and money appropriated.

**HF1358—Winter (DFL)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Soy-based biodiesel fuel use in State Highway Maintenance Vehicle Pilot Project established.

**HF1359—Smith (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Public Assistance recipient landlord vendor payments required.

**HF1360—Skoglund (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Peace Officer Standards and Training Board conduct standards review required, conduct model policy development required, and money appropriated.

**HF1361—Greenfield (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Hospital peer groups eliminated for payment purposes.

**HF1362—Delmont (DFL)**

**Education**

School district debt service equalization and levy provisions modified.

**HF1363—Pelowski (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Drug dispensing regulations modified to allow dispensing of drugs prescribed by a doctor licensed in a state bordering Minnesota.

**HF1364—Mares (IR)**

**Education**

Service Learning Program transportation funding provided.

**HF1365—Kalis (DFL)**

**Education**

School district transportation levy authorized use expanded to include computer equipment for bus routes.

**HF1366—McGuire (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Human rights charging party case file access provided.

**HF1367—McCollum (DFL)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Election judges provided without major political party membership.

**HF1368—Hugoson (IR)**

**Agriculture**

Fertilizer, soil amendment, and plant amendment law provisions modified, and Association of American Plant Food Control Officials standards adopted.

**HF1369—Mulder (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Breast feeding encouraged, well-baby designation established, and breast-feeding exempted from indecent exposure laws.

**HF1370—Dempsey (IR)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

County curfew ordinance curfew age increase provided.

**HF1371—Opatz (DFL)**

**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Investment securities order flow direction payment disclosure required.

**HF1372—McGuire (DFL)**

**Labor-Management Relations**

Labor education women and minorities advancement grant program established.

**HF1373—Cooper (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Hospital peer groups eliminated for payment purposes.

**HF1374—Kinkel (DFL)**

**Education**

Independent School District No. 2174, Pine River-Backus, fund transfer permitted.

**HF1375—Tunheim (DFL)**

**Education**

Adult basic education and adult graduation aid programs funded, and money appropriated.

**HF1376—Carlson (DFL)**

**Education**

Metropolitan healthcare foundation nursing grant program established, and money appropriated.

**HF1377—Dehler (IR)**

**Agriculture**

Agricultural chemical response reimbursement procedures clarified.

**HF1378—Garcia (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Minneapolis city engineer granted city parking and traffic authority.

**HF1379—Murphy (DFL)**

**Education**

Fond du Lac Community College appropriated money.

**HF1380—Rest (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Income tax bond exemption eliminated.

**HF1381—Delmont (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Amateur Sports Commission ice arena authority increased, bond use authorized, sales tax exemption provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1382—Erhardt (IR)**

**Judiciary**

Motor vehicle record personal information disclosure prohibited, and money appropriated.

**HF1383—Seagren (IR)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Motor vehicle reduced registration fee provided.

**HF1384—Greenfield (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Intermediate care facility procedures modified, cost-effective service study established, vendor overpayment recovery provisions modified, nursing facility provisions modified, and day training and rehabilitation vendor payments modified.

**HF1385—Tunheim (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Railroad peace officer appointment, licensure, and compensation provided, and railroad crime designation provided.

**HF1386—Bakk (DFL)**

**Labor-Management Relations**

Loggers targeted industry fund sunset repealed.

**HF1387—Murphy (DFL)**

**Judiciary Finance**

Community Corrections Act appropriation allocation provided.

**HF1388—Frerichs (IR)**

**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Prize notices and solicitations regulated, and prize shipping and handling fees prohibited.

**HF1389—Jennings (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Hospital peer groups eliminated for payment purposes.

**HF1390—Broecker (IR)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Commercial drivers' license separate disqualification review process abolished.

**HF1391—Leppik (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Abortion informed consent required and waiting period provided.

**HF1392—Wejcman (DFL)**

**Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance**

Learn to earn summer youth employment demonstration project established, and money appropriated.

**HF1393—Harder (IR)**

**Education**

Cooperative Secondary Facilities Program modified, grants authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1394—Harder (IR)**

**Education**

Independent School District Nos. 325, Lakefield, 328, Sioux Valley, 330, Heron Lake-Okabena, 513, Brewster, and 516, Round Lake Cooperative Secondary Facilities Program modified, grants authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1395—Sviggum (IR)**

**Agriculture**

Ethanol and wet and anhydrous alcohol producer payments modified, and money appropriated.

**HF1396—Johnson, V. (IR)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Dog, cat, and livestock sales regulated, Animal Health Board duties modified, and penalties provided.

**HF1397—Bertram (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Civil actions involving the state fee and expense provisions modified.

**HF1398—Winter (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Wind energy conversion system property tax recovery provided through rate modification.

**HF1399—Skoglund (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Police horse assault penalties provided.

**HF1400—Murphy (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Homestead assessment increase by Department of Revenue prohibited.

**HF1401—Munger (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Ambient air health risk values for pollutants established.

**HF1402—Seagren (IR)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Original license plate issuance provided for certain motor vehicles.

**HF1403—Jefferson (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Statewide pension plan graded rate salary increase assumptions specified.



**HF1404—Lieder (DFL)****Transportation & Transit**

Transportation commissioner allowed to accept federal money on behalf of nonpublic organizations for transportation purposes.

**HF1405—Tomassoni (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

Video lottery terminal operation authorized, education trust fund established, and penalties prescribed.

**HF1406—McGuire (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Roseville special service district creation authorized, and hazardous substance subdistrict provided aid offset exemption.

**HF1407—Marko (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Plumbing Code Advisory Council provisions modified, and work group established.

**HF1408—Carruthers (DFL)****International Trade & Economic Development**

North Metro Business Development Commission appropriated money for business retention and development activities.

**HF1409—Tunheim (DFL)****Education**

Independent School District No. 437, Argyle, provided a grant, and money appropriated.

**HF1410—Tunheim (DFL)****Education**

Independent School District No. 690, Warroad, appropriated money for Angle Inlet School operation.

**HF1411—Winter (DFL)****Agriculture**

Eurasian wild hog importation, ownership, and possession prohibited.

**HF1412—Kalis (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Municipal contract award provisions modified.

**HF1413—Wagenius (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Mercury emissions consumer information act of 1995 adopted.

**HF1414—Weaver (IR)****Governmental Operations**

Governor authorized use of special counsel in certain cases.

**HF1415—Goodno (IR)****Labor-Management Relations**

Dislocated worker assessment provisions modified.

**HF1416—Tuma (IR)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Master electrician licensure eligibility requirements modified.

**HF1417—Jennings (DFL)****Taxes**

Vitamin and mineral dietary supplements sales tax exemption provided.

**HF1418—Murphy (DFL)****Judiciary**

Crime prevention early intervention demonstration project established.

**HF1419—Cooper (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Minnesota River Basin Commission established to coordinate clean-up efforts, and money appropriated.

**HF1420—Winter (DFL)****Judiciary**

Emergency medical services personnel provided civil action immunity.

**HF1421—Perlt (DFL)****Education**

Referendum and supplemental revenue reduction provisions modified.

**HF1422—Winter (DFL)****Taxes**

Horse sales and use tax exemption expanded to include racehorses, feed, and bedding.

**HF1423—Hausman (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Drycleaner environmental response act adopted, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1424—Dorn (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

Teacher Retirement Association member service credit purchase authorized for time spent on an extended leave of absence.

**HF1425—Bakk (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Tax-forfeited timber payment terms modified.

**HF1426—Sarna (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Secured lienholder notification required relating to vehicle towing and storage.

**HF1427—Jefferson (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis, levy authority reallocation provided, and retirement fund provided supplemental contributions.

**HF1428—Murphy (DFL)****Judiciary**

Crime prevention early intervention demonstration project established.

**HF1429—Tomassoni (DFL)****Education**

Athletic participation authorized for students enrolled in nonresident districts.

**HF1430—Hausman (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Medical Assistance hospital rate setting procedures adjusted, and money appropriated.

**HF1431—Bakk (DFL)****Regulated Industries & Energy**

Timber, pulpwood, and firewood measurement standardization provided.

**HF1432—Winter (DFL)****Capital Investment**

PrairieLand Expo facility appropriated money for land acquisition.

**HF1433—Vickerman (IR)****Regulated Industries & Energy**

Sleepy Eye authorized to discontinue steam heat operation without notifying Department of Trade and Economic Development.

**HF1434—Dauner (DFL)****Transportation & Transit**

Straw wide load transportation permit issuance provided.

**HF1435—Pelowski (DFL)****Education**

High School League tournament admissions exempted from sales tax.

**HF1436—Simoneau (DFL)****Labor-Management Relations**

Workers' compensation procedures and benefits modified, attorney fee calculation changed, and agreements permitted.

**HF1437—Goodno (IR)****Labor-Management Relations**

Food processing industry employee recruitment disclosure required, and penalties provided.

**HF1438—McGuire (DFL)****Judiciary**

Domestic abuse definitions modified and expanded, petition requirements modified, minors allowed to petition on their own behalf for protection, and money appropriated.

**HF1439—Mahon (DFL)****Taxes**

Bloomington fiscal disparity contribution provisions modified.

**HF1440—Johnson, V. (IR)****General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Animal Cruelty Prevention Law clarified and modified, and penalties imposed.

Coming Up Next Week . . . March 20 - 24, 1995

# Committee Schedule

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

## MONDAY, March 20

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** World Trade Center. Housing Finance Agency.

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

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Presentation of the governor's biennial budget recommendations for the Minnesota Department of Health.

### K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** HF1000 (Johnson, A.) Late activity bus provisions clarified.

HF849 (Seagren) Education funding provisions modified, special and community programs provided, organization and cooperation provided, commitment to excellence provided, library provisions modified, and state agency duties provided.

### Sales & Income Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

**Agenda:** HF8 (Onnen) Fire truck collector vehicles allowed in lieu tax qualification.

HF440 (Winter) Horse feed and bedding exempted from sales tax.

HF571 (Wolf) Cargo vans exempted from rental motor vehicle tax.

HF635 (Rhodes) Motor vehicle base value determination provided for taxation purposes.

HF790 (Jaros) Adult and juvenile correctional facility project tax exemption provided for cities and counties, and money appropriated.

HF1206 (Jaros) State convention center construction materials and supplies exempted from sales and use tax.

HF1222 (Long) Charitable organizations exempted from downtown taxing area sales tax.

### University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** University of Minnesota gender equity report.

10 a.m.

### AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

**Agenda:** HF614 (Cooper) Passing on the farm center established at Southwest Technical College in Granite Falls, and money appropriated.

HF819 (Otremba) Agricultural improvement loan limits changed, and money appropriated.

HF291 (Swenson, H.) Shared savings loan program exempted from state and agency cost recovery.

HF486 (Peterson) Value-Added Agricultural Product Loan Program eligibility expanded, and money appropriated.

### JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** HF898 (Carruthers) Soft body armor peace officer reimbursement provisions modified, and public safety officer's death benefit modified.

HF1195 (Carruthers) Criminal surcharge and assessment provisions modified.

HF110 (Dorn) Assault in the fifth degree probable cause arrests allowed in school zones.

HF1105 (Leighton) Parentage Act; paternity presumption for husbands eliminated in certain cases, and husbands allowed to join in parentage recognition.

HF610 (Farrell) Truancy prevention and school safety projects appropriated money.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

**Agenda:** HF527 (Mariani) Telecommunication Access for Communication Impaired Persons (TACIP) Board equipment recipient eligibility requirements modified.

HF528 (Mariani) Telecommunication Access for Communication Impaired Persons (TACIP) Board equipment eligibility restricted for persons in residential care facilities where suitable telephone service is provided.

HF811 (Jennings) Telecommunication Access for Communication Impaired persons (TACIP) Board equipment recipient eligibility requirements modified, and cellular telephone user TACIP fee imposed.

HF1093 (Lynch) Telecommunication Access for Communication-Impaired Persons Board (TACIP) eliminated, and duties transferred to the Department of Public Service and Department of Human Services.

### State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Budget reviews: Legislative Reference Library, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, Department of Employee Relations.

12:30 p.m.

### Business Regulation Division/ COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

**Agenda:** HF259 (Dempsey) State building code receipt rebates paid to municipalities, and money appropriated.

HF1318 (Garcia) Temporary restroom facilities provided at certain construction and engineering project sites.

### GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

**Agenda:** HF318 (Lieder) Fair campaign practices campaign material information provisions modified.

HF667 (Long) Campaign finance spending limit and public subsidy provisions modified.

### HOUSING

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** HF1114 (Entenza) Affordable housing policies implemented by Metropolitan Council.

HF1258 (Hausman) Metropolitan housing system established to encourage development of housing options.

### LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Johnson

**Agenda:** Final testimony on the following bill: HF1204 (Dawkins) Messenger and courier employment status clarified for workers' compensation purposes. (Final testimony on this bill.) HF18 (Bettermann) Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

HF69 (Kelso) Workers' compensation insurance regulation and benefits modified, and money appropriated.

HF391 (Girard) Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

HF642 (Winter) Workers' compensation insurance regulation and benefits modified, and money appropriated.

HF921 (Goodno) Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

HF1324 (Winter) Mutual employer self-insurance group creation and operation regulated.

HF1436 (Simoneau) Worker's compensation.

**Immediately following full  
GENERAL LEGISLATION  
Committee meeting**

**Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs/  
GENERAL LEGISLATION,  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND ELECTIONS**

300N State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Betty McCollum, Joe Opatz

**Agenda:** HF1001 (Rukavina) Women in Military Service Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery contribution appropriation provided.

HF1045 (Marko) Vietnam veterans claims assistance provided, and money appropriated.

HF853 (Brown) National guard and Department of Military Affairs weapons prohibition exemption provided.

HF994 (Pugh) National Guard and Department of Military Affairs weapons prohibition exemption provided.

HF698 (McCollum) Veterans Homes Board duties modified, and Silver Bay Veterans Home Dementia Unit expansion provided.

2:30 p.m.

**The House meets in Session.**

4 p.m.

**Higher Education Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** Reports on legislative outcomes concerning the Minnesota State University System, the Community College System, and the State Board of Technical Colleges.

HF678 (Clark) Language interpretation model instruction program established, and money appropriated.

7 p.m.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** HF896 (Brown) Government Innovation and Cooperation Board authority and procedures clarified, cooperation planning grant application procedures established, and money appropriated.

HF1060 (Pugh) South St. Paul fire and police

department employees excluded from civil service.

HF943 (Winter) Metropolitan Council diesel-powered transit buses to be installed with ethanol additive systems.

HF533 (Bertram) Eden Lake township annexed to the Paynesville area hospital district.

**TUESDAY, March 21**

8 a.m.

**EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** HF892 (Tomassoni) School bus safety provisions modified, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF280 (Sviggum) School bus driver employment requirements modified.

Continuation of report on school bus safety.

**MinnesotaCare Finance Division/  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** HF1077 (Cooper) MinnesotaCare; integrated service network requirements established, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

**Transportation Finance Division/  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Final day of public testimony on the governor's budget.

HF202 (Peterson) Ethanol producer payments modified, and money appropriated.

10 a.m.

**Financial Aid and Tuition Policy Working  
Group/Joint Higher Education Finance Division  
and University of Minnesota Finance  
Division/EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Continued discussion of previous agendas.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Items not completed at the March 16th meeting.

HF503 (Bishop) Water supply systems and wastewater treatment facilities classified and operators certified by Department of Health and Pollution Control Agency, and money appropriated.

HF597 (Kelley) Metropolitan public safety radio communications systems coordination and consolidation provided; 911 emergency telephone service fee use authorized, and bonds issued.

HF672 (Wagenius) Waste Management Act provisions modified.

HF66 (Cooper) Licensed professional counseling board established, licensure requirements specified, rules and penalties provided, and money appropriated.

**Property Tax &  
Tax Increment Financing Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** HF147 (Ozment) Tax increment financing use restricted, and additional disclosure required.

HF824 (Rest) School board approval required for tax increment financing plans and modifications.

HF1354 (Abrams) State Auditor approval of tax increment financing.

12:30 p.m.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM &  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** HF398 (Carruthers) Elevator mechanic registration and regulation required, and money appropriated.

HF1022 (Carruthers) Real property goods warranty transferability required.

HF1218 (Carruthers) Certified and licensed public accountant biennial licensure renewal provided.

HF1050 (Jennings) Rental-purchase agreement lease services cost regulation provided.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** HF1159 (Jefferson) Municipalities authorized to establish trust or escrow accounts for losses due to destruction of uninsured real property, and municipal control over such property provided.

HF1314 (Jefferson) Underground storage tank regulation by local units of government provisions modified.

HF1274 (Dawkins) First Class City Home Rule Charter Commission expenses increased, and home rule charter amendment drafting and election provisions modified.

HF1291 (Anderson, B.) Sherburne County ditch conveyance to Elk River provided.  
HF1125 (McGuire) County auditor, treasurer, and recorder offices filled by appointment, and conforming changes provided.

2:30 p.m.

#### HOUSING

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark  
**Agenda:** HF1156 (Long) Metropolitan livable communities advisory board and fund established, and Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission and district provisions modified.

#### State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina  
**Agenda:** Statewide systems project.

6 p.m.

#### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

6:30 p.m.

#### State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina  
**Agenda:** HF123 (Opatz) Public contract oversight provided for certain state and metropolitan government contracts.  
HF130 (Kahn) County consolidation feasibility study required, and money appropriated.  
HF1205 (Rukavina) Department of Administration, Department of Employee Relations, Department of Finance, Department of Human Rights, Department of Military Affairs, and Department of Revenue appropriations reduced.  
HF473 (Trimble) Human development center established, and money appropriated for planning and development.

### WEDNESDAY, March 22

The House will meet in Session  
(time to be announced).

8 a.m.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice  
**Agenda:** Department of Trade and Economic Development.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield  
**Agenda:** Presentation of the governor's biennial budget recommendations for programs serving the disabled community.

#### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel  
**Agenda:** HF899 (Kinkel) Semester system established by Higher Education Board, undergraduate state funding expenditures restricted, Akita Program efficiency increased, and campus efficiency increased.  
Discussion of the reciprocity agreement between Minnesota and North Dakota, Joe Graba, deputy executive director, Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson  
**Agenda:** District specific bills.  
HF436 (Ostrom) Independent School District No. 2397, Le Sueur-Henderson, provided a levy adjustment.  
HF540 (Davids) Independent school district Nos. 228, Harmony, and 233, Preston-Fountain, provided debt equalization determination.  
HF553 (Vickerman) Independent School District No. 85, Springfield, debt service aid eligibility authorized.  
HF738 (Peterson) Independent School District No. 129, Montevideo, authorized to levy for Adult Farm Management Program costs.  
HF740 (Luther) Independent School District No. 279, Osseo, authorized to levy for provision of instructional services to at-risk children, low-income concentration grant program provided, and money appropriated.  
HF741 (Luther) Independent School District No. 279, Osseo, authorized to levy for provision of instructional services to at-risk children, and low-income concentration grant program provided.  
HF742 (Luther) Independent School District No. 279, Osseo, authorized to levy for provision of instructional services to at-risk children.  
HF1217 (Otremba) Independent School District Nos. 789, Clarissa, and 790, Eagle Bend, provided alternative debt service plans.

#### Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ted Winter  
**Agenda:** HF1173 (Wagenius) Commercial industrial property located in transit zones provided reduced property tax class rate.  
HF162 (Bertram) Stearns County required to pay refund to Melrose for money received for property acquisition.

HF1029 (Milbert) Manufactured home park property tax class rate changed.  
HF1131 (Krinkie) Residential homestead property tax class rates modified.

8:30 a.m.

#### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown  
**Agenda:** HF213 (Kahn) LCMR; Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources recommended projects appropriated money, and critical habitat matching account and environment and natural resources trust fund provisions modified.

10 a.m.

#### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger  
**Agenda:** HF488 (Cooper) Petroleum tank release cleanup fund site assessment payment provided prior to tank removal.  
HF626 (Hausman) Environmental education council established, state plan for environmental education development required, and money appropriated.  
HF1014 (Hausman) Wind energy conversion system siting regulated, and rulemaking authorized.  
HF1256 (Kelley) Federal energy standards adopted for air conditioners, certain gas burning equipment, lamps, showerheads, and faucets.  
HF1096 (Milbert) Wild animal and plant emergency protection rule adoption authority granted to Department of Natural Resources commissioner.  
HF787 (Munger) Wetland replacement, protection, and management provisions modified. (Meeting will be continued at approximately 4:30 p.m.)

#### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau  
**Agenda:** HF751 (Davids) Insurance agent life and health policy quotas prohibited.  
HF1178 (Simoneau) No-fault automobile insurance rental vehicle coverage provisions modified.  
HF96 (Bishop) Health carrier subrogation rights restricted.  
HF1184 (Jennings) Omnibus financial institutions technical corrections bill.

#### JUDICIARY

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



**Agenda:** Any bill not completed at March 20th meeting.  
HF966 (Entenza) Child support and enforcement provisions modified, and money appropriated.  
Other bills to be announced.

**State Government Finance Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Budget reviews of the Board of Investment and the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation. St. Paul teachers. MERF. Minneapolis teachers. Local police and fire.

12:30 p.m.

**Business Regulation Division/  
COMMERCE, TOURISM &  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

**Agenda:** HF1132 (Jennings) Brewer retail restrictions not applicable to brewers whose only manufacture is in a brewery-restaurant.

HF498 (Dauner) Clay County authorized to issue an on-sale intoxicating liquor license.

HF984 (Wejcman) Minneapolis authorized to issue an on-sale intoxicating liquor license to the local branch of the American Association of University Women.

HF1283 (Wagenius) Minneapolis authorized to issue an on-sale wine and 3.2 malt liquor license to a restaurant.

HF1316 (Jennings) Distilled spirits fill standards regulated.

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

**Agenda:** HF766 (Ness) Public facilities authority maximum bonding amount changed.

HF993 (Jaros) Dog and cat sales regulated, and purchaser rights modified.

HF1117 (Long) Tourism office to devote 20 percent of budget to international tourism development.

HF1223 (Long) Community organization provided funding to provide business opportunities, and money appropriated.

**TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** HF1295 (Ostrom) Alternative fuel vehicle permits eliminated and fee refund provided, and gasoline and special fuel taxes specified.

HF1049 (Mahon) Emergency rescue vehicles exempted from registration tax and fees.

HF324 (Lieder) Bridge construction and reconstruction bond issuance authorized and proceeds appropriated as grants to political subdivisions.

HF1083 (Lieder) Highway user tax distribution fund apportionment maintained.

HF1121 (Lieder) Gasoline tax rate changed, Metropolitan Council transit bonding limits removed, metropolitan area sales tax imposed, road pricing study continued, and trunk highway turnback study required.

HF1166 (Krinkie) Limited driver's license issuance hearing procedures and standards adopted by Department of Public Safety commissioner.

HF791 (Marko) St. Croix River toll bridge authorized, and bonds issued.

Additional bills will be added.

1:30 p.m.

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

118 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Continuation of morning agenda. Public testimony.

4 p.m.

**University of Minnesota Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** University of Minnesota Steam Plant.

After DFL Caucus

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** Continuation of morning agenda.

4:30 p.m. or after Session  
(whichever is later)

**Subcommittee on Data Practices/  
JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire

**Agenda:** HF538 (McGuire) Secretary of state authorized access to individuals' social security numbers in certain circumstances.

HF1095 (Rest) Crime victim and witness identity public access provisions modified.

HF1102 (Jefferson) Transitional housing services recipient identity data classified as private.

HF1326 (Skoglund) Booking photograph release and classification provided.

HF784 (Weaver) Controlled substance offense penalty application clarified, drivers' license photograph use authorized in theft investigations, criminal record expungement

precluded in diversion cases, victim restitution provided, and fine imposed.

HF900 (Broecker) Disabled parking certificate holders allowed to make names and addresses private.

HF1067 (Van Engen) Health Care Provider Transition Plan, birth registration, immunization and other health related data access provisions modified.

6 p.m.

**Legislative Commission on  
Pensions and Retirement**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** SF922 (Riveness); HF1092 (Kahn) State university and state community college systems individual retirement account plans recodified.

SF806 (Morse); HF1040 (Kahn) State university and community college faculty retirement provisions modified, part-time faculty participation provided, and investment options provided.

SF743 (Metzen); HF925 (Johnson, R.) Teacher retirement association members permitted to terminate membership in association.

SF126 (Terwilliger) Eden Prairie volunteer fire; vesting and benefit changes.

SF857 (Solon); HF1016 (Jaros) Duluth Teachers Retirement Association post retirement benefit increase mechanism modified.

SF955 (Solon); HF1142 (Jaros) Duluth Teachers Retirement Association benefit computation formulas increased.

SF1124 (Riveness); HF1403 (Jefferson) State-wide pension plan graded rate salary increase assumptions specified.

SF1145 (Kroening) MSRS; early retirement incentive for Metropolitan Council and Historical Society.

SF1083 (Morse) Higher education; early retirement incentives for state university and community college personnel.

SF1196 (Stumpf) Higher education; early retirement incentives.

SF1098 (Bertram); HF1152 (Schumacher) Independent School District No. 51, Foley, employee authorized prior service credit purchase.

SF972 (Morse); HF1080 (Jefferson) Local government official participation limited in Public Employee Retirement Association defined benefit plan.

HF1427 (Jefferson) Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis, levy authority reallocation provided, and retirement fund provided supplemental contributions.

SF863 (Morse); HF995 (Johnson, R.) Police state aid excess aid amounts disposition provided to fund an additional amortization aid program.

Other items may be added by the commission chair.

**THURSDAY, March 23**

8 a.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## EDUCATION

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** HF1323 (Hausman) Year-round education funding established for school districts, and bonds issuance authorized.

HF487 (Pelowski) State university and college library appropriations exempted from the one-third debt service requirement.

HF988 (Perlt) New housing developer school impact fee permitted.

HF1061 (Greenfield) STARS telecommunication program to include public and private schools as eligible system recipients and users.

## MinnesotaCare Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** HF1077 (Cooper) MinnesotaCare; integrated service network requirements established, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

Public testimony.

8:30 a.m.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** HF2 (Johnson, A.) Motor vehicle emission inspection requirement waived for vehicles less than five years old.

10 a.m.

## GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Items not completed at March 21st meeting.

HF695 (Solberg) Higher education employee labor contracts ratified.

HF1113 (Kelley) Volunteer services office duties to include citizen participation activities, and money appropriated.

HF347 (Cooper) Emergency medical services regulatory board established.

## Sales & Income Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

**Agenda:** 1196 (Rice) Corporate franchise tax differential rate imposed on banks.

HF1380 (Rest) Municipal bond taxation.

HF982 (Rest) Wholesale drug distributor payments from federal agencies and instrumentalities exempted from gross revenue tax.

HF287 (Abrams) Information service (1-900) calls tax repealed.

12:30 p.m.

## COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** HF809 (Entenza) Charitable organizations regulated and money appropriated.

HF990 (Entenza) Disabled and handicapped assistive device warranties provided.

HF1048 (Entenza) Videotape distribution, sale, and rental regulated, and captioning for deaf or hearing-impaired persons required.

HF1052 (Entenza) Federal Lien Registration Act provisions modified.

HF586 (Bertram) Impound lots authorized to sell and dispose of unauthorized, abandoned, and junk vehicles.

HF1185 (Smith) Uniform Commercial Code revised Article 8 enacted regulating investment securities.

Other bills may be added.

## Elections Division/ GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** HF1047 (Bakk) Landfarming contaminated soil reporting to unincorporated townships requirements modified.

HF1231 (Rest) Municipal population estimates provided for annexed territory.

HF1227 (Holsten) Sport shooting ranges provided civil and criminal liability immunity.

HF1237 (Jaros) Duluth special service district creation area provisions modified.

HF1315 (McCullum) North St. Paul tax increment financing district time limit extension provided.

HFXXXX (Long) Regarding special service districts in Minneapolis.

2:30 p.m.

## The House meets in Session.

6 p.m.

## GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** HF1260 (Milbert) Amateur Sports Commission ice arena authority increased, bond use authorized, and money appropriated.

Items not completed at morning meeting. Other bills may be added.

6 p.m. or 2 hours after session  
(whichever is earlier)

## EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## FRIDAY, March 24

8 a.m.

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

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Public testimony on the governor's biennial budget recommendations for the Department of Health and Department of Human Services.

## Joint Higher Education Finance Division and University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Telecommunications and the future of higher education: Joe Graba, deputy executive director, Higher Education Coordinating Board; Don Riley, associate vice president, associate provost, Computing and Information Technologies, University of Minnesota; Bernard Conlin, assistant commissioner, Intertechnologies Group, Department of Administration; Candace Campbell, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota; Gary Evans, vice president, University Relations, Winona State University.

## K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Fund transfer bills.

HF28 (Dauner) Independent School District No. 548, Pelican Rapids, authorized to transfer funds from general fund to capital expenditure fund.

HF200 (Swenson, H.) Independent School District No. 422, Glencoe, authorized transfer of funds from debt redemption fund to capital expenditure fund.

HF207 (Lieder) Independent school district Nos. 526, Twin Valley, and 523, Gary, funds transferred to the Twin Valley and Gary successor school district.

HF209 (Opatz) Independent School District No. 600, Fisher, capital health and safety revenue use for purchase of portable classrooms authorized.

HF569 (Mulder) Independent School District No. 742, St. Cloud, authorized to transfer funds from the general fund to the capital expenditure fund for instructional technology purposes.

HF861 (Hugoson) Independent School District

No. 583, Pipestone, fund transfer authorized from debt redemption fund to capital expenditure fund.

HF962 (Finseth) Independent School district No. 2536, Granada-Huntley-East Chain, allowed to make a fund transfer.

HF965 (Wenzel) Independent School District No. 595, East Grand Forks, authorized to use capital expenditure facilities revenue to acquire and construct buildings.

HF1163 (Lieder) Independent School District No. 604, Mentor, fund transfer authorized.

HF1374 (Kinkel) Independent School District No. 2174, Pine River-Backus, fund transfer permitted.

10 a.m.

#### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** HF581 (Johnson, V.) Forest resources council and forest resources research advisory committee established to coordinate forest resource management, use, and development. HF1279 (Rest) State park handicapped access trail plan required.

HF1307 (Ostrom) Ice fishing houses identified by owners driver's license numbers.

HF1191 (Carlson) Trout and salmon stamp required to possess trout or salmon taken by angling.

HF1340 (Bakk) Deer archery, firearm, and muzzle-loading firearm license established.

HF1280 (Milbert) Game and fish provisions

modified, all-terrain vehicle definition modified, game and fish license revocation provided, special permit issuance provisions modified, one-day fishing licenses provided, migratory game bird provisions modified.

#### Gambling Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

**Agenda:** HF1405 (Tomassoni) Video lottery terminal operation authorized, education trust fund established, and penalties prescribed.

Other bills may be added. (Meeting will run from 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)

#### Subcommittee on Civil Law/JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Pugh

**Agenda:** This meeting will last all day. The committee will recess for lunch and then reconvene to continue its agenda.

SF77 (Betzold) Motor vehicle warranties; limitation on actions clarified.

HF1309 (Pugh) Civil action proceedings in forma pauperis modified, action dismissal provided for false allegations of poverty, and hearings and fees provided.

HF184 (Simoneau) Civil action punitive damage awards regulated.

HF927 (Bishop) Domestic abuse hearing requirement eliminated in certain cases, and notices provided.

HF57 (Onnen) Cemetery maintenance employ-

ment relationship and local government liability provisions specified.

HF1189 (Leppik) Guardian ad litem juvenile and family court responsibilities specified.

#### TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** Continuation of any bills not heard at March 22nd meeting. Other bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

#### AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

**Agenda:** HF1252 (Vickerman) Cellular telephone service providers required to notify users of 911 call procedures.

HF1290 (Delmont) Emergency 911 telephone system regulated, private switch telephone service requirement imposed, and civil penalty provided.

HF638 (Jennings) Power Plant Siting Act exemption provided for cogeneration plants, and local siting regulations for cogeneration plants preempted.

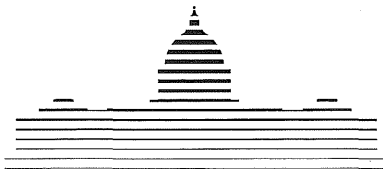
HF639 (Jennings) Cogeneration plants exempted from the certificate of need process, and federal right waiver required.

## Legislative Gopher Design Group wins information award



The 17-member Legislative Gopher Design Group, which is responsible for designing and implementing the Internet connection that allows free public access to a host of legislative information, was presented with the John R. Finnegan Freedom of Information Award at a March 16 ceremony at the Minnesota Judicial Center. The award is named for the retired senior vice-president of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, for his lifelong dedication to openness in government and the public's right to know. The award was presented by Wilma Behm, president of the Metronet Governing Board who is also a Scott County commissioner, center.

Legislative staff from the Legislative Reference Library, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, House of Representatives, and the Senate worked together to assemble the information and to solve a host of technical problems. Award recipients, left to right, are John Wangaard, Leif Eischen, Charlie Fastner, Marilyn Cathcart, Jim Greenwalt, Randi Madisen, Marion Matters, Marc Asch, Paul Battaglia, Tom Klein, Steve Camp, and John Tschida. Not pictured are Karen Clark, Clayton Larson, Wendy Nelson, Steve Vetter, and Tom Walstrom. For more information about the Legislative Gopher, see Feb. 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 15.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

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Sources: *Minnesota Wetland Report, 1994, Biennial Report to the Minnesota Legislature, FY1994-95, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.*



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# SESSION WEEKLY

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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • March 24, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 12

## Week at a glance

**Pass the farm** — Transferring farms from one generation to the next is often a thorny issue that most farm families inevitably face. And this session, a bill is moving through the House to provide \$191,000 to help set up a statewide Passing on the Farm Center to counsel families. .... **Page 4**

**Nature calls** — Portable toilets would be required on nearly all construction job sites, under a bill moving through the House. No construction, remodeling, or demolition project could begin unless "sanitary rest room facilities" are provided for workers "within a reasonable distance" from the building site. .... **Page 4**

**Year-round schools** — Students can learn more and school districts can save money by keeping school open all year, according to one expert who supported a House bill that would give schools financial incentives to operate on a schedule that does not include the traditional summer vacation. .... **Page 5**

**Protecting police horses** — You may still be able to look a gift horse in the mouth, but don't try punching him. A bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee would make it a crime to assault or harm a police horse. .... **Page 5**

**Better shipwrecks and gardens** — A total of \$100,000 would be authorized to study shipwrecks in Minnesota lakes and rivers, \$150,000 to conduct workshops on landscaping with native Minnesota plants, and \$575,000 to study toxic mercury emissions in Minnesota's air and lakes, under a legislative commission bill. .... **Page 9**

**Semester system** — Classes at Minnesota's state universities, community colleges, and technical colleges would last one semester rather than one quarter of the academic year, under a bill heard by the House Higher Education Finance Division. .... **Page 13**

**Workers' compensation reform** — A House committee is considering seven bills that all promise to reform Minnesota's workers' compensation system which many have argued is much too costly. .... **Page 14**

**Creative budgeting** — Finding creative ways to do more with less will be the key to solving problems the Legislature faces, says first-term lawmaker Rep. Bill Haas. "You've got to run government like you run a household or a business. . . . If you're short on money, you cut back and find new ways to accomplish what you have to get done." .... **Page 17**

**OK, I'll run** — First-term lawmaker Rep. Tom Hackbarth had no intention of becoming a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. He tried to recruit a conservative Independent-Republican challenger to face-off against a liberal DFLer. When no candidate could be found, Hackbarth took up the cause. .... **Page 18**

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On the cover: Jennifer Ring of Mahtomedi holds her six-year-old daughter, Kayla, who has epilepsy, during a rally in the Capitol rotunda March 22. Dozens of Minnesotans came to protest Gov. Arne Carlson's plan to reduce home-based care for the disabled.

— photo by Tom Olmscheid

# Highlights

'I just want to live at home' . . .

## Some 300 protest home care cuts for disabled

Jenna Johnson was number 10 on a list of some 145 people waiting to speak to a group of Minnesota lawmakers March 22 about proposed budget cuts.

She isn't a lobbyist, doesn't keep a cellular phone in her pocket, and doesn't carry a leather brief case. Her uncluttered message, however, appeared to hit home.

"I just want to live at home," said the quiet 12-year-old from St. Paul.

Jenna was one of about 300 people who journeyed to the State Capitol March 22 to persuade lawmakers not to agree to Gov. Arne Carlson's proposed \$11.5 million in cuts to home care programs for the disabled.

Like many, Jenna, who has cerebral palsy, was in a wheelchair, but others had guide dogs and some were on ventilators.

Even after three hours of testimony, members of the House Health and Human Services Finance Division only got to number 23 on the list of 145 people who wanted to testify. But legislators and those who didn't get a chance to testify broke into small groups after the hearing to hear more individual stories.

Later in the day, a subgroup of those attending tried to demand an audience with the governor but were ordered out of his office and cited.

Carlson's budget proposes to cut money from two programs that help people who are disabled remain at home instead of in an institution. Specifically, he would cut a program that provides personal care attendants for the disabled and another that allows the families of children with disabilities to buy into a state medical care plan.

Some government officials maintain some people misuse the personal care attendants and other state medical services. They maintain Minnesotans are paying for "baby-sitting services."

A memo from the Department of Human Services states that personal care services "can cost less than nursing facility costs." However, in some instances, Medical Assistance pays more for personal care services than it does for nursing home care.

When all the cuts are added up, it is estimated that 2,030 kids and 150 adults would be cut off. Another 1,700 could lose their benefits if the Department of Human Services fails to obtain federal permission for 1,700 more waiver slots to allow them to continue their benefits. Advocates warn that the federal government's rush to cut the budget means less money for social service programs. So, more waivers are not guaranteed.

But Tom Moss, director of long-term care for the Department of Human Services, said his office has been in regular contact with federal officials and "we're going to get the waivers."

Currently, the state pays about \$94 million each biennium for 5,300 people who receive help from a personal care attendant in their home. The attendants help with such things as feeding, bathing, travel to and from work, and changing catheter bags.

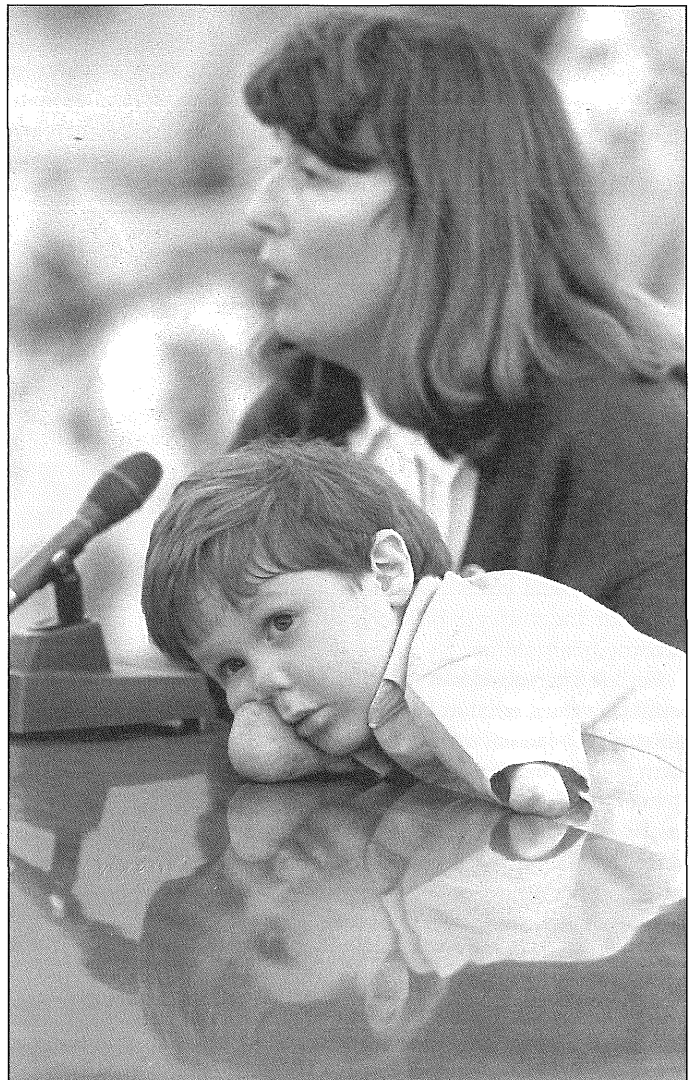
Another popular program slated for cuts allows families with children who are disabled the option to pay into the state's Medical

Assistance (MA) plan for their long-term health coverage while still keeping their jobs and homes. The coverage allows them to continue with their child's therapy as well as pay for medicine, medical supplies, and personal care attendants.

Under current MA guidelines, most people have to impoverish themselves — quit their jobs to meet low-income requirements and sell their homes — before they can qualify for help.

The program, known as TEFRA, serves 3,900 children and costs the state about \$36 million every two years. Currently, parents in the program pay back the state about \$650,000 every two years, Moss said.

Advocates argue the program is not a freebie. First, parents must



Six-year-old Matthew Fink rested his head as his mother, Cheryl, of Eagan, testified before the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee for the continued funding of home-based care for the disabled.

pay into the Medical Assistance plan. Second, they are required to keep their own private insurance for themselves and their children to pay for regular doctors' visits and other medical costs.

Julie Beckett, an Iowa woman whose daughter Katie inspired then-President Ronald Reagan to initiate the TEFRA option to states, traveled to St. Paul to encourage lawmakers not to cut the program.

In 1981, Reagan met Katie, then 3 years old, in a hospital. Now 17, Katie still suffers from post viral encephalitis, is on a ventilator, and requires ongoing medical care.

The program is a "fiscally feasible way of taking care of people at home." She noted that nursing home care would be more costly in many cases.

"If people like you knew us . . . you'd know we save the government a substantial amount of money," Beckett said.

Mike Ehrlichmann of Minneapolis and a consultant on the federal American with Disabilities Act, said that many facing cutbacks fear the loss of freedom to eat, go to work, and stay in their own homes.

If they're not free to live in their own homes, they end up in an institution, which would cost the state even more money, said Ehrlichmann.

"You're asking a great many people to face that choice . . . Please don't let this budget proposal prevail. It is too expensive," Ehrlichmann said.

— K. Darcy Hanzlik



## AGRICULTURE

### Passing on the farm

When David Reynolds' father died unexpectedly several years ago, his mother was left with the family's 700-acre farm near Redwood Falls, Minn.

But left unresolved was just how the farm would get transferred to David and the next generation — an often thorny issue that most farm families inevitably face.

Luckily for Reynolds, however, southwestern Minnesota is home to a farm task force whose goal is to assist families and others who are in the process of transferring the farm from one generation to the next.

"It was an opportunity to meet all at once," said Reynolds, referring to the numerous people involved in such transactions. "These people are seeking information."

On March 20, the House Agriculture Committee approved a bill that would provide \$191,000 in funding for the project over the next two years.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island), would establish "The Passing on the Farm Center" at the Southwest Technical College in Granite Falls, Minn.

The center would expand the existing project so it is statewide in scope and bring it under the state's umbrella. In the past, the project received funding from the Southwestern Minnesota Initiative Fund, Sisters of Notre Dame, and several other organizations and was limited to southwestern Minnesota.

The project employs the "study circle" concept of getting between five and 20 people together to discuss the various issues involved with such a farm transfer, ranging from tax and retirement planning to how to plan for a situation where a farming son or daughter gets divorced.

"The more times a group meets, the more they'll open up," said Cindy Wittwer, a registered nurse from Redwood Falls, Minn., who has participated in the project.

She said that too often people focus on the "technical parts" of such transfers while they "don't pay attention to the human parts."

Several members, however, questioned the wisdom of creating another state government program during a time of budget cutbacks.

"I just wonder if we need another project?" said Rep. Howard Swenson (IR-Nicollet), a lifelong dairy farmer who is in the process of transferring the family farm to his son. "I think there's resources out there now that people can go to."

And Rep. Marv Dauner (DFL-Hawley) questioned why farmers should have a specific program to deal with these issues when a hardware store owner or pharmacist doesn't.



Cindy Wittwer testified March 20 before the House Agriculture Committee in favor of a bill to expand a current "passing on the farm" project. It would make statewide a program to gather people to discuss the various issues involved with a farm transfer, ranging from tax and retirement planning to how to plan for a situation where a farming son or daughter gets divorced.

HF614 now moves to the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee for further review.



## BUILDINGS

### Nature calls

Portable toilets would be required on nearly all construction job sites, under a bill considered by the Business Regulation Division of the Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee March 20.

No construction, remodeling, or demolition project could begin unless "sanitary rest room facilities" are provided for workers "within a reasonable distance" from the building site.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Edwina Garcia (DFL-Richfield), specifies that one toilet would be provided for every 20 employees. No facilities would have to be provided for "mobile crews" moving to different job sites "on a daily or hourly basis."

Also, the bill would not apply to remote sites "where temporary rest room facilities are unavailable."

Garcia said that the proposal would promote good sanitation and the prevention of communicable diseases.

George Bentley, representing the Minnesota Portable Restroom Operators, told lawmakers that portable toilets are available for workers on relatively few single family home construction sites.

Beside the boon to public health, providing portable toilets at work sites would save employers money by decreasing workers' break times, according to Bentley.

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires the one-toilet-to-20-workers ratio specified in the bill. But Bentley noted that OSHA does not have enough building inspectors in Minnesota to "enforce this on a consistent basis."

Bentley said that Eden Prairie has adopted a similar ordinance and has experienced no problems with it.

The unfunded biffy bill had its detractors.

Joan Archer of the Builders Association of Minnesota termed the proposal "too prescriptive and detailed." She said it would punish building contractors and hold up construction projects.

"I would be required to ensure that there's enough toilet paper on the construction site," objected Ron Nienaber, building official for the city of Maple Grove. "I have more important things to do."

HF1318 was laid over and will be considered at a later date.





## CHILDREN

### More support for kids

A bill to give the state more tools to garner the hundreds of millions that are owed to Minnesota kids in failed child support payments won approval from the House Judiciary Committee March 22.

As of July 1994, Minnesota kids were owed \$551 million in delinquent support payments.

The proposal includes a "pay it or park it" provision which would suspend the driver's license of anyone owing at least \$1,000 in delinquent child support. Such parents would be notified that they have 90 days to work out a payment plan with the county or the court. Failure to do so would result in a suspended driver's license. (The debtor may request a hearing on the matter.)

The provision of **HF966** is modeled after a current Maine law which has generated \$21 million in collections since its 1992 inception. It cost the state \$70,000 to implement the program. Only 39 drivers' licenses have been suspended.

Bill sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) called the Maine program a successful deterrent. He said the goal is to collect money, and to "make sure individuals are not unfairly treated."

Estimates from the Department of Human Services (DHS) place administrative costs for the program at about \$70,000 annually. By fiscal year 1999, when the program would be fully operational, DHS conservatively estimates the program will account for an additional \$30 million in child support collected.

Other provisions of the bill would:

- establish a centralized state child support collections unit within the DHS in 1997. All payments made to local agencies would be forwarded to DHS;
- delay, until Jan. 1, 1997, the publishing of names of those delinquent in their support payments. When the program resumes, those on public assistance, or have filed for bankruptcy, or have a pending court case concerning what they owe in delinquent support, would not see their names in print. The changes follow the recent erroneous publication of the names of several people in newspapers statewide; and
- freeze the accrual of interest on back child support owed if the parent makes timely payments for 36 consecutive months. This is designed to aid parents who at one time owed a lot in back child support but were unable to pay; by freezing the interest on that large unpaid balance, it is hoped that parents who resume paying can catch up

and pay off the debt's principal. (This provision was previously contained in **HF348**, sponsored by Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids), which was incorporated into **HF966**.)

**HF966** now moves to the Health and Human Services Committee for further consideration. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 5.)



## CRIME

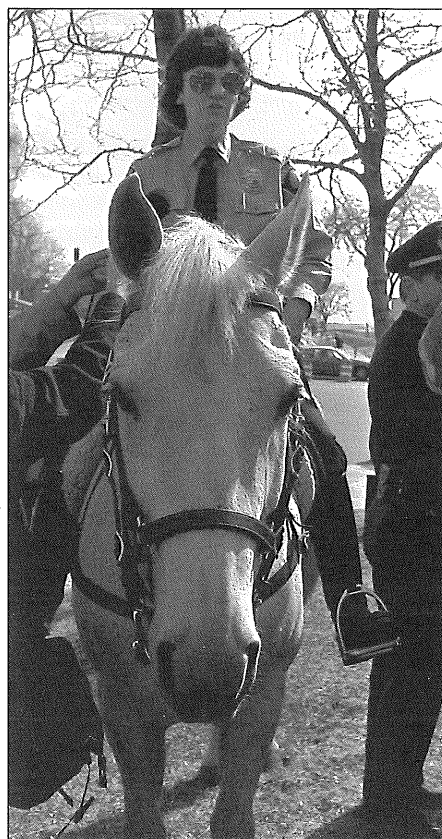
### Protecting police horses

You may still be able to look a gift horse in the mouth, but don't try punching him.

A bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee March 22 would make it a crime to assault or harm a police horse.

The horses are "an extension of the police officer" and should be protected under the law, said Lt. Shirleen Hoffman, mounted patrol leader of the Minneapolis Police Department.

The city of Minneapolis launched its mounted patrol program on Nov. 3, 1994. Its four horses patrol mainly the downtown Minneapolis area along Hennepin and Nicollet



Lt. Shirleen Hoffman of the Minneapolis Police Department rode 12-year-old Cody during a March 22 meeting of the House Judiciary Committee. The committee later approved a bill (**HF1399**) that would make it a felony offense to assault a police horse in certain cases.

avenues, but they're used for special events as well, Hoffman said.

The patrol also has been called to monitor protests and disperse unruly crowds, and that's where some trouble has arisen.

Last November, a full bottle of pop was thrown at a horse in Minneapolis. In a separate incident, a horse's tail was pulled. The horse whirled and knocked down two bystanders.

The horse abuse went unpunished because no state law could be applied.

"We need to do something before somebody really gets hurt," Hoffman said.

**HF1399** carries a penalty of up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for killing a police horse. Lesser penalties also would apply, depending on the injuries sustained by the horse, the officer riding the horse, or anyone standing nearby.

Under current law, police dogs are protected and have been since 1987. It is a gross misdemeanor to intentionally cause substantial bodily harm to a police dog, and a felony to kill a police dog. The latter carries a penalty of up to two years in prison and a \$4,000 fine.

The city of Duluth also has a two-horse mounted patrol and St. Paul is expected to begin one shortly. A St. Paul police sergeant is already certified as a mounted officer, having trained with the Minneapolis officers last fall.

**HF1399** now moves to the House floor.



## EDUCATION

### Year-round schools

Students can learn more and school districts can save money by keeping school open throughout the year, according to Dr. Charles Ballinger, executive director of the National Association for Year-Round Education.

Testifying before the House Education Committee March 23, Ballinger supported a bill (**HF1323**) that would give schools financial incentives to operate on a schedule that does not include the traditional summer vacation.

"It is very difficult to justify the current schedule because of summer (academic) loss and the lack of full use of public facilities," Ballinger said.

Year-round school does not mean students attend classes 365 days a year.

Rather students are divided into groups or tracks — often four — that rotate. While three tracks are attending classes, one is off on vacation. That frees up space to avoid classroom overcrowding.

A common schedule involves attending class 45 school days in a row and then taking

15 school days off. Some school districts offer a semblance of a summer vacation by allowing all tracks to take three weeks off together in July.

More than 2,200 schools in the nation already use some kind of year-round schedule, according to Ballinger. That affects about 1.6 million students.

The students benefit because they are able to perform better in classes when they don't have a lengthy interruption every summer, Ballinger said. And school districts save because the more efficient use of school buildings can prevent the need for additional facilities, he added.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), would allow districts to use a year-round calendar and provide additional funding for those that do.

The bill was referred to the K-12 Education Finance Division and is expected to come up for debate again this session.

## Protect kids, halt truancy

All people hired to work at a Minnesota school — public or private — would face a criminal background check, under a bill approved March 20 by the House Judiciary Committee.

The provision, which previously applied only to public schools, is included in a comprehensive school safety and anti-truancy proposal (HF610) now headed to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

(See Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 5; March 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7; and March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6)

More extensive criminal background checks also were added to the bill.

Under an amendment sponsored by Rep. Doug Swenson (IR-Forest Lake), anyone who has lived in Minnesota for less than 10 years would face a national criminal background check. Criminal records from all states where an applicant has lived for the 10 years prior to moving to Minnesota also would be checked, as would welfare agency records, to see if any child maltreatment claim has been substantiated against the applicant.

The bill still contains criminal sanctions for parents who fail to make a good faith effort to exercise "reasonable care, supervision, protection and control" over their children. The same misdemeanor penalty — up to 90 days in jail and a \$700 fine — would apply if parents fail to make sure their kids are in school.

Not all agree that parents should be punished.

"Don't criminalize the parents . . . make them come to school with the child, or start some parenting classes," said Rep. Jim Rhodes (IR-St. Louis Park).

Bill sponsor Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul) said he didn't anticipate that parents would be thrown in jail, but that the penalty would serve as an incentive to get kids in school.

Other provisions in the bill target the truants, including a provision to allow courts to deny or revoke a driver's license until the truant turns 18 years old.

The proposal also would create a series of programs to better address the growing truancy problem.

Three community-based truancy service centers would be established to coordinate intervention efforts, and two school attendance review boards would be responsible for matching students with appropriate community services. Each review board would be composed of school officials, parents, school counselors, law enforcement officials, individuals from community agencies, and a probation officer.

Two county attorney truancy mediation programs also would be established to resolve truancy matters outside of juvenile court.

No price tag has been attached to the proposal as yet. Funding negotiations will take place in the Judiciary Finance Committee.

## Making schools safe

School districts would have new ways to protect students from their most dangerous peers under a bill approved March 21 by the House Education Committee.

Students expelled from school for assault could be refused transfer to another district under the bill, and districts would be able to keep students who are released from the criminal justice system out of the general school population for a limited time.

"I'm a firm believer in the notion that children who are afraid cannot learn," said bill sponsor Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka). "That's what this bill is to address."

Susan Butler, director of special education in the Anoka-Hennepin School District, supported the bill.

Districts are put in a bind when students who are incarcerated for crimes involving physical and sexual violence return to school upon their release, Butler said.

"We are being asked to place these children back in a public school setting," she said.

Under the bill, students released from incarceration could be placed in an alternative instruction program, away from the general school population, for up to one year.

The bill would narrow the state's emotional and behavior disorders (EBD) criteria to the federal standard. The change would reduce the "over-labeling" of EBD children, Weaver said.

Minnesota has "gone off the charts" with a 225 percent increase in the number EBD students during the past 10 years, Weaver said. And he said the identification of such students has become "a convenient way to get rid of kids" who act up.

HF453 now goes to the House floor.



Three-year-old Zachery DeCosse got a hug from Big Bird March 21 in the Great Hall of the Capitol. Sesame Street characters were on hand to help promote the educational importance of public television.

## Training for interpreters

An interpreter is more than someone who knows two languages and can act as a go-between for people who don't speak the same language.

"Interpreting is an extremely difficult task and goes well beyond speaking two languages," Bruce Downing, a professor at the University of Minnesota, told members of the House Higher Education Finance Division March 20.

The division heard a bill sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) that would form an advisory committee to determine how best to start a training program to certify interpreters and translators. Certification training would begin in September 1998 under **HF678**.

Interpreting means acting as a go-between for people carrying on an oral conversation in separate languages. Translation refers to written work, Clark said.

The committee did not act on the bill because the cost to carry out such a program has not yet been determined. Members may take up the bill at a future meeting.

In Minnesota, many Asian immigrants rely on untrained interpreters to help them with everything from visiting the doctor to buying car insurance, said Maria Nguyen, a member of the Asian Women's Task Force, which aids Asian women immigrants.

Because the interpreters are untrained and are sometimes friends and relatives of the non-English speaking person, the actual interpretation can be sketchy. Especially if the subject matter is full of medical jargon or legal terms, said Sy Vang, who serves as an advocate for battered Asian women.

When she sits in on court hearings, she sometimes hears incorrect interpretation no one catches.

"The interpreter can't find the words to fit the legalese and the judge doesn't know that," Vang told division members. "Many times I had to interrupt because I wasn't happy with the interpreting."

Interpreters need to learn the jargon of a specialty field such as medicine or law. They need to learn communication skills and to learn the ethics of interpretation, Downing said.

He teaches an interpreter training program through the university extension program.

"It's just a small attempt to meet some of the desperate need. Interpreting is one of the most undeveloped fields that exists. In Europe these programs are taught on the graduate school level," he said.

The advisory committee **HF678** would determine how best to enact a certification program. Under one option, students would

successfully complete a number of community college classes and earn an associate of arts degree, Clark said.

## Studying domestic violence

Five young people from Black Hawk Middle School in Eagan visited the House March 22 — fully prepared to share the results of their study on domestic violence.

Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), chair of the House Judiciary Finance Committee, was among those who witnessed the students' well-rehearsed presentation, complete with overhead transparencies.

The students' research project began in January under the direction of their social studies teacher, Scott Moser.

Their choice of topic was prompted by media coverage of the O.J. Simpson trial and talk show discussions of spousal abuse. Their sources included newspaper articles and interviews with prosecutors, police officers, and domestic abuse specialists.

The students reported that over one million women each year receive medical attention because of battering.

They were concerned about overcrowding in women's shelters and why abuse victims didn't just leave the situation.

One student said that, "Domestic abuse has a profound effect on children, who witness 87 percent of domestic abuse incidents."

Another said that "judges spend an average of 10 minutes on each domestic abuse case."

Murphy, herself a social studies teacher, questioned the students on the feasibility of their recommendation to impose tougher sentences on people convicted of battering and suggested that they talk to some state district court judges.

The presentation was made by students Jason Cox, Christen Johnson, Tom Kolinski, Amber Paukner, and Shane Stevenson.



## ELECTIONS

### Special elections by mail

Special elections called to fill a vacated state legislative seat would take place through the mail or at the same time as the state primary or general election, under a bill approved March 16 by the House Elections Division.

Under the bill (**HF220**), county auditors would mail ballots to every registered voter in a district with a vacant legislative seat — but only if the election is held while the Legislature is in session.

When the Legislature is not in session, the election would take place at the November general election or, if there is no November election or the vacancy occurs after that election, by mail.

A special primary — if necessary — would be held through the mail or at the time of the regular primary.

"I'm thinking that convenience and custom will increase turnout," said Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), who sponsors the bill. "This bill is in keeping with trying to keep uniform election days and to get people to turn out to vote."

The bill would also give the governor 49 days — instead of the 28 called for in current law — in which to set the special election date after a vacancy occurs, said Joe Mansky, director of the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

The bill may increase the cost of holding a special election, Mansky said, because the postage required to mail ballots to each registered voter may total more than the cost of opening polls for one day.

But when elections have been conducted through the mail the number of people voting has sharply increased, Mansky said.

In 1987, the Legislature gave townships the authority to conduct elections by mail.

In 1991, the Legislature gave Ramsey, Kittson counties the authority to conduct local elections by mail on an experimental basis, but neither county has used that authority.

In that same year, the Legislature also gave all counties the authority to conduct absentee voting by mail without qualification. The boards in five Minnesota counties — Anoka, Becker, Hennepin, Pope and Ramsey — agreed to do it.

And in 1993, cities outside the metropolitan area with fewer than 400 registered voters were given the authority to vote by mail in state, county and local elections.

If the bill is approved by the Legislature

and signed by the governor, voters in special elections would receive ballots 20 to 14 days before election and would have until 8 p.m. election day to return them.

They could mail their ballots or return them in person to their county auditor's office, Mansky said.

## Political contributions

Political parties and campaign committees who use the state's political contribution refund program would be barred from using contributions to lobby, under a bill approved by a House panel March 16.

The political contribution refund program is only to be used to fund an individual candidate's campaign, said bill sponsor Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island).

Under the program, created by the Legislature in 1990, an individual can give up to \$50 to a candidate or party, obtain a receipt for the donation, complete a form from the Department of Revenue, and get the cash back from the state. Married couples can contribute up to \$100 and get it back.

Cooper told members of the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee's Elections Division he received a fund raising letter from a committee of a major political party. It told recipients that their financial contribution would help the organization lobby to make changes to the MinnesotaCare health plan.

It also encouraged donors to take advantage of the political contribution refund program.

Such use of the program is currently legal, but not what the program was intended for, supporters said.

Some DFL lawmakers also have criticized Gov. Arne Carlson's campaign organization for using the political contribution refund program, since the group is now lobbying the Legislature on behalf of the governor's programs.

Carlson's tax bill (HF630) calls for the elimination of the refund program, which costs the state \$4.7 million per two-year spending cycle.

The bill (HF1106) would require political parties that use the program to file a statement with the Ethical Practices Board saying the contributions are not used to lobby or influence legislation.

The House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee will hear the bill next.

## Holding two elected offices

Soil and water conservation district supervisors in small towns would be allowed to hold a second elective office under a bill approved by a House panel March 16.

According to a 1973 opinion from the Office of the Attorney General, the soil and water supervisor office is incompatible with other elective town offices, such as mayor, town supervisor, or city council member, because the conservation district is charged with land planning and with distributing state and local funds for individual landowners. Those activities may have an effect on the city or town, according to the ruling.

But in smaller Minnesota towns and cities, it is common practice for soil and water conservation district supervisors to also hold a second elected office, said Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona) who sponsors HF450.

"Our understanding is that in rural areas, it's hard to find anybody to run for anything," Pelowski said.

The bill would declare the widespread practice legal for officers in Minnesota towns with fewer than 2,500 people. The supervisor must refrain from voting on issues that affect the town and the soil and water conservation district.

Current law allows school board members to serve on town boards, said Joe Mansky, director of the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

The bill now heads to the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Easing wetland restrictions

Legislation that would give counties more flexibility in developing wetlands was approved by House Environment and Natural Resources Committee March 22.

The "compromise bill" (HF787), which would amend the 1991 Wetlands Conservation Act, was developed over five months in meetings of the Wetlands Heritage Advisory Committee, according to the bill's sponsor, Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth). The panel contains members representing agricultural, educational, environmental, and land development interests.

The measure would allow local governments to adopt their own "comprehensive wetland protection and management plan" in lieu of the rules adopted by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), which

currently oversees the law. Many local officials have complained those rules are too strict and make land development too costly.

Under the bill, BWSR would still have to approve — and could reject — a county plan, a move applauded by the Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Coalition, which is composed of nine environmental groups.

A separate wetlands bill (HF622) approved by the Agriculture Committee March 15, also would allow counties to develop their own wetland management plans. However, it did not require BWSR approval of those plans. (See March 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 3.)

HF787 also would ease current wetland replacement mandates that have caused five northern Minnesota counties to refuse to comply with the 1991 Wetlands Conservation Act.

The law now tells local governments that wetlands drained for roads, housing, or other development must be replaced — if not in another section of the county then somewhere in the state.

The bill says that in counties which have 80 percent of the wetlands that existed when Europeans first arrived in Minnesota — or presettlement wetlands — the minimum size of a wetland requiring replacement would be raised to 7,500 square feet, up from 400 square feet. (The same language is contained in HF622.)

Other changes to the current wetland replacement requirements were made to the bill.

An amendment sponsored by Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison) would exempt the Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System from having to file a wetland replacement plan.

Peterson explained that the system's waterfield is located in a "calcareous fen" — a type of wetland where water percolates through calcium rock. Operation, future construction and maintenance of the water system serving 4,000 people would be allowed as long as it was "done in an environmentally sustainable manner," under the bill.

Under current law, such a fen cannot be altered or degraded.

A successful amendment offered by Rep. Virgil Johnson (IR-Caledonia) would ease the replacement requirements involving "public transportation projects." Under current law, those responsible for such projects must replace twice the area of wetlands that are disturbed. Under the amendment, these projects would replace drained wetlands on a one-for-one basis.

HF622, sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), is now pending before the Environment and Natural Resources Com-



mittee, but it will not receive a hearing.  
HF787 now moves to the House floor.

## Better shipwrecks and gardens

The state would spend \$100,000 to study shipwrecks in Minnesota and \$150,000 to conduct workshops on landscaping with native Minnesota plants under a bill considered by the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee March 22.

The \$33 million Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources' (LCMR) bill contains money for 86 environmental and recreational projects.

HF213 will become part of an omnibus environmental spending bill that will be completed later this legislative session.

Money raised through a portion of the state's cigarette tax and lottery earnings finance the projects selected by the LCMR. The commission solicits projects through mailings to 3,300 state agencies, local units of government, citizens groups, and through a series of natural resource forums across the state.

LCMR chair Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said that the commission provides worthy projects with an "avenue to the state budget that doesn't exist otherwise."

One proposal, which prompted lawmaker debate would give \$100,000 to the Minnesota Historical Society to survey "shipwrecks in Minnesota inland lakes and rivers," and organize a conference in Duluth on "underwater cultural resources."

Kahn explained that shipwrecks in "fresh, clear water" stay well-preserved for a long time. She added that some Great Lakes states have promoted shipwrecks as a tourist attraction.

Two previous LCMR grants have funded studies of shipwrecks in Lake Superior, according to Scott Anfinson, an archaeologist with the historical society. He said the society will publish a book on Lake Superior shipwrecks next year.

Some other LCMR proposals include:

- \$4.5 million to the Metropolitan Council to improve its regional park system;
- \$3.7 million to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to upgrade state park facilities;
- \$575,000 to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to determine the sources of toxic mercury emissions in Minnesota's air and how much is ending up in the state's lakes;
- \$150,000 to the Neighborhood Energy Consortium in St. Paul to conduct work-

shops on landscaping with native Minnesota plants in the Twin Cities metropolitan area;

- \$2.3 million to the DNR for four Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) projects to acquire land to improve streams and wildlife habitat;
- \$900,000 to the DNR for the ninth and tenth years of a 24-year project studying the "ecology of rare plants, animals, and natural communities" in Minnesota counties;
- \$650,000 to the DNR for data collection to evaluate experimental fishing regulations;
- \$600,000 to the DNR to construct boat ramps and fishing piers and improve shoreline access; and
- \$680,000 for an expansion of the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and development of a wetland restoration demonstration project.

The LCMR is composed of eight representatives and eight senators.

## Bigger state parks

Several state parks would have their legal boundaries expanded, under a bill given final approval March 22 by the House. The vote was 127-2.

The bill (HF479) would allow parcels of land to be added to Forestville, Gooseberry Falls, and William O'Brien state parks. (See March 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8)

In addition, the bill would correct a legal oversight to reclassify John A. Latsch State Park. The land was once a state park, but, for reasons unknown, it inadvertently became classified as a wayside rest area.

A bill is usually introduced each session to modify state park boundaries. In some cases, landowners express a desire that their land become part of a park. In others, state forest land is added to a park.

Although the proposal would expand the legal boundaries of the state parks, future legislation would need to be approved to authorize the sale of state bonds to pay for acquiring private land to add to the parks.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), also would allow vehicles without state park permits to enter Gooseberry Falls State Park and park in a new highway rest area that lies within the park. Parking no longer would be allowed along the highway.

The bill now heads to the Senate.



## GAMBLING

### Honoring state compacts

Marge Anderson, chief executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians, urged lawmakers to honor the gaming compacts now in effect between the state and the 11 Minnesota tribes.

Anderson, testifying March 17 before the Gambling Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee, opposed a resolution urging Congress to put a closing date on the 22 compacts now in existence between the state and the tribes.

The compacts have no expiration date.

Sponsor Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said the resolution (HF1084) would be an early step in an effort to bring all the parties to the table to discuss some of the issues that have arisen since the compacts were signed.

Anderson said the compacts were "not a gift" but instead were the result of "tough negotiations between sovereign powers."

She said the expiration of the compacts would threaten the tribes' only source of revenue for economic development.

"Indian gaming was not created to help the state government out of the financial mess they have gotten themselves into," Anderson said.

Audrey Kohnen, of the Prairie Island Mdewakanton Dakota Community, said the



Marge Anderson, chief executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, testified against a House resolution (HF1084) that would ask Congress to provide an expiration date on tribal-state gaming compacts during a hearing of the Gaming Division of the Governmental Operations Committee March 17.

resolution is another chapter in a history where only the issues have changed.

"One thing has always stayed the same," she said. "Indians have always kept their word, and your governments have not."

The division took no action on the resolution and is expected to debate it at a later date.



## GOVERNMENT

### Unforeseen expenses

A \$3.3 million proposal to cover unforeseen expenses incurred by several state departments and programs during fiscal year 1995 was given final approval by the House March 20. The vote was 127-2.

Under the bill, the Office of the Attorney General would get \$790,000 to pay for expert witnesses the state hired for the 1994 federal court case involving the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's disputed treaty rights.

Also, the state Board of Public Defense would receive \$1.5 million to handle increased caseloads resulting from juvenile criminal laws enacted by the 1994 Legislature.

With the current backlog of cases clogging the courts, public defenders have told lawmakers on several occasions this year that they need more staff. The governor vetoed a \$2.65 million appropriation for public defenders contained in the 1994 juvenile crime bill.

(See Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7)

Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato) offered a successful amendment to provide \$245,000 to the Department of Health for "programs to deal with the meningitis outbreak in Minnesota."

The total medical bill to prevent the spread of meningitis in Mankato has risen to slightly more than \$1 million, according to Aggie Leitheiser, assistant director for disease prevention and control in the Department of Health.

She said that \$245,000 would pay for the first round of immunizations given to high school students, staff, and their families. The additional cost comes from immunizations given to everyone 29 years of age and under who were vaccinated after a Mankato State University student contracted the disease. Leitheiser said that 31,000 residents have been immunized and given antibiotics.

The deficiency bill also would provide:

- \$500,000 to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the emergency financial and medical needs of veterans;
- \$200,000 to the Board of Architecture,

Engineering, Land Surveying and Landscape Architecture and Interior Design to pay outside attorneys in response to a complaint and a lawsuit. Pam Smith, the board's executive secretary, said that half the request was for a complaint that was recently settled through mediation, so a large portion of the money would not be needed;

- \$30,000 to the Department of Public Safety to match federal funds for flood relief; and
- \$77,000 to the Minnesota Racing Commission to regulate pari-mutuel horse racing.

As passed by the House, the bill (**HF355/SF 335\***), sponsored by Rep. Jim Girard (IR-Lynd), spends \$1.1 million more than the Senate version. The Senate proposal, passed March 6 on a 62-0 vote, does not include money for Indian treaty litigation and several other items funded by the House.

A conference committee will soon be appointed to negotiate a compromise.

### Improving debt collection

A bill to give the state more power to collect overdue debts owed to state agencies won approval from the House Judiciary Committee March 22.

But members voted to remove a penalty surcharge that bill sponsor Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul) wanted deadbeat debtors to pay.

"What you're doing here is asking Minnesota taxpayers to bear the burden of those who have taken us this far [in forcing the state to collect the debt] and still refuse to pay," Orenstein said.

The penalty — of up to 25 percent of the debt — would have been added to an existing bad debt, such as a student loan, back taxes, or a fee, to pay for the cost of the collection. But the amount of the penalty was criticized as "arbitrary" by some members.

Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-So. St. Paul), who sponsored the amendment to delete the penalty, said it amounted to "interfering with a prior contract" which included no such penalty provision when it was signed.

Another provision in the bill would allow the state to seize or reduce an individual's tax refund check or other state payment to pay any debt owed the state. (Public assistance checks would not be seized.)

Current law only allows for such deductions for back taxes or child support payments owed the state.

The state would notify the person whose funds would be taken, and the individual would have 30 days to request a hearing to dispute the matter.

Under **HF625**, wages also could be garnished until a debt is paid off, as long as there are no other creditors garnishing the wages.

Currently, the state and other creditors can garnish a person's wages for up to 70 days. Debtors who prove that they need more money for necessities such as shelter, food, and work transportation, could reduce a garnishment.

As of Sept. 30, 1994, the state was owed \$641 million to the general fund and \$587 million to other state accounts, according to the Minnesota Collection Enterprise (MCE). The MCE was established by the 1994 Legislature to coordinate a statewide effort on bill collections.

(See March 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6)

The bill now moves to the Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division.

### Government contracts cut

A bill to cut the state's use of private contracts and consultants by 10 percent during the 1996-1997 biennium won approval from the House Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division March 21.

The bill calls on the state's 20 main agencies to cut 10 percent off the aggregate amount they spent on consultants in fiscal years 1994-1995. They could not make the cuts from grant money or federal funds. Instead, they must cut from the dollars allocated to them by the state.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), is expected to be incorporated in the division's omnibus bill.

Under the bill, the governor would decide which agencies would face contract cuts. Some could increase their use of consultants as long as others decreased enough for an overall reduction of 10 percent.

The bill (**HF123**) also would apply to the House of Representatives, the Senate, the Legislative Coordinating Commission, and the Metropolitan Council. Each would be required to cut 10 percent in their consultant spending.

There are exemptions in the bill, such as contracts for highway construction and maintenance; consultants hired by a Minnesota state college or university to teach public or private organizations, agencies, or businesses; and consultants used to help with pension plans.

Opatz said the bill is designed to save money and force state agencies, the Legislature, and the Metropolitan Council to really

look at whether a specific project warrants the hiring of a consultant or whether a current state employee could do the job.

For that reason, the bill now exempts contracts between state agencies, trying to encourage more agencies to look to each other to help with special projects.

Part of the bill would require agencies to seek prior approval before hiring a consultant for a contract exceeding \$5,000. The agency must determine that no current-state employee, including employees outside its own agency, could do the job. The agency must also certify that it has publicized the contract.

(See Jan. 27, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8; Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7; and Mar. 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9)

## Government innovation

One specially selected state agency could change its hiring practices and some state employees could earn bonuses for finding ways to save money and time at work, under a bill approved by the Ways and Means Committee's Government Efficiency and Oversight Division March 17.

The bill, (HF976) sponsored by Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul), sets up what he calls "pilot projects" for selected state agencies.

Under the bill, the governor would be able to select one state agency to carry one pilot project throughout the next biennium. That agency would not have to keep the names of 20 people on an "eligibility list" from which new hires are culled — a practice that some have argued is cumbersome and inefficient.

State agencies must keep those eligibility lists by law. Potential employees are ranked on the list according to whether they had recently been laid off from the agency, their scores on agency examinations, past employment, and other factors. Names must remain on the list for at least six months.

The selected agency would hire based on merit rather than rank, Orenstein said.

Some state agency personnel staff say doing away with the eligibility list may open up the hiring process, he added.

The selected agency must update the Legislature in October of 1996 and 1997 on how the project is progressing.

A second part of the bill would allow employees in the Department of Employee Relations to be rewarded for suggesting ways the department could operate more effectively.

Groups of employees are also eligible for

the award, though managers are not eligible.

The employees must identify a substantial cost-saving measure to receive the minimum \$500 and maximum \$2,500 award.

That money would come from an account set up with money saved through efficiencies suggested by DOER employees.

Each employee could only receive the award once.

The third part of HF976 deals with procurement — the process through which state agencies contract for goods and services.

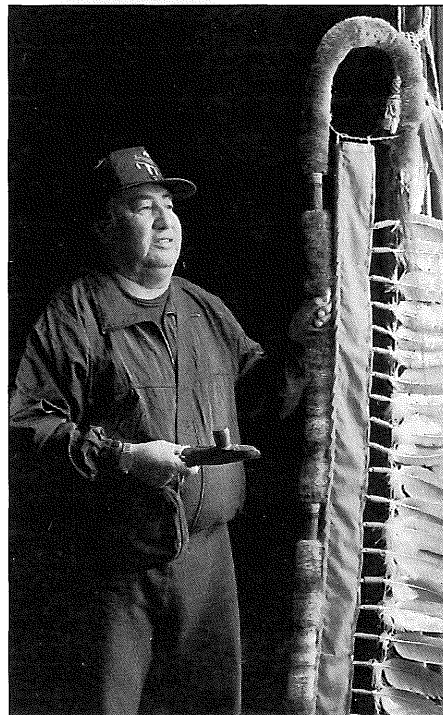
Orenstein said this part of the bill would remove rules and procedures that cause unnecessary inefficiencies in the purchasing system.

Again, the governor will select one state agency. The Department of Administration would not have to approve contracts that the designated agency signs, as is now the practice with all state agencies.

The selected agency would have to plan its method of submitting bids and awarding contracts and must ensure that method prevents conflict of interest between agency employees and bidders.

The select agency would also report to the Legislature in October 1996 and 1997 on the pilot project's progress.

The bill also would allow a state agency to



Tom J. Stillday, spiritual elder of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, held the ceremonial pipe and eagle staff while posing in the Retiring Room behind the House chamber. He and other band members joined in a pipe ceremony to open the March 22 House floor session. The ceremony, which is never photographed, was the first ever held in the House chamber.

apply to the State Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation for a waiver from a rule or policy that deals with the state personnel, procurement or accounting system.

## Term limit bill stalls

A proposal to limit terms of office for legislators, constitutional officers, and members of Congress received its first hearing before a House committee March 23. But the term limits bill won't be moving forward — at least for now.

Members of the Elections Division of the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee rejected HF7 by a 5-5 vote.

Rep. Tim Pawlenty (IR-Eagan), who sponsored the bill, said he has tried to bring the issue before House members since 1993.

The bill calls for a proposed amendment to the Minnesota Constitution on the 1996 ballot, giving voters the option to approve term limits.

State legislators would have been limited to 10 years in office. Representatives serve two-year terms and senators four-year terms. But because legislative districts are reapportioned every 10 years, state senators serve a two-year term each decade.

The bill also would have restricted the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general, and state auditor from seeking more than two terms in office.

Also, Minnesota members of Congress could not hold office for more than 12 years, under the bill.

Twenty-two states have term limit laws, Pawlenty said.

A case before the U.S. Supreme Court questions a portion of the Arkansas law which sets terms for Arkansas' congressional delegation. The court is expected to rule on whether a state can limit federal elective terms.

"Term limits increase competition because there will be an open seat up for election now and again," Pawlenty said. "It will decrease the power of special interest groups because the groups can't cultivate long-term relationships."

The bill would have applied to current office holders as well as newly elected ones.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) voted against the measure, calling it a "simplistic solution" to voters' seeming disenchantment with government.

## Better metro planning

A bill to coordinate planning and development across the Twin Cities metropolitan region was given final approval by the House March 22. The vote was 79-50.

Under **HF833**, cities, counties, and towns within the seven-county metropolitan area must review and update their comprehensive plans by December 1998. Each would then have to repeat the process every 10 years. (The final plans are then submitted to the Metropolitan Council.)

A comprehensive plan serves as a development and spending blueprint for a local government. A plan could include a section stating how the government's planned land use and its urban services, such as sewer service, would affect adjoining communities.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), would not allow local governments to adopt zoning ordinances which conflict with their comprehensive plans.

The zoning guide laid out in the plans, however, could be amended.

Currently, if a government's zoning ordinance differs from the zoning guide laid out in the comprehensive plan, zoning officials follow the ordinance.

**HF833** now heads to the Senate.

## Redrawing county boundaries

A bill to study whether some of Minnesota's 87 counties could be consolidated won approval from the House Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division March 21.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring the bill (**HF130**) that calls on the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation to study whether it is feasible to consolidate counties and their services. It suggests looking at all sorts of options, including but not limited to organizing Minnesota counties in a fashion similar to the state's 10 judicial districts.

Under the bill, the board would have to report its findings to the Legislature by Jan. 1, 1997. The 18-month study is expected to cost \$20,000 and be incorporated into the division's omnibus bill, which is now being put together.

Some counties have declined in population and the state needs to start thinking about county problems in a more unified way to better offer services and administer state programs, Kahn has said.

She proposed a similar idea in 1991, but she called on the Office of the State Auditor to study the idea.

Back in Minnesota's territorial days, Minnesota had just nine counties, some of which stretched to the Missouri River in what are now the Dakotas.

In testimony earlier this session, Jim Gelbmann, executive director of the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation, indicated that two sets of Minnesota counties in different parts of the state were discussing the possibility of merging.

One potential hitch with the bill is Gov. Arne Carlson's desire to eliminate the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation. The board was created in 1993 and awards grants to local governments that want to work together to share resources and offer better customer service.

The board — in the interest of government efficiency — also has the power to waive certain rules placed on local governments. (See Feb. 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8)

## Met Council pay slashed

Significant cuts in the pay to the chair and members of the Metropolitan Council won final approval from the House March 23.

During debate on a bill (**HF585/SF281\***) to make technical changes to a law regarding the council, Rep. Dick Pellow (IR-New Brighton) offered an amendment to cut the officials' pay.

The amendment, passed on a 106-20 vote, will reduce the Met Council chair's pay for the second time in as many years.

Last year, the chair's annual salary was reduced from \$67,000 to \$52,500. But the 16 other council members had their pay increased to \$20,000 annually rather than the \$50 per day payments they had received. The per diem payments amounted to about \$5,740 per year. The changes took effect Jan. 1, 1995.

Pellow's amendment will cut the chair's salary to \$29,657, the amount state legislators are now paid, and reduce the rest of the members' pay to \$6,000 annually.

House members also approved an amendment by Rep. Kevin Knight (IR-Bloomington) that removed the cost of bus driver uniforms from the list of approved capital expenditures by the Met Council. Without the amendment, \$750,000 could have been spent to buy new uniforms for the more than 1,000 Metropolitan Council Transit Operations (formerly MTC) bus drivers, Knight said.

With the House amendments now attached, the bill must go back to the Senate for its approval.

## International council

A 12-member council would be created to advise the Legislature on international issues under a bill approved by the House International Trade and Economic Development Committee.

**HF993**, sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth), would create the Minnesota International Council.

The council would be required to make annual recommendations to the Legislature on ways to improve the state's efforts to attract foreign tourists, to improve cultural awareness and understanding, and to compete in the international market.

"We have to get state government involved in international issues," Jaros said.

The council would be comprised of three members from each chamber of the Legislature, three representatives of the executive branch, and three citizen volunteers.

Jaros' bill is similar to legislation he introduced earlier this session that called for the establishment of a state office for international affairs. The office would have handled a range of tasks, including those assigned to the council under **HF993**. The difference between the two bills is that the proposal for the council would require no new funding. (See Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8)

**HF993** now goes to the House Governmental Operations Committee.



## HEALTH

### Doctors convicted of crimes

Minnesota doctors convicted of felonies "reasonably related to the practice of patient care" would have their licenses automatically suspended under a bill given final approval by the House March 20. The vote was 123-0.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins), also would apply to physician's assistants, physical therapists, or other health professionals licensed by the state Board of Medical Practice.

Under the bill, license suspension would be automatic following a felony conviction, and a doctor or other health professional would have to request a hearing to get back his or her license. For reinstatement, the individual would have to demonstrate that he or she has been rehabilitated by "clear and convincing evidence."

Under current law, the board has the authority to suspend a doctor's license, but a hearing is held first. The board can suspend a license without a hearing in some circum-



stances, but the burden is then on the board to set up a hearing seeking a final determination.

Kelley's bill would shift the burden to the health professional, who must seek a hearing and prove the suspension should not be made permanent.

Under a successful amendment added to the measure on the Senate floor by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), a doctor convicted of a felony-level criminal sexual conduct offense would have his or her medical license automatically — and permanently — revoked.

Another provision in the bill would allow the medical board to suspend or revoke the license of a doctor or health professional who fails to repay a state or federal student loan.

Sen. Pat Piper (DFL-Austin) sponsored the legislation in the Senate.

**HF231**, passed by the Senate March 9 on a 63-0 vote, now goes to the governor for his consideration.

(See Feb. 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9; and Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7)

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### Semester system established

Classes at Minnesota's state universities, community colleges, and technical colleges would last one semester rather than one quarter of the academic year, under a bill heard March 22 by the House Higher Education Finance Division.

The Higher Education Board, which will coordinate those college systems when they merge in July, would have until fall 1998 to begin a semester school year.

Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids), who sponsors **HF899**, said switching from a four-quarter school year to a two-semester year with a summer program would save the schools money. Students would have to register only twice during the academic year instead of three times. Financial aid also would be distributed only twice, which saves time and money, Kinkel said.

Also, 80 percent of colleges and universities nationwide use a semester school year, he said. Next fall, Southwest State University and Moorhead State University will begin holding a semester class schedule.

Division members did not act on the bill. They may include it in an omnibus higher education finance bill.

**HF899** also includes the following provisions:

- All schools in the soon-to-be-combined state university, technical college, and community college system would begin classes on the same fall date.

If all system classes start at the same time, students could more easily transfer between schools, he added.

Jennifer Swanson, president of the Inver Hills Community College, told division members she'll graduate next fall but won't be able to transfer to Bemidji State University until winter quarter. University fall classes begin before her community college summer classes end.

The University of Minnesota would be exempt from that provision and from the semester provision because the Legislature has no authority to mandate changes, Kinkel said. The university predates the state's constitution.

- The state would stop subsidizing tuition costs after a student has earned 48 more credits than is needed for a degree in his or her major.

Currently, the state pays 60 percent of a Minnesota student's education costs for up to

180 credit hours. Student tuition pays the remaining 40 percent.

That provision would be effective for the upcoming school year, but would not apply to students already enrolled, Kinkel said. Also, "refresher" courses which students who return to school after a long absence or under-prepared students must take — such as those in reading and math — would not count toward the 48-hour requirement.

The 48 credit hours roughly equals one full academic year, Kinkel said.

- Campus administrators who aren't part of a union would have to teach a regularly scheduled course or act as an academic advisor in addition to their administrative duties.

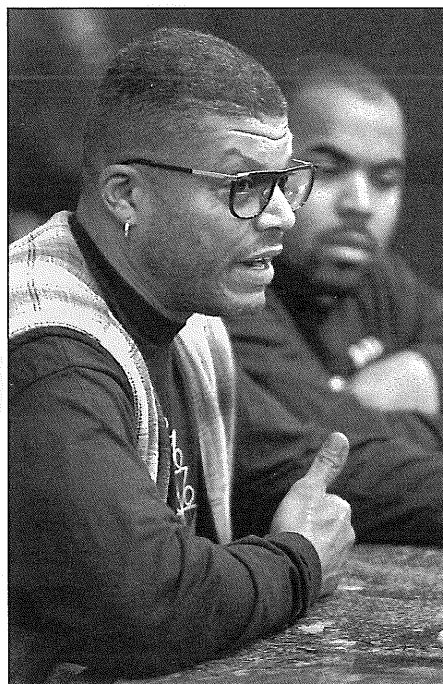
The provision would allow for more contact between administrators and students, Kinkel said.

- The state university campus in Akita, Japan, would have two years to bring state funding of its Minnesota students in line with state funding of students on Minnesota public campuses.

Currently, the state pays about \$17,000 to subsidize the education of each Minnesota student in Akita. For students studying in Minnesota, the state subsidy amount is about \$3,500.

The state university system operates the campus in Akita, Japan, with the local Akita government. About 40 Minnesota students attend the school. They do not pay out-of-state tuition.

The State University System and the Higher Education Coordinating Board, which oversees the system, would formulate a plan by September to reduce Akita campus costs and to increase enrollment under the bill.



Earl Rogers, left, project manager for Two or More Inc. and one of his students, Yohance Moore, told the House Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee March 23 about how the Youthbuild Program helps his students. The program, which received \$400,000 in state funds for the present biennium, provides construction jobs for at-risk, low-income 16-to-24-year-olds. Members of several youth groups testified before the committee about the need for continued funding for youth programs such as summer jobs programs. Proposed federal and state cuts threaten many of those programs, youth group members said.

## HOUSING

### Met Council and housing

Two bills to encourage affordable housing in the seven-county metropolitan area and encourage suburbs to build their fair share of low-income housing passed the Housing Committee March 21.

The two bills passed on party line 8-7 votes and will now travel to the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

Both bills look to the Metropolitan Council for guidance.

**HF1114**, sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), would place into Minnesota law the Metropolitan Council's *Regional Blueprint*, a 1994 report that examined how to

create a "vital and livable Twin Cities metropolitan area."

Among other items, the report focused on how to strengthen regional economic growth, preserve the environment, invest in distressed areas, and expand housing options for poor families, the elderly, and young families.

In the area of housing, it suggests the Metropolitan Council will work with all communities in the seven-county area to establish housing goals for all income levels and stages of life. The council will further look at how well a community is meeting its housing goals and building affordable housing when deciding which infrastructure projects to help fund in the metropolitan area.

In 1997, the council plans to evaluate how much affordable housing has been created and, if necessary, seek help from the Legislature to encourage more.

**HF1258**, sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), would require cities in the seven-county area to adopt housing plans and require the Metropolitan Council to review and approve them. Under current law, the council may review housing plans that accompany a city's local comprehensive growth plan.

Hausman's bill would give the Metropolitan Council more regulatory authority. If the council doesn't like a city's housing plan or feels it doesn't create enough affordable housing, it may require the city to fix its plan before any building can occur. If a city fails to adopt a housing plan, or fix one as directed by the council, the council may take civil action against the city in court.

The Metropolitan Council opposes both bills.

Jim Solem, regional administrator with the council, told the Housing Committee March 21 that both bills are unnecessary.

He asked committee members to let the council try on its own with the *Regional Blueprint* to encourage more affordable and low-income housing before the Legislature steps in.

If the council isn't making progress, it will come back in 1997 to ask the Legislature for help.

Solem said the Hausman bill in particular creates an adversarial role between the Metropolitan Council and local governments. Right now, he said, local governments are cooperating with the council to work on their housing situations.

But Frank Hornstein of the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability, a coalition of 14 non-profit community groups in the metro area, sees no fault with the Entenza bill.

"We simply can't wait until 1997.... There

is an urgency" to create more affordable housing now, he said.



## INSURANCE

### Insurance quotas ban

Independent insurance agents would no longer be required to meet quotas for the sale of certain kinds of insurance, under a bill on its way to the House floor.

The bill (**HF751**), sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (IR-Preston), was approved March 22 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Independent agents often represent as many as 30 separate insurance companies, Davids said. Some of those companies link the agent's right to sell homeowner, automobile, and other policies — which are easier to sell — to quotas on the sale of life and health policies. The latter types of insurance are more difficult to sell but provide a better profit.

The problem, Davids said, is that independent agents can find it impossible to meet all of the quotas demanded by companies they represent.

Agents who do not meet the quotas can be dropped by the companies. And that hurts consumers by limiting the insurance options available to them, Davids said.

The bill would not apply to agents directly employed by a single company or those who sell for only one company.

Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) unsuccessfully offered an amendment that would have extended the quota ban to all insurance agents, as long as they had been selling for a company for at least four years.

Any quota on life and health insurance sales is troubling because they can force agents to "inappropriately" sell policies, Tomassoni said.

But Davids said the amendment presented a "major shift in state policy" that could seriously impact the relationship between non-independent agents and their company.



## LABOR

### Workers' compensation reform

A House committee is considering several bills that all promise to reform Minnesota's workers' compensation system which many have argued is much too costly.

Seven bills offering some form of workers' compensation reform were discussed during

the March 20 meeting of the House Labor-Management Relations Committee.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (IR-Moorhead), who is sponsoring one of the reform bills (**HF921**), said fixing the state's workers' compensation system ranks with welfare reform among legislative priorities this year.

Employers pay workers' compensation insurance to help when workers injure themselves on the job. But the rates Minnesota companies pay are too high and cause too many companies to move to states with lower rates, according to some lawmakers.

"The majority of legislators would agree that we do have a problem with our competitiveness with neighboring states," Goodno said. "I have heard some people comment that we don't have a problem, but I don't think those comments are realistic."

Minnesota employers pay more for workers' compensation insurance than the national average and more than employers in Wisconsin and other neighboring states, according to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

A study by the city of Moorhead shows employers there pay significantly more than those just across the Red River in North Dakota.

For example, a North Dakota employer would pay \$845 a year in workers' compensation premiums for an electrician making \$25,000 annually. The same electrician would cost a Minnesota employer \$2,264 a year — nearly three times as much, according to the study.

Numbers like that have many lawmakers believing workers' compensation costs are driving businesses out of Minnesota and keeping new ones from coming in.

"The pressure is being shown to the committee that there's going to have to be something done," said Rep. Jeff Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), who introduced a reform bill (**HF69**) on behalf of sponsor Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee). "I think the fact that there's seven bills shows that."

Bertram said Kelso's bill offers the simplest approach to workers' compensation reform but at the same time addresses all of the important issues. The bill would regulate workers' compensation insurance and limit some forms of payment to injured workers.

Rep. Jim Girard (IR-Lynd) is sponsoring a bill (**HF391**) that would scrap the state's current insurance and benefits system and replace it with Wisconsin's.

Goodno's bill, along with a bill (**HF18**) sponsored by Rep. Hilda Bettermann (IR-Brandon), and another (**HF1436**) by Rep. Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley), would

tighten many restrictions on who receives benefits and how much they receive.

Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) is sponsoring two bills related to workers' comp reform. **HF642** would regulate insurance rates and put new limits on just how long injured workers can receive several types of benefits, and **HF1324** would expand the ability of employers to form groups for mutual self-insurance.

Goodno said he expects one bill to emerge from the pack that will incorporate many key ingredients from the other bills.

The committee is expected to begin hearing public testimony on the reform proposals March 24.

## Trapped between floors

A bill approved by a House panel would require that all work on a passenger or freight elevator be done by a state licensed elevator mechanic. (See Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10)

The measure received a hearing before the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee March 21. Several lawmakers acknowledged that they had been trapped in malfunctioning elevators in the State Office Building, where most legislators' offices are located.

"We all know some of the problems we've had with our own elevators," commented the bill's sponsor, Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center). These elevator malfunctions "seem to be a daily occurrence," he said. Carruthers said the proposal would not fix Capitol area elevators, but would "move us forward to greater public safety in terms of elevators."

The bill would require that a person complete the National Elevator Industry Education Program and hold an elevator constructor license issued by the state Board of Electricity before receiving state licensure. A licensed elevator mechanic could supervise up to two helpers.

Additionally, the bill would require that a licensed person or company obtain a state permit before installing, altering, or removing an elevator.

Current law requires only that a person apply for a permit before work is started. Altering or removing an elevator — a potentially dangerous procedure that requires specialized knowledge — does not require a permit.

Carruthers noted that the bill would require that permit fees be appropriated to the Department of Administration. Currently, the fees go into the state treasury and are not dedicated for any purpose. This change would

allow the hiring of more state elevator inspectors. The department's Building Codes and Standards Division employs only one full-time elevator inspector and has one position to fill.

**HF398** now moves to the Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Hot goods sold legally

Electronic equipment, tools, lawn mowers, and other items recovered by the Minneapolis Police Department could be sold in a special Minneapolis retail shop, under a bill that won final passage from the House March 15. The vote was 120-0.

**HF859**, sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), would allow the police department to dispose of thousands of the unclaimed items it handles every year.

Clark's bill would allow the police and south Minneapolis to build on the success of a bicycle business that began in 1992 with the help of the police.

That year police began working with the community to teach young people bicycle repair, business management, and other skills by setting up a non-profit store — The Phantom Bike Shop — for the sale of "recycled" bicycles. The store receives damaged bikes the police cannot auction off, fixes them up, and sells them.

Clark's bill would set up another non-profit similarly run store for secondhand goods called The CITY STORE. The police department could not provide items such as clothing, fine jewelry, or firearms to the store.

The police department would benefit by gaining a percentage of the sale price on the items sold at the store and clearing out storage space, Clark said.

The department's Property and Evidence Unit handles more than 18,000 items such as lawn mowers, snow blowers, and stereos every year, according to Clark. The department also picks up and processes more than 3,000 bicycles annually.

Despite police efforts, many of the items are never reunited with their rightful owners, Clark said. Her bill would allow merchandise not claimed within 60 days to be sold at auction, as is the current practice, or by sale through a non-profit store such as The CITY STORE.

**HF859** is now pending in the Senate.



## TAXES

### Tightening TIFs

Cities would not be as free to offer property tax breaks for businesses, under several bills discussed in the House Taxes Committee's Property Tax and Tax Increment Financing Division March 21.

The major thrust of the bills (**HF147**, **HF824**, and **HF1354**) is to limit the way different cities sometimes compete with one another to lure businesses to either move or expand in their towns through the creation of tax increment financing (TIF) districts.

And two of the bills also would provide school districts, which comprise the bulk of the average property owner's tax bill, some say in whether such tax breaks should be offered.

Under Minnesota law, cities can offer tax breaks to companies to help create jobs in their communities. In exchange for creating jobs, a city can agree to forego property taxes on a business for a set number of years.

By some estimates, the state loses approximately \$260 million per year in property taxes through these tax increment financing district arrangements.

At the division hearing March 21, several officials representing counties, businesses, and taxpayer groups criticized the TIF districts while city representatives praised them.

Joe Harris, a Dakota County commissioner and president of the Metropolitan Inter-County Association, (MICA) questioned why a Target Greatland store in Apple Valley and a McDonald's truckstop in Lakeville needed a TIF district to build.

Since Dakota County has been the fastest-growing county over the past 15 years, he said there was a good chance those facilities would have been built anyway. (MICA is composed of 10 larger, urbanized counties, including Anoka, Blue Earth, Dakota, Olmsted, Rice, St. Louis, Scott, Stearns, and Winona counties.)

He estimated the county's loss of property tax revenue to TIF districts at \$5 million.

"Fifteen years ago, only about six-tenths of 1 percent of all value in Dakota County was captured by tax increment districts," he said. "This year, that total is over 4 percent. This is an increase of several hundred percent — in a county that grew rapidly over this period — and it shows no sign of slowing down."

Although cities do lose a portion of their state aid when they agree to give a business tax breaks, the issue is of particular concern to counties and schools districts because they can lose tax money, too.

For every dollar collected in property taxes in 1994, the cities got 15 cents; the counties, 28 cents; the school districts, 45 cents; and the remainder went to townships and special taxing districts, on average.

Dan Salomone, executive director of the Minnesota Taxpayers Association, said Minnesota would be better served if it focused on improving the overall business climate rather than allowing Minnesota cities to compete with one another for jobs.

But officials from the city of Roseville and the city of Cottonwood in southwestern Minnesota defended the TIF program and urged lawmakers not to make changes in the existing program.

"In the past 10 years, we have been able to generate \$145 million in new market value, create 3,400 new jobs, and add \$90 million of annual new payroll in our community," said John Goedeke, mayor pro tem of Roseville.

Greg Isaackson, the city of Cottonwood's clerk administrator, said his city has helped create 150 new jobs through tax increment projects in 1988 and 1994.

"Those are pretty big numbers for a town of 1,000 people," he said.

Without those TIF projects, many of those jobs could have been lost to South Dakota, Iowa, or Colorado, he said.

All three bills were laid over and are now under consideration to be included in the omnibus tax bill.



## TRANSPORTATION

### High-speed train study

The state would help pay for the second phase of a study to evaluate a high-speed train link that could cut the drive time from the Twin Cities to Chicago to two hours and 15 minutes.

The bill (HF729) would spend \$630,000 provided that Wisconsin and the federal government pitch in. Some \$500,000 would be spent on the study, and the remaining \$130,000 would go to the Department of Transportation to oversee it.

The legislation passed during the 1994 session, but Wisconsin failed to come up with its share, so the study was postponed.

Bill sponsor Rep. Don Frerichs (IR-Rochester) said that this year the Wisconsin Legislature is expected to appropriate \$500,000 which, along with the Minnesota money, should trigger a \$1 million federal match. The cost of the two-year study is \$2 million.

The Transportation Finance Division of

### TIF bills at a glance

Here's a quick look at some of the major provisions in three bills that were discussed by the Taxes Committee's Property Tax and Tax Increment Financing Division March 21:

#### HF147 (Ozment)

- Would limit the use of tax increment financing (TIF) districts to cases where a business is considering a move out of state. Under current law, a TIF district can be used to prevent moves to another community.
- Would require a city to show that the use of TIF would increase the taxable market value of a site over what would have occurred without TIF.
- Would require school districts to approve TIF use for a housing district or any other type of district that will create 10 or more additional housing units.
- Would require that more details about TIF districts be disclosed in legal sections of newspapers. Under current law, the disclosure doesn't have to be published if the city files an annual report with the state auditor.
- Would require the recipient of TIF benefits to pay the city back, on a pro-rated basis, in certain cases where the property is sold or transferred. If the property is sold or transferred within five years, the recipient would have to pay 100 percent of the benefit back to the city. The repayment rate would drop to 20 percent at eight years, with nothing owed if the sale or transfer occurs after nine years.
- Would shift the enforcement of the TIF law to the Office of the State Auditor from the Department of Revenue.
- Would direct the Metropolitan Council to study the effect of TIF on land use patterns in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and report back to the Legislature by Feb. 1, 1996.

#### HF824 (Rest)

- Would prohibit the creation of a new tax increment finance (TIF) district unless the TIF plan has been approved by the school board of the school district in which the TIF district is located.

#### HF1354 (Abrams)

- Would require the state auditor to approve of a new tax increment financing (TIF) district before it could be created. The auditor could disapprove of the plan if he or she believes the plan is not in the best interests of the state.

Source: House Research Department

the House Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee discussed the bill March 21.

Unlike the feasibility phase of the study, which was done in 1991, the second phase will determine which train technology is best and what route the link should take.

The train would travel from Minneapolis/

St. Paul to Chicago, but it is unclear what other cities would be included in the link. Frerichs said he believes Rochester should be one and possibly Milwaukee.

In terms of train technology, there are three options: a 125 mph Amtrak upgrade, a 185 mph high-speed train, or a 300 mph Super Speed train.

The 300 mph train would make it to Chicago in about two hours and 15 minutes. The slowest option would take about four hours.

Frerichs said although a completed link would cost about \$5.5 billion for the 300 mph option, it would be very competitive with air travel.

But at least one member raised concerns about the cost. Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) said she would rather see the money go toward local transportation and transit needs such as improving access to Metro Mobility.

The committee is expected to vote on the bill at a later date.

### Proof of certification

Hunters who have passed a Department of Natural Resources' firearms safety course could have that noted on their driver's licenses under a bill approved by the House Transportation and Transit Committee March 16.

The bill (HF878), sponsored by Rep. Steve Dehler (IR-St. Joseph), would allow those who have successfully completed the course to request a line on the back of their driver's license noting the certification.

Hunters must show proof they passed a firearms safety course to register for big game hunting licenses in many states, though not in Minnesota, Dehler said.

So when Minnesota hunters wish to buy such a license in another state, the marked driver's license would serve as that proof, he said.

"Unless it's on their license, the only thing they would have to show is a little certificate from when they were 15 or 16," Dehler said.

Many hunters take the class when they begin hunting as teenagers, he added.

More than 975,000 Minnesotans have completed the course, Dehler said.

Katherine Burke Moore, director of the Driver and Vehicle Services Division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, said the cost to update computers to include the firearm's notation on a license would be about \$60,300.

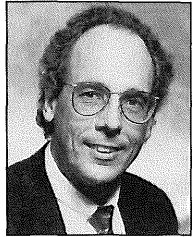
The House Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee will hear the bill next.



New members . . .

## Haas looks to find 'creative ways to do more with less'

The school children's chalk sketches of ancient cave drawings and colorful paper designs that adorn the walls of Rep. Bill Haas' office attest to the first-term member's value of creativity.



Rep. Bill Haas

But while Haas readily concedes his limits as an artist, he said creativity is central to his approach to politics.

In a state where government "has gotten out of control," Haas said, finding creative ways to do more with less will be the key to solving problems the Legislature faces.

"You've got to run government like you run a household or a business," he said. "If you're short on money, you cut back and find new ways to accomplish what you have to get done."

Haas won election to the District 48A seat in 1994 by defeating Rep. Brian Bergson (DFL-Osseo) in a rematch of the 1992 race.

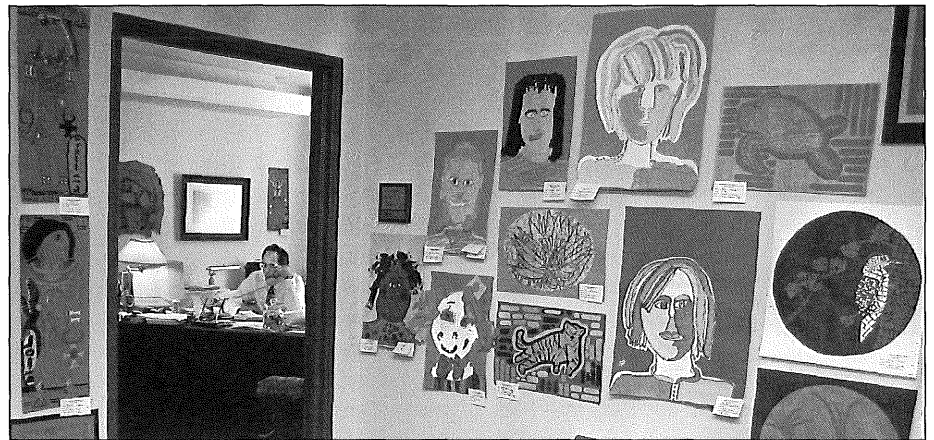
The Champlin resident owns an employee benefits brokerage and consulting company and likes to spend much of his free time outdoors.

He enjoys hunting, hiking in the woods, and downhill and water skiing. Haas also is an avid fresh water and salt water angler who finds tying flies to be a creative outlet.

He and his wife, Joenie, have two children: Rishia, 21, and Grahamm, 18.

Haas comes to the Legislature with strong roots in local government. He served on the Parks and Recreation Commission in Champlin for eight years before being elected mayor of the north metropolitan area city in 1984. He also has served on the District 11 Boundary Committee and as president of the North Metro Mayors Development Association.

He said his involvement in local government and decision to seek state office are the result of a basic philosophy that guides his actions in life.



The usually bare walls of the State Office Building were enlivened by the works of first- through fourth-graders from Oxbow Creek Elementary School in Champlin. They decorated the walls both outside and inside the office of Rep. Bill Haas in whose district the school is located.

"I made a promise to myself a long time ago that if I saw something that needed to be changed, I would do what I could to change it," he said.

During his eight years as mayor of Champlin, Haas put that promise to the test on more than a few tough issues. He was a leader in successful efforts to improve the city's housing stock and to ensure commercial growth in Champlin best fit its needs now and in the future.

"We turned that whole city around," he said.

Throughout his time as mayor, Haas worked to alert members of the community to the issues at hand and to include their opinions in the process of finding solutions.

"The biggest thing we did for the community was to bring the voice of the people back into city government," he said. "The one thing I believe in most is government by the people because they're the ones [who] elected me and they're the ones I represent."

As a legislator, Haas aims to make state government more accessible to his constituents. He plans to use their input and "a common sense approach" to make "effective change."

He campaigned on an agenda calling for

welfare reform, tougher criminal penalties, cuts in government, and reductions in the state's health care costs.

Haas also wants to put more control in the hands of local governments by doing away with unfunded state mandates, and to reduce the regulatory and tax burdens on Minnesota businesses.

"The way we ran government yesterday, we cannot do today and tomorrow," he said. "We have to make changes. That's what I was elected to do."

— Nick Healy

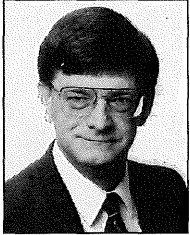
### District 48A

**Population:** 33,322  
**Distribution:** 100 percent urban  
**County:** Hennepin  
**Largest city:** Brooklyn Park (portion)  
**Location:** north metro  
**Unemployment rate:** 3.19 percent  
**Residents living below poverty level:** 2.73 percent  
**1992 presidential election results:**  
Bush/Quayle ..... 32.64 percent  
Clinton/Gore ..... 39.03 percent  
Perot/Stockdale ..... 27.62 percent  
Other: ..... 0.71 percent

New members. . .

## Looking to volunteer, Hackbarth lands a House seat

Rep. Tom Hackbarth (IR-Cedar) had no intention of becoming a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives.



Rep. Tom Hackbarth

When he learned that a liberal DFLer intended to run for an open seat created by the 1992 redistricting plan, Hackbarth set out to recruit a conservative Independent-Republican as a challenger.

He planned "to be the very best volunteer that anybody ever had." But when "it came down to the wire," no candidate could be found. Hackbarth himself took up the cause.

"That's how I got started — not really intending to run for state representative at all," he recalls.

His 1992 campaign was unsuccessful, but in a 1994 rematch, he unseated Kathleen Sekhon.

Hackbarth promises to heed what he sees as the voters' message from the 1994 election: "downsize government, don't raise any taxes." He intends to "look at all areas of government" to make spending cuts.

He comes from a family of blue collar workers and currently belongs to a union. But in the past he was a business owner. The experiences allow him to "see both sides of the fence" in labor-management issues.

"I'm pretty sympathetic to some labor issues that maybe some of the more conservative Republicans in our caucus are not," he said.

Hunting and fishing issues are high on Hackbarth's legislative agenda. As a member of the Environment and Natural Resources

Committee, he'll have a voice in such issues. Like many of his constituents in northern Anoka County, he is an avid angler and hunter. The nine-point buck's head mounted on his office wall attests to his hunting skill.

The controversial treaty rights dispute between Minnesota and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe still concerns Hackbarth. A proposed settlement of the band's hunting and fishing rights under the 1837 treaty failed to gain passage in the 1993 Legislature.

Although the Mille Lacs Band recently won federal court recognition of their continuing treaty rights, Hackbarth thinks that American Indian bands in the state "should be on an equal basis with the rest of us" with regard to hunting and fishing options.

"Maybe they should have to buy a license like everyone else," he suggests. Hackbarth acknowledges that Indian treaty rights are a federal issue — something that the Legislature cannot do much about — but he supports continuing efforts by the state to litigate treaty rights cases involving the Mille Lacs Band and other Indian bands in the state.

On a separate fishing issue, Hackbarth recently authored a bill to guarantee that fishing contest participants actually receive the prizes that they win. The bill (HF384) won approval from the Environment and Natural Resource Committee and awaits consideration on the House floor.

The idea for the bill came after Hackbarth read a newspaper story about a fishing contest on Medicine Lake last year. Anglers paid a \$35 entry fee for the contest in hopes of winning big cash prizes and merchandise. But when all the fish were weighed and measured, the promoter reneged on awarding any prizes.

Concerned that fishing contest fundraisers by "little church groups and the Boy Scouts" could be harmed by the actions of disreputable promoters, Hackbarth proposes that a fishing contest promoter offering more than \$25,000 in prizes furnish the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) commissioner with a bond, insurance policy, or cash deposit equal to the total prize money.

Although the Legislature is known for its punishing schedule, Hackbarth said he used to work the evening shift before he became a lawmaker — in the parts department at Brookdale Ford. Nowadays, he is actually seeing more of his family.

Hackbarth and his wife, Mary, have three children — Jeff, 21; Gina, 19; and Tommy, 3.

While he had some doubts early this session on the ability of House members to work together, Hackbarth is beginning to find "a lot more cooperation amongst everyone," both within the IR caucus and between IRs and DFLers.

"I think we're getting along just great," he concludes. "I'm really surprised how everything is going very, very well."

— Mordecai Specktor

### District 50A

**Population:** 32,806

**Distribution:** 100 percent urban

**County:** Anoka

**Largest city:** Ham Lake

**Location:** north metro

**Unemployment rate:** 5.13 percent

**Residents living below poverty level:** 3.47 percent

**1992 presidential election results:**

Bush/Quayle ..... 29.56 percent

Clinton/Gore ..... 38.25 percent

Perot/Stockdale ..... 31.27 percent

Other: ..... 0.92 percent

# Bill Introductions

HF1441-HF1654

## Monday, March 20

**HF1441—Solberg (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Tax-forfeited land sale notice requirements modified, and leasing and county road use provisions modified.

**HF1442—Greenfield (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Chemical dependency counselor and hearing instrument dispenser licensure required, and penalties provided.

**HF1443—Kalis (DFL)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Motor carrier state law deregulation and conformance with federal law provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1444—Milbert (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Game and fish license and permit form prescribed.

**HF1445—Kelley (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension public data internet availability required, grants provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1446—Dawkins (DFL)**

**Education**

Youth community service participant postservice benefit fund encumbrance provided.

**HF1447—Jennings (DFL)**

**Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance**

North West Company Fur Post Interpretive Center appropriated money.

**HF1448—Kelley (DFL)**

**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Public utility disconnections during cold weather regulated.

**HF1449—Pugh (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Amateur Sports Commission ice arena authority increased, bond use authorized, sales tax exemption provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1450—Bishop (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Living will form to include provisions for organ donations.

**HF1451—Kelley (DFL)**

**Education**

Metropolitan area wide area school transportation service pilot project established, and money appropriated.

**HF1452—Olson, E. (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Amateur Sports Commission ice arena authority increased, bond use authorized, sales tax exemption provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1453—Onnen (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Long-term care community services and personal care service coverage provided.

**HF1454—Seagren (IR)**

**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Automobile insurance minimum property damage liability coverage increase provided.

**HF1455—Dehler (IR)**

**Labor-Management Relations**

Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

**HF1456—Carruthers (DFL)**

**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Accountancy Board license renewal schedule staggered.

**HF1457—Olson, E. (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Becker County state land sale by natural resources commissioner authorized.

**HF1458—Paulsen (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

General Assistance Medical Care recipient reimbursement provided for video teleconferencing medical device used to measure vital signs.

**HF1459—Mulder (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Woman's right to know act adopted, and money appropriated.

**HF1460—Greiling (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

City budget report date modified, and budget publication requirements eliminated.

**HF1461—Kahn (DFL)**

**Ways & Means**

Bond issuance authorized to fund a judgment against the state, and state and national banks required to purchase bonds.

**HF1462—Mariani (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Public official relative hiring restricted.

**HF1463—Leighton (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Motor vehicle warranty action limitations clarified.

**HF1464—Orenstein (DFL)**

**Taxes**

This Old House Law; property tax valuation exclusion for certain improvements extended.

**HF1465—Dauner (DFL)**

**Education**

West central educational cooperative service unit asbestos sampling and management plan revision provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1466—Bettermann (IR)**

**Education**

Service fee levy provided for school districts operating a technical college.

**HF1467—Delmont (DFL)**

**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Building code and zoning state laws provisions modified and clarified.

**HF1468—Sviggum (IR)**

**Governmental Operations**

Governor authorized to declare an inability to discharge duties of the office.

**HF1469—Bradley (IR)**

**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Elevator safety provisions modified, administrative and enforcement responsibilities changed, and penalties imposed.

**HF1470—Garcia (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Lawful gambling proceeds use limits removed for payment of property taxes and assessments.

**HF1471—Sviggum (IR)**

**Education**

Independent School District No. 531, Byron, fund transfer authorized.

**HF1472—Bakk (DFL)**

**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

St. Louis County authorized to issue an on-sale intoxicating malt liquor license.

**HF1473—McGuire (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Government data classification provisions modified, financial assistance data classification pro-

vided, and information policy training program established.

**HF1474—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Long-term care service demonstration project waiver requests required.

**HF1475—McElroy (IR)**  
**Housing**

Affordable neighborhood housing design and development initiative established, and money appropriated.

**HF1476—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Judiciary Finance**

Department of Corrections juvenile out-of-home placement study grant developed, and money appropriated.

**HF1477—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Opticians licensed by Department of Health, and rulemaking required.

**HF1478—Otremba (DFL)**  
**Agriculture**

Agriculture commissioner notification of farming operation rule changes required.

**HF1479—Long (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**

Environmental improvement pilot program established, voluntary investigation and cleanup program provisions modified, penalties modified, and recognition program established.

**HF1480—Sviggum (IR)**  
**Education**

Independent School District No. 763, Medford, authorized to deposit land sale proceeds into general fund.

**HF1481—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Education**

Independent School District No. 486, Swanville, fund transfer authorized.

**HF1482—Tomassoni (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**

Video lottery terminal operation authorized, education trust fund established, and penalties prescribed.

**HF1483—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Recreational vehicle and watercraft registration fee increase provided.

**HF1484—Bettermann (IR)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Municipal annexation utility acquisition limitation provided.

**HF1485—Mariani (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Protective agent security guards permitted to perform certain traffic control duties.

**HF1486—Abrams (IR)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Public Utilities Commission role and composition modified.

**HF1487—Dehler (IR)**  
**Education**  
School districts receiving debt service equalization aid provided maximum effort tax rate calculation modification.

**HF1488—Trimble (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Eagle Creek in Scott County acquisition and protection provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1489—Winter (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Fertilization and chemical application equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF1490—Jefferson (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Dangerous dog definition modified, license restriction provided, civil fine established for dangerous dog offenses, and other penalties imposed.

**HF1491—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Tuberculosis related services covered by medical assistance.

**HF1492—Wejcman (DFL)**  
**Housing**  
Housing development fund revenue use and deposit provisions modified, income tax mortgage interest provisions modified, and money appropriated.

**HF1493—Workman (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Woman's right to know act adopted, and money appropriated.

**HF1494—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Government Innovation and Cooperation Board fund distribution approval provided.

**HF1495—Ness (IR)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Hutchinson authorized to impose certain sales, liquor, and food taxes.

**HF1496—Orenstein (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board membership modified, training requirements modified, and money appropriated.

**HF1497—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Children, families, and learning department created, Department of Education abolished, and money appropriated.

**HF1498—Lynch (IR)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
County library and human service activity maintenance of effort requirements eliminated.

**HF1499—Solberg (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Unlawful acts against senior citizens, disabled, or vulnerable persons prohibited, and statute of limitations suspended on actions brought by vulnerable persons.

**HF1500—Pelowski (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
On-line lottery game computer equipment and connection placement required.

**HF1501—Jefferson (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Martin Luther King nonviolent institutional child development pilot project established, and money appropriated.

**HF1502—Tuma (IR)**  
**Education**  
American Indian education block grant program established, and money appropriated.

**HF1503—Finseth (IR)**  
**Education**  
Independent School District No. 561, Goodridge, capital health and safety revenue use authorized for portable classroom purchase.

**HF1504—Tuma (IR)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Northfield tax increment financing district duration extended.

**HF1505—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Early retirement incentives provided for employees of the state university, community college, and technical college systems, and the Higher Education Board.

**HF1506—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Fond du Lac Community College appropriated money for material and equipment acquisition.

**HF1507—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Fond du Lac Community College appropriated money for residential facility planning, and bonds issued.

**HF1508—Dehler (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Firearms; right to keep and bear arms not abridged and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1509—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Arson; penalty increase provided for arson crimes committed to conceal evidence of other criminal activity.



**HF1510—Wenzel (DFL)****Agriculture**

Used farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently, and farm cost study required.

**HF1511—Lourey (DFL)****Agriculture**

Federal milk marketing order legal action provided continued funding, and money appropriated.

**HF1512—Dawkins (DFL)****Taxes**

Mortgage interest included in taxable income, and mortgage interest credit provided.

**HF1513—Rostberg (IR)****Judiciary**

Forfeited bail proceeds disposition provided.

**HF1514—Mariani (DFL)****Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance**

Community Resources Program appropriated money.

**HF1515—Bettermann (IR)****Education**

Community and technical college faculty transfers provided.

**HF1516—Greenfield (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Human services covered health service provisions expanded.

**HF1517—Lourey (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Carlton County Moose Lake family service center appropriated money.

**HF1518—Jennings (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Minnesota ski safety act of 1995 adopted.

**HF1519—Orenstein (DFL)****Judiciary**

Peace officer applicant training and education requirements modified.

**HF1520—Frerichs (IR)****Judiciary**

Dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants granted access to data regarding complaints, mercury amalgam use informed consent required, and certain professional sanctions prohibited.

**HF1521—Wenzel (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Landfill cleanup fund solid waste assessments remitted by state for return to counties.

**HF1522—Delmont (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Human service provider billing prompt payment required.

**HF1523—Dawkins (DFL)****Taxes**

Tax expenditure budget incidence analysis required in certain instances.

**HF1524—Wejcman (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

State employees provided opportunity to submit suggestions to improve government efficiency and effectiveness.

**HF1525—Murphy (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Child abuse prevention parent self-help and support statewide organization appropriated money.

**HF1526—Tomassoni (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Motor vehicle service contracts and mechanical breakdown insurance regulated.

**HF1527—Hausman (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Environmental Quality Board name and duties changed, and Minnesota sustainable development roundtable established.

**HF1528—Skoglund (DFL)****Judiciary**

Stun Guns/Tasers; Electronic incapacitation devices operated by means of carbon dioxide propellants possession, use, and sale prohibited.

**HF1529—Kahn (DFL)****Judiciary**

Paternity standards established for certain children conceived by artificial insemination after the death of the father.

**HF1530—Mariani (DFL)****Education**

High School Graduation Incentives Program and private alternative program revenue determination modified.

**HF1531—Leighton (DFL)****Transportation & Transit**

Interstate Highway No. 90 bicycle lane established.

**HF1532—Dehler (IR)****Governmental Operations**

Property value reduction as a result of government action civil cause of action provided, and attorney general required to review proposed rules relating to taking property.

**HF1533—Murphy (DFL)****Education**

Fond du Lac Community College appropriated money for American Indian student residential facility planning.

**HF1534—Pugh (DFL)****Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Automobile insurance economic loss benefits to include in-home nursing care compensation.

**HF1535—Worke (IR)****Judiciary**

Cooperative parenting and mandatory mediation provided when joint custody is sought.

**HF1536—Worke (IR)****Judiciary**

Child support obligation imposed on both parents, and child support obligation formulas established.

**HF1537—Wenzel (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Program modified.

**HF1538—Orenstein (DFL)****Judiciary**

Civil action fault questions and effect provisions modified.

**HF1539—Ness (IR)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Meeker county tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

**HF1540—Jefferson (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

Minneapolis Teachers Retirement Fund Association member authorized service credit purchase for service outside of the state.

**HF1541—Hugoson (IR)****Education**

Independent School District No. 458, Truman, fund transfer authorized.

**HF1542—Orenstein (DFL)****Ways & Means**

State agency periodic report requirement eliminated.

**HF1543—Winter (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Wetland management and protection provisions modified.

**HF1544—Skoglund (DFL)****Judiciary Finance**

Nonfelony Enforcement Advisory Committee duties expanded, and money appropriated.

**HF1545—Kelley (DFL)****Taxes**

Omnibus property tax bill modifying property tax classification, tax refunds, local government aid, municipal service charges, state aid, education cooperation, and court administration finance, and money appropriated.

**HF1546—Munger (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Environmental cleanup cost reimbursement provided to potentially responsible persons related to oil re-refinery operation.

**HF1547—Girard (IR)****Ways & Means**

State expenditure long-range plan development

provided, budget reserve account created, and budget reserve and cash flow account balance use restricted.

**HF1548—Mariani (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Airport intermediate land detachment from cities and school districts provided.

**HF1549—Workman (IR)**

**Transportation & Transit**

Transit program operation by metropolitan communities expanded, transit fund availability provisions modified, reserve accounts established, and language clarified.

**HF1550—Winter (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Environmental Response and Liability Act provisions modified.

**HF1551—Knight (IR)**

**Governmental Operations**

Rules; obsolete administrative rules repealed for various departments and agencies and internal references modified.

**HF1552—Abrams (IR)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Environmental and natural resources reorganization act of 1995 adopted.

**HF1553—Kelley (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Hennepin County medical examiner's office provisions modified.

**HF1554—Leppik (IR)**

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

School board candidate residency requirement established.

**HF1555—Van Engen (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

Nursing home placement level of care established, alternative care funds allowed for certain individuals, demonstration projects established, and federal waivers requested.

**HF1556—Milbert (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Revisor's bill correcting erroneous, ambiguous, and omitted text and obsolete references; eliminating certain redundant, conflicting, and superseeded provisions; and making miscellaneous technical corrections to statutes and other laws.

**HF1558—McGuire (DFL)**

**Judiciary Finance**

Violence prevention councils provided grants, and money appropriated.

**HF1559—Carruthers (DFL)**

**Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance**

Multiunit blighted rental property removal grants provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1560—Leighton (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations**

Austin Fire Department Relief Association spouse survivor coverage language clarified.

**HF1561—Greenfield (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Cigarette and tobacco product tax increase provided, and revenue dedication provided to the health care access fund.

**HF1562—Milbert (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Corporate franchise tax modification provided for sales factor for leases of certain mobile equipment.

**HF1563—Molnau (IR)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan Council member appointment provisions modified.

**HF1564—Holsten (IR)**

**Governmental Operations**

Lawful purpose expenditure local authority provisions modified.

**HF1565—Hausman (DFL)**

**International Trade & Economic Development**

Civic and convention center benefit assessment required.

**HF1566—Long (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Minneapolis authorized to establish special service districts.

**HF1567—Long (DFL)**

**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Public fund deposit and investment regulated.

**HF1568—Erhardt (IR)**

**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Homeowner and automobile insurance zip code rating prohibited.

**HF1569—Mulder (IR)**

**Taxes**

Rock county aggregate removal tax imposed.

**HF1570—Pawlenty (IR)**

**Governmental Operations**

Public employees provided opportunity to submit suggestions to improve government efficiency and effectiveness, program established by

administration commissioner, and money appropriated.

**HF1571—Otremba (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services**

Community services directory created by Children, Youth, and Families Consortium of the University of Minnesota, and money appropriated.

**HF1572—Onnen (IR)**

**Agriculture**

Small family farm incubator services program established, and money appropriated.

**HF1573—Kelley (DFL)**

**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Omnibus financial institution regulatory bill.

**HF1574—Kelley (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Hopkins tax increment financing district modified.

**HF1575—Orenstein (DFL)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, city civil service bureau contracting requirements eliminated.

**HF1576—Anderson, I. (DFL)**

**Education**

Post-secondary enrollment options replacement aid provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1577—Ness (IR)**

**Health & Human Services**

SIDS; Sudden Infant Death Center provided grant, and money appropriated.

**HF1578—Goodno (IR)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Wastewater Infrastructure Funding Program to include basic grants to municipalities.

**HF1579—Workman (IR)**

**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Health, social referral, and buying clubs regulated, and unlicensed child care services notice requirement established.

**HF1580—Smith (IR)**

**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Governmental unit supplemental pension plan qualified insurance company selection restrictions modified.

**HF1581—Kraus (IR)**

**Judiciary**

Pension plan division limitation provided upon dissolution of marriage.

**HF1582—Rukavina (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

St. Louis County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

## **Wednesday, March 22**

**HF1557—Pugh (DFL)**

**Judiciary**

Protective agents providing armored car services allowed to apply for permits to carry pistols.

**HF1583—Lourey (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Contracted foster care service contract rate provisions modified.

**HF1584—Lourey (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Community Alternative Care Program study and Medical Assistance Waiver Program effects on medically fragile children study required by Department of Human Services.

**HF1585—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Child and adolescent sexual health institute intervention services expanded, and money appropriated.

**HF1586—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**

Motor vehicle registration suspension provided for interest transfer violations, and certificate of title provisions modified.

**HF1587—Harder (IR)**  
**Agriculture**

Ethanol and wet and anhydrous alcohol producer payments modified, and money appropriated.

**HF1588—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Omnibus human services appropriation bill.

**HF1589—Munger (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**

Peat harvesting studied and money appropriated.

**HF1590—Pawlenty (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**

Minors under the age of 21 prohibited from engaging in various gambling activities.

**HF1591—Kraus (IR)**  
**Education**

Technical college purchase by municipalities, counties, or school districts authorized.

**HF1592—Paulsen (IR)**  
**Judiciary**

Plea bargaining prohibited when defendant is charged with committing a dangerous felony with a firearm and subject to mandatory minimum sentencing law, and exceptions provided.

**HF1593—Workman (IR)**  
**Judiciary**

Firearms; right to keep and bear arms not abridged and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1594—Rest (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Crystal and Fridley housing replacement pilot projects established.

**HF1595—Rostberg (IR)**  
**Education**

Cambridge Community College Center granted full campus status and money appropriated.

**HF1596—Ness (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare; regulated all-payer option repealed.

**HF1597—Carruthers (DFL)**  
**International Trade & Economic Development**  
Multijurisdictional collaborative reinvestment program established in Hennepin County, and money appropriated.

**HF1598—Davids (IR)**  
**Education**

School boards authorized to conduct referenda to fund extracurricular activities.

**HF1599—Swenson, D. (IR)**  
**Education**

General education formula allowance increased, class size reduction program local control expanded, staff development reserved revenue use restricted, transportation inflation factors restored, and debt service equalization aid modified.

**HF1600—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Education**

Independent School District No. 139, Rush City, fund transfer authorized.

**HF1601—Kalis (DFL)**  
**Education**

Debt service equalization eligibility provisions modified.

**HF1602—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Mobile health care providers defined and regulated.

**HF1603—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Hospital and nursing home reimbursement rate adjustment indices modified.

**HF1604—Paulsen (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Eden Prairie Volunteer Firefighters Relief Association service pension vesting requirement reduction provided.

## Thursday, March 23

**HF1605—Larsen (IR)**  
**Education**

Independent school district Nos. 622, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale, 833, South Washington county, and 834, Stillwater, provided additional joint elementary facility operation authority, and money appropriated.

**HF1606—Munger (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**

Special critical habitat motor vehicle license plates established, and money appropriated.

**HF1607—Lourey (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Marriage license fee increased and provisional fee waiver provided, marriage and family counseling health care coverage provided, and marriage dissolution counseling order authority provided.

**HF1608—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Education**

Interagency services provided for children with disabilities, education and human services report required, training program established for persons who work with disabled children, and money appropriated.

**HF1609—McCollum (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**

Employee mandatory overtime work hours prohibited.

**HF1610—Clark (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Indian Child Welfare Defense Corporation provided compliance grants, and money appropriated.

**HF1611—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Taxes**

Government Innovation and Cooperation Board authorized to conduct aid distribution council pilot project, and money appropriated.

**HF1612—Winter (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Farm-generated wind energy production facility rate policies established.

**HF1613—Weaver (IR)**  
**Judiciary**

Omnibus juvenile crime prevention bill, and money appropriated.

**HF1614—Rest (DFL)**  
**Capital Investment**

Public bond issuance conditions and requirements provided, unfunded pension liability obligation use procedures specified, indoor ice arena bond use authorized, and city tax anticipation certificate issuance required.

**HF1615—Ozment (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**

Pollution Control Agency automobile salvage yard environmental assessment continuance provided, automotive mercury recycling incentives provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1616—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Taxes**

Low and moderate housing construction project materials exempted from sales and use taxes.

- HF1617—Pugh (DFL)**  
Financial Institutions & Insurance  
Reinsurance intermediaries regulation and fund investment provided.
- HF1618—Johnson, V. (IR)**  
Agriculture  
Agriculture best management practices and clean water partnership loan programs modified.
- HF1619—Long (DFL)**  
Taxes  
This Old House Law; valuation exclusion provided for improvements to certain property.
- HF1620—Trimble (DFL)**  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Native vegetation planting promoted, and money appropriated.
- HF1621—Clark (DFL)**  
Governmental Operations  
Minneapolis health insurance subsidy expanded to include eligible retiring teachers.
- HF1622—Swenson, D. (IR)**  
Governmental Operations  
Lottery advertising prohibited.
- HF1623—Wenzel (DFL)**  
Governmental Operations  
Legislative session timing, length, schedule, and calendar studied, and commission created.
- HF1624—Weaver (IR)**  
Judiciary  
Paternity action time limits modified.
- HF1625—Weaver (IR)**  
Judiciary  
County sheriffs required to be licensed as peace officers prior to taking office.
- HF1626—Bishop (IR)**  
Governmental Operations  
Public fund investment in certain assets prohibited.
- HF1627—Van Dellen (IR)**  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Metropolitan revitalization fund established to provide funding for housing and urban development, and money appropriated.
- HF1628—Frerichs (IR)**  
Transportation & Transit  
Motor carriers deregulated, and fees and penalties provided.
- HF1629—Johnson, V. (IR)**  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Forest resources council and regional forest resource committee creation provided, and forest resource management effort coordination provided.
- HF1630—Finseth (IR)**  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Water use permit application or inspection fee refund provided when permits are not granted.
- HF1631—McGuire (DFL)**  
Judiciary  
Pistol and semiautomatic military-style assault weapon license requirement provided.
- HF1632—Orfield (DFL)**  
Taxes  
Business property tax notices to include statement regarding state subsidies.
- HF1633—Lourey (DFL)**  
Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance  
Employment support services for persons with mental illness funding increased, and money appropriated.
- HF1634—Mulder (IR)**  
Taxes  
Wind energy conversion systems provided tax liability in lieu of property taxes.
- HF1635—Molnau (IR)**  
Taxes  
Motor vehicle purchase price modification provided for sales tax purposes.
- HF1636—Carruthers (DFL)**  
Taxes  
Senior citizen's property tax deferral program established, and money appropriated.
- HF1637—McGuire (DFL)**  
Judiciary  
Custodial parent child residence relocation to another state procedures established.
- HF1638—Kalis (DFL)**  
Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance  
Kee Theatre in Kiester restoration funding provided, and money appropriated.
- HF1639—Kalis (DFL)**  
Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance  
FarmAmerica in Waseca County provided a grant, and money appropriated.
- HF1640—Smith (IR)**  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Lake Minnetonka seawall construction without a permit authorized.
- HF1641—Macklin (IR)**  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Counties, cities, and towns required to codify and print ordinances, resolutions and rules, and supply copies to county law libraries.
- HF1642—Winter (DFL)**  
Agriculture  
Wholesale dairy product supplier trade practice restricted.
- HF1643—McGuire (DFL)**  
Judiciary Finance  
Sexual assault program grants provided to Department of Corrections commissioner, and money appropriated.
- HF1644—McGuire (DFL)**  
Judiciary  
Emergency 911 call recording use authorized for training purposes.
- HF1645—Olson, M. (IR)**  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Wood types specified for exterior construction applications.
- HF1646—Hugoson (IR)**  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Fairmont tax increment financing district exempted from state aid offset.
- HF1647—Pugh (DFL)**  
Judiciary  
Social Security Act claim record copy charge prohibited.
- HF1648—Pugh (DFL)**  
Judiciary  
Uniform correction or clarification of defamation act adopted.
- HF1649—Entenza (DFL)**  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Real estate brokers and salespersons regulated, and real property radon testing disclosure required.
- HF1650—Hausman (DFL)**  
Environment & Natural Resources  
St. Paul district heating waste wood cogeneration facility biomass mandate satisfaction provided.
- HF1651—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Canada; border water angling restriction challenge funding provided, and money appropriated.
- HF1652—Trimble (DFL)**  
Capital Investment  
Public property acquired with bond funds lease and disposition provisions modified.
- HF1653—Dawkins (DFL)**  
Taxes  
Revenue recapture debt collection notification provided annually.
- HF1654—McGuire (DFL)**  
Health & Human Services  
Minor's mental health services consent provisions modified.



Coming Up Next Week . . . March 27 - 31, 1995

# Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

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

## MONDAY, March 27

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Minnesota Association of Rehabilitation Facilities. Minnesota Association of Centers for Independent Living.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Budget overview of FY 1996-97. Veterans Home. Council on Disability. Ombudsman for Mental Health and Mental Retardation. Ombudsperson for Families.

### Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** HF606 (Solberg) Nashwauk area ambulance district local approval requirements modified.

HF712 (Luther) Brooklyn Park rental tax equity pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF1182 (Dawkins) Rental equity tax program established in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, and certain other cities.

HF561 (Knight) Property tax proposal truth in taxation notice mailing date changed.

HF1398 (Winter) Wind energy conversion system property tax recovery provided through rate modification.

HF955 (Dehler) Morrison County bond issuance authorized for fairgrounds improvements, and referendum required.

### University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** HF2 (Johnson, A.) Motor vehicle emission inspection requirement waived for vehicles less than five years old.

HF563 (Tunheim) Beaver Damage Control Joint Powers Board appropriated money.

HF456 (Hasskamp) Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area appropriated money for operation and maintenance.

10 a.m.

### AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

**Agenda:** HF918 (Winter) Agricultural commodity supply management, orderly marketing, administration, and enforcement provided, minimum prices established for dairy and grain products, and money appropriated.

### JUDICIARY

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

**Agenda:** HF176 (Skoglund) Criminal sexual conduct crimes statute of limitations lengthened.

HF177 (Skoglund) Patterned sexual offender sentencing law scope expanded; and sentencing law training required for judges, prosecutors, peace officers, and sex offender assessors.

HF178 (Skoglund) Sex offender registration law expanded, and registration law violation penalty increased.

HF633 (Skoglund) Indecent exposure in the presence of a child under the age of 16 penalties increased.

HF911 (Skoglund) DNA crime evidence analysis statute of limitations provisions modified.

HF272 (Lynch) Interference with privacy crime to include intrusion on occupants of hotel sleeping rooms and tanning booths.

HF181 (Bishop) Sex offender release notification required; registered sex offender information release authorized; and HIV testing of convicted offenders law clarified.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

**Agenda:** HF1333 (Kelley) Electric and gas utility intervenor compensation regulated.

HF1356 (Kelley, Anderson, I.) Telephone company local exchange service territory sales regulated.

HF620 (Olson, E.) Telephone company alternative regulation provided for limited periods, local exchange service competition promoted, and technical provisions modified.

### State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Budget review for Twin Cities Cable. HF139 (Pawlenty) Tenth Amendment; federal government mandate reporting and analysis required.

HF1328 (Dehler) Intermediate care facility procedures modified, cost-effective service study established, vendor overpayment recovery provisions modified, nursing facility provisions modified, and day training and habilitation vendor payments modified.

12:30 p.m.

### Business Regulation Division/ COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

**Agenda:** HF1467 (Delmont) Building code and zoning state laws provisions modified and clarified.

HF1472 (Bakk) St. Louis County authorized to issue an on-sale intoxicating malt liquor license.

HF1316 (Jennings) Distilled spirits fill standards regulated.

HF1318 (Garcia) Temporary restroom facilities provided at certain construction and engineering project sites.

HF1645 (Olson, M.) Relating to the building code; exterior decks; construction regulation. Other bills may be added.

### GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

**Agenda:** HF172 (Hackbarth) Veterans homes board of directors expense allowance authorized.

HF532 (McCollum) Persian Gulf War veteran bonus payments permitted and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF220 (Greiling) Special and primary elections conducted by mail in certain instances.

HF450 (Pelowski) Soil and water conservation

district supervisors authorized to hold certain city or town offices.

HF1106 (Cooper) Lobbying prohibited by campaign committees or political party committees that issue refund receipt forms.

HF1001 (Rukavina) Women in Military Service Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery contribution appropriation provided.

HF1045 (Marko) Vietnam veterans claims assistance provided, and money appropriated.

HF853 (Brown) National Guard and Department of Military Affairs weapons prohibition exemption provided.

HF698 (McCollum) Veterans Homes Board duties modified, and Silver Bay Veterans Home Dementia Unit expansion provided.

HF1396 (Johnson, V.) Dog, cat, and livestock sales regulated, Animal Health Board duties modified, and penalties provided.

HF1440 (Johnson, V.) Animal Cruelty Prevention Law clarified and modified, and penalties imposed.

Any bills not heard at the 12:30 p.m. meeting will be carried over to the 6:30 p.m. meeting.

#### LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Johnson

**Agenda:** Presentation of bills. Votes will be taken on the following:

HF18 (Bettermann) Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

HF69 (Kelso) Workers' compensation insurance regulation and benefits modified, and money appropriated.

HF391 (Girard) Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

HF642 (Winter) Workers' compensation insurance regulation and benefits modified, and money appropriated.

HF921 (Goodno) Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

HF1324 (Winter) Mutual employer self-insurance group creation and operation regulated.

HF1436 (Simoneau) Workers' compensation procedures and benefits modified, attorney fee calculation changed, and agreements permitted.

HF401 (Rukavina) Minimum wage increased and adjustment provided based on the consumer price index.

HF1145 (Perl) Reemployment insurance provisions modified.

HF1221 (Rest) Public employment labor relations provisions modified.

HF1372 (McGuire) Labor education women and minorities advancement grant program established.

HF1437 (Goodno) Food processing industry employee recruitment disclosure required, and penalties provided.

HF1386 (Bakk) Loggers targeted industry fund sunset repealed.

(The committee will continue meeting after Session in room 200 State Office Building.)

2:15 p.m.

#### RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

118 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

**Agenda:** Special Orders.

2:30 p.m.

**The House meets in Session.**  
(Session will be televised on Metro Cable Channel 6.)

One-half hour after Session

#### ETHICS

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

**Agenda:** HF856 (Bishop) Ethical Practices Board public official gift enforcement authority extended, advisory opinions classified as public data, civil penalties provided, gift ban exceptions authorized and clarified, and money appropriated.

4 p.m.

#### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** HF412 (Bertram) Community colleges, state universities, and technical colleges required to use construction plans prepared through the Department of Administration.

HF1170 (Kelley) Post-secondary learning needs statewide consortium established, open learning institution studied, and money appropriated.

HF665 (Pawlenty) Campus closure and reorganization commission established, and money appropriated.

## TUESDAY, March 28

8 a.m.

#### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** HFXXX (Hasskamp) Pledge of Allegiance authorized.

HF444 (Van Dellen) Student disciplinary sanctions related to speech limited, and civil cause of action provided.

HF1435 (Pelowski) High School League tournament admissions exempted from sales tax.

HF920 (Mariani) American Indian tribal history, government, and culture included in staff development and teacher preparation curriculum, and graduation rule to include an understanding of American Indians.

HF1312 (Mariani) Americans of Mexican origin education act adopted.

Other bills may be added.

#### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** HF966 (Entenza) Child support and enforcement provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF1516 (Greenfield) Human services covered health service provisions expanded.

HF724 (Kelley) Social worker home care provider, nursing home, and hospital licensure requirements modified.

HF743 (Solberg) Nursing home swing bed provisions modified.

HF1136 (Clark) Marijuana and Tetrahydrocannabinols prescription by physicians allowed for medical treatment.

HF1210 (Greenfield) Home care service provider registration required for elderly service providers.

HF1243 (Greenfield) Prescription drug purchasing authority created, senior citizen drug purchasing benefit program established, and money appropriated.

HF1363 (Pelowski) Drug dispensing regulations modified to allow dispensing of drugs prescribed by a doctor licensed in a state bordering Minnesota.

HF1603 (Greenfield) Hospital and nursing home reimbursement rate adjustment indices modified.

Other bills may be added.

#### JUDICIARY FINANCE

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Agency budget presentations. Department of Corrections: management services, institutions. Public testimony, if time allows. If agenda is not completed, it will be continued in the evening at an announced time.

#### Transportation Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** HF971 (Tunheim) Manufacturer motor vehicle test license plate issuance authorized.

HF575 (Erhardt) Motor vehicle transfer notification by buyer required within ten days of purchase, and fees and penalties imposed.

HF729 (Frerichs) High speed rail corridor through Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois feasibility studied by Department of Transportation commissioner, and money appropriated. Presentation of Metropolitan Council's Transportation Policy Plan Amendment.

8:30 a.m.

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** HF723 (Bakk) Youthful deer hunter license established, doe taking authority expanded, pelting fee increased, and family hunting license eliminated.

HF368 (Munger) Soil and water conservation districts provided annual fund allocation.

10 a.m.

## **Financial Aid and Tuition Policy Working Group/Joint Higher Education Finance Division and University of Minnesota Finance Division/EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Continued discussion of previous agenda items.

## **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Any bills not completed on March 23 and March 24.

HF1093 (Lynch) Telecommunication Access for Communication-Impaired Persons Board (TACIP) eliminated, and duties transferred to the Department of Public Service and Department of Human Services.

HF976 (Orenstein) Human resources, gainsharing, and procurement pilot projects established to improve state agency efficiency and effectiveness.

HF398 (Carruthers) Elevator mechanic registration and regulation required, and money appropriated.

HF983 (Lourey) Emergency medical services advisory council, maternal aid child health advisory task force, and state community health advisory committee reinstatement provided.

HF100 (Huntley) Morris authorized to enlarge an existing tax increment financing district.

HF1037 (Huntley) Department of Health commissioner public pool rules enforcement and fee provisions modified, and penalties provided.

HF1462 (Mariani) Public official relative hiring restricted.

HF1156 (Long) Metropolitan livable communities advisory board and fund established, and Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission and district provisions modified.

HF626 (Hausman) Environmental education council established, state plan for environmental education development required, and money appropriated.

HF581 (Johnson, V.) Forest resources council and forest resources research advisory commit-

tee established to coordinate forest resource management, use, and development.

HF1096 (Milbert) Wild animal and plant emergency protection rule adoption authority granted to Department of Natural Resources commissioner.

HF1524 (Wejcman) State employees provided opportunity to submit suggestions to improve government efficiency and effectiveness.

HF1468 (Svigum) Governor authorized to declare an inability to discharge duties of the office.

Bills recommended by the Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement, the Gambling Division, and other standing committees under Rule 5.10.

## **Sales & Income Tax Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

**Agenda:** HF730 (Winter) Cigarette tax accelerated payment requirement eliminated, and cigarette tax overage offset time period extended.

HF1321 (Lourey) Cigarette and tobacco product tax rate increase provided, and proceeds provided for Tobacco Prevention and Control Program.

12:30 p.m.

## **COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** HF586 (Bertram) Impound lots authorized to sell and dispose of unauthorized, abandoned, and junk vehicles.

HF1537 (Wenzel) Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Program modified.

HF1185 (Smith) Uniform Commercial Code revised Article 8 enacted regulating investment securities.

HF1469 (Bradley) Elevator safety provisions modified, administrative and enforcement responsibilities changed, and penalties imposed. Other bills may be added.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** HF1269 (Long) Contaminated site cleanup loan program established within Metropolitan Council, and money appropriated.

HF1627 (Van Dellen) Metropolitan anti-poverty plan.

HF1406 (McGuire) Roseville special service district creation authorized, and hazardous substance subdistrict provided aid offset exemption.

2:30 p.m.

## **Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Johnson

**Agenda:** Continuation of March 27 meeting.

4:30 p.m.

## **FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

**Agenda:** HF1184 (Jennings) Omnibus financial institutions technical corrections bill.

HF68 (Simoneau) Group life insurance policy proceeds alternative payment methods required.

## **Subcommittee on Data Practices/JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire

**Agenda:** HF1102 (Jefferson) Transitional housing services recipient identity data classified as private.

HF1473 (McGuire) Government data classification provisions modified, financial assistance data classification provided, and information policy training program established.

HF1366 (McGuire) Human rights charging party case file access provided.

HF584 (Goodno) Department of Human Rights data classification provisions modified.

HF1326 (Skoglund) Booking photograph release and classification provided.

HFXXXX (Skoglund) Drivers records pertaining to alcohol related offenses.

HFXXXX (Pugh) Domestic assault; criminal history records.

HF992 (Pugh) Computer matching agreement requirement sunset eliminated.

HF86 (Lynch) Child abuse reporting record retention requirements modified, and data classification provided.

HF393 (Leighton) Occupational safety and health investigation data access provisions modified.

Other bills to be announced.

6 p.m.

## **EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Bills carried over from morning agenda.

## TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** HF471 (Greenfield) Seat belt violations; peace officers authorized to stop drivers and issue citations for seat belt violations without first observing a moving violation.

HF1171 (Holsten) Amateur radio station licensee vehicle special license plate appearance modified.

HF1174 (Marko) Special transportation service providers regulated by Department of Transportation commissioner, data classified, and fees and penalties provided.

HF1341 (Osthoff) Turn on red arrow traffic signal allowed under certain conditions, residential area speed limits regulated, work zone speed limit violation fine disposition provided, and technical corrections provided.

HF1485 (Mariani) Protective agent security guards permitted to perform certain traffic control duties.

## WEDNESDAY, March 29

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Daedalus Project, Department of Labor and Industry.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Health Board budget overview FY 1996-97.

### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** HF1107 (Ness) Higher education career planning and job placement activities required.

HF1376 (Carlson) Metropolitan healthcare foundation nursing grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1515 (Bettermann) Community and technical college faculty transfers provided.

### Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** HF461 (Wagenius) Senior citizen's property tax deferral program established.  
HF1636 (Carruthers) Property tax deferment for seniors.

HF561 (Knight) Property tax proposal truth in taxation notice mailing date changed.

HF959 (Murphy) Property tax value increase prohibited for homesteads owned by persons 65 years of age or older with certain income requirements.

HF846 (Erhardt) Senior citizen's property tax deferral program established, and money appropriated.

8:30 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** To be announced.

10 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** HF1307 (Ostrom) Ice fishing houses identified by owners driver's license numbers.  
HF1276 (Trimble) Aquatic plant harvesting permit fee limits removed.

HF1589 (Munger) Peat harvesting studied and money appropriated.

HF1413 (Wagenius) Mercury emissions consumer information act of 1995 adopted.  
Other bills may be added.

### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

**Agenda:** HF1130 (Simoneau) MinnesotaCare waiting period eliminated, comprehensive health association benefits modified, and enrollment freeze date changed.

HF422 (Osskopp) Comprehensive Health Insurance Association lifetime benefit limit increased.

HF168 (Luther) Homeowner insurance nonrenewal based on claim amounts and not number of claims.

HF877 (Simoneau) Automobile insurance premium reduction provided for vehicles utilizing antitheft alarms or devices.

HF1308 (McCollum) Rental vehicle automobile insurance rate provisions modified.

HF623 (Tomassoni) Life insurance policy replacement information disclosure requirements established, and form provided.

HF781 (Abrams) Health maintenance organization regulatory authority transferred to Department of Commerce.

### JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** The committee will meet from 10 a.m. - noon, and again after session. Any bill not completed at March 27 meeting.

HF980 (Skoglund) Manslaughter in the first degree definition modified.

HF981 (Skoglund) Manslaughter in the first degree reasonable person standard clarified, and murder in the first degree acts clarified.

HF772 (Farrell) Protected witness name changes classified as private data.

HF826 (Pugh) Probationer detention by peace officers authorized based on an order from the chief executive officer of a community corrections agency.

HF1241 (Luther) Prostitution profits benefit limitation provided.

HF786 (Weaver) Theft statute definition of value modified.

HF785 (Weaver) Burglary in the first degree scope expanded.

HF784 (Weaver) Controlled substance offense penalty application clarified, drivers' license photograph use authorized in theft investigations, criminal record expungement precluded in diversion cases, victim restitution provided, and fine imposed.

HF900 (Broecker) Disabled parking certificate holders allowed to make names and addresses private.

HF1137 (Wagenius) Public nuisance violation grounds and procedures modified, and resolution meetings provided.

HF1360 (Skoglund) Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (POST) conduct standards review required, conduct model policy development required, and money appropriated.

HF1496 (Orenstein) Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board membership modified, training requirements modified, and money appropriated.

Other bills to be announced.

### State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Skeleton bill committee procedures.  
HF138 (Kahn) Gambling department created; Racing Commission, Gambling Control Board, and State Lottery Board abolished and duties transferred.

House of Representatives budget review (tentative).

12:30 p.m.

### COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** HF809 (Entenza) Charitable organizations regulated and money appropriated.

HF990 (Entenza) Disabled and handicapped assistive device warranties provided.

HF1052 (Entenza) Federal Lien Registration



Act provisions modified.  
Bills not heard on Tuesday.  
HF1048 (Entenza) Videotape distribution, sale, and rental regulated, and captioning for deaf or hearing-impaired persons required.  
HF1456 (Carruthers) Accountancy Board license renewal schedule staggered.  
HF1526 (Tomassoni) Motor vehicle service contracts and mechanical breakdown insurance regulated.  
HF1091 (Entenza) Transient merchant sales of baby food and health related items regulated, and penalties provided.  
HF1371 (Opatz) Investment securities order flow direction payment disclosure required.  
Other bills may be added.

#### **INTERNATIONAL TRADE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros  
**Agenda:** HF1117 (Long) Tourism office to devote 20 percent of budget to international tourism development.  
HF1229 (Osthoff) Job Skills Partnership Board in St. Paul appropriated money.  
HF1408 (Carruthers) North Metro Business Development Commission appropriated money for business retention and development activities.  
HF1565 (Hausman) Civic and convention center benefit assessment required.  
HF1597 (Carruthers) Multijurisdictional collaborative reinvestment program established in Hennepin County, and money appropriated.  
Additional bills may be added. If necessary, we will meet immediately after session in 300S State Office Building to complete agenda.

#### **TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim  
**Agenda:** HF1402 (Seagren) Original license plate issuance provided for certain motor vehicles.  
HF1261 (Kinkel) Single strand barriers prohibited across roads, driveways, and trails, and penalty imposed.  
HF1056 (Garcia) Senior citizen driver's license and identification cards to contain transit symbol, employer payroll transit program tax imposed, and public transit route and schedule change planning and consultation required.  
HF1549 (Workman) Transit program operation by metropolitan communities expanded, transit fund availability provisions modified, reserve accounts established, and language clarified.  
More bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

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

#### **After Session**

#### **COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Sarna  
**Agenda:** Continuation of 12:30 p.m. agenda.

#### **WAYS & MEANS**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

4 p.m.

#### **University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

5 p.m.

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

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dee Long  
**Agenda:** HF1039 (Milbert) Dakota County administrator assigned county board clerk duties.  
HF1291 (Anderson, B.) Sherburne County ditch conveyance to Elk River provided.  
HF1378 (Garcia) Minneapolis city engineer granted city parking and traffic authority.  
HF1406 (McGuire) Roseville special service district creation authorized, and hazardous substance subdistrict provided aid offset exemption.  
HF1460 (Greiling) City budget report date modified, and budget publication requirements eliminated.  
HF1494 (Dawkins) Government Innovation and Cooperation Board fund distribution approval provided.  
HF1553 (Kelley) Hennepin County medical examiner's office provisions modified.  
HF609 (Orfield) Metropolitan Council made an elective body and provided public campaign financing, and penalties imposed.  
HF779 (Orfield) Conservation easement assessment benefit determination, zoning and planning, Metropolitan Council land use decisions, and metropolitan agricultural preserves provisions clarified.  
Other bills may be added.

6:30 p.m.

#### **GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

### **THURSDAY, March 30**

8 a.m.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson  
**Agenda:** HF1429 (Tomassoni) Athletic participation authorized for students enrolled in non-resident districts.  
HF1240 (Kinkel) Students allowed to participate in extracurricular activities of other schools.  
HF1079 (Ostrom) Junior and senior high school talented student needs assessment conducted, and money appropriated.  
Other bills may be added.

#### **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy  
**Agenda:** Agency budget presentations. Department of Corrections: community services. Public testimony. If the agenda is not completed, it will be continued in the evening at an announced time.

#### **MinnesotaCare Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

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

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

10 a.m.

#### **Sales & Income Tax Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert  
**Agenda:** HF1512 (Dawkins) Mortgage interest included in taxable income, and mortgage interest credit provided.

HF1523 (Dawkins) Tax expenditure budget incidence analysis required in certain instances. HF1495 (Ness) Hutchinson authorized to impose certain sales, liquor, and food taxes. HF1380 (Rest) Income tax bond exemption eliminated.

#### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Continuation of March 28 agenda.

#### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** HF1313 (Davids) Omnibus mortuary science regulation bill.

HF1442 (Greenfield) Chemical dependency counselor and hearing instrument dispenser licensure required, and penalties provided. Other bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

#### CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** HF504 (McCollum) Park, recreation area, and natural and scenic area grants provided to school districts and municipalities. SF188 (Samuelson); HF146 (Hasskamp) Brainerd Technical College appropriation use authorized for athletic facility relocation.

HF443 (Dempsey) Bond issuance provided for acquisition and betterment of public land and buildings, and money appropriated.

#### COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** HF1651 (Anderson, I.) Relating to game and fish; voiding certain action of the commissioner of natural resources in the border water angling dispute.

HF1292 (Van Dellen) Residential contractor licensure requirement provisions modified for contractors licensed by St. Paul or Minneapolis. HF1318 (Garcia) Temporary restroom facilities provided at certain construction and engineering project sites.

Other bills may be added.

#### Elections Division/ GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** HF1567 (Long) Multijurisdictional collaborative reinvestment program established in Hennepin County, and money appropriated. HF1315 (McCollum) North St. Paul tax increment financing district time limit extension provided.

HF1574 (Kelley) Hopkins tax increment financing district modified.

HF1594 (Rest) Crystal and Fridley housing replacement pilot projects established.

Other bills may be added.

2:15 p.m.

#### RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

118 State Capitol  
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

**Agenda:** Special Orders.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

(Session will be televised on Metro Cable Channel 6.)

Immediately after Session

#### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

**Agenda:** Referral from Labor-Management Relations Committee on workers' compensation.

After Session

#### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** To be announced.

One half hour after Session

#### Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

**Agenda:** To be announced.

6 p.m. or 2 hours after Session  
(whichever is earlier)

#### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Continuation of bills not heard at morning meeting.

## FRIDAY, March 31

8 a.m.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Testimony by the Department of Health, Veterans Home, Council on Disabilities, Ombudsman for Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Ombudsman for Families and the Department of Human Services.

#### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** HF1379 (Murphy) Fond du Lac Community College appropriated money.

HF1506 (Murphy) Fond du Lac Community College appropriated money for material and equipment acquisition.

HF1507 (Murphy) Fond du Lac Community College appropriated money for residential facility planning, and bonds issued.

#### Transportation Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** HF797 (Carruthers) License fee refund required by Department of Public Safety if drivers' licenses, permits, or identification cards are not issued within six weeks from application.

10 a.m.

#### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** HF1236 (Schumacher) Sand Dunes State Forest shooting area established, and money appropriated.

HF1279 (Rest) State park handicapped access trail plan required.

HF1191 (Carlson) Trout and salmon stamp required to possess trout or salmon taken by angling.

HF1340 (Bakk) Deer archery, firearm, and muzzle-loading firearm license established.

HF1280 (Milbert) Game and fish provisions modified, all-terrain vehicle definition modified, game and fish license revocation provided, special permit issuance provisions modified, one-day fishing licenses provided, migratory game bird provisions modified.

HF850 (Munger) Water pollution inflow and infiltration revolving fund created, and Department of Trade and Economic Development and

Pollution Control Agency rule adoption required.

HF1063 (Huntley) Duluth storm water infiltration and inflow prevention demonstration project authorized.

HF403 (Otremba) Todd County tax forfeited land sale authorized.

HF316 (Bakk) Cook County; tax-forfeited land sale authorized to Grand Portage band of Chippewa.

HF345 (Cooper) Kandiyohi County; tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF468 (Anderson, I.) Koochiching County tax forfeited land sale authorized.

HF806 (Macklin) Scott County authorized to purchase trust fund land from Department of Natural Resources.

HF913 (Davids) Preston tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF1111 (Rostberg) Isanti County Lake Francis tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF1149 (McElroy) Noise abatement provided along freeways and expressways.

#### **Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Continuation of March 30 agenda.

#### **JUDICIARY**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** This meeting will last all day and evening. Any bill not completed at March 29 meeting.

HF1309 (Pugh) Civil action proceedings in forma pauperis modified, action dismissal provided for false allegations of poverty, and hearings and fees provided.

HF1557 (Pugh) Protective agents providing armored car services allowed to apply for permits to carry pistols.

HF1528 (Skoglund) Stun Guns/Tasers; Electronic incapacitation devices operated by means of carbon dioxide propellants possession, use, and sale prohibited.

HF853 (Brown) National guard and Department of Military Affairs weapons prohibition exemption provided.

HF1175 (Molnau) Dangerous weapon criminal code definition modified related to weapon possession in school zones.

HF892 (Tomassoni) School bus safety provisions modified, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF506 (Clark) Lead abatement provisions modified and recodified, and money appropriated.

HF1339 (Skoglund) Parolee and probationer transfer interstate compact report required by corrections commissioner.

HF3 (Skoglund) DWI electronic alcohol monitoring test pilot program established, and money appropriated.

HF1418 (Murphy) Crime prevention early intervention demonstration project established.

HF1428 (Murphy) Crime prevention early intervention demonstration project established.

HF987 (Murphy) Criminal arraignment and first court appearance interactive video system use provided.

HF1247 (Pugh) Trial court judgeships increased, and money appropriated.

HF588 (Wejcman) Inmate claims hearings legislative authority expanded.

HF927 (Bishop) Domestic abuse hearing requirement eliminated in certain cases, and notices provided.

HF628 (Bishop) Parental right termination; presumption of refusal or neglect of parental duties created.

Other bills to be announced.

#### **TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** To be announced.

3 p.m.

#### **Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** SF863 (Morse); HF995 (Johnson, R.) Police state aid excess aid amounts disposition provided to fund an additional amortization aid program.

SF751 (Riveness) 403(b) tax sheltered annu-

ities; employers must comply with federal law. SF972 (Morse); HF1080 (Jefferson) Local government official participation limited in Public Employee Retirement Association defined benefit plan.

HF99 (Brown) Public employees prior service credit purchase authorized.

SF1179 (Hottinger); HF1424 (Dorn) Teacher Retirement Association member service credit purchase authorized for time spent on an extended leave of absence.

SF1098 (Bertram); HF1152 (Schumacher) Independent School District No. 51, Foley, employee authorized prior service credit purchase. HF1427 (Jefferson) Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis, levy authority reallocation provided, and retirement fund provided supplemental contributions.

SF1083 (Morse); HF1505 (Kahn) Early retirement incentives provided for employees of the state university, community college, and technical college systems, and the Higher Education Board.

SF907 (Janezich); HF1044 (Tomassoni) School districts authorized to offer early retirement incentives, and teachers permitted to purchase service credit for teaching service in other states. HF1540 (Jefferson) Minneapolis Teachers Retirement Fund Association member authorized service credit purchase for service outside of the state.

HF1042 (Dawkins) St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association articles of incorporation and bylaw amendments authorized to provide postretirement adjustments.

SF943 (Sams); HF1336 (Otremba) Teachers Retirement Association annuity reduction provisions waived for certain retired members.

SF130 (Wiener); HF1111 (Commers) Eagan Volunteer Firefighter Relief Association lump sum pension payments authorized.

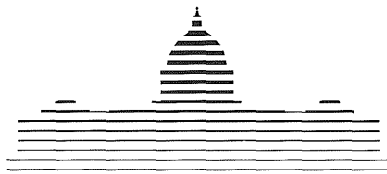
SF797 (Pogemiller); HF970 (Bertram) Public Employees Retirement Association police and fire fund early retirement reduction factors changed.

4 p.m.

#### **AGRICULTURE**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

**Agenda:** To be announced.



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

Speaker of the House: Irv Anderson  
Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### The disabled in the U.S. and Minnesota

Nationwide, people with disabilities, in millions, 1991 .....	48.9
as a ratio of all U.S. residents .....	1 in 5
Those with a serious disability nationwide, in millions .....	24.1
Children with disabilities nationwide, in millions .....	2.9
Nationwide, number of people who have a physical or mental condition that keep them from being able to "work, attend school, or maintain a household," in millions .....	9
Mean monthly earnings for a non-disabled person aged 35 to 54 .....	\$2,446
for someone with a severe disability .....	\$1,562
Minnesotans with a disability .....	873,000
with a severe disability .....	430,300
Nationwide, those aged 15 to 64 with a severe disability who have private insurance .....	1 in 1.6
Medicaid coverage .....	1 in 4
no health insurance .....	1 in 6
Nationwide, those able-bodied who have jobs .....	4 in 5
those with a "severe functional limitation" who have jobs .....	1 in 4
Percent of Minnesotans with disabilities aged 21 to 64 who are unemployed .....	49
Times that a disabled Minnesotan is more likely to be unemployed when compared to able-bodied Minnesotans aged 21 to 64 .....	9
Number of certified Metro Mobility riders, August 1994 .....	20,000
State funds marked for Metro Mobility, in millions, FY1994-95 .....	\$29.3
budget request, in millions, for FY1996-97 .....	\$31.7
Number of rides given, 1993 .....	1,134,000
rides given in 1990, highest year ever .....	1,639,722
Disabled Minnesotans currently receiving personal care attendant (PCA) services paid for by Medical Assistance, (average monthly caseload) .....	5,300
Adults .....	3,245
Children .....	2,055
Estimated cost to the state, per year, in millions .....	\$47
Percent increase in Medical Assistance costs for personal care and private duty nursing services, FY 1991 to FY1994 .....	192
Additional Minnesotans receiving PCA services under a special 1982 law, (the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act, or TEFRA), which allows parents of disabled children to buy into a state health service to help pay for their child's long-term medical care .....	1,300
Total number of Minnesotans in the TEFRA program .....	3,900
Cost of TEFRA to the state, per year, in millions .....	\$18
Dollars recouped by the state from TEFRA recipients, per year .....	\$325,000

Sources: Metropolitan Center for Independent Living, Department of Human Services, House Research Department.



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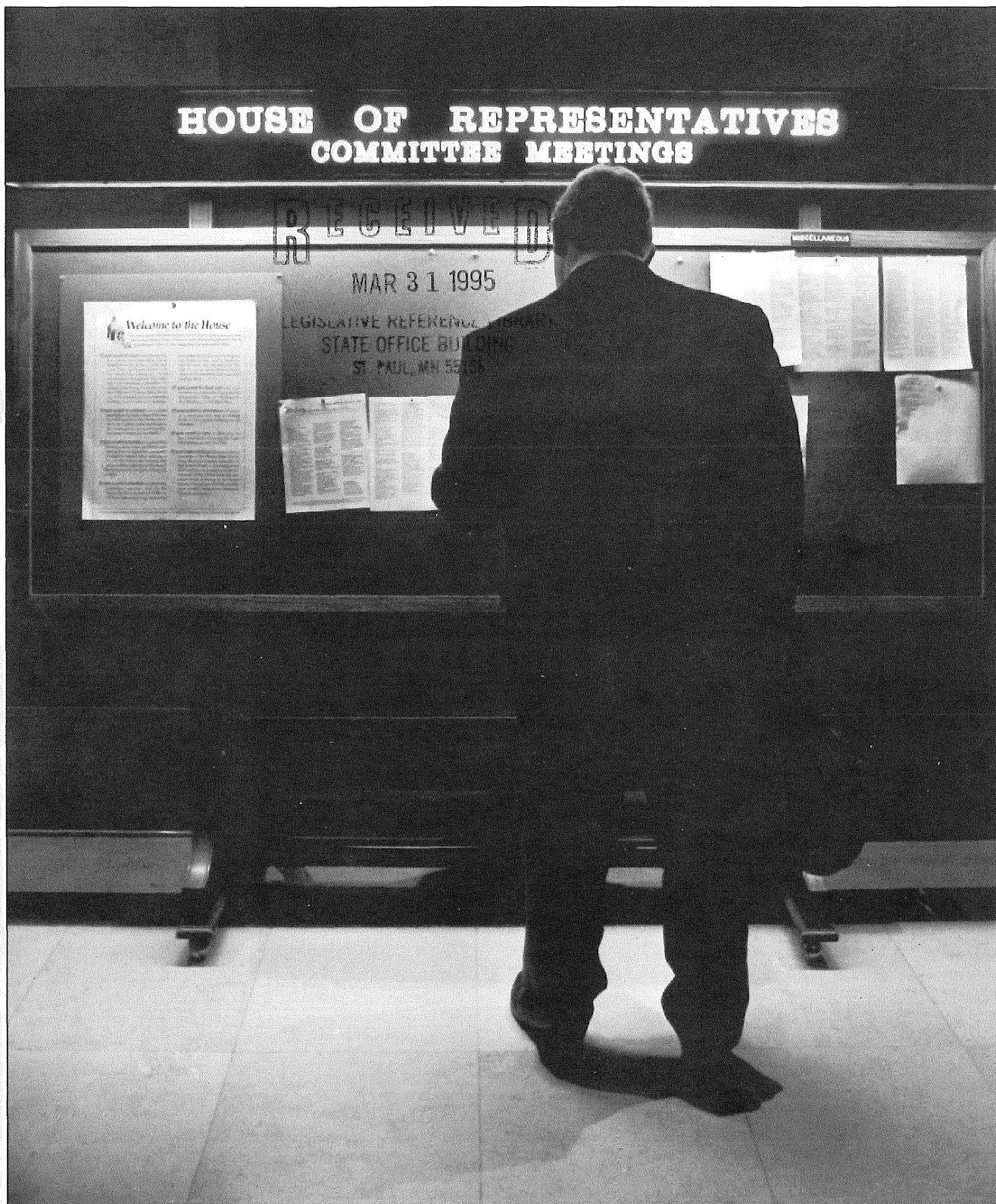


95, March 31

P615

# SESSION WEEKLY

A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ March 31, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 13



HF1655-HF1771

**Session Weekly** is a non-partisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1995-96 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • March 31, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 13

## Week at a glance

**Collaring familial pimps** — Spouses and relatives of a prostitute who profit from prostitution would be guilty of a felony, under a bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee. .... **Page 4**

**Patriotic recitation** — The House Education Committee approved a bill March 28 urging school districts to make the Pledge of Allegiance a classroom fixture. .... **Page 5**

**Busy beavers** — Fifteen counties in northwestern Minnesota would receive a total of \$300,000 to battle beavers, under a proposal heard by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee. Rep. Jim Tunheim explained that beaver dams in "ditches, rivers, and coulees" have created flooding in the flat terrain up north. .... **Page 7**

**Video gambling** — The effort to allow video lottery machines in Minnesota bars and restaurants — and funnel a portion of the money raised to Minnesota schools and environmental programs — has survived its first House test this year. But, it is unclear how much life it has left. .... **Page 8**

**Drug discount for seniors** — A bill to give low-income senior citizens a discount on their blood pressure pills, arthritis ointments, and other medications, was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee. .... **Page 10**

**Medicinal marijuana** — A bill to sanction marijuana use if it is prescribed by a doctor for medical reasons passed the House Health and Human Services Committee. .... **Page 10**

**Radar jamming** — Speeders would lose a leg up on police under a bill that received final passage in the House. The bill would make it illegal to sell, use, or possess a radar jammer. Violators could face up to a \$200 fine. .... **Page 15**

**A divine push** — First-term lawmaker Rep. Ken Otremba had a difficult time deciding whether to run for the state House. "I didn't know if I was going to run. I went to church on Sunday and, sure enough, the sermon was about service to the people. So I decided to run. But during the week, I changed my mind. That's the way it went. On Sundays I would feel an obligation to run. Finally, one day, I just decided to run." ..... **Page 17**

**'Dogwatch' tales lead to Legislature** — As a detective in the Minneapolis Police Department's Robbery Unit, first-term lawmaker Rep. Richard Stanek sat at a desk next to then-state Sen. Pat McGowan. When they occasionally patrolled together on "dogwatch" or the night shift, McGowan's tales of the Capitol "piqued" Stanek's longtime interest in politics and government. .... **Page 18**

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On the cover: Darrel Bunge, executive director of the Minnesota Petroleum Council, checked the committee schedule outside the House chamber in the State Capitol March 29. The first committee deadline, Friday, March 31, meant a flurry of activity and several late night committee meetings.

— photo by Tom Olmscheid



# Highlights

Community notification. . .

## Neighbors would be notified of sex offenders' release

Over the next two years, nearly 1,000 sex offenders will be released from Minnesota prisons.

A bill that would notify neighbors when the most serious of those offenders are released into their communities won approval March 27 from the House Judiciary Committee. (See March 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6)

"This should be looked at as a community protection act," said bill sponsor Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester).

Its stated purpose is to give members of the public the opportunity to develop constructive plans to prepare themselves and their children for the offender's release.

The measure would allow law enforcement officials to disclose information about offenders as "necessary to protect the public and to counteract the offender's dangerousness."

What information is released and to whom disclosure is made would depend on the "level of danger posed by the offender," as defined by the bill.

Offenders would be classified as either low, intermediate, or high risk and the number of people notified of a release would rise as the safety risk increases.

Law enforcement agencies and crime victims would be notified of a low-level offender's release. For an intermediate-level offender's release, school officials and neighborhood groups also would be notified. For high-risk offenders, community members and establishments to whom, in the law enforcement agency's judgment, the offender "may pose a direct or potential threat," would be added to the notification list.

Offenders considered to be high risk would include those who have refused or failed treatment and have been determined "highly likely to re-offend." Violent, repeat offenders who abuse children also would be considered high risk.

A committee consisting of the commissioner of corrections, the head of the facility where the offender has been confined, the chief law enforcement official where the of-

fender will live, a treatment counselor trained in sex offender assessment, and the offender's parole officer would determine the offender's classification 30 days before the prison release date. A list of 10 factors will help the panel determine the risk of the offender to the community.

Those classified as either an intermediate or high-risk offender may appeal their classification to district court. The community notification would not be stopped by the appeal, unless so ordered by the court.

### Other provisions of HF181 would:

- amend the state's sex registration law to require sex offenders to register with the local sheriff or police department. Minnesota now requires all felony-level sex offenders to register their address with a probation officer for at least 10 years following release from a Minnesota prison. Failure to register is now a gross misdemeanor. Under another bill (HF177), a second conviction for failure to report would be a felony offense.
- include an immunity clause for all law enforcement agencies and state agencies. Such agencies would not be civilly or criminally liable for disclosing or failing to disclose information concerning sex offenders to community members or organizations.
- apply the same notification criteria to offenders likely to be sentenced to a stayed sentence and placed on probation.
- require courts to order a convicted sex offender to submit to an HIV test if the victim or the prosecutor requests the test and there is evidence the victim was exposed or had contact with the offender's bodily fluids in a way which could transmit the HIV virus. Current law permits courts to require the test.

Members of the public would *not* be notified if an intermediate or high-risk offender is placed in a halfway house licensed by the Department of Corrections or the Department of Human Services if the home has staff trained in the supervision of sex offenders.

Patty Wetterling, whose son, Jacob, was abducted in 1989 and is still missing, said at an earlier hearing that the bill is needed to protect kids from unknown dangers in the neighborhood.

And Clark Hussey, whose son, Grant, was abducted and later killed by a neighbor in 1993, earlier told members the man who killed his son "was a trusted person in the neighborhood. . . . We had no idea he was a child molester."

HF181 is patterned after a Washington state law that has been in effect for five years. Fourteen states have similar notification laws.

Only a small percentage of released offenders would trigger the notification. Bishop has said he is targeting those with the most predatory and dangerous backgrounds.

The state of Washington has released thousands of sex offenders in the five years that the law has been in effect. In most cases, law enforcement officials are the only ones who have been notified. According to a December 1993 Washington study, members of the community were notified in just 176 cases. There were 14 cases involving harassment of the released offender after the community notification.

A memo to Bishop from Teresa Klingensmith, legislative manager for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, who tracks similar legislation across the country, called the bill "easily one of the most comprehensive I have seen this session."

Since 1980, the number of sex offenders in Minnesota prisons has increased 230 percent. Today, one in five prisoners is incarcerated for a sex offense.

HF181 now moves to the Judiciary Finance Committee.

— John Tschida



## CONSUMERS

### Educational videos for deaf

Last-minute negotiations drastically narrowed the impact of a bill supported by the deaf that requires open- or closed-captioning on prerecorded videotapes sold or rented in Minnesota.

The compromise legislation would require captioning only on videotapes "primarily produced" for rental or sales to educational institutions, state and local governments, and medical facilities — excluding most titles available at the local video store.

With the new wording, the bill passed the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs committee March 29.

Under the original bill (**HF1048**) approved by the committee's Consumer Affairs Subcommittee March 15, both educational and popular movie videos would have been covered by the proposed law. (See March 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6)

That version of the bill would have applied to videotapes produced after Dec. 31, 1995; the amended bill pushes the deadline back 18 months to June 1, 1997.

(Open-captioning is the term for subtitles, like those added to foreign language films. Closed-captioning refers to the subtitles that include descriptions of sound effects — encoded on a videotape or in a live broadcast — that can be switched on or off by a computer chip which is required in all new television sets sold in the U.S.)

The measure was designed to make videotaped movies accessible to those who are deaf or hard of hearing — about 9 percent of the state population — explained bill sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul).

Entenza said he accepted the compromise measure "with tremendous hesitation," and noted that it would eventually redress the "unfairness" faced by deaf students who cannot understand educational videos shown in schools.

In a letter distributed to committee members, Gary A. Ross, chair of the Video Software Dealers Association, called the original version of the bill "an unnecessary legislative intrusion into matters that should be settled voluntarily. . . . Currently, virtually every major video, and the great majority of even minor video releases, are close-captioned."

In previous testimony on the bill, members of the deaf and hard of hearing community said the legislation was needed, especially for children who have been unable to understand and enjoy the full range of movie and educational videotapes.

**HF1048** now moves to the House floor.



## CRIME

### More time for sex crimes

Patterned sex offenders could face up to 40 years in prison, under a bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee March 27.

The provision is contained in **HF177**, which incorporates six bills designed to increase sentences and tighten registration provisions for sex offenders. (See March 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6)

Under Minnesota law, a patterned sex offender is a repeat offender or someone who has been determined likely to re-offend in the future.

Current law mandates that a judge sentence a patterned sex offender to twice the penalty called for under the state's sentencing guidelines.

**HF177**, sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), would allow judges to impose a prison term of up to 40 years — regardless of the penalty called for under the state's sentencing guidelines.

The 40-year maximum prison term also would apply to a first-time offender who planned the crime in advance.

Once released from prison, a patterned sex offender would remain on parole for life. Under current law, parole can last either 10 years or the time remaining under the maximum sentence for the offender's crime set by law, whichever is longer. Violating the conditions of that parole at any time after release from prison could land the offender behind bars.

And for the first time, crimes committed in other states would apply to the state's patterned sex offender law. Currently, only prior sex offenses in Minnesota can be considered.

The bill also would require those convicted of sex offenses in other states to register in Minnesota upon arrival. Minnesota now requires all felony-level sex offenders to register their address with a probation officer for at least 10 years following release from a Minnesota prison. The bill calls for offenders to register their address with their local police or sheriff, instead of a probation officer.

Failure to register is now a gross misdemeanor. Under the bill, a second conviction for failure to report would be a felony offense. (The registration provisions were originally introduced as **HF178**.)

Other provisions of **HF177** would:

- extend the statute of limitations for criminal sexual conduct crimes from seven to nine years (originally introduced as **HF176**);
- increase, to a gross misdemeanor from a

misdemeanor, the penalty for the crime of indecent exposure in the presence of a minor (originally introduced as **HF633**);

- "stop time" on any statute of limitations while DNA testing is being conducted. A man was actually cleared of a possible rape charge because the limitation period expired while authorities waited for DNA test results, Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) told members (originally introduced as **HF911**); and
- include hotel rooms and tanning booths under Minnesota's "peeping Tom" law. Current law applies to those peeping in windows or secretly photographing or videotaping outside someone's home. Such a crime is a misdemeanor (originally introduced as **HF272**). (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6)

The bill now moves to the Judiciary Finance Committee.

### Collaring familial pimps

Spouses and relatives of a prostitute who profit from prostitution would be guilty of a felony, under a bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee March 29.

Under current law, it is a felony offense — punishable by up to three years in prison and a \$5,000 fine — to make money from or to promote prostitution, but anyone related to the prostitute by "blood, adoption, or marriage" is exempt from the law.

"This loophole says the best way for a pimp to profit is to marry the prostitute . . . it insulates criminals who are benefiting from prostitution," said Evelina Giobbe, director of education and public policy for Women Hurt In Systems of Prostitution Engaged in Revolt, or WHISPER.

And at times, it is those who are exempt from the law who are the worst offenders, Giobbe said, noting that she has counseled several women who were coerced into prostitution by spouses, parents, and even grandparents.

"Susan" was such a victim. At just 10 years old, her father began driving her to a local bar, where he locked her in the car and solicited johns from the bar. The johns later would return the car keys to the father inside the bar.

Proponents testified that no exemptions currently exist in law for family members who profit from drug sales, or receiving stolen goods. Therefore, no exemption should exist for family members who profit from prostitution.

But a few members expressed concern that innocent relatives may be harmed.



"What about a grandmother who goes to dinner with a granddaughter who is a prostitute? Are we going to prosecute that grandmother?" asked Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul).

A single criminal exemption would exist in **HF1241** for kids who depend on a prostitute's earnings to survive.

Rep. Tom Van Engen (IR-Willmar) said exceptions should also exist for some vulnerable adults who are dependent upon the earnings of a prostitute for survival.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), will be incorporated into **HF981**, which will be this year's omnibus crime bill.

## Unlawful masks

Covering one's face in public for religious reasons would not be a crime, under a bill given final approval by the House March 27. The vote was 108-18.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), who sponsors **HF735/SF214\***, says present law, which prohibits concealing one's identity by means of a "robe, mask, or other disguise," is unconstitutional.

The law, originally placed on the books in 1923, targeted Ku Klux Klan members, who maintained a significant presence in the state at the time. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10)

The law stems from a Sept. 28, 1994, arrest of a Muslim woman in downtown St. Paul. Police officers asked the woman, dressed in traditional Muslim attire, to lift the veil from her face. When she refused, they issued her a citation.

The local Islamic community called the incident a clear violation her First Amendment rights.

In light of Minnesota's winter climate, an amendment was made on the House floor to exempt anyone covering their face "as protection from weather" as well. Technically, under current law, snowmobilers and others protecting their faces in the winter months are in violation of the law.

The bill now moves to the governor for his consideration.

## Protecting police horses

The House gave final approval March 27 to a bill that would make it a crime to assault a police horse. The vote was 125-0.

Minneapolis launched its mounted patrol program Nov. 3, 1994. Four horses patrol mainly downtown Minneapolis along Hen-

## Committee deadlines

If you're following a bill that has yet to receive a hearing in the Legislature this session, its chances of becoming law are not good.

Each year the House and Senate set deadlines by which most bills must be heard in a committee and forwarded through the process. The deadlines serve to weed out some of the several thousand bills introduced each year.

The first committee deadline is **Friday, March 31**. That means all bills must be passed out of all policy committees in their house of origin to receive further consideration this session. If a House bill hasn't been approved by House policy committees by the deadline, but its Senate companion has, the bill has met the committee deadline.

By the second committee deadline — **Friday, April 7** — all bills other than those containing appropriations, must be passed out of all policy committees in both the House and the Senate. The deadline does not apply to the finance divisions of the committees or the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, the Taxes Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee.

By **Friday, April 21**, all appropriations bills must clear their policy and finance committees and move to the Ways and Means Committee.

Of course, there are exceptions to the deadlines. Any lawmaker may try to convince the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, which includes leaders from both party caucuses, to hear a bill after the deadlines.

nepin and Nicollet avenues. (See March 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 5)

But no laws are in place to punish those who may punch, pull the tail, or heave full bottles of pop at a police horse — all of which have already happened.

Lt. Shirleen Hoffman, mounted patrol leader of the Minneapolis Police Department, has said something needs to be done "before someone really gets hurt."

**HF1399** carries a maximum felony penalty of up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for killing a police horse. Lesser penalties also would apply, depending on the injuries sustained by the horse, the officer riding the horse, or anyone standing nearby.

Under current law, police dogs are similarly protected and have been since 1987.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), now moves to the Senate.



## DWI

### Quizzing DWI law

Would-be drivers in Minnesota would have to know more about the legal and financial consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, under a bill that received final passage March 29 in the House. The vote was 129-0.

**HF901**, sponsored by Rep. Doug Swenson (IR-Forest Lake), would require thorough instruction about DWI laws in all driver education programs — including the effects of alcohol and drugs on driving ability.

The next edition of the state driver's manual would have to include details about the legal and financial consequences of driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

And Swenson's bill would require that the driver's license examination include questions to determine the individual's knowledge of the implications of driving while intoxicated.

The bill now goes to the Senate.



## EDUCATION

### Patriotic recitation

The House Education Committee approved a bill March 28 urging school districts to make the Pledge of Allegiance a classroom fixture.

The bill (**HF112**), sponsored by Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby), would "strongly encourage" schools to lead "willing students" in reciting the pledge.

Committee members rejected an amendment by Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul) to further recommend the First Amendment be recited along with the pledge.

Support for the bill came from veterans officials such as Mike Labovitch, director of Dakota County Veterans Services, who said the pledge would enhance patriotism among young people.

"In a time when our country is redefining values, especially for our young people, this is a value that needs to be encouraged and restated," Labovitch said.

Hasskamp's legislation would encourage schools to lead K-12 students in reciting the pledge at least once a week.

The language of the bill sidesteps legal pitfalls by making school and student participation voluntary, said Hasskamp. U.S. Supreme Court decisions clearly prohibit schools from making the pledge a required activity.

The pledge was written by Francis Bellamy in 1892 for the National School Celebration, marking the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in America. Congress adopted the pledge into U.S. Code in 1942; the words "under God" were added to the text in 1954.

Hasskamp said the pledge conveys an important message to young people. "The tone of our school day can be set very well by reciting this very simple, 14-second pledge," she said.

In an effort to include the First Amendment in the student recitations, Orenstein said teaching children about their freedom to dissent should be on a par with teaching patriotism.

"They need to learn the most important thing in our country is not what the majority can do but the rights of the minority," he said.

But Rep. Peggy Leppik (IR-Golden Valley) questioned the value of having students repeat the First Amendment aloud.

"Children need to know what it is," she said. "They need to understand it, and that comes through study and discussion. It does not come just through recitation."

Orenstein's amendment was defeated on a voice vote. The bill now goes to the House Judiciary Committee.

## Extracurricular activities

Legislation approved by the House Education Committee March 28 would provide more funding for some school athletic and fine arts programs.

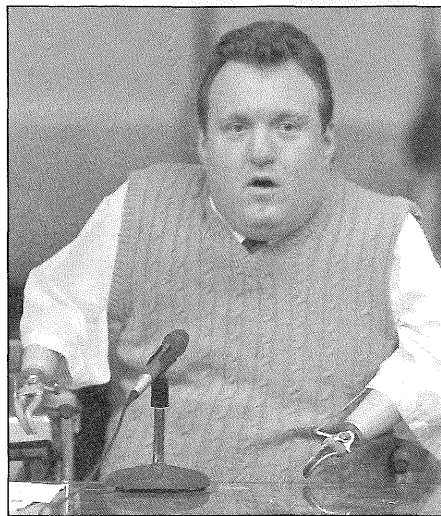
**HF1435**, sponsored Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), would devote an extra \$250,000 annually to support extracurricular programs for girls and students with disabilities.

Under the bill, the state would no longer keep the revenue collected by taxing the gate receipts from interscholastic tournaments sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League.

Instead, the money would go into a league fund dedicated to the expansion of girls' activities and the creation and support of activities for students with disabilities.

Currently, there is no state sales tax on regular season high school events, but receipts from events such as the annual high school hockey tournament are taxed.

Pelowski's bill, approved on a 14-10 vote,



Tony Lebahn, who referees floor hockey and softball games for disabled athletes, testified before the House Education Committee March 28 in favor of a bill (HF1435) that would allocate an extra \$250,000 in state funds for fine art and athletic programs for women and disabled participants. The committee approved the bill.

received support from New Hope resident Tony Lebahn, a disabled man whose involvement in adaptive athletics includes time as a player, coach, and organizer.

Lebahn said students with disabilities have an "equal right to be involved" in athletics and fine arts.

Opposition to the bill came from committee members concerned about the loss of revenue to the state at a time when a tight budget has education facing budget cuts.

Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayner (IR-Princeton) said lawmakers should not forget common complaints that "kids don't have textbooks."

The bill now goes to the House Taxes Committee.



## ELECTIONS

### Voter guides

Prior to precinct caucuses and elections, Minnesota's eligible voters would be mailed booklets containing short biographies on candidates and other voter information, under a bill approved March 29 by the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.

The committee originally voted against the bill March 13 on a 6-9 vote after some members expressed concern that candidates might subtly sneak campaign positions into their 50-word biographies.

But bill sponsor Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) brought **HF621** before the committee for a second vote March 29. The bill passed 10-7.

The bill stems from a recommendation of the Grove Commission on Electoral Reform. The commission proposed producing a voters' guide for the public, including information on where and how to vote, the candidates running for office, and proposed constitutional amendments up for public vote. (See March 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7)

The bill calls for the guide to be mailed to voters at least 21 days before the caucus, the primary election, and the general election. Candidates could submit 50-word biographical statements in addition to their name, address, and telephone number.

The bill does not yet include an appropriation.

But distributing three separate guides could cost about \$1.8 million in election years — \$650,000 each for the primary and general election guides and \$525,000 for the caucus guide, Secretary of State Joan Grove has said.

The bill next will be heard by the House Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Deer hunting for kids

Young people could buy an inexpensive license to hunt deer with firearms, under a bill approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee March 28.

The "Youth Deer Bill," sponsored by Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), would allow those under age 16 to buy a deer hunting license for \$5, instead of paying \$22 for a regular firearms license.

**HF723** "would expand the opportunity for more youth to get out and hunt," said Bakk.

No tag would be included in the youth license, so a deer shot by a youth carrying the \$5 license would have to be tagged by a licensed hunter possessing a valid tag.

(Under current law, a tag is issued with each deer hunting license; hunters are allowed to take just one deer per season with a firearm.)

While regular deer hunting licenses are only sold prior to the opening day of the firearms season, the youth license could be purchased at any time during the season.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) opposed one provision of the bill that would allow a deer hunter "who fails to tag a deer" during the firearms season to get a second crack at a deer by buying another firearms license and hunting by muzzleloader.

The 16-day muzzleloader season — which allows hunting with an early 19th century era rifle — follows the regular firearms season in late November.

Under current law, a deer hunter is allowed to buy only one firearms license and hunt either during the regular firearms season or during the muzzleloader season.

Tim Bremicker, chief of the DNR's wildlife division, told lawmakers that hunters could start taking too many deer, under this section of the bill.

"Folks like to hunt deer in this state," he commented. "We think this license will be very popular."

An influx of muzzleloader hunters could strain relations between farmers and hunters, Bremicker said.

Bakk said that 5,200 muzzleloader licenses were purchased last year — about 1 percent of all deer hunters.

A note prepared by the Department of Finance estimates that the DNR would sell an additional 13,000 muzzleloader and regular firearms licenses in 1996 and 1997, under this provision in the bill.

The nearly \$300,000 in extra revenue would offset lost revenue from the cheaper youth deer licenses by about \$150,000 over the next two-year budget cycle.

**HF723** now moves to the Ways and Means Committee.

## Busy beavers

Fifteen counties in northwestern Minnesota would receive a total of \$300,000 to battle beavers, under a proposal heard by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee March 27.

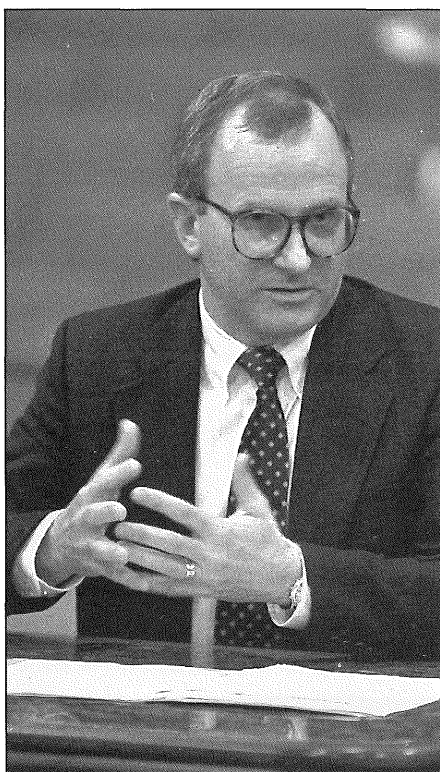
Bill sponsor Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) explained that beaver dams in "ditches, rivers, and coulees" have created flooding in the flat terrain up north.

Under the bill, the 15 counties now belonging to the Beaver Damage Control Joint Powers Board would receive \$300,000, provided the board allocates at least \$130,000 for beaver damage control.

The board also may authorize the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians to participate in the program as well.

Delray Larson, a Morrison County commissioner, said "we had a lot of township roads that were washing out because of beaver dams."

Larson later explained that, in the past, trappers have controlled the beaver population. But with the price of pelts having fallen to \$2 apiece, there is little interest in trapping.



Warren Candy, vice president of Boswell Energy Center-Minnesota Power, testified before the House Regulated Industries & Energy Committee March 24 in opposition to a bill that would exempt cogeneration plants from the requirements of the power plant siting act (HF638). The committee approved the bill.

He said beavers are prolific breeders and their kits (baby beavers) soon start building dams which flood roads and wheat fields.

Troublesome beavers would be trapped and killed humanely, Larson said.

The counties of Becker, Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Itasca, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk and Roseau comprise the current Beaver Damage Control Joint Powers Board.

The 1994 Legislature gave \$50,000 to the joint powers board, which was required to add at least \$30,000 of its own money.

Such boards are formed at the local level, are not authorized by statute, and do not receive regular appropriations from the state.

**HF563** was laid over and could be included in the omnibus environment and natural resources spending bill.

## Newer car testing exemption

Cars under six years old would be spared the annual emissions test, under a bill approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee March 27.

The change would mean that about 550,000 vehicles — or one-third of the total

vehicles registered in the metropolitan area — would be exempt from the annual testing program, according to a Department of Finance estimate. And that would translate to a loss of nearly \$7 million in revenue for the state over the next two-year spending cycle.

Most of the loss would be borne by Envirotest Inc. of Phoenix, Ariz., the private firm that runs the emissions testing program for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The MPCA gets 93 cents of the \$8 test charge for its administration costs. Envirotest gets the rest. The company now has a seven-year contract with the state to administer the program.

At a March 23 committee meeting, Tom Binder, Envirotest's Midwest manager for program development, told lawmakers that the bill (**HF2**) would have a "pretty severe" effect on the financial viability of the testing program.

John Herman, a local attorney representing Envirotest, acknowledged the logic of exempting newer cars from emissions testing, but said it would be "impossible" for the company to recoup its costs under the modified program.

Envirotest built its 11 testing stations in the metropolitan area with the expectation that the full testing program "would be here for seven years," said Herman.

The state could cancel its contract with Envirotest at any time, but must give a 90-day written notice of termination. Such a move would require soliciting another vendor and would cause a probable gap in the testing program. For this reason, efforts are being made to keep Envirotest as a vendor and minimize their potential losses should **HF2** become law, said David Kelso, program manager in the MPCA's Air Quality Division.

Herman said that Envirotest has spoken recently with the MPCA about extending its state contract by three years — to the year 2000 — which would give the company more time to recover its costs.

Giving Envirotest a greater share of the test charge, or charging exempted cars a "nominal fee," were other options discussed with the MPCA, according to Herman.

**HF2**, sponsored by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), now moves to the Ways and Means Committee.

(See March 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9; Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; and Jan. 27, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7)



## ETHICS

### A clarification of ethics

A bill to modify the 1994 ethics law that banned most gifts to lawmakers won approval from the House Ethics Committee March 27.

Under the proposal, lawmakers would be allowed to accept food or a non-alcoholic beverage from a lobbyist which does not exceed \$5 in total cost.

Under current law, accepting any food or beverage purchased by a lobbyist is prohibited, unless the lawmaker is giving a speech or answering questions at an organization-sponsored meeting that is held away from the Capitol.

An earlier version of **HF856** would have permitted lawmakers to accept "anything that does not exceed \$5 in cost." Members were concerned such a standard could create a loophole by allowing the acceptance of several gifts from a single lobbyist that each cost less than \$5, but when taken together would far exceed the \$5 limit.

Since the new ethics law took effect Aug. 1, 1994, there have been several questions over just what is, and what isn't, prohibited. The Ethical Practices Board has issued about three dozen opinions at the request of lobbyists, special interest groups that hire lobbyists, and public officials who want to make sure of the boundaries set forth in the new law. (See March 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9)

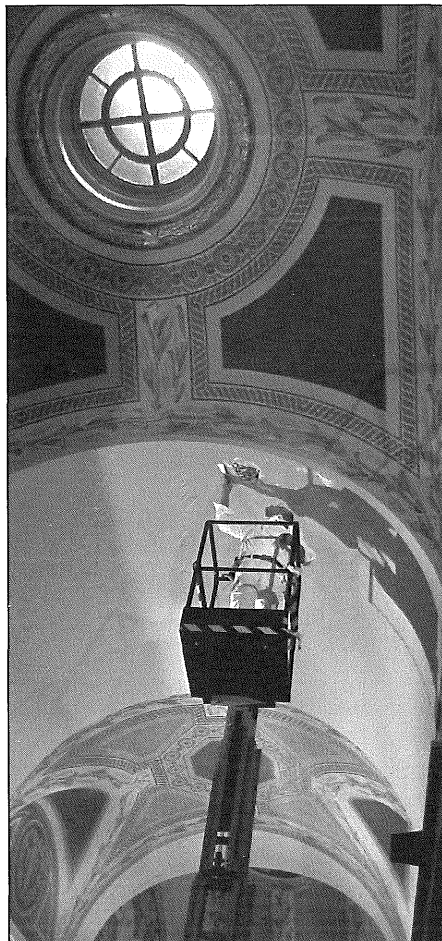
**HF856** sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester) attempts to clarify many common questions that have come before the board. The bill would:

- allow lawmakers to receive reimbursement for reasonable travel and lodging expenses "necessary for participation" in an event or meeting where they give a speech or answer questions. The "necessary for participation" standard is to avoid reimbursement for costs such as lodging for those days when the meeting is not in progress;
- extend the enforcement for both the local and state officials' gift ban to the Ethical Practices Board and allow the board to impose a civil penalty for violations of the law (\$100 for the first offense, \$500 for subsequent offenses). An earlier version of the bill called for a \$1,000 civil penalty. Under current law, there is no penalty for state officials but local officials face a misdemeanor charge for violating the law;
- allow officials to participate in gifts to family members when the gift is provided by that family member's employer. Some

officials and staff couldn't participate in their spouse's company picnics because the company either uses a lobbyist or belongs to a group that does.

- require all advisory opinions offered by the Ethical Practices Board to be public. Under current law, the specifics of advisory opinions are not public data unless the individual or group requesting the opinion signs a waiver. But the board is still required to hear all requests in a public meeting which makes maintaining confidentiality difficult; and
- remove "promise of future employment" from the definition of a gift. Some have interpreted current law to mean that elected officials and staff must resign or be fired before they can even begin to look for a new job.

The bill now moves to the Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Regulation Finance Committee.



Virgil Achtenberg of the Department of Administration's Plant Management Division helped patch up some sizable holes in the Capitol's third floor ceiling March 27. The recent heavy rainfall is to blame for the damage.



## FAMILY

### Breast-feeding

A bill that allows mothers to breast-feed their babies in virtually any location — public or private — was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee March 30.

The bill (**HF1369**) amends the indecent exposure statute so a woman may breast-feed her baby in any location where she is otherwise allowed.

The measure also would state in law the benefits of breast-feeding.

"The Legislature further finds and declares that breast milk offers better nutrition, immunity, and digestion, and may raise a baby's IQ. . . . The social constraints of modern society militate against the choice of breast-feeding and lead new mothers with demanding time schedules to opt for formula feeding for reasons such as embarrassment and the fear of social ostracism," states the bill.

"The promotion of family values and infant health demand putting an end to the vicious cycle of embarrassment and ignorance that constricts women and men alike in the subject of breast-feeding and represents hostility to mothers and babies in our culture based on archaic and outdated moral taboos."

Bill sponsor Rep. Richard Mulder (IR-Ivanhoe) said it is not that police have been arresting mothers, but women have been asked to leave shopping centers and move to bathrooms.

He said he just wants to make sure mothers and the public know "breast-feeding is normal and OK to do."

The bill now moves to the House floor.



## GAMBLING

### Video lottery in bars

The effort to allow video lottery machines in Minnesota bars and restaurants — and funnel a portion of the money raised to Minnesota schools and environmental programs — has survived its first House test this year.

About 3,400 bars and restaurants would be allowed to have up to 10 video lottery terminals, under a bill approved March 24 by the Gambling Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee.

**HF1405's** next hearing is scheduled for March 31 in the full Governmental Operations Committee. Because that is the first deadline by which bills must be heard in



policy committee, the bill's chances of survival remain unclear.

For several years, the hospitality industry said it is losing customers to American Indian-owned casinos and needs video gambling to stay in business. Elected officials, however, have been reluctant to expand gambling.

"In the last six years, the casinos have taken away what it took 17 years to build," George McCausland, owner of the Golden Gate Super Club in Cloquet, told members of the division.

"... The state won't let me compete. I can compete with restaurants, and I can compete with bars. I cannot compete with something I don't have."

John Berglund, of the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association, said "the explosion of casino growth" has been "economically devastating" for bars and clubs.

Casino officials have argued they are not to blame for the drop in bar and restaurant business. Minnesotans are drinking less and spending less in bars and restaurants.

Bill sponsor Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) said he decided to push for video gaming in bars this year because he saw the opportunity to help education.

His bill would require that a portion of the proceeds from the video lottery machines be devoted to supplementing funding for public schools, which face potential budget cuts this year.

The bill would put an estimated 17,000 video slots in Minnesota bars and restaurants. About 60 percent of the state's share, or as much as \$148 million, would be set aside for education, Tomassoni said.

The remainder would be devoted to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as are state lottery proceeds.

Opponents of the bill, however, argue that the measure would expand gambling in the state and warned video machines are more addictive than other forms of gambling such as pull-tabs.

"Does the state really want to be the beneficiary of the pain and suffering a gambling addiction can inflict on its constituents?" asked Hennepin County Commissioner Sandra Hilary, whose compulsive gambling led her to more than \$100,000 in slot machine losses.

Hilary said gambling can damage individuals and families, and she described how compulsive gamblers plunge themselves deep into debt while trying to win back their losses.

"Do not succumb to the same pressure and look to gambling as a way to solve your financial dilemmas," she said.



Video slots like these found around the state at American Indian gaming casinos could be found in local bars should HF1405 become law. The bill won approval March 24 from the House Governmental Operations Committee's Gambling Division.

Brian Rusche, executive director of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, said video gambling would be "a harmful substitute for general taxation" that could significantly hurt low-income Minnesotans.

If signed into law, video machines would be regulated by the Minnesota State Lottery, but city governments would be given the authority to forbid video gambling. That is not the case with lottery tickets sold at outlets throughout the state.

The bill stipulates that gambling revenue should supplement the education budget and should not replace traditional funding sources.

But several members of the division questioned whether the Legislature will hold to that condition. "There's no guarantee that education would get more money," said Rep. Jim Knobloch (R-St. Cloud).



## GAME & FISH

### Canadian fishing dispute III

Minnesota anglers fishing in Ontario would be allowed to return to the pre-1994 practice of bringing back their legal limit of fish, but the fish would have to have their heads, tails, fins, and skins intact.

The House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee approved a bill (HF1651) March 30 that represents the latest in a long-running skirmish with Canada over fishing and tourism.

The measure would repeal portions of a 1994 law that limited Minnesotans fishing in Ontario to bringing back just one trophy fish of each species.

But it would also resurrect portions of a 1993 law that required fish to be "in the round" when they are brought across the border into Minnesota. Although heads, tails, fins, and skins would have to be intact, gills and entrails could be removed.

The "in the round" provision is significant because fish spoil more easily in that state, making it less attractive for tourists to enter Ontario to fish.

All of these provisions are designed to get Ontario to the bargaining table to resolve these ongoing tourism and fishing disputes.

Ontario has placed stricter fish limits on anglers who stay in Minnesota than on those who stay in Ontario resorts, sometimes banning Minnesota-based anglers from keeping any walleyes they've caught on the Ontario side of Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake.

Another section of HF1651 would allocate \$100,000 to the state Office of the Attorney General to examine ways to mount a legal challenge of the Ontario regulations.

Bill sponsor Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) said his bill is something "that most people would like to see happen." He added that litigation might offer an avenue to resolve the conflict with Ontario "diplomatically."

His approach was supported by Bill Dougherty, an International Falls fishing guide and board member of the Rainy Lake Sport Fishing Club, who said Ontario's restrictions on Minnesota anglers are hurting the border resort business.

Dougherty said that there are 43 fewer resorters with displays at this year's Northwest Sports Show, currently running at the Minneapolis Convention Center, than at last year's exhibition.

"Up in the Northwest Angle they're not going to survive the way things are going," said Dougherty.

The proposal to bring back fish in the region, however, was criticized by some.

Anglers from Minnesota—or anglers from other states returning through Minnesota—"would be bringing home whole fish, slimy fish" that would have to be thawed and filleted, according to Bob Neuenschwander of the Minnesota Conservation Federation who is also a former House member.

He said this inconvenience "will inhibit people from going to Ontario" and "have a massive impact" on the estimated 500,000 tourists each year who travel through Minnesota to Ontario.

**HF1651** now moves to the Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Regulation Finance Committee.



## HEALTH

### Medicinal marijuana

A bill to sanction marijuana use if it is prescribed by a doctor for medical reasons passed the House Health and Human Services Committee March 30. The vote was 12 to 6.

Bill sponsor Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) has pushed for the proposal (**HF1136**) in recent years but has been met with strong opposition from some members. Opponents worry that legalized medicinal marijuana will open the door to addiction and eventually, legalized recreational use of the drug.

Advocates argue that marijuana helps alleviate the pain and nausea common among cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy and the pain of patients suffering from epilepsy, AIDS, spastic conditions, and other ailments.

"Until we pass this bill, they are basically criminals," said Clark, adding that any doctor or pharmacist that now prescribes the drug also is considered a criminal.

The legislation exempts from criminal penalties doctors who prescribe marijuana, pharmacists who fill the prescriptions, and patients who use it.

"This bill does not legalize marijuana. Far from it," Clark said, explaining that individuals will need a doctor's prescription, which will act as a safeguard against abuse.

Rep. Tony Onnen (IR-Cokato) successfully offered an amendment that restricts the use of medicinal marijuana to only people with certain conditions and only for those who haven't found relief from other drugs. Some of the conditions include cancer, epi-

lepsy, spastic conditions such as cerebral palsy, glaucoma, cystic fibrosis, HIV/AIDS, and severe intractable pain.

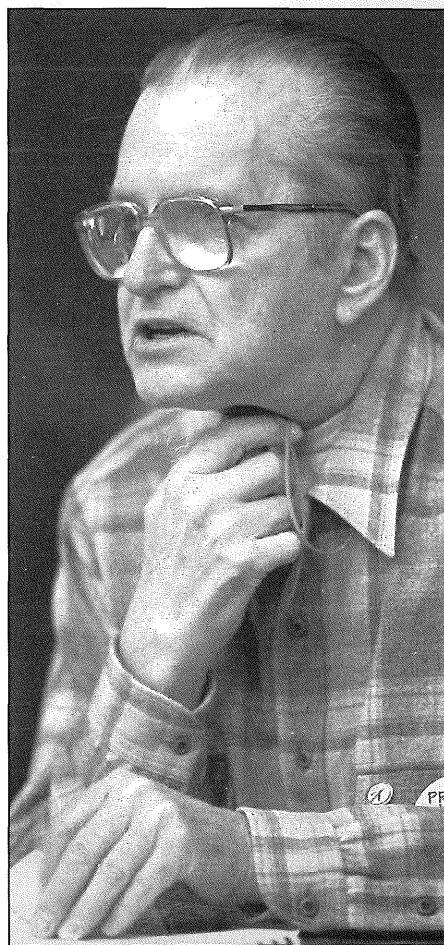
Another section of the Onnen amendment requires the medicinal marijuana come from a licensed federal manufacturing facility. The federal government currently contracts with a farm to grow the plant and supply it to a handful of seriously ill people.

The amendment also now requires the University of Minnesota to conduct a pilot study to produce medicinal-quality marijuana for the purpose of supplying doctors and pharmacists filling prescriptions under the bill.

Furthermore, the successful amendment calls on the Office of the Attorney General to report to the Legislature on the incidence of unlawful activities related to the legalization of medicinal marijuana.

The amendment contains the same Aug. 1, 1997, sunset provision that the original bill contained.

"This bill is about compassion" for the sick and their families, said Sheri Soderberg



**Ted Moberg of Deer River used an artificial larynx as he testified in favor of a bill (HF1321) increasing the tax on tobacco products during a hearing of the House Taxes Committee's Sales and Income Tax Subcommittee March 28. The panel approved the bill.**

Pittman who testified before the committee March 29. Her mother died of ovarian cancer two years ago and illegally used marijuana to combat the nausea from her chemotherapy.

It is a terrible feeling not to have legal access to something that's available to help you feel better, she said.

Rep. Eileen Tompkins (IR-Apple Valley) said her daughter-in-law requires chemotherapy and is given medication to prevent the nausea. The medication works, she said, adding there was no need for a patient to use marijuana which "removes your motivation."

"There are drugs out there that work but they don't work for everyone," responded Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul).

The bill now travels to the Judiciary Committee.

### Drug discount for seniors

A bill to give low-income senior citizens a discount on their blood pressure pills, arthritis ointments, and other medications, was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee March 30.

The bill (**HF1243**) currently would provide a 20 percent discount on the average wholesale price of a prescription, but that could change.

Bill sponsor Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) said several drug companies have already agreed to drop their prices for seniors and to absorb the cost.

Eligible seniors would include those who are 65 or older, are enrolled in Medicare parts A and B, do not have prescription drug coverage under another health plan, and earn less than \$14,940 as a single person or \$20,060 as a married couple.

Seniors would be required to pay up to \$5 a year to participate in the program. The money would be used to run the program through the Department of Human Services. Seniors who qualify for the discount would be given an identification card.

The bill authorizes the department to set aside up to \$200,000 to help start the program.

Although some lawmakers raised concerns that the bill would financially hurt rural pharmacies already losing business to large discount stores, Greenfield said the reduced price would actually attract more senior customers and help rural pharmacies.

Besides, the state would reimburse pharmacies the difference between the discounted price and their regular price.

The bill now travels to the MinnesotaCare Division of the Health and Human Services Committee.

## Insurance and prescriptions

Health insurance plans that cover prescription costs would have to help pay those costs whether a doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant wrote the prescription, under a bill the House approved March 30 by a 132-0 vote.

Currently, many health plans only pay for prescriptions written by a doctor. But nurse practitioners and physicians' assistants also are able to write patient prescriptions, said Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island) who sponsors **HF612**.

"This bill won't cost the insurance companies anything. It won't affect insurance rates. We just want to ensure we don't always have to have a physician sign a prescription," Cooper said.

He said the House passed the same provision last year as part of the Health and Human Services supplemental appropriations bill, which was vetoed by the governor.

**HF612** exactly mirrors the compromise language agreed to by a 1994 House and Senate conference committee, Cooper said.

The Senate will consider the bill next.

## Insurance and dental work

Health plans that insure Minnesota residents would have to cover general anesthesia and treatment for dental work if the work is for a medical condition covered by the plan, under a bill given final approval by the House March 27. The vote was 125-0.

**HF843**, sponsored by Rep. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick), also calls for health plans to cover dental treatment that requires general anesthesia, a hospital stay, or both, if the patient is a child under five, a severely disabled patient, or a person who, due to a medical condition, needs anesthesia or a hospital stay for dental work.

Such cases may not be covered by health plans now, Lourey said.

The bill will next be heard in the Senate.

## Licensing acupuncturists

A bill that would require Minnesota acupuncturists to be licensed by the state won final approval from the House March 27. The vote was 119-8.

Acupuncture involves the ancient Chinese practice of puncturing the skin with needles at specific points to relieve pain and cure diseases.

Currently, the state requires neither training nor licensing for acupuncturists. Bill sponsor Rep. Peggy Leppik (IR-Golden Valley)

told House members that that's precisely the problem. There are 50,000 acupuncture treatments performed each year in Minnesota and consumers have no assurance that their practitioner is trained in either acupuncture or clean needle techniques.

The measure (**HF446**) would prohibit a person from practicing acupuncture after June 30, 1997, unless certified by the National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncturists or unless "grandfathered" in under the bill.

During a two year transition period beginning July 1, 1995, a current acupuncturist may qualify for a state license without national certification if they have practiced in the field for at least three years between July 1, 1991, and June 30, 1995. During those years they must have had at least 500 patient visits annually with at least 100 different patients.

Last year, a similar provision appeared in the omnibus health and human services bill, but Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed the entire bill. Members of the profession have unsuccessfully sought state licensure for several years.

The bill also requests that acupuncturists be regulated by the same board that regulates doctors: the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice. (See Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8)

**HF446** now travels to the Senate.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### Telecommunications institute

A total of \$1.5 million in state dollars would help establish a high-tech research institute on the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities campus, under a bill approved March 27 by a House panel.

The proposal calls for the state to appropriate \$500,000 in 1996 and \$1 million in 1997 to help create the Minnesota Institute for Telecommunications Technology Applications and Education. Additional dollars from private businesses and federal grants also would go to help start the institute.

The institute would research and develop new technologies for telecommunications. It could also contract with private businesses — such as U.S. West — for the same purpose, said bill sponsor Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins).

The institute might, for example, find a need for and develop a computer program for a "city hall on the mall." Shoppers could then log on to a computer at a shopping mall to give their thoughts and input to city govern-

ment officials, said Will Kitchen, higher education market manager for U.S. West.

The institute could also find ways to further link people — such as rural doctors — via the Internet, Kelley said.

Rep. Peggy Leppik (IR-Golden Valley) supported the bill but was leery of government intervention in such areas.

"The more we can do to get up front on technological changes the better off we'll be. I do, however, worry about the government co-opting the private sector," she said.

The bill (**HF1135**), approved by the House Education Committee's University of Minnesota Finance Division, sets up a 20-member board of private and public representatives to operate the institute. Members of the board — appointed by the governor, the Legislature and various state agencies — would enter into contracts, collect project fees and select a director for the institute.

Board members would receive \$55 each day they spend on board activities.

The University of Minnesota would need to approve the institute's plans and would appoint staff. Institute staff would be employees of the University of Minnesota.

The bill now heads to the Education Committee. If approved there, it would travel to the International Trade and Economic Development Committee and, ultimately, be granted funding at the Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee, Kelley said.

That means a proposal to fund the institute would be included in the House economic development budget — not the higher education budget.

## Doctors in central Minnesota

A program to train medical residents at the St. Cloud Hospital would receive \$120,000 from the state in 1997, with a stepped-up appropriation in following bienniums, under a bill heard March 29 by the House Education Committee's University of Minnesota Finance Division.

Division members did not vote on the bill (**HF1028**), sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud). They will consider including it in their omnibus division finance bill.

Using the state appropriation and money from federal government and hospital sources, St. Cloud Hospital would set up a family practice residency program to be run in conjunction with the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine in Rochester, Minn.

After they finish medical school, physicians need to complete a residency program

before they can become certified doctors, explained Paul Van Gorp, president of the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians.

Residents in the three-year St. Cloud program would become family — or general — practitioners. After the training, many would likely work in rural settings because they trained in a rural area. In those sparsely populated areas, general practitioners who can treat a wide range of medical complaints are needed, Van Gorp said.

Rural Minnesota — like rural areas throughout the nation — faces a shortage of doctors because only about 30 percent of medical students today become general practitioners. Sixty percent of medical students train to become specialists in a particular form of medicine, said Alan Wilke, director of the St. Cloud Hospital.

He said about 220 additional doctors are presently needed in rural Minnesota.

The Mayo school currently operates a rural family practitioner residency program in Kasson, Minn. The University of Minnesota-Duluth has a program near Duluth and the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus will start a training program in Waseca, Minn., in July, Wilke said.

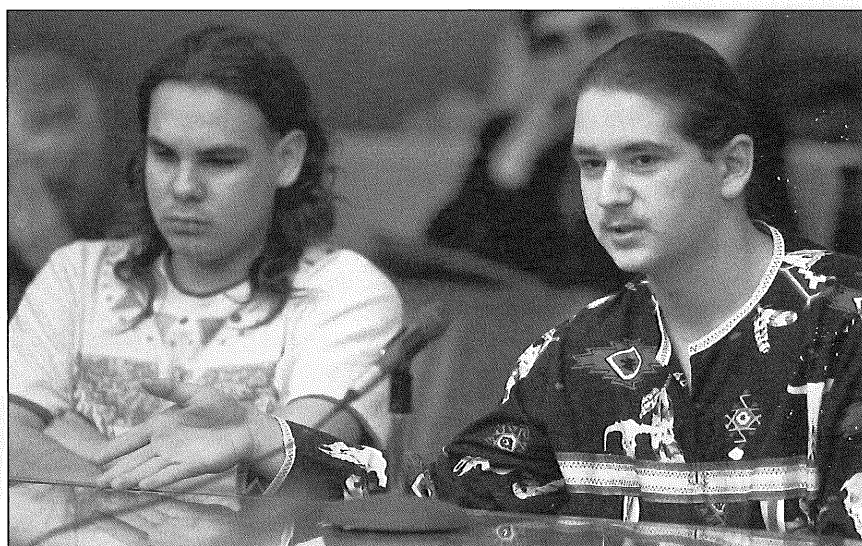
But doctors trained in those programs, even assuming they all practice in rural Minnesota, don't come near filling the need for rural physicians, Wilke said.

His hospital's residency program would kick off in 1999 with four residents. Four students will be added each year until there are 12 students total in the three-year program, Wilke said.

The Mayo Graduate School of Medicine request for a state appropriation would rise to \$720,000 for each biennium when the program is fully implemented in 2001, Wilke said. The number equals \$30,000 per resident annually, he said.

The state funds University of Minnesota residents at the same amount, Wilke said.

The St. Cloud Hospital would administer the residency program with the Mayo Graduate School providing the necessary academic affiliation. Staff members from the school would sometimes help train the residents, Wilke said.



Justin R. Stein, left, a junior at Harding High School, and Jeremy DeCory, a junior at Johnson High School, testified before the House Education Committee March 28 in support of a bill (HF920) that would include American Indian tribal history, government, and culture as part of a staff development and teacher preparation curriculum. It also would include an understanding of American Indians as part of the state's graduation rule. The committee later approved the bill.

## Overseeing building projects

State university construction project plans would have to be prepared by the Minnesota Department of Administration, under a bill approved March 27 by the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee.

In 1984, after a series of building snafus, the Legislature gave the State University System administrators the authority to design and build their own construction and remodeling projects. All other state construction projects plans must be prepared by the Department of Administration, said Rep. Jeff Bertram (DFL-Paynesville) who sponsors **HF412**.

When the State University System became responsible for overseeing its own construction process, "It somehow got more bureaucratic," Bertram said. He said he talked to a number of construction contractors who told him state university projects often move slowly because of a cumbersome university oversight process.

"Besides, why should the state universities be singled out," he added.

But Elaine Bellew, the system's associate vice chancellor, said the system has constructed 14 new buildings, remodeled nine others and repaired and replaced 68 roofs since the 1984 law change.

"And most are on schedule and within budget. We've had no structural, material or roof failures," she said.

One project that prompted the 1984 law, she said, was construction of the Mankato

State University science building, Trafton Hall. The skyway connecting that building to others soon needed to be replaced. In addition, the roof was replaced three times in 15 years, she said.

The building originally cost \$9.5 million but needed \$2.3 million in repairs because of design errors, she said.

Bertram said Trafton Hall's problems should not reflect on the Department of Administration.

"The Department of Administration is overseeing millions of dollars worth of public works projects and it works out fine," Bertram said.

The bill will be heard next by the full House Education Committee.



## HOUSING

### Affordable housing

A bill to create more affordable housing and to stimulate economic development in the Twin Cities metropolitan area was narrowly approved by the Housing Committee March 27 on an 8 to 7 vote.

But its (**HF1156**) funding sources — like other funding sources in several similar bills being considered by the Legislature — remain controversial.

Although much of the debate has centered on a section of the bill that would divert \$8 million from the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District to help create affordable housing, bill sponsor Rep. Dee Long (DFL-



Mpls) said that is just one of four funding sources in her proposal.

"Do we want a bill or do we not want a bill?" asked Long, explaining that her proposal was crafted with the help of both the Metropolitan Council and the Citizens League.

In an era of tight budgets, Long said the only realistic approach is to take money from existing sources and redirect it.

The housing provisions of the bill would require a portion of the property taxes on high-value homes in metropolitan communities be used to diversify its housing stock.

Under the bill, each seven-county metro area city would negotiate housing goals with the Metropolitan Council. A city would keep the money generated from high-value homes in their community if it works toward the housing goals it negotiated. But, a city could lose some of its property tax dollars to a regional pool if it refused to work toward its negotiated housing goals.

The bill would create a nine-member advisory board to the Metropolitan Council to establish criteria for distributing the money among cities.

The bill also includes a provision that would tap two existing funds to help finance the clean-up of polluted land in the metropolitan area. This, Long has said, would revitalize the tax base in urban areas by preparing contaminated land for development.

First, the bill would tap some taxing authority of the Metropolitan Council that now helps local governments purchase right-of-way necessary when building roads.

Second, the bill also would tap a surcharge currently leveled on a pool of money (the fiscal disparities fund) made up of a portion of each metropolitan city's commercial/industrial tax growth.

The bill is one of several this session that tries to create more affordable housing for people throughout the metro region. It also tries to distribute affordable housing more equitably between the Twin Cities and surrounding suburbs.

While many lawmakers like what the bill tries to do, some disagree with how it should be funded. Specifically, they object to the bill's effects on mosquito control efforts in the seven-county metro area. The role of the district would be reduced to disease control, ending efforts to control the mosquito population. Its budget of \$10 million would be cut by 83 percent.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) spoke against the bill. "We're effectively abolishing a very significant agency here . . . that most taxpayers support."

Rep. Barb Sykora (IR-Excelsior) said mos-

quitoes in her district are "pretty hard to live with" even with the spraying that goes on now. She said she couldn't imagine what they'd be like without the mosquito control district. She suspected that few would be able to enjoy an evening outside after 5 p.m.

Long, however, said she is trying to reach a compromise on an issue that has polarized the Legislature and pitted wealthy suburbs against less affluent ones, and rural cities against the metro region.

"What is an acceptable source of funds?" she asked. "You can't do it without dollars."

**HF1156** now travels to the Taxes Committee for consideration.

## Housing in the 'burbs

A bill that would shift state aid from some rural Minnesota communities to cities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area to help fix up blighted neighborhoods, build affordable housing, and clean up contaminated land to attract commercial redevelopment is moving through the House.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Todd Van Dellen (IR-Plymouth), is the Independent-Republican version of a bill to address housing and economic development problems in the metropolitan area. The House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee referred the bill to the House Housing Committee March 28 without a recommendation.

A DFL bill, sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) is similar to sections in the Van Dellen bill but finds its money elsewhere. (See related story, page 12.)

The Van Dellen bill (**HF1627**) also would:

- seek a federal waiver to create a jobs program that would have the state contract with employers to hire eligible welfare recipients, specifically, those receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The monthly AFDC grant would be diverted to the employer as a subsidy and the welfare recipient would be paid a monthly wage equal to the grant amount plus \$2 an hour. Recipients would receive work experience and employers would pay only \$2 an hour for a worker;
- exempt from sales tax (or refund the sales tax) materials and supplies used to build and fix up affordable housing in a "developing metro area" as defined by the Metropolitan Council as long as some of the units being fixed are financed with public assistance; and
- create an urban homestead exemption that would provide tax breaks to people who move into homes in blighted metro neigh-

borhoods.

The Metropolitan Council would designate one or more urban revitalization and stabilization zones by Sept. 1, 1995. Anyone buying and occupying a home within such an area would receive an income tax break for up to five years, provided they do not move out of the home, sell the house, fail to comply with building codes, or get convicted of a gross misdemeanor or felony.

The maximum exemptions would equal \$30,000 for a married couple filing jointly, \$20,000 for singles, and \$25,000 for unmarried people qualifying as heads of households.

Van Dellen testified that he thought his bill was a more fair approach than some other bills still under consideration by the Legislature because it requires sacrifice from cities that pay lower property tax burdens rather than those that pay the highest burdens in the southern and western suburbs.

He specifically mentioned his opposition to a bill that would shift a portion of property tax base from some richer suburbs to less wealthy inner ring suburbs, St. Paul, and Minneapolis. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 3, and March 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 13)

But the provision in Van Dellen's bill to shift state aid from some rural cities to metro cities was met with similar opposition — this time from Greater Minnesota officials.

Currently, each city receives a base amount of state aid equal to the aid it received in 1993, plus an amount determined by a new needs-based state aid formula.

**HF1627** would reduce the "grandfathered" 1993 aid amount each city receives over several years while increasing the state's use of the needs-based formula. By 1999, all Minnesota cities state aid would be calculated via the new formula.

This provision means that both in the short and long term Minneapolis, St. Paul, and large suburbs would at the very least see no decrease in state aid, and some would see an increase.

Winners include Minneapolis with a \$3 million increase in aid by 1999, St. Paul with \$2 million more, Brooklyn Center with an \$86,000 increase, and White Bear Lake and Stillwater with \$38,000 more, according to a report from the House Research Department.

Losers include many regional cities such as Rochester, Moorhead, St. Cloud, and Albert Lea which all would lose about \$1 million a year by 1999. Many small cities such as Grand Rapids, Virginia, and Alexandria also would lose, according to the research report.

Tim Flaherty of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities called the bill an "attack on

Greater Minnesota."

He told the committee that the bill takes \$18.7 million from rural cities over four years, shifts \$5.7 million of that amount directly to metropolitan cities, and sets aside \$12.9 million to the revitalization fund at the heart of Van Dellen's bill.

Nancy Larson of the Minnesota Association of Small Cities said that many rural communities already have poverty and jobs problems and by taking away some of their state aid, the Legislature would only exacerbate the problem.

Curt Johnson, chair of the Metropolitan Council spoke in favor of the bill, stating that it provided a vehicle to tie jobs, affordable housing, and welfare reform together to get to the root of the poverty problem in the metropolitan area.

## INSURANCE

### Genetic discrimination

Insurance companies would not be allowed to use genetic information to decide who will receive medical coverage, under a bill on its way to the House floor.

The House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee March 29 approved the bill (HF278), which aims to prevent "genetic discrimination."

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka), would bar health insurance providers from requiring applicants to submit to genetic testing and from refusing coverage on the basis of test results taken by individuals or their relatives.

Scientists are increasingly identifying gene disorders for a variety of maladies such as Huntington's Disease. (See March 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11)

But the mere presence of a genetic indicator does not mean a person will ever contract the disease, said University of Minnesota geneticist Dr. Richard King, who supported the bill.

"We all carry genes that are abnormal. We all carry genes that have the potential to do something harmful in the long run," King said.

Discrimination on genetic grounds is already taking place in the insurance industry and the practice is likely to become more common, Weaver said.

His bill applies to tests performed in the absence of any symptoms to determine the presence or absence of a gene or genes. It does not apply to cholesterol tests or other similar procedures.

The ban on using genetic information to determine insurance eligibility would not extend to life insurance providers.

## LABOR

### Minimum wage hike

A bill on its way to the House floor would increase Minnesota's hourly minimum wage for large businesses by a dollar — to \$5.25 an hour in late 1996. And it could rise gradually after that.

The House Labor-Management Relations Committee approved HF401, sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), on a 10-8 party-line vote March 28.

Under the bill, the minimum wage would increase by 50 cents in October 1995 and again by the same amount in October 1996. After 1996, the minimum wage would rise according to annual increases in the Consumer Price Index.

"Minimum wage has not kept up to inflation for the past two decades," Rukavina said. "I'm just trying to make it more fair for people who go out and work every day and try to make their own way."

Proponents said an increase in the minimum wage would do a lot to help the working poor, but members of the business community argued it would cost some workers their jobs and force some businesses to close.

"In Minnesota we need more jobs, not

more policies that will decrease the number of jobs for the people who need them most," said Tom Hesse of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce.

The bill would put Minnesota's minimum wage above the federal level of \$4.25 an hour.

Minnesota businesses with less than \$362,500 in annual sales currently pay a minimum of \$4 an hour. Under Rukavina's bill, the minimum wage for businesses with less than \$500,000 in sales would increase to \$4.50 an hour this year and to \$5 an hour in 1996.

A controversial amendment to exempt tipped employees from the minimum wage increase drew strong support from the hospitality industry but failed on a close vote.

The so-called "tip credit" would have allowed restaurant and bar owners to continue paying \$4.25 an hour to employees who make more than \$25 a week in tips.

Opposition to the minimum wage hike focused on the argument that market forces should determine wage levels.

Rep. Bill Haas (IR-Champlin) said minimum wage jobs can be valuable to people who need experience in the workplace.

"This is a starting point," Haas said. "Everybody has to have a starting point in life, and you build from there."

But DFL supporters said an increased minimum wage would help people work their way out of poverty. "I think it's the best thing we can do as far as welfare reform," said Rep. Walt Perl (DFL-Woodbury).

### Workers' compensation reform

A bill to simplify the state's workers' compensation system has emerged from the pack of reform proposals in the House.

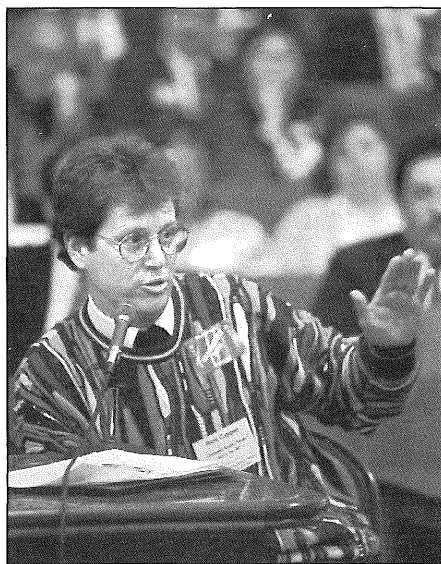
Sponsored by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), HF642 was approved March 30 by the House Financial Institution and Insurance Committee. It was one of seven reform bills considered earlier in the week by the House Labor-Management Relations Committee.

Winter's bill does not include the cuts in benefits to injured workers called for in several other reform proposals. Instead, the bill seeks to make the system simpler and to eliminate common starting points of dispute.

"If we can make it so it's user-friendly in the system, it will help us in the long run," Winter said.

The bill would change the form and duration for which certain benefits are paid to injured workers.

For example, a worker could receive "temporary total" benefits — those paid during



Rick Casper, co-owner of the Cherokee Sirlain Room restaurant in St. Paul, testified before the House Labor-Management Relations Committee March 27. The committee approved a bill (HF401) to hike the minimum wage to \$5.25 per hour by late 1996. Casper supported an amendment to hold the minimum wage at \$4.25 per hour for those who earn at least \$25 in tips per week. The amendment failed.

the period of healing following a work-related injury — for no more than 100 weeks, under the bill.

Currently, such benefits are paid until the worker reaches the point of "maximum medical improvement," after which no significant improvement can be expected. There is no concrete expiration date to cap the benefits.

The problem with the current system, critics say, is the standard for recovery is unclear and is often a cause for disputes between employees and management that can lead to litigation.

(Minnesota has an entire court system devoted to workers' compensation appeals claims.)

Winter's bill would not change the amount paid in temporary total benefits, which currently is 66 percent of actual wages up to a maximum of \$516 a week.

The bill also addresses concerns about the cost of workers' compensation insurance in Minnesota. Small employers would more easily be able to join groups for self-insurance, which Winter said could save some businesses as much as 35 percent on premiums.

And the state would assume a regulatory role requiring prior approval of all rates, under Winter's plan. The state had similar authority until a 1983 law created the current system of open competition.

At the March 30 hearing, Rep. Ron Abrams (IR-Minnetonka) offered an amendment to gut the bill completely and replace the language with a clause repealing all Minnesota workers' compensation statutes on July 1, 1997. The amendment failed on an 8-9 vote.

He argued the threat of wiping all state laws off the books would force labor and management to the table to solve workers' compensation problems on their own.

"The alternative to reaching a negotiated solution will be far worse for both sides," Abrams said. Prior to 1913, disputes over work-related injuries were resolved through personal injury litigation in the court system.

**HF642** now goes to the House Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee.



## LAW

### Common sense paternity

A man who had been ordered to continue paying child support — even though he was clearly not the biological father — would get an opportunity to legally clear up his paternity case, under a bill approved by the House March 27. The vote was 125-0.

Under current law, a man has three years after legally naming himself the child's father to challenge that determination of paternity. But a recent court case spotlighted that Minnesota law.

On March 7, the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled a Ramsey County man must continue paying child support for a 5-year-old child, even though blood tests prove he is not the father.

The ruling came because the man signed a declaration of paternity in August 1989, began paying child support, but didn't challenge the paternity finding until after the three-year limit had expired.

He took a blood test in January 1993 because the child's mother told him he was not the father, and the test proved her right.

Nevertheless, the court ruled the man is still liable for child support because he did not take the blood test in time.

**HF1105**, sponsored by Rep. Robert Leighton (DFL-Austin), would eliminate that three-year window and replace it with a new standard.

Under Leighton's bill, a man would have six months from the time he has reason to believe he is not the father to challenge the paternity finding. Currently, the three-year limitation begins when a man signs a declaration of paternity.

The measure also would create a window to give people who wish to challenge an existing paternity finding — but were prevented from doing so by the three-year limitation — until February 1996 to do so.

Also, a woman's husband would not automatically be legally presumed her child's father under the bill.

Current parentage recognition law says only an unmarried woman can sign a recognition legally citing a man as her child's father. A married woman's husband is legally presumed the father of her child.

**HF1105** says a married woman could sign the recognition if the woman's husband also signs, agreeing another man is the father. That man must also sign the legal statement, saying he is the biological father of the child.

Leighton said the provision would come into play if the woman is separated from her husband. The law would presume her husband is the father and must pay child support, although the couple may have been long separated.

"There's no way now for parties to recognize paternity in this manner," Leighton said.

Now, even if the child is born 280 days after a legal separation, divorce, or death of the husband, the husband is still legally considered the father.

The bill now moves to the Senate.

## Radar jamming

Speeders would lose a leg up on police under a bill that received final passage March 29 on 129-0 vote in the House.

**HF1011**, sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (IR-Burnsville), would make it illegal to sell, use, or possess a radar jammer. Violators could face \$200 fines.

The bill targets devices that send out radio waves from a car or truck to block the effectiveness of radar guns police use to catch speeding drivers.

McElroy said radar jammers are more dangerous than their less-sophisticated brethren, radar detectors or fuzz busters.

Why?

Because a screeching radar detector likely will cause a driver to slow down, McElroy said, but a driver using a jamming device can travel at illegal speeds relatively free from risk of being caught.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

## Toxic tenants

A building owner would have a greater chance of successfully suing a renter who moves out and leaves behind containers of hazardous waste, under a bill approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee March 29.

The bill would apply to both residential or commercial space rental.

**HF1320** would require the property owner to request in writing that the renter "remove and properly dispose of the abandoned waste."

Cleaning solvents or other flammable or corrosive liquids would be examples of such waste. By law, they must be properly disposed of at an authorized waste facility.

If the renter does not remove all the waste within 20 days, the property owner can then remove the waste and would be entitled to twice the costs incurred for cleaning up and disposing of the waste. The owner also is entitled to "losses that result from court costs and attorney fees."

Under current law, a property owner's only financial recourse is to withhold a tenant's damage deposit.

Bill sponsor Rep. Robert Leighton (DFL-Austin) said the proposal addresses a growing problem of business and residential tenants who "abandon hazardous waste on someone else's property."

Testifying on behalf of the bill, Leroy Paddock, state assistant attorney general, told lawmakers that the measure would "create two positive incentives."

First, a tenant would be encouraged to not leave a toxic mess behind; and second, a

landlord would properly dispose of hazardous waste in order to collect two times his or her costs.

The original bill required a 30-day period for cleaning up the waste, but a successful amendment by Rep. Dick Pellow (IR-New Brighton) reduced it to 20 days.

**HF1320** now moves to the Judiciary Committee.



## TRANSPORTATION

### Pay up or no tabs

Car owners who haven't paid their parking tickets wouldn't be able to renew their annual license plate tabs, under a bill approved March 24 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

"If you go to get your license plates renewed and you owe money for a ticket, you must pay for the ticket," said Rep. Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley), who sponsors **HF426**.

In Hennepin County, unpaid parking tickets currently total \$1.3 million, Simoneau said. Anoka County District Court now shows 708 outstanding parking tickets.

Currently, Minnesotans who don't pay parking tickets within a set time have warrants issued for their arrests. Issuing warrants costs money and police officers must take time tracking down people who haven't paid their tickets.

Simoneau's bill would allow deputy registrars to search Department of Public Safety records before issuing a renewed or new license plate tab to a vehicle owner. If the search shows an outstanding parking ticket, the owner could pay the deputy registrar at that time, or could pay the district court.

All parking fines would increase by \$1 to cover the cost of the registrars' search.

The bill would require an improved computer link between the Department of Public Safety computer system — where parking tickets are registered — and the deputy registrars' computer system.

The two systems already are connected, though the connection would need upgrading, Simoneau said. He had no cost estimate for such an upgrade.

He said similar legislation has passed the Transportation and Transit Committee three times — including his original proposal in 1987 — but wasn't approved by the House because some members felt those who break the law should appear before the district court.

Simoneau said his legislation would save the system time and money.

**HF426** now moves to the Judiciary Committee.

## Eye protection for the road

All motorcycle drivers and riders would have to wear glasses, goggles, a visor, or some other type of eye protection, even if their motorcycle has a windshield, under a bill the House approved March 30. The vote was 116-16.

Rep. Don Frerichs (IR-Rochester), who sponsors **HF568**, said both the Minnesota Motorcycle Riders Association and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety support the bill.

Current law says a motorcycle rider or driver must wear eye protection unless their motorcycle has a windshield. But many new windshields are too low to offer any real protection from objects that may fly up from the road, Frerichs said.

"Instead of getting into the conformity of windshields or how many square inches they should be, the Motorcycle Riders Association suggested they all wear eye protectors," Frerichs said.

Eye protection could be regular eyeglasses, sunglasses, a helmet visor or "anything else that literally protects the eye," Frerichs said.

The bill next will be considered by the Senate.



## VETERANS

### Bonus for Gulf vets

Minnesotans who served during the Persian Gulf War could receive a cash bonus from the state, under a bill approved March 27 by the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.

**HF532**, sponsored by Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul), calls for voters in the 1996 general election to decide on a proposed constitutional amendment authorizing the state to sell bonds to pay a bonus to Gulf War veterans. (See Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 13)

Voters must approve the state's intent to borrow money through bonding if the state uses the money to pay individuals.

Such bonuses were paid by the state to veterans of World War II and the Vietnam War. A constitutional amendment to sell bonds went before the voters both times. The state did not put a constitutional amendment before the people to pay World War I veterans' bonuses. The decision remains controversial. Korean Veterans were paid by a state appropriation.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (IR-Lake City) also had introduced a bill (**HF566**) calling for a gulf vets' bonus this session. He is now work-

ing with McCollum, rather than pursuing a separate proposal.

**HF532** contains no dollar amount for the bonus, merely the call for the constitutional amendment.

A bonus could cost the state from \$8 million to \$16 million, based on bonuses paid to Minnesota Vietnam War veterans, Osskopp told committee members.

Should the amendment be approved by voters, the 1997 Legislature would need to pass a law detailing who would be eligible for the bonus and how much each bonus would be. The specific amount of the bonding authorization also would be determined at that time.

The bill now moves to the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

## Disabled Vietnam vets

A Minnesota veterans agency that helps disabled Vietnam veterans present claims for federal compensation would receive \$30,000 from the state, under a bill approved by the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee March 27.

The money would be used throughout the 1996-97 biennium to hire a full-time representative for the Minnesota State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America. That person would work from the council's current office in the Veterans Services Building, said Michael Marks, the council's president.

Currently, all council members are volunteers, he added.

Because most council members are Vietnam veterans themselves, they can aid other, perhaps more isolated, veterans in taking advantage of federal and state resources available to them, Marks said.

The council particularly seeks out Minnesota's approximately 10,000 homeless Vietnam veterans so they can receive state and federal money, he added.

The bill (**HF1045**) sponsored by Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport) will be heard next in the Governmental Operations Committee.

### Legislative break

**Thursday, April 13** — No committee meetings will be held after 4 p.m.

**Friday, April 14** — Holiday. The House is closed.

**Monday, April 17** — No committee meetings; no floor session

**Tuesday, April 18** — Regular schedule of committee meetings; 2:30 p.m. session



New members . . .

## Chance to serve public guides Otremba to House

When former Rep. Rick Krueger decided not to seek a seventh term, he called Ken Otremba and suggested he should run for the position.



Rep. Ken Otremba

Otremba, in his sixth year as a Todd County commissioner and recovering from cancer surgery, wasn't sure he wanted the job. He knew a seat in the Legislature would necessitate much time away from his

family.

"I didn't know if I was going to run. I went to church on Sunday and, sure enough, the sermon was about service to the people. So I decided to run. But during the week I changed my mind. That's the way it went. On Sundays I would feel an obligation to run. Finally, one day, I just decided to run," Otremba said.

But it wasn't all downhill from there. The DFLer had to scrape through a narrow primary and a close general election to attain his legislative seat.

"It was a lot of work, especially while trying to be a county commissioner at the same time," Otremba said.

The close race came at a time when Independent-Republicans gained seats in Minnesota and throughout the nation. Otremba's district — which includes Todd County as well as parts of Douglas, Otter Tail, Stearns, and Wadena counties in central Minnesota — is fairly conservative, he said.

He brings to the Capitol a focus on health and human services, welfare reform, and agricultural, particularly wetlands, issues. His knowledge gained while operating his dairy farm near Long Prairie the past 20 years gives him a solid background on agricultural and related environmental issues.

And his background as a county commissioner — as well as a four-year stint as a township officer — provided a good understanding of a variety of governmental issues, including health and human services.

Otremba says he's still surprised by the length of his political career. After all, he said he stayed home from high school on days he had to give speeches for fear of speaking in public.

Despite his lengthy public service resumé, Otremba says he holds no burning desire to affix his name to many bills.

"I'm not really interested in carrying a lot of legislation. I know the issues and I have the experience, but I feel I should know the procedure and the people a little before promoting certain issues," he said.

The topics he's encountered so far this session are the same ones he dealt with as a county commissioner. As a commissioner, however, he implemented the policies he's now helping create, he said.

"The county is primarily responsible for carrying out many of the programs the state makes," he said.

For instance, as a commissioner he helped ensure farmers followed the rules set forth by the 1991 Wetlands Conservation Act. This year, the House Agriculture Committee, of which Otremba is a member, approved a bill that would give counties more authority to determine which local wetlands should be saved and which might be developed.

There are further differences between state and county politics, he said. As a commissioner, he was quite busy. But now that he's at the Capitol "there's not enough time in the day," he said.

In fact, one of his goals for this session is merely to keep up with his busy schedule.

Also, he's glad citizens and others affected

by potential laws get a chance to tell legislators what those changes would mean to them. Sometimes, though, that personal testimony is difficult to come by at the Capitol, Otremba said.

The stories of disabled Minnesotans who would be affected by Gov. Arne Carlson's \$11.5 million in cuts to home care programs for the disabled were extremely emotional, Otremba said. He serves on the Health and Human Services Finance Division which heard that testimony March 22.

While not engrossed in political life, Otremba enjoys hunting, woodworking, and spending time with his family: wife, Mary Ellen; son, Andy, a freshman at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn.; son, Tim, a high school student; and daughters Kate and Elizabeth, both grade schoolers.

He wishes he had more time to spend with them. But then he thinks of the Sunday sermon on public service.

— Jean Thilmany

### District 11B

**Population:** 32,719

**Distribution:** 16.93 percent urban; 83.07 percent rural

**Counties:** Douglas, Ottertail, Stearns, Todd, Wadena

**Largest city:** Long Prairie

**Location:** west central Minnesota

**Unemployment rate:** 6.21 percent

**Residents living below poverty level:** 18.98 percent

**1992 presidential election results:**

Bush/Quayle ..... 36.88 percent

Clinton/Gore ..... 35.01 percent

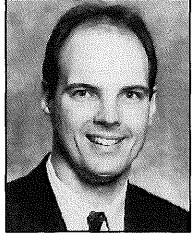
Perot/Stockdale ..... 26.68 percent

Other: ..... 1.43 percent

New members . . .

## Tales from 'dogwatch' bring Stanek to Legislature

As a detective in the Minneapolis Police Department's Robbery Unit, Rep. Richard Stanek (IR-Maple Grove) sat at a desk next to then state Sen. Pat McGowan.



Rep. Richard Stanek

In the office and when they occasionally patrolled together on "dogwatch" or the night shift, McGowan's tales of the Capitol "piqued" Stanek's longtime interest in politics and government.

McGowan left the Senate last year to become Hennepin County Sheriff, indirectly creating an opening for Stanek, who had considered running for elective office for years.

So when former Rep. Warren Limmer decided to run for McGowan's Senate seat, Stanek said he "jumped at the opportunity" to run for Limmer's old seat in the special election that was held March 7.

Now, Stanek will be in the unique position of applying the crime laws he will help craft as a member of the Judiciary Committee — a committee he said he was excited to be appointed to.

"I'm a practitioner in the field of law enforcement and I bring that practical point of view with me to the Legislature," said Stanek, who joined the Minneapolis Police Department in 1986 and currently holds the rank of sergeant.

He thinks there are "unique approaches out there" to fighting crime that won't burden the state budget and require tax hikes.

"There are a number of ways that we can keep our tough stance on crime . . . while not devoting millions and millions of dollars to

something that's not working," said Stanek. "This is what the public wants; crime is still the number one issue."

He suggests continued funding for crime prevention and victim services, but draws the line on taxpayers footing the bill for lawsuits filed by prison inmates "who sue the state because their underwear is too tight. Is that nonsense? Absolutely. Are there loopholes that the Legislature should shut down? Absolutely."

Although Stanek is the House's newest member, he's no stranger to politics and the Legislature. He worked as a volunteer on campaigns for both Limmer and McGowan.

And in 1991 he was appointed by the governor as chair of the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board, which licenses Minnesota police officers.

In that capacity, Stanek testified before legislative committees about law enforcement issues. (He resigned from the POST Board, however, after being elected to the Legislature.)

Now that his long-held "dream" of serving in the Legislature is fulfilled, he says he enjoys the view from the other side of the table.

"I get to see firsthand how decisions are made, how the policy is made, and what thought and rationale goes into some of the policies. Some I agree with, some I don't," Stanek said.

In addition to his input on criminal justice issues, Stanek will have a voice in shaping the state's K-12 and higher education policy as a member of the Education Committee.

He has also been involved in numerous community projects.

Stanek is the founder and guiding force behind Cops Care, a group of police volun-

teers who try to "bridge the gap between police and at-risk minority youth" in Minneapolis.

The group sponsors community baseball and basketball teams, and takes kids to Timberwolves games and on week-long canoe trips in the Boundary Waters.

Stanek's involvement with Cops Care was recognized last September by KARE-11 TV, which presented him with their Eleven Who Care award for exemplary community service.

A native of northeast Minneapolis, Stanek holds a B.A. in Criminal Justice from the University of Minnesota, and an M.A. in Public Administration from Hamline University.

He and his wife, Sally, have a son, Ryan, 2, who has already checked out the red and green voting buttons on his dad's desk on the House floor.

Stanek is "expecting anytime" to hear the signal from the beeper clipped to his belt, which will tell him to "come on home" and prepare for the birth of their second child.

— Mordecai Specktor

### District 33B

**Population:** 33,205  
**Distribution:** 100 percent urban  
**County:** Hennepin  
**Largest city:** Maple Grove  
**Location:** northwestern Metro  
**Unemployment rate:** 2.88 percent  
**Residents living below poverty level:** 2.54 percent  
**1992 presidential election results:**  
Bush/Quayle ..... 37.53 percent  
Clinton/Gore ..... 36.75 percent  
Perot/Stockdale ..... 25.02 percent  
Other: ..... 0.7 percent

# Bill Introductions

HF1655-HF1771

## Monday, March 27

### HF1655—Wejcman (DFL) Housing

Safe youth program expanded to include homeless youth transitional housing, and money appropriated.

### HF1656—Dawkins (DFL) Taxes

Property tax reform commission created, and local government aid restructured.

### HF1657—Tunheim (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources

Conservation officer enforcement powers clarified, and property confiscation and sale procedures established.

### HF1658—McGuire (DFL) Governmental Operations

Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis, retired teacher provided early retirement benefits.

### HF1659—Skoglund (DFL) Judiciary

Alcohol related offenses and licensing actions retained on driving records permanently.

### HF1660—Davids (IR) Financial Institutions & Insurance

Life or health insurance agent quotas prohibited.

### HF1661—Clark (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources

Environmental justice study required by environmental quality board, and money appropriated.

### HF1662—Jennings (DFL) Health & Human Services

Cambridge regional human services center catchment area integrated services network established for persons with developmental disabilities, redevelopment plan required, state property sale authorized, and money appropriated.

### HF1663—Lynch (IR) Health & Human Services

Woman's right to know act adopted, and money appropriated.

### HF1664—Onnen (IR) Health & Human Services

Nursing home bed transfer from Minneapolis to Watertown authorized.

### HF1665—McGuire (DFL) Judiciary

Juvenile delinquent information treatment by school officials prescribed and data classification provided.

### HF1666—Bertram (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Geoscientist licensure required by board of architecture, engineering, land surveying, landscape architecture, and interior design.

### HF1667—Greiling (DFL) Education

Statewide education achievement annual report required, average student achievement standards established, school district net tax capacities adjusted, referendum allowances reduced, staff and student programs provided, money appropriated.

### HF1668—Dawkins (DFL) Education

Youth works grant program modified, statewide education and employment transition system established, workforce development council established, youth employer and career magnet grant programs established, and money appropriated.

### HF1669—Winter (DFL) Agriculture

Family farm and cooperative agricultural wind energy resource development loans and incentives provided.

### HF1670—Bakk (DFL) Economic Development, Infrastructure, & Regulation Finance

Loggers targeted industry fund sunset repealed.

### HF1671—Knobloch (IR) Governmental Operations

Lottery abolished, racing commission abolished and duties transferred, and penalties provided.

### HF1672—Jaros (DFL) International Trade & Economic Development

Energy efficient investment opportunity identification grants provided to businesses, and money appropriated.

### HF1673—Wejcman (DFL) Taxes

Counties authorized to delegate tax-forfeited land administration authority to county auditors.

### HF1674—Tunheim (DFL) Transportation & Transit

Transportation regulation board abolished, and motor and rail carrier regulation authority transferred to transportation department

### HF1675—Osthoff (DFL) Transportation & Transit

Metropolitan Council transit planning, financing, coordination, and operation authority transferred to Transportation Department, light rail transit provided, and money appropriated.

### HF1676—Pugh (DFL) Judiciary

Assault in the fifth-degree domestic assault provisions modified.

### HF1677—Mahon (DFL) Transportation & Transit

Livery service transportation providers permit required, and livery service license plates provided.

### HF1678—Finseth (IR) Local Government & Metro Affairs

Red Lake County authorized to charge Polk County an outlet fee for drainage system use.

### HF1679—Macklin (IR) Judiciary

Courts authorized to collect unpaid fines, surcharges, court costs, and fees after stayed sentences are served.

### HF1680—Bradley (IR) Education

Homework helpline established, and money appropriated.

### HF1681—Skoglund (DFL) Judiciary

DWI; gross misdemeanor penalty provided for criminal vehicular operation resulting in bodily harm.

### HF1682—Bakk (DFL) Taxes

Seasonal recreational property tax payment income tax credit established.

### HF1683—Wenzel (DFL) Education

Model K-12 environmental education curriculum integration program appropriated money.

**HF1684—Wenzel (DFL)****Education**

Higher education state grant eligibility enrollment period modified.

**HF1685—Lourey (DFL)****Health and Human Services**

Kinship caregivers ombudsperson established, and adoption assistance program eligibility and adoption assistance reimbursement provisions modified.

**HF1686—Wejcman (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Group residential housing moratorium exception provided for supportive housing units for homeless adults.

**HF1687—Anderson, B. (IR)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Wright County; Lake Pulaski water level lowering authorized.

**HF1688—Krinkie (IR)****Governmental Operations**

Target Center financing, ownership, and use provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1689—Marko (DFL)****Economic Development, Infrastructure, & Regulation Finance**

Wakota bridge-trunk highway No. 61 construction in Newport required.

**HF1690—Cooper (DFL)****Taxes**

Tax abatement districts established by municipalities.

**HF1691—Haas (IR)****Taxes**

This Old House Law; valuation exclusion provided for improvements to certain residential property.

**HF1692—Schumacher (DFL)****Education**

Service cooperatives established to replace educational cooperative service units.

**HF1693—Harder (IR)****Education**

School district planning grant availability extended for certain districts operating under a joint powers agreement.

**HF1694—Knobloch (IR)****Taxes**

Tangible personal property lessees provided tax payment option.

**HF1695—Delmont (DFL)****Ways & Means**

Legislative commission to review rules; chil-

dren, youth, and families; water; economic status of women; child protection; health care access; long-term health care; waste; and tax study commissions abolished, and LCMR duties transferred.

**HF1696—McGuire (DFL)****Judiciary**

State agency intellectual property protection and sale authority provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1697—Wenzel (DFL)****Agriculture**

Education in agriculture leadership council appropriated money.

**HF1698—Kinkel (DFL)****Regulated Industries & Energy**

Propane gas container safety regulations, penalties, and remedies provided.

**Wednesday, March 29, 1995****HF1699—Rest (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Birth defects registry system developed, report required, and money appropriated.

**HF1700—Murphy (DFL)****Judiciary Finance**

Hennepin, Ramsey, and St. Louis County productive day initiative program funding provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1701—Pugh (DFL)****Judiciary**

Court case record sealing prohibited related to certain litigation.

**HF1702—Rukavina (DFL)****Taxes**

Taconite relief area commercial-industrial property increased assessment allocation provided.

**HF1703—Goodno (IR)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Unincorporated area agricultural development limited.

**HF1704—Rest (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Limited liability company technical and conforming changes provided.

**HF1705—Knobloch (IR)****Capital Investment**

Public bond issuance seven-year authority limit provided.

**HF1706—Carruthers (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Senior citizens authorized to take fish without a license.

**HF1707—Delmont (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Pipefitter licensure requirements modified.

**HF1708—Bettermann (IR)****Governmental Operations**

Minnesota quality college established within the department of employee relations to provide quality improvement training resources for state officials and employees.

**HF1709—Workman (IR)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Chanhassen playground equipment bid specification provisions modified.

**HF1710—Davids (IR)****Governmental Operations**

Public official salary limits established and modified.

**HF1711—Lourey (DFL)****Education**

School district reorganization provided to determine allocation of homestead and agricultural credit aid.

**HF1712—Boudreau (IR)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Faribault tax increment financing district restriction exemption provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1713—Greenfield (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Physician and health maintenance organization surcharge provisions clarified, and hospital and nursing home payments modified.

**HF1714—Greenfield (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Social security act claim record copy charge prohibited.

**HF1715—Holsten (IR)****Labor-Management Relations**

Correctional officers added to presumption of occupational disease for workers' compensation purposes.

**HF1716—Knight (IR)****Regulated Industries & Energy**

Energy conservation efficiency program in state owned buildings repeal delayed.

**HF1717—Schumacher (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Benton County reimbursed for landfill cleanup costs, and money appropriated.

**HF1718—Rest (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Municipal annexation policy and procedures established.



**HF1719—Onnen (IR)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
McLeod County offices temporary relocation authorized.

**HF1720—Sviggum (IR)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
Liability insurance coverage to include coverage for punitive damages.

**HF1721—Tunheim (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Roseau County state land conveyance authorized.

**HF1722—Workman (IR)**  
**Education**  
Educational certificate aid act of 1995 adopted.

**HF1723—Wejcman (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Inborn metabolic diseases in infants testing fee increased.

**HF1724—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Prevailing wage hour, rate, and application provisions modified.

**HF1725—Otremba (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Platted land value assessment provided in certain municipalities.

**HF1726—Carruthers (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Administrative rules simplification and accountability act of 1995 adopted.

**HF1727—Jaros (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Natural resources research institute of the University of Minnesota allocated funds from tobacco company occupation taxes, and money appropriated.

**HF1728—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Arts education center teachers moved from unclassified to classified service.

**HF1729—Tuma (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Prader-Willi syndrome treatment facility certification required.

**HF1730—Solberg (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Sparsity revenue formula established for capital facilities and equipment revenue, and special assessment levy allowed.

**HF1731—Dempsey (IR)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Motor vehicle registrations obtained with worth-

less checks revoked by deputy registrar, and notice required.

**HF1732—Rice (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Entertainment agencies act modified.

**HF1733—Schumacher (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Landfill cleanup program qualified facility definition modified.

**HF1734—Krinkie (IR)**  
**Taxes**  
Used watercraft exempted from sales and use taxes.

**HF1735—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Higher education application fee waiver provided, state grant enrollment limits modified, and child care grant allocation process modified.

**HF1736—Kalis (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Retired firefighter special license plates issued to retired firefighters.

**HF1737—Broecker (IR)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Collective bargaining agreements permitted for workers' compensation purposes.

**HF1738—Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Human services base level funding definition modified, local children's mental health collaborative provisions modified, integrated fund task force provisions modified, and integrated service system approval required.

**HF1739—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Class size ratio reduction funding provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1740—Dempsey (IR)**  
**Education**  
Voter-approved operating referendum revenue reduction repealed.

**HF1741—Boudreau (IR)**  
**Education**  
Rice County state land conveyance authorized.

**HF1742—Long (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Breast cancer insurance coverage provided.

**HF1743—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Vocational high school planning process established, and money appropriated.

**HF1744—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Indoor ice arena construction materials and supplies exempted from sales and use taxes.

**HF1745—Orenstein (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Citizen advocate office established within administration department, ombudspersons services coordinated, and money appropriated.

## Thursday, March 30

**HF1746—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Agriculture**  
Congress memorialized to design and implement a 1995 farm bill that is equitable to Minnesota family farmers.

**HF1747—Jaros (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Barber services performed for charitable purposes provided exemption from registration and other requirements.

**HF1748—Davids (IR)**  
**Education**  
Independent School District No. 227, Chatfield, fund transfer authorized.

**HF1749—Macklin (IR)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
Fire insurance timely proof of loss provisions regulated.

**HF1750—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Public employment labor relations act expanded to include legislature.

**HF1751—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Fireworks definition modified, and sale of certain fireworks permitted.

**HF1752—Erhardt (IR)**  
**Education**  
Independent School District No. 273, Edina, fund transfer authorized.

**HF1753—Van Dellen (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Lake Minnetonka conservation district governing body member appointment provided.

**HF1754—Ness (IR)**  
**Education**  
Post-secondary enrollment options act advanced placement and international baccalaureate program provisions modified.

**HF1755—Onnen (IR)****Taxes**

Revenue recapture act compliance provisions modified.

**HF1756—Rhodes (IR)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Electronic business records permitted, creditor distribution plan objection determination rule provided, and debt prorating agencies permitted to impose and collect penalties for bad check issuance.

**HF1757—Mares (IR)****Taxes**

Property tax statewide equalization provided for commercial and industrial property, commercial, industrial, and agricultural property excluded from tax base referendum levies, and money appropriated.

**HF1758—Broecker (IR)****Judiciary**

Educational data on individuals release as directory information prohibition provided.

**HF1759—Jennings (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

Administrative rulemaking procedures modified, and money appropriated.

**HF1760—Murphy (DFL)****Taxes**

Property tax exemption extended to businesses that lease property at certain airports.

**HF1761—Murphy (DFL)****Judiciary Finance**

Juvenile jurisdiction, procedures, and disposition provisions clarified, educational programs and studies provided, youth service centers and pilot projects established, secure placement disposition provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1762—Carlson (DFL)****Education**

Academic excellence foundation appropriated money.

**HF1763—Dauner (DFL)****Education**

Independent School District Nos. 21, Audubon, and 24, Lake Park, authorized to elect school board members from multimember districts.

**HF1764—Tunheim (DFL)****Education**

Arts education center appropriated money.

**HF1765—Holsten (IR)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Bayport tax increment financing district exempted from aid offsets.

**HF1766—Tunheim (DFL)****Transportation and Transit**

Highway user tax distribution fund apportionment provided for town road bridge and town road accounts, trunk highway designation requirement removed, county state-aid highway system mile limitation removed, and gas tax rate modified.

**HF1767—Paulsen (IR)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Hennepin County tax-forfeited land conveyance authorized.

**HF1768—Tunheim (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Road authorities authorized to maintain and repair roads affecting public water wetlands.

**HF1769—Lourey (DFL)****Education**

Youth works grant program modified, statewide education and employment transition system established, governor's workforce development council established, youth apprenticeship program modified, and money appropriated.

**HF1770—Kelley (DFL)****Taxes**

Property tax exemption qualification time requirements exception provided.

**HF1771—Murphy (DFL)****Judiciary Finance**

Crime victim ombudsman established as an independent state office, and crime victim ombudsman appointment by and accountability to governor provided.

The 1994 Minnesota Legislature passed a law that bans the sale of Crazy Horse malt liquor, but you can still buy it at a liquor store near you.

Why?

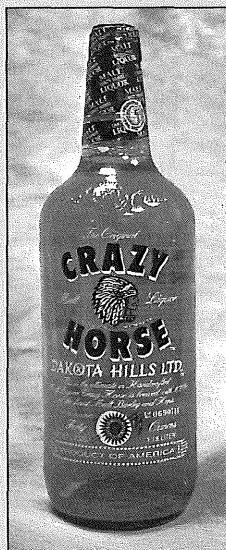
Because a New York brewer is challenging the law, arguing that it impairs the company's First Amendment right to free speech and tries to legislate political correctness.

But Native Americans said that Hornell Brewing Co.'s product desecrates the memory of the revered Oglala Lakota spiritual and political leader, who vehemently opposed the use of alcohol by his people and foresaw the social devastation it would cause.

The Minnesota law instructs the Department of Public Safety to revoke the registration of any malt liquor brand that "states or implies in a false or misleading manner a connection with an actual living or dead American Indian leader."

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) liquor control division sub-

## Do you know?



Crazy Horse malt liquor banned by the 1994 Legislature.

sequently ordered Hornell and G. Heileman, the LaCrosse, Wis., brewer

that produces the beer under contract with Hornell, to remove the product from store shelves by Aug. 1, 1994. Also, Barton Beers, Ltd. of Chicago, producer of Chief Oshkosh beer was ordered to stop selling their product in the state. (Chief Oshkosh led the Menominee Nation in what is now Wisconsin during the early 19th century.)

But Hornell and G. Heileman appealed the order, and a hearing will be held before an administrative law judge April 19, according to Jeff Lebowsky of the state Office of the Attorney General.

The judge has allowed the administrator of the Crazy Horse estate, Seth Big Crow of Upper Cut Meat on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, to intervene in the case.

Politicians out west seem to be following Minnesota's example. On Feb. 24, a bill was introduced in the California Assembly that would make it unlawful to sell any alcoholic beverage with a label bearing the name "Crazy Horse."

# Committee Schedule

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

## MONDAY, April 3

8 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** HF794 (Clark) Motor vehicle transfer fee sunset repealed, and fee receipts credited to the lead fund.

HF819 (Otremba) Agricultural improvement loan limits changed, and money appropriated.  
HF614 (Cooper) Passing on the farm center established at Southwest Technical College in Granite Falls, and money appropriated.

HF1511 (Lourey) Federal milk marketing order legal action provided continued funding, and money appropriated.  
Additional bills may be added.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Continuation of March 31st public testimony on the governor's budget proposals: Health & Human Services, Department of Health, Board of Health, veterans homes, ombudspersons, Council on Disability.

### K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Discussion of ESV - Management Information Systems. Article 2 (transportation).

### Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** HF1400 (Murphy) Homestead assessment increase by Department of Revenue prohibited.

HF357 (Smith) Property subject to probate exempted from tax delinquency and accrual of penalties.

HF916 (Murphy) Local government aid distribution increase provided to certain cities.

HF1172 (Macklin) Airport property tax exemption provided.

HF1548 (Mariani) Airport intermediate land detachment from cities and school districts provided.

HF1351 (Molnau) Green Acres Program applicant income requirements modified, and property classification provided.

HF1464 (Orenstein) This Old House Law; property tax valuation exclusion for certain improvements extended.

HF1619 (Long) This Old House Law; valuation exclusion provided for improvements to certain property.

HF1398 (Winter) Wind energy conversion system property tax recovery provided through rate modification.

10 a.m.

### JUDICIARY

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

**Agenda:** HF416 (Skoglund) License plate issuance provided to certain persons subject to an impoundment order.

HF945 (Swenson) Driving without a valid license and failure to provide or show proof of insurance crimes provided vehicle license plate impoundment penalty.

HF377 (Entenza) DWI; vehicle forfeiture penalties provided for failure to appear at trial for designated driving while intoxicated offenses.  
SF77 (Betzold); HF1463 (Leighton) Motor vehicle warranty action limitations clarified.

HF33 (Dawkins) Neuroleptic medication administration and prescription provisions modified.

HF840 (Kelley) Crime victim information gathered and presented at bail hearings, hearing notification provided, defendant pretrial release notification required, child abuse telephone helpline established, and money appropriated.

HF1253 (Seagren) Crime Victim Ombudsman Office duties clarified.

HF145 (Brown) Correctional officer defensive use of force authorized in certain correctional facilities.

HF1123 (Skoglund) Criminal justice information system fingerprinting and diversion data provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF1338 (Rest) Partnership name and filing requirements modified.

HF1189 (Leppik) Guardian ad litem juvenile and family court responsibilities specified.

HF1008 (Bradley) Child support, custody, and visitation proceeding orientation and education program established.

Other bills to be announced. The committee

will continue meeting after session in the Basement Hearing Room of the State Office Building.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

**Agenda:** HF620 (Olson, E.) Telephone company alternative regulation provided for limited periods, local exchange service competition promoted, and technical provisions modified.  
SF1176 (Frederickson); HF1433 (Vickerman) Sleepy Eye authorized to discontinue steam heat operation without notifying Department of Trade and Economic Development.

HF597 (Kelley); SF467 (Mondale) Metropolitan public safety radio communications systems coordination and consolidation provided; 911 emergency telephone service fee use authorized, and bonds issued.

HF1650 (Hausman); SF1442 (Chandler) St. Paul district heating waste wood cogeneration facility biomass mandate satisfaction provided.

### State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Department of Employee Relations budget review.

HF138 (Kahn) Gambling department created; Racing Commission, Gambling Control Board, and State Lottery Board abolished and duties transferred.

HF1059 (Orenstein) Government Innovation and Cooperation Board to study the elimination of unfunded state mandates, and money appropriated.

HF1260 (Milbert) Amateur Sports Commission ice arena authority increased, bond use authorized, and money appropriated.

12:30 p.m.

### Business Regulation Division/ COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

**Agenda:** HF1124 (Ozment) Liquor license and permit requirements modified.

HF1759 (Jennings) Administrative rulemaking procedures modified.

Other bills may be added.

**GENERAL LEGISLATION,  
VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

2:15 p.m.

**RULES &  
LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

118 State Capitol  
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers  
**Agenda:** Special Orders.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

After Session

**TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim  
**Agenda:** HF1434 (Dauner) Straw wide load transportation permit issuance provided.  
SF194 (Bertram); HF175 (Knoblach) Bridge of Hope designated on Trunk Highway No. 15 crossing the Mississippi River near St. Cloud.  
HF1390 (Broecker) Higher education merger technical and statutory provisions modified.  
HF1153 (Schumacher) Paratransit operation outside of service area authorized for cities, counties, and transit commissions.  
HF1207 (Winter) Vehicle combinations over 65 feet in length permitted when safe.  
HF831 (Perlt) Motor vehicle deputy registrar appointment authority clarified.  
HF1606 (Munger) Special critical habitat motor vehicle license plates established, and money appropriated.  
HF1586 (McGuire) Motor vehicle registration suspension provided for interest transfer violations, and certificate of title provisions modified.

4 p.m. or After Session

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

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson  
**Agenda:** HF551 (Ness) School district referendum levy notice wording clarified.  
HF920 (Mariani) American Indian tribal history, government, and culture included in staff development and teacher preparation curriculum, and graduation rule to include an understanding of American Indians.  
HF1312 (Mariani) Americans of Mexican origin education act adopted.  
HF1046 (Kinkel) Teacher licensure alternative measures task force established.  
HF1362 (Delmont) School district debt service equalization and levy provisions modified.  
HF1605 (Larsen) Independent school district

Nos. 622, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale, 833, South Washington county, and 834, Stillwater, provided additional joint elementary facility operation authority, and money appropriated.

HF1410 (Tunheim) Independent School District No. 690, Warroad, appropriated money for Angle Inlet School operation.

HF1683 (Wenzel) Model K-12 environmental education curriculum integration.

HF1693 (Harder) Extend availability of a planning grant.

HF1711 (Lourey) HACA allocation in combined districts.

HF1466 (Bettermann) Service fee levy provided for school districts operating a technical college.

**TUESDAY, April 4**

7:30 a.m.

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

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson  
**Agenda:** Discussion of Graduation Rule.

8 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown  
**Agenda:** HF1087 (Leighton) Used motor oil and filter collection required, reimbursement provided, and contaminated used motor oil reimbursement account established.  
HF643 (Bishop) Water quality best management practices assessment required, well sealing cost share grants increased, and money appropriated.  
Additional bills may be added.

**Joint Higher Education Finance Division and  
University of Minnesota Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building  
Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso  
**Agenda:** Financial Aid and Tuition Policy Working Group report.

**JUDICIARY FINANCE**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy  
**Agenda:** Bonding recommendations. House files will be heard. If the agenda is not completed, it will be continued in the evening at an announced time.

**MinnesotaCare Finance Division/  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper  
**Agenda:** HF818 (Haas) MinnesotaCare; private sector administration evaluated by Department of Administration Commissioner.  
HF516 (Lourey) Managed care health plans required to provided certain enrollees with expanded geographic access to primary care physician services.

**Transportation Finance Division/  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder  
**Agenda:** HF848 (Luther) Metropolitan Council transit vehicle security measure appropriations provided.  
HF1689 (Marko) Requiring commissioner of transportation to construct the Wakota Bridge-Trunk Highway 61 Project in accordance with a specified schedule.  
HF878 (Dehler) Firearms safety certification designated on driver's license.  
HF1009 (McElroy) Drivers' license reinstatement fee waived in certain cases.  
HF1171 (Holsten) Amateur radio station licensee vehicle special license plate appearance modified.

10 a.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn  
**Agenda:** HF695 (Solberg) Higher education employee labor contracts ratified.  
HF765 (Delmont) Visually handicapped reference changed to visually disabled for state services for the blind purposes.  
SF91 (Finn); HF83 (Kinkel) Compulsive gambling treatment provider eligibility provisions modified.  
HF755 (Carruthers) Insurance company gross premium tax rate modified for fire, lightning, and sprinkler coverage.  
HF896 (Brown) Government Innovation and Cooperation Board authority and procedures clarified, cooperation planning grant application procedures established; and money appropriated.  
HF873 (Van Dellen) Advantage Minnesota Inc., economic development corporate structure modified.  
HF993 (Jaros) International council established to coordinate the international activities of state government.  
HF1245 (Bettermann) Minnesota quality college program established in Department of Employee Relations, and money appropriated.  
HF265 (Dorn) Lawful purpose expenditures to



include contributions to certain compulsive gambling programs.  
Other bills may be added.

#### **TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** Informal hearing on Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation.

HF869 (Clark) Businesses receiving state financial assistance required to pay a living wage and increase employment.

HF606 (Solberg) Nashwauk area ambulance district local approval requirements modified.

12:30 p.m.

#### **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** HF443 (Dempsey) Bond issuance provided for acquisition and betterment of public land and buildings, and money appropriated. HF141 (Anderson, R.) Fergus Falls; Prairie Wetlands Environmental Learning Center appropriation purpose modified.

HF679 (Winter) Independent School District No. 518, Worthington, residential program operation extension provided.

HF1010 (Kalis) Water and Soil Resources Board project bond proceed financing report requirements modified.

HF1066 (Knoblach) Department of Finance commissioner to establish listing of state bonds and certificates of indebtedness.

HF1432 (Winter) Prairieland Expo facility appropriated money for land acquisition.

#### **COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** HF1747 (Jaros) Barber services for charitable purposes exempted from registration and other requirements.

HF1416 (Tuma) Master electrician licensure eligibility requirements modified.

HF1467 (Delmont) Building code and zoning state laws provisions modified and clarified.

HF1666 (Bertram) Requiring licensure or certification of geoscientists.

HF1751 (Simoneau) Fireworks definition modified; sale of certain fireworks permitted.

HF1759 (Jennings) Administrative rulemaking procedures modified.

Other bills may be added.

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

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

#### **Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

**Agenda:** HF1036 (Orenstein) Department of Public Safety, Higher Education Coordinating Board, State Racing Commission, Gambling Control Board, State Lottery Board, and Department of Public Service abolished, duties transferred, and new agencies created.

A vote will be taken.

2:30 p.m. or after Session  
(whichever is later)

#### **Subcommittee on Data Practices/JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire

**Agenda:** HF1174 (Marko) Special transportation service providers regulated by Department of Transportation commissioner, data classified, and fees and penalties provided.

HF1696 (McGuire) Intellectual property.

HF1473 (McGuire) Government data classification provisions modified, financial assistance data classification provided, and information policy training program established.

HF1099 (Greenfield) MinnesotaCare health data institute data and research initiatives modified. HF598 (Greenfield) Vulnerable Adults Reporting Act modified, and penalties provided.

HF432 (Sykora) Child abuse investigation liability provisions modified, attorney fees provided, abuse investigation protocols established, and data access provided.

Other bills may be announced.

### **WEDNESDAY, April 5**

7:30 a.m.

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

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** To be announced.

8 a.m.

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

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** HF1128 (Johnson, V.) Wastewater treatment dispute mediation provided, sewage sludge definition modified, and permit fee increase rules provided.

HF672 (Wagenius) Waste Management Act provisions modified.

Additional bills may be added.

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

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Continuation of bills from April 4 agenda. Roundtable discussion to establish committee understandings and priorities. If the agenda is not completed, it will be continued in the evening at an announced time.

#### **Sales & Income Tax Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

**Agenda:** HF635 (Rhodes) Motor vehicle base value determination provided for taxation purposes.

HF1295 (Ostrom) Alternative fuel vehicle permits eliminated and fee refund provided, and gasoline and special fuel taxes specified.

HF1489 (Winter) Fertilization and chemical application equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF1635 (Molnau) Motor vehicle purchase price modification provided for sales tax purposes.

HF1569 (Mulder) Rock county aggregate removal tax imposed.

HF1744 (Milbert) Sales tax exemption on sports facilities.

8:30 a.m.

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

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** HF1350 (Opatz) Higher education merger technical and statutory provisions modified.

HF1151 (Opatz) Higher education merger restructured, campus functions and duties altered, and higher education allocation ranges specified.

10 a.m.

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

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** SF574 (Finn); HF714 (Clark) Indian Affairs Council to report on potentially offensive place names.

SF941 (Frederickson); HF731 (Bakk) Mineral resources data classified as nonpublic.

SF445 (Lesewski); HF485 (Winter) Waste combustor operation permitted by Pollution Control Agency in certain cases.

SF715 (Vickerman); HF502 (Winter) Town road, bridge, or culvert projects exempt from Pollution Control Agency permit fees.

SF1127 (Olson); HF1310 (Van Dellen) Hennepin County public land sale by Department of Natural Resources commissioner authorized. SF1280 (Dille); HF1539 (Ness) Meeker County tax-forfeited land sale authorized. SF155 (Stumpf); HF120 (Tunheim) Great Horned owl trapping by turkey farmers authorized.

SF1242 (Price); HF1606 (Munger) Special critical habitat motor vehicle license plates established, and money appropriated.

The agenda will be continued later in the day, if necessary.

#### **FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

**Agenda:** Bills that have met the Senate deadline.

#### **JUDICIARY**

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

**Agenda:** Any bill not completed at April 3 meeting.

HF1473 (McGuire) Government data classification provisions modified, financial assistance data classification provided, and information policy training program established.

HF598 (Greenfield) Vulnerable Adults Reporting Act modified, and penalties provided.

Other bills to be announced.

#### **State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Twin City cable budget review.

HF1120 (Pelowski) Public legislative information television transmission funding provided, and money appropriated.

12:30 p.m.

#### **Business Regulation Division/ COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

**Agenda:** To be announced.

5 p.m.

#### **FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

**Agenda:** HF1077 (Cooper) MinnesotaCare; integrated service network requirements established, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

6 p.m.

#### **JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** Continuation of morning agenda.

### **THURSDAY, April 6**

8 a.m.

#### **EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Discussion of environmental education. Senate files to be announced.

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

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **MinnesotaCare Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** HF1742 (Long) Providing for certain breast cancer coverage.

10 a.m.

#### **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Continuation of April 4 agenda.

#### **Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** Local TIF bills.

12:30 p.m.

#### **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** HF766 (Ness) Public facilities authority maximum bonding amount changed.

HF736 (Schumacher) Housing and redevelopment authority federal tax exempt revenue bond use regulated.

HF1591 (Kraus) Technical college purchase by municipalities, counties, or school districts authorized.

HF1652 (Trimble) Public property acquired with bond funds lease and disposition provisions modified.

#### **COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

**Agenda:** HF661 (Murphy) Restraint of trade sales discrimination law price markup provisions repealed.

HF1132 (Jennings) Brewer retail restrictions not applicable to brewers whose only manufacture is in a brewery-restaurant.

Other bills may be added.

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

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

**Agenda:** To be announced.

2:15 p.m.

#### **RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

118 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

**Agenda:** Special Orders.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

After Session

#### **AGRICULTURE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

**Agenda:** To be announced.

6 p.m. or 2 hours after Session  
(whichever is earlier)

#### **EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Continuation of morning agenda, if necessary.

6:30 p.m.

#### **GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

**Agenda:** To be announced.

8 a.m.

## EDUCATION

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## Property Tax &

**Tax Increment Financing Division/TAXES**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ted Winter  
**Agenda:** Continuation local TIF bills (if needed).

## Transportation Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder  
**Agenda:** HF1073 (Simoneau) Transit and paratransit facilities and equipment financing authorized, and metro mobility capital cost funding limitations removed.

10 a.m.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger  
**Agenda:** Continuation of April 5 agenda. More bills may be added.

## Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund  
**Agenda:** Any bill not completed at April 5 meeting.  
HF1099 (Greenfield) MinnesotaCare health data institute data and research initiatives modified.  
HF1479 (Long) Environmental improvement pilot program established, voluntary investigation and cleanup program provisions modified, penalties modified, and recognition program established.  
HF432 (Sykora) Child abuse investigation liability provisions modified, attorney fees provided, abuse investigation protocols established, and data access provided.  
Other bills may be added.



## NOTES

**Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth)** has proposed a study for peat's sake.

The University of Minnesota-Duluth's Natural Resources Research Institute would study "reclamation and restoration options for harvested peatlands" and how peat harvesting affects water quality, under a bill (HF1589) approved by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee March 29.

Several years ago, then-Gov. Rudy Perpich touted peat mining as a way to revitalize Minnesota's rural economy, according to Munger, who chairs the environment committee.

"Gov. Perpich and I parted company on the peat issue," he recalled.

Munger said Perpich envisioned using the state's 6 million acres of peat bogs as an energy resource — transforming Minnesota into the Saudi Arabia of peat.

But a peat study commissioned by Perpich found that burning peat to generate electricity would exhaust the available supply of peat within 27 years.

Ireland went from burning peat for home heating to burning it for energy generation and used up all their peat, warned Munger.

**A wan but chipper Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee)** steered the House Education Committee's University of Minnesota Finance Division through a two-hour hearing March 29, her first committee meeting since her March 16 ovarian cancer surgery.

Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island) and Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona) stood in back of the room before the meeting began, not wishing to miss the opportunity to welcome Kelso back. After calling the meeting to order, Kelso thanked division staff and Vice Chair Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) for handling committee work in her absence.

Doctors believe the cancer has been contained and tests found it has not spread any further. Still, she will have three chemotherapy treatments over the next three months as a preventative measure. She underwent the first treatment March 30.

Kelso hopes to return to the House on a part time basis soon, possibly next week.

Kelso has been overwhelmed by all the cards, flowers, and good wishes she has received from people while recovering from surgery. She also is grateful to her husband, Michael, and two sons, ages 19 and 21, for their support.

They probably wanted him to switch to AT&T.

During an early March meeting of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee, Lyle Williamson of MCI was testifying on a complicated telecommunications deregulation bill.

In the middle of his discourse on how people are using the telephone like never before — for long distance and international calling, faxing, and call forwarding — a ringing telephone interrupted the proceedings.

Everyone broke out in laughter when Williamson reached into his suit coat pocket and turned off his cellular telephone.

## Women vets memorial

Minnesota would contribute \$15,100 to the federal government to help build a women in military service memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, under a bill approved March 27 by the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.

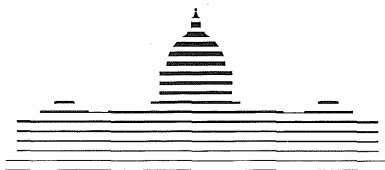
Officials at the cemetery in Arlington, Va., have asked each state to contribute \$1 for each woman from that state who served in the military. In Minnesota, the number is about 16,200, rather than 15,100, said Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul).

**HF1001**, however, calls for \$15,100 to be appropriated in 1996 from the general fund to be used for a contribution to the memorial, which will be built at the cemetery entrance.

Next, the bill will be heard by the Governmental Operations Committee.



Two World War II veterans, Johanna Glastrud, left, who served as a Marine Corporal, and Elaine Gruys, who was a Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class in the Navy, attended the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee March 27. They supported a bill (HF1001), later approved by the committee, to help fund a monument at Arlington National Cemetery to commemorate women in military service.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1298

Speaker of the House: Irv Anderson  
Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Minnesota sex offenders

Minnesota prisoners incarcerated for sex offenses, 1995 .....	1 in 5
Sex offenders that will be released from prison within the next two years .....	983
Sex offenses reported to Minnesota police, 1971 .....	2,303
in 1993 .....	6,439
Percent of 1993 reported offenses resulting in arrest .....	49
Percent of the victims of convicted sex offenders who were under 18 years of age .....	90
Percent of victims who were strangers to the offender .....	6
Sex offenders convicted in 1991 .....	1,379
Number of those who were juveniles .....	654
Average term for those convicted of first- through fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct who were sentenced to prison, in years, 1992 .....	7.4
Sex offenders sent to prison when state sentencing guidelines called for a stayed sentence with probation, 1992 .....	15
Sex offenders who received a stayed sentence when state guidelines called for a prison term, 1992 .....	125
Rate that Twin Cities metro area offenders were likely to receive probation, compared to outstate offenders, when sentencing guidelines called for a prison sentence, 1992 .....	2:1
Number of Minnesota sex offender treatment providers, fall 1993 .....	70
Treatment programs that keep data on the recidivism rates of their clients .....	8
Number of the 70 programs that are outpatient providers .....	51
Average hours of treatment per week, in an outpatient program .....	2.9
inpatient programs .....	8.5
Average cost, per day, for treating a sex offender at the Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter .....	\$210
Average daily cost at the four adult correctional facilities with treatment programs .....	\$77
Charge, per hour, of an average outpatient provider of group therapy .....	\$38
for individual therapy, per hour .....	\$86
Sex offenders who received treatment, 1992 .....	2,550-2,650
of those, offenders treated in outpatient programs .....	2 in 3
Outpatient treatment programs which would not accept "developmentally disabled" offenders, (those with an IQ of less than 70) ...	3 in 4
Percent of treated offenders who did not complete the treatment "to the satisfaction of program staff" .....	47
Of those who did not complete treatment, number who were asked to leave by program staff .....	4 in 10

Source: *Sex Offender Treatment Programs*, Program Evaluation Division, Office of the Legislative Auditor, July 1994; Minnesota Department of Corrections.



### For more information . . .

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95, April 7

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# SESSION WEEKLY

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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • April 7, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 14

## Week at a glance

**Little prison in the big woods** — Elderly criminals could be cared for with less cost to the state, under a bill heard by the House Judiciary Finance Committee. The bill calls for the state Department of Corrections to look into transferring 100 elderly prisoners from the medium security prison in Faribault, Minn., to the state-run nursing home in Walker, Minn. .... **Page 5**

**Mock elections** — School kids could go to the polls during November elections and cast a mock ballot, under a bill moving through the House. .... **Page 6**

**Disposing of oil** — Retailers selling more than 1,000 motor oil filters each year would have to accept and properly dispose of used oil and oil filters from the public, under a bill approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee. .... **Page 7**

**Commissioner pay hike** — A bill to boost the salary cap on top-level state employees — by nearly \$26,000 in some cases — was heard by the House Governmental Operations Committee. Some commissioner salaries could not exceed 85 percent of the governor's salary (\$97,330) and some would be capped at 75 percent (\$85,880). .... **Page 9**

**Super deer license** — A proposal for a new combination deer license covering both the bow and firearms hunting seasons was approved by a House panel March 31. Under the bill a hunter would pay \$33 for a combination bow-firearms license instead of \$22 for each license. .... **Page 9**

**Changing offensive names** — The word "squaw" — a term considered derogatory by some American Indians — would vanish from geographical features in Minnesota, under a bill moving through the House. New names in their place would be selected by the DNR commissioner in cooperation with county boards. .... **Page 9**

**"Mighty Ducks"** — A bill to authorize \$5 million in state bonds to build or revamp at least 20 indoor ice arenas in Minnesota won approval from a House panel. .... **Page 13**

**You reap what you sow** — Growing up on a Kanabec County farm and attending a one-room school, first-term lawmaker Rep. Jim Rostberg learned how common sense and careful work can bring future rewards. Serving his first term in the House, Rostberg is putting those 'you-reap-what-you-sow' lessons to work on some of the tough issues facing state government. .... **Page 16**

**A propensity to lead** — When church or community groups go looking for someone to take charge, a lot of people duck the offer by saying, "No, but I'd like to help. . . . I'm exactly the opposite," said first-term lawmaker Rep. Fran Bradley. "I love to lead. I love to organize. I have a propensity to be involved in a lot of community activities." .... **Page 17**

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On the cover: Goldie Gopher, the University of Minnesota mascot, joined university students on the steps of the Capitol April 5 at a rally calling for increased funding for higher education. Students want the state to renew its partnership with the university and recognize the importance of higher education for Minnesota's future.

— photo by Tom Olmscheid



# Highlights

Government efficiency . . .

## Six agencies would be abolished in major reshuffle

**T**wenty-six years ago, a blue-ribbon panel recommended that the Department of Public Safety be created to make government more efficient.

On April 4, a House panel recommended that the department be abolished — and its duties transferred to other state agencies — for the same reason.

“Our priorities come from the November election: move dollars from bureaucrats’ desks to school desks, and from state office buildings to school buildings,” said bill sponsor Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul).

The proposal (HF1036) would eliminate the Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Service, Higher Education Coordinating Board, Minnesota Racing Commission, Gambling Control Board, and State Lottery Board.

How much money the bill would save is unclear. Estimates provided by the Department of Revenue range from \$5.2 million to \$23.6 million in savings over the next biennium.

Most of the duties of the abolished agencies would be transferred elsewhere in state government.

The Department of Public Safety, for ex-

ample, would see its duties spread among nine different state agencies. Many of its divisions — Traffic Safety, Driver and Vehicle Services, Capitol Security, and the State Patrol — would move to the Department of Transportation.

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, originally proposed as an independent executive branch agency, would become a division of the Office of the Attorney General.

Orenstein showed members a thick bundle

reorganize state government. The purpose of the Governor’s Committee on Reorganization was to reduce the number of departments in state government, to consolidate divisions with similar functions, and to provide better service to the public.

While the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) would also be eliminated by the proposal — and 26 of the board’s 67 employees along with it — the Higher Education Services Office (HESO) would be cre-

*“Our priorities come from the November election: move dollars from bureaucrats’ desks to school desks, and from state office buildings to school buildings,”*

*—Rep. Howard Orenstein*

of letters he has received from public safety employees. The content of those letters indicates that “there continues to be management issues within the department.”

This marks the second consecutive session that a bill has moved forward to eliminate the department.

The department was created in 1970 as part of then-Gov. Harold LeVander’s plan to

ated to absorb its duties.

The provisions, formerly included in HF307 sponsored by Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), would save an estimated \$3.7 million over the next biennium.

The HECB currently administers the state’s financial aid programs, compiles financial aid and enrollment records, and negotiates tuition reciprocity agreements between states. The board also is charged with setting the state’s higher education policy and recommending programs to cut.

The bill also would create an 11-member Higher Education Administrators Council (HEAC) made up of campus presidents, the president of the private college council, the commissioner of education, and others. The HEAC would be required to consult with a newly established student advisory council to appoint the HESO director and communicate with the Legislature and the governor.

The council would replace a current board made up of 10 citizens and a single student.

The HECB was created in 1966 to be an impartial office to distribute financial aid to students. The House last year approved a proposal to eliminate the board, but the provision was deleted in conference committee. (See March 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 12; and March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11)



A bill to eliminate six state agencies — including the Minnesota Racing Commission, the Gambling Control Board, and the State Lottery Board — is on its way to the House Ways and Means Committee. The bill (HF1036) would transfer the lottery board’s responsibility to the newly created department of gambling. The racing commission and control board, which regulates bingo and pull-tabs, would each become divisions within the new department.

The proposal also includes **HF138**, sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), which would re-establish a state department to oversee state-sanctioned gambling. Although **HF138** was defeated by a separate House committee, (see related story, page 8), it is very much alive in Articles 3,4, and 5 of **HF1036**.

Finally, the bill would abolish the Department of Public Service, which is responsible for protecting the public interest in the areas of energy, telecommunications, and weights and measures, and transfer many of its duties to the Office of the Attorney General.

Seven of the department's 134 employees would be cut.

The department's intervention duties in public utility and telecommunication matters before the Public Utilities Commission would be expanded to include representation of most utility consumers, and transferred to the Office of the Attorney General.

All of the department's remaining functions — save the Weights and Measures Division, which would move to the Department of Agriculture — would be transferred to the Public Utilities Commission.

A similar proposal was debated during the 1993 Legislative Session.

Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka) agreed that voters did issue a mandate in last November's election, but it wasn't "to move blindly and move boxes . . . and make change for the sake of change."

In opposing the bill, Weaver said the need has not been established for many of the changes proposed in the bill.

**HF1036** now moves to the Ways and Means Committee.

—John Tschida



## BUSINESS

### Dueling phone companies

A bill to increase competition among Minnesota telephone companies won approval from the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee April 3.

While the proposal has received scant public attention, it was discussed for 12 hours over six committee hearings.

Currently, a phone company applies to the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for the right to offer phone service within a certain geographical area. Under this "local exchange monopoly," the company is the only one that can provide local phone service. This practice would end, under the bill.

**HF620**, sponsored by Rep. Edgar Olson (DFL-Fosston), would permit many companies to enter the same calling area.

The change would give Minnesotans a real choice for basic telephone service. A Minneapolis resident for example, could switch from US West to a cable television operator, a cellular telephone firm, or any company that receives PUC approval to offer local telephone service.

The change also would allow all 100 Minnesota phone companies — including major players like US West and GTE — to venture into other market areas around the state, after gaining approval from the PUC.

(The PUC is a quasi-judicial body that regulates the rates and services of Minnesota telephone, natural gas and electric utilities.)

The nuts and bolts as to how this deregulation would take place would be laid out in rules established by the PUC.

The rulemaking process would be completed by Aug. 1, 1997. In the interim, the PUC would be allowed to certify a company as a provider of local telephone service.

The PUC also would have to determine how a local telephone company would separate or "unbundle" its services so a competitor could connect to its customers to provide a service. (This would be similar to the process — regulated by the Federal Communications Commission — that allows long-distance telephone companies to connect to local telephone customers.) This would make it possible, for example, to receive basic phone service from one company, and voice messaging from another.

Another section of the bill would create an "alternative regulation" framework for phone companies to choose. Under the proposed system, certain essential services, as defined by the bill — call tracing, call number-blocking, and 911-service, for example — would

remain regulated by the PUC. But the price of other non-essential services, such as voice mail, would be determined by market competition, rather than requiring the PUC to certify any rate change by a telephone company.

If a telephone company opted for this more relaxed regulatory system, its rates for basic residential and business local service could not increase for three years.

The bill also would create a Universal Service Fund that would receive contributions from all telephone companies in the state. A study by the Department of Public Service (DPSv) would determine what "essential telephone services" should be available to all state households. The study also would address "whether expenditures from the fund should be used to ensure citizen access to local government and other public access programming." The DPSv would report its recommendations to the Legislature by Feb. 15, 1996.

The deregulation bill was crafted and revised over several months of meetings among telephone company representatives, the DPSv and the Office of the Attorney General.

Joann Hanson, DPSv assistant commissioner who brokered the discussions, said the bill would "enable customers to have many choices" for telephone services, while maintaining "protective safeguards" for consumers.

Hanson said that the measure is important now because of "changing technology and there has been a lot of interest by alternative [local telephone service] providers to enter the field."

**HF620** now goes to the House floor.

### Wheelchair warranties

Equipment such as wheelchairs or Braille printers that aid people with disabilities would have to come with a year-or-more warranty, under a bill the House approved April 3. The vote was 130-0.

Bill sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said the Department of Administration asked him to carry the bill to help curb a specific problem with malfunctioning wheelchairs.

"There are a small number of devices that continue to break down. It's a problem in the handicapped community," Entenza said.

If manufacturers of "assistive devices" don't provide a warranty with the equipment, the bill would call for a one-year warranty to exist as the manufacturer had issued one.

Under either warranty, the equipment

### Legislative break

**Thursday, April 13** — No committee meetings will be held after 4 p.m.

**Friday, April 14** — Holiday. The House is closed.

**Monday, April 17** — No committee meetings; no floor session

**Tuesday, April 18** — Regular schedule of committee meetings; 2:30 p.m. session



owner could have it repaired by the manufacturer or an authorized dealer if it breaks within one year. The bill also ensures that the owner would get a refund if the device is not repaired within a reasonable amount of time.

The measure, however, contains no penalty if a manufacturer decides not to honor the government-imposed warranty.

HF990 now moves to the Senate for consideration.



## CRIME

### Senior citizen prison

Elderly criminals could be cared for with less cost to the state, under a bill heard April 6 by the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

The bill (HF1784) calls for the state Department of Corrections to look into transferring elderly prisoners from the medium security prison in Faribault, Minn., to the state-run nursing home in Walker, Minn.

The Ah Gwah Ching Center — a nursing home operated by the Department of Human Services — has three buildings which potentially could be turned into a medium-security correctional facility to house up to 100 prisoners. That's the number of elderly prisoners who now require ongoing supervision and health care, said bill sponsor Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids).

Many of those prisoners are serving life terms. Though they are elderly and many are in poor health, they still move about and would require a separate, security building, Kinkel said.

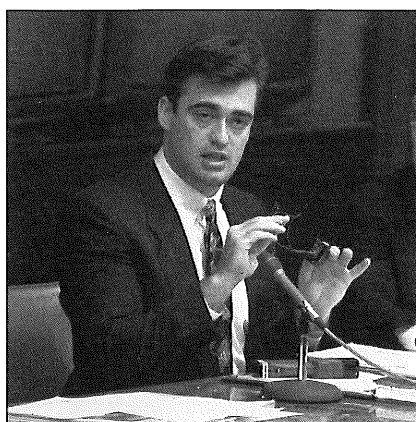
The state may be able to save about \$10 per prisoner per day by transferring them to the Ah Gwah Ching Center, since the facility is equipped to handle a large number of hard-to-care-for patients, he said. If all prisoners were transferred, the savings would equal about \$1,000 each day.

The move would also free much-needed prison beds at the Faribault prison, said Dana Baumgartner, the Department of Corrections health care administrator.

In addition, patients at the center who also are prisoners may be eligible to receive federal Medicare dollars. Kinkel said he doesn't know if prisoners would receive Medicare if they live in a state-run nursing home.

Corrections officials are unsure of the cost savings.

"We don't know if this move would be cost-effective because we don't know what the capital costs would be. A medium security facility would need to be fenced, for instance," said James Bruton, Department of



Patrick W. Smith, president of Air Taser Inc., displayed the Air Taser, which is used for self defense, before the House Judiciary Committee March 31. The device can shoot an electrical charge into an attacker's body, causing a loss of muscle control. He testified in opposition to a bill (HF1528) that would regulate the sale of these devices.

Corrections deputy commissioner. "We're just looking for ways to save health care dollars."

The state pays about \$2,400 annually for each prisoner's health care costs, Bruton said. But that number is about \$10,000 annually for elderly prisoners.

Bruton said elderly prisoners have been transferred to the Ah Gwah Ching Center in the past, but only when they are very old, ill and frail, and don't pose a threat to anyone.

The committee did not formally act on the bill.

### Impoundment law expanded

One-third of chronic DWI offenders continue to drive with little risk of detection because of a loophole in the state's DWI law.

A bill to close that loophole won approval from the House Judiciary Committee April 3.

Under current law, when a person's driver's license is revoked for a third DWI offense in five years (or a fourth within 15 years), his or her license plates also are impounded as long as the offender's driver's license is suspended. For a third-time offender, that's a minimum of one year.

But chronic DWI offenders are smart, said bill sponsor Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls). "They know exactly what they're doing. . . . They lose their license plates, and then they drive their girlfriend's or their spouse's car."

About 35 percent of repeat DWI offenders are driving a car in someone else's name, said Steve Simon, a University of Minnesota law professor and recognized authority on DWI issues.

Those repeat offenders are most often male,

in their late 20s, often divorced, and marginally employed, Simon said.

Should they get caught under the influence in someone else's car, those license plates are then impounded. But all the car owner has to do is sign a statement that he or she was unaware of the DWI violation and new plates are issued — free of charge.

HF416/SF308\* would still give plates back to the car owner in such a situation, but they would be coded with specific letters, so that law enforcement officials would know the car had been involved in a prior DWI offense. The plates would remain on the car for a minimum of one year.

The coded plates would provide law enforcement officers with a "reasonable suspicion" to pull the car over should the driver not be the registered owner of the car, Simon said. From the patrol vehicle, an officer can check the car's registration and the license status of the car owner, which contains a description of the owner. If the driver doesn't match the description, the officer would have cause to stop the car.

Simon admitted the law has not been "court-tested." No case law exists in the area.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) had little faith it would be upheld.

"When it does go to court, it's going to be thrown out," Bishop said.

Simon called the current plate impoundment law — originally passed in 1990 and the first of its kind in the nation — "one of the most effective tools the Legislature has adopted in recent years."

About 3,700 Minnesota drivers are eligible to have their plates impounded each year, according to Department of Public Safety records. About one-third of those offenders skirt the law because they aren't the car's registered owner.

Overall, DWI arrests are down about 27 percent since 1986 (28,310 incidents in 1994 compared to 38,717 in 1986). Offenders with three or more offenses, however, have risen steadily over the same time period.



## EDUCATION

### Graduation rule

It will cost \$64.5 million to implement the state's new high school graduation rule in the first two years it will be in effect, according to a report presented to a House panel. But because a large share of the money could come from existing funds, the total added cost to Minnesota school districts would be about \$18 million.

The state's graduation rule — which will go into effect in the fall of 1996 — will require students to meet certain academic standards before they can receive a high school diploma.

A Denver-based consulting firm hired by the Minnesota Department of Education recently completed a preliminary report on the costs to implement the rule in the first two years of the graduation rule.

The K-12 Education Finance Division heard details of the Augenblick, Van de Water & Myers report April 4.

The report covers expected costs when the standards are applied to ninth graders in 1996-97 and to ninth and tenth graders the following school year. Students will be required to show minimum proficiency in math and reading.

Cost estimates include money to prepare Profile of Learning reports, which will detail each student's performance. It also includes money to prepare educators to teach under the new rule, and money to develop a curriculum to ensure daily lessons teach everything for which students will be held accountable.

A share of the costs involved with implementing the standards could be offset by federal grants and by using some existing money districts now use for staff training, according to the report.

"It isn't a huge cost when you look at what school districts are spending statewide," said John Myers, one of the consultants who prepared the report.

Some committee members questioned whether the report considers all the costs that could accompany implementation of the graduation rule.

Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) said costs may vary between districts. Poorer districts may have to do more than wealthier districts to bring students up to the standards.

An Apple Valley parent criticized the graduation rule as a costly "education fad" that carries no guarantee it will improve the preparation of Minnesota students.

"Who will bear the blame when this fails to make a difference?" asked Georgianne Ginder.

Brian Bottge, director of the St. Cloud graduation rule pilot program, said performance standards are "here to stay" in education.

"Our teachers, some of whom have 20 to 25 years' experience, have never seen this kind of production from our students," he said. "... The rule is not floundering."

The final report from the consultants is expected in June. The House currently is considering a Department of Education re-

quest for \$15 million over the next two-year budgeting period for continued planning for the standards.



## ELECTIONS

### Mock ballots for kids

School kids could show up at the polls during November elections and cast a mock ballot in certain cities and counties, under a bill approved April 6 by the Elections Division of the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.

The bill (HF299/SF168\*), sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth), would allow children to cast mock ballots at precincts in cities and counties choosing to participate in a youth elections program. Their ballots — a different color than official ballots — would be compiled and counted separately.

The measure is designed to educate children about the election process and increase adult voter turnout, Jaros said. In Duluth, where children voted in the November election under a special pilot program, the kids brought their parents to the polls.

Jaros said similar programs are now under way in 22 other states. Arizona's program, the first, kicked off in 1988.

The bill, if approved, would cost the state nothing, Jaros said. Local governments that agree to let kids in the polling place would have to find private or local funding.

Private companies contributed the \$25,000 necessary to implement the pilot program during the Duluth general election, he said.

Children's ballots are identical to the bal-

lots of their parents with the exception of the color. They could cast votes for all sorts of elected offices, from president to a local soil and water commissioner.

The bill passed during the 1994 session but was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

In his veto message, Carlson said the goal of teaching students about elections is "laudable." However, he objected to granting the secretary of state "sole authority to develop this program without . . . guidelines or any guarantee of political neutrality."

Under the bill, the secretary of state would authorize individual cities and counties to allow children in the polling place.

Jaros said he will offer amendments when the bill is heard by the full General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee which should put the governor's concerns to rest.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Nuisance aquatic plants

Owners of lake homes might have to pay more to get rid of nuisance aquatic plants growing close to shore, under a bill considered by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee April 6.

The bill (HF1276), sponsored by Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul), would lift the \$200 cap on aquatic plant management permits issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Lake property owners have been allowed by the DNR to get group permits. The proposed change would make each member of a



Ryan Clark, right, Angela Eustice, left, both from Byron, and Doron Clark, from the Dover-Eyota area, center, listened April 6 as members of the Election Division of the House General Legislation, Veteran Affairs and Elections Committee considered a bill (HF462) that would give 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote in school district elections.

group pay \$20, which is the current cost of an individual permit for using chemicals to eradicate aquatic plants.

So, if 20 lake property owners make up a group, their permit would cost \$400; a group comprised of 100 would cost \$2,000.

Before a lot owner or a group of lot owners can arrange for someone to get rid of nuisance shore plants — either mechanically remove them or kill them with chemicals — they must apply for and be granted a state permit. The DNR requires a permit to remove 2,500 square feet or more of aquatic vegetation.

The current \$200 maximum permit fee doesn't cover the agencies costs to analyze the applications, process permits, and monitor the eradication of aquatic plants, said Lee Pfannmuller, chief of the DNR's ecological services section.

Fees paid by lake lot owners cover only 30 percent of the DNR's costs; the remaining 70 percent is borne by the Game and Fish Fund which is made up of fishing and hunting license fees and used primarily to fund fish and wildlife programs, she said.

Charging more for aquatic plant management permits would bring in an additional \$75,000 this year to the Game and Fish Fund, according to Pfannmuller.

Owners of lake lots and herbicide applicators, whose businesses might suffer because of increased permit fees, opposed the proposal.

At a hearing on the bill before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee March 31, Tom Gertz of the Minnesota Aquatic Management Society, a group of herbicide applicators, presented lawmakers with a chart showing how the legislation would affect lot owners at various lakes.

All of the lake groups paid no more than \$200 for a permit in 1994. According to Gertz, the permit fees this year would climb to \$1,840 for the Bald Eagle Lake group, \$3,200 for the group of owners on Kerry Pond, and \$2,900 for owners on Lake Owasso, all in Ramsey County.

Three types of aquatic plants are typically eradicated: floating-leaf plants like water lilies; emergent plants like cattails; and "potamogetons" or submerged plants like curlyleaf pondweed, an "undesirable exotic" that has become a significant problem in Minnesota, according to Pfannmuller.

**HF1276** was laid over to be considered next week for inclusion in the omnibus environment and natural resources finance bill.

## Used oil disposal

Retailers selling more than 1,000 motor oil filters each year would have to accept and properly dispose of used oil and oil filters from the public, under a bill approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee April 4.

The bill originally specified that any retail outlet selling more than 3,000 gallons of motor oil per year would have to accept used motor oil and filters. (See March 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8)

But bill sponsor Rep. Robert Leighton (DFL-Austin) said the change was made to "exclude small businesses" that couldn't afford the extra expense of collecting and disposing of used oil and filters.

Leighton said he talked with representatives of Ashland Oil, who assured him that none of their SuperAmerica stores would come under the purview of the bill.

Businesses either would have to set up their own collection facility or contract with another business — within two miles in the Twin Cities metropolitan area or within five miles in Greater Minnesota — to accept used oil and filters.

Also, the amended bill explicitly states that retailers "may not charge a fee" to accept used oil and filters. Under the original bill, retailers could charge 50 cents per filter to recover disposal costs.

Under current law, a retailer selling motor oil is required only to post a notice advising consumers of a location within 10 miles where they can dispose of used oil.

Leighton said his bill addresses an environmental hazard created by those changing their own oil and improperly disposing of it.

About 775,000 gallons of used motor oil — 11 percent of the total oil thrown away by individuals in the state — was illegally poured down drains or dumped on the ground in 1992, according to a study by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

The MPCA study says that "just one gallon of oil can contaminate one million gallons of drinking water."

The MPCA supports the bill as a way to encourage proper disposal of used motor oil and filters by creating more convenient drop off spots.

However, retail merchants and oil filter manufacturers remain opposed to the proposal.

Judy Cook, president of the Minnesota Retail Merchants Association, told lawmakers that the bill "creates a significant burden on retailers who sell oil filters" but have no waste oil collection facilities.

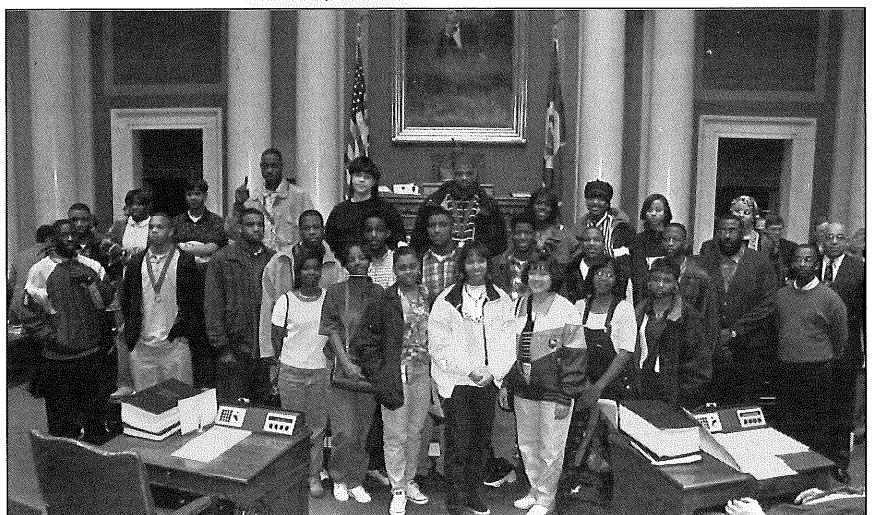
Timothy Warren of Allied Signal, Inc., which manufactures Fram oil filters, spoke against the bill. He said "many retailers would opt out of selling oil filters."

**HF1087** now moves to the House floor.

## Accessible trails

Most state parks would be required to have at least one handicapped-accessible trail under a bill given final passage by the House April 6. The vote was 128-0.

**HF1279**, sponsored by Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope), would require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to come up with a five-year-plan for creating or modifying existing trails to ensure at least one trail per park can be used by physically disabled



The undefeated Minneapolis North High School basketball team, which recently won the state high school basketball title, was honored in the House chamber April 6. The team, fans and coaches were introduced by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls).

visitors. Such trails would have to have a very slight grade to be wheelchair accessible, Rest said.

State parks located in extremely hilly areas would be exempted from the bill.

The DNR would be allocated no additional dollars for the project, Rest said.

The bill will next be heard by the Senate.



Ehren Essler stood behind his mother, Myrna, of New Hope, Minn., as she testified before the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee March 31 in support of a bill (HF1279) that would require the Department of Natural Resources to develop a handicapped access trail plan for state parks. The idea for the bill came from Ehren, who participated in the YMCA's Youth in Government program earlier this year.

## GAMBLING

### 'Video slots' bill fails

For the fifth consecutive year, an effort to win the right to install video slot machines in Minnesota bars and restaurants has stalled.

A video lottery bill sponsored by Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) failed to win the approval of the House Governmental Operations Committee.

The 7-14 vote by the committee March 31 — the first deadline bills must meet in order to be considered further this legislative session — made the chances such legislation will pass the House this year seem remote.

**HF1405** would have allowed up to 10 video slots in about 3,400 bars and restaurants and devoted a portion of the proceeds to schools and environmental programs.

Gamblers would have been allowed to play games such as blackjack, keno, and poker on the video terminals.

Tomassoni said the video slots could produce as much as \$250 million annually to supplement the budget for Minnesota's schools, which he described as "grossly underfunded."

But the bill was criticized by some committee members who argued that the gambling revenue likely would not mean more money for schools. Instead, the money likely would replace — not supplement — traditional education funding sources. And others were concerned about allowing even more gambling in the state.

"This bill is not about education," said Rep. Bob Johnson (DFL-Bemidji). "This bill is about the expansion of gambling."

The liquor industry has lobbied for five consecutive years to win the right to install video lottery machines in bars and restaurants. Bar and restaurant owners say they need the gambling to compete with the American Indian-owned casinos in Minnesota.

The casinos, the business owners say, have an unfair competitive advantage and have lured away their customers.

Johnson said the casinos cannot be blamed for the decline in bar business. He said people's drinking habits have changed and tougher DWI laws have reduced the amount of drinking in bars.

But Tomassoni said the bill provided a way for the state to receive some benefit from the vast gambling industry that flourishes inside its borders.

"What I'm doing here is trying to tap into the industry," he said. "I don't think gambling is going away."

On the same day Tomassoni's bill was defeated, a Senate proposal (**SF402**) ran into opposition in the Senate Gaming Regulation Committee and was never put to a vote.

### Playing the gambling odds

Legislation to abolish several state gambling boards was defeated in one committee but survived another April 4.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) is trying for the second time in two years to abolish the nine-member Minnesota Racing Commission, seven-member Gambling Control Board, and seven-member State Lottery Board and create a state gambling commissioner to over-

see all forms of legalized gambling in Minnesota. (See March 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9)

The State Government Finance Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee voted the bill (**HF138**) down April 4 while the Government Efficiency and Oversight Division of the Ways and Means Committee incorporated the proposal into a larger bill (**HF1036**) to eliminate many state agencies. **HF1036** is sponsored by Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul).

Currently, the gambling boards function independently of one another. The racing commission oversees pari-mutuel horse racing. The Gambling Control Board regulates lawful gaming activities, such as bingo and pull-tabs. The State Lottery Board advises the lottery director on games and rules.

A new gambling department, led by an appointee of the governor, would include divisions to oversee lawful gambling and pari-mutuel racing. It also would assume the gambling enforcement responsibilities of the Department of Public Safety.

The state lottery and its director would remain independent, but the gambling department would assume an advisory role much like the State Lottery Board now holds.

The consolidation of the gambling agencies, according to Kahn, would provide the state with a more comprehensive approach to gambling issues.

Some lawmakers in the State Government Finance Division, however, saw the bill as tinkering with something that isn't broken.

"I just don't see a reason for the bill," said Rep. Bob Johnson (DFL-Bemidji). He questioned whether the bill would actually save money.

Some, such as Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), questioned the wisdom of creating another department.

If a new gambling department is approved, it would not be the first time the state has used a consolidated gambling agency. In 1989, lawmakers created the Department of Gaming, but it was abolished two years later when former commissioner Tony Bouza recommended that the Lottery Board, Gambling Control Board, and Racing Commission become independent entities.

Although Kahn's bill does not advance, Orenstein's bill (**HF1036**) now moves to the Ways and Means Committee.



## GAME & FISH

### Super deer license

A proposal for a new combination deer license covering both the bow and firearms hunting seasons was approved by a House panel March 31.

Under the bill (HF1340) a hunter would pay \$33 for a combination bow-firearms license instead of \$22 apiece for each license.

But a hunter would only be allowed to kill one deer total. Currently, if a hunter buys both a bow and a firearms deer hunting license they can kill two deer, one each season.

"It just makes it a little more affordable for those people who want to hunt more than one season," said bill sponsor Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook).

The bill has the support of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association which represents 20,000 hunters in the state. Tom Kelleher of the association said the bill would keep hunting affordable and open to more people regardless of income.

Originally, the bill would have included muzzleloader hunting in the combo license for \$33 a year. But officials with the Department of Natural Resources objected.

The two-week muzzleloader hunting season is relatively uncrowded — unlike the other two seasons. Their concern was that many hunters would fail to get a deer in the archery and regular firearms seasons and continue hunting in the muzzleloader season.

A large influx of muzzleloader hunters would create trespass problems and result in too many deer being taken, according to Roger Holmes, director of the DNR's Fish and Wildlife Division.

"We do not have enough deer to support this proposal," said Holmes.

(A muzzleloader is an early 19th century era rifle or musket that is loaded by pouring powder and a lead projectile down the barrel.)

After Bakk deleted the muzzleloader season from the "super deer license," members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee approved the bill 9-7.

But even without the muzzleloader provision, the DNR opposed the combined bow and firearms license.

Tim Bremicker, chief of the DNR's wildlife section, said that about 50,000 bow hunters — out of a total of 70,000 — also buy a firearms license each year. Based on the bill's \$11 savings on each license, it would result in a \$550,000 revenue loss to the DNR's Game

and Fish Fund and a loss to other dedicated accounts for deer management, he said.

HF1340 now moves to the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.



## GOVERNMENT

### Commissioner pay hike

A bill to boost the salary cap on top-level state employees — by nearly \$26,000 in some cases — was heard by the House Governmental Operations Committee April 6.

HF1710 incorporates some of the recommendations of the state Compensation Council, an independent body that makes salary recommendations for government officials.

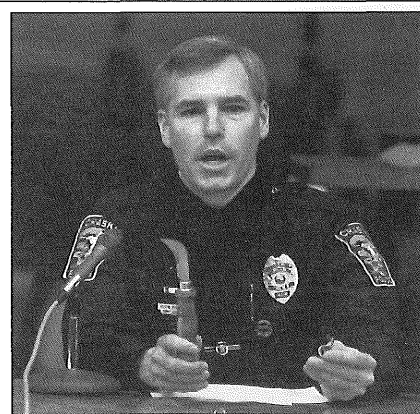
The bill would divide state agency heads into two salary ranges, each of which is tied to the governor's salary, currently at \$114,506. In the first range, commissioner salaries could not exceed 85 percent of the governor's salary (\$97,330); the second range would be capped at 75 percent (\$85,880).

Currently, state commissioners are divided into three salary ranges, depending on the size of the agency. The ranges are capped at \$78,500, \$67,500, and \$60,000, respectively.

According to Bruce Johnson, commissioner of the Department of Employee Relations, commissioner salaries have been capped for the last seven years.

But some lawmakers expressed opposition to the proposal.

"I can't support this," said Rep. Bob Johnson (DFL-Bemidji). "As we're laying people off due to budget cuts... some people are going to get significant raises here. I can't support this."



Officer Norm Prunsinski of the Chaska Police Department holds a carpet cutter and a twine cutter as he testified before the House Judiciary Committee March 31. Prunsinski voiced his support for a bill (HF1175) that would make it a gross misdemeanor to possess any instrument or device on school property that could be considered a weapon.

Gov. Arne Carlson has supported increases in commissioner salaries, saying they are necessary to attract top candidates for the top state jobs.

The bill also gives the governor the authority to set commissioners' salaries within the specified ranges — without the approval of the Compensation Council or the Legislature.

Under current law, the Compensation Council reviews and can reject or modify the governor's salary recommendations. The Legislature then reviews all council recommendations and can accept, reject, or modify them.

The bill also would give some administrative law judges a boost in pay. Under current law, their salary is capped at 90 percent of a district court judge's salary, or \$75,144. HF1710 would place all administrative law judges at that salary.

Additionally, the bill would set Metropolitan Council board member salaries at \$20,000 annually. While that is a council member's current salary, the House voted March 23 to slash the salary to \$6,000 per year.

An amendment by Rep. Kevin Knight (IR-Bloomington) to cut the salary to \$6,000 in HF1710 was withdrawn after a heated debate.

The Compensation Council also recommended that state legislators and state constitutional officers receive a 3 percent pay hike in each of the next two years. HF1710 does not include these recommendations.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (IR-Preston), was referred without recommendation to the committee's State Government Finance Division.

### Changing offensive names

The word "squaw" — a term considered derogatory by some American Indians — would vanish from some place names in Minnesota, under a bill approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee April 5.

New names in their place would be selected by the DNR commissioner in cooperation with county boards, said bill sponsor Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls).

The proposal specifically would change the name of any "geographic feature" containing the word "squaw." It would affect lakes, ponds, islands, bays, and other natural features.

Two Cass Lake-Bena High School students are pushing the bill (HF714/SF574\*).

In February 1994, Angelene Losh and Dawn Litzau began the movement to change the name of Squaw Point, which is on the Leech

Lake Indian reservation in northern Minnesota.

Litzau, who now lives in Bemidji, told lawmakers that the word "squaw" refers to "female sexual parts. I don't think people can fathom what 'squaw' means to Indian women. People have called me that to put me down."

She said that her family comes from the town of Squaw Lake, but "it was traumatic to say where we came from," because the word "squaw" carried "hurtful" connotations.

Litzau said the name-change campaign, organized with fellow high school students, met with success Feb. 7 when the Cass County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to change the name of Squaw Point to Oak Point.

She appealed to legislators to help "erase this word from Minnesota, so other people can be proud of where they come from."

According to several sources, the word "squaw" is a French corruption of "otsiskwa," an Iroquois word denoting female sexual parts.

The Ojibwe word for woman is "ikwe," while the Canadian Cree Indians use the word "sqwi." Some suggest that British and French fur traders mispronounced these words and came up with "squaw."

Joe Day, director of the state Indian Affairs Council, said the bill follows previous efforts to get public schools to change nicknames and mascots that depict Indians in a stereotypical and offensive manner.

The Indian Affairs Council issued a resolution Feb. 9 supporting the high school students' campaign to change offensive place names, and called the legislation a "positive move forward in the state's efforts in eliminating racism directed at American Indians in Minnesota."

The Senate version of the bill, sponsored by Sen. Skip Finn (DFL-Cass Lake), passed that body March 20 on a 63-0 vote.

**HF714/SF574\*** now goes to the House floor.



## HEALTH

### MinnesotaCare

The state could not set prices and fees for health care services that would be paid by insurance companies, under an amended MinnesotaCare bill approved by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee April 5.

The bill no longer includes the regulated all-payer option (RAPO), which was struck from the bill by the House Health and Human Services Committee.

RAPO would have allowed the state to



Dawn Litzau, Bemidji, Minn., a member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, told members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee April 5 that the word "squaw" is considered derogatory by many American Indian women. **HF714** would require that the word "squaw" be removed from many geographic place names in the state.

standardize insurance prices and ensured health insurance providers operated under uniform rules.

Instead, the bill now calls on the Department of Health to recommend to the Legislature the best way to apply health insurance regulations across the board.

The bill (**HF1077**), sponsored by Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island), also redefines the mandate for universal health care coverage now in law. Under that law, all Minnesotans must have health insurance by July 1, 1997. (See March 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11)

Under the bill, however, universal coverage would be achieved when fewer than 4 percent of the state's population is uninsured. In 1994, it was estimated that 8.9 percent of Minnesotans were uninsured.

The measure also calls for a health care commission to report annually to the Legislature on how many Minnesotans have health insurance.

"We have to figure out whether we're moving toward our goal of universal coverage and what universal coverage even means," Cooper said.

The bill also would ensure that integrated service networks (ISNs) are solvent before they begin operating.

An ISN is a non-profit organization that agrees to provide health care in exchange for a fixed charge. The 1994 MinnesotaCare Act calls for ISNs to begin operating in July 1996.

The bill calls on ISNs to deposit \$300,000 in a custodial account with the Department of Health, which will oversee the ISNs. An ISN must then deposit \$300,000 annually, which would be used to pay costs should the ISN become insolvent.

To become licensed, **HF1077** calls for an ISN to have a net worth valued at a minimum of \$1.5 million or an amount equal to a portion of the expected first year operating expenses. An ISN must also maintain a \$1 million net worth after the first year of operation, under the bill.

It would also require the ISN to file an audited financial statement yearly with the Department of Health.

The bill will next be heard in the Taxes Committee.

## Breast cancer treatment

Corrinne Zweber of Lakeville is waiting for word about her chances. She hopes a bill moving through the House will improve them.

Zweber has breast cancer and her insurance company refuses to pay for the treatment her doctors say is best. She's not alone.

Next week Zweber will take the insurance company to court to make them pay. She's not alone in that either.

Some breast cancer patients whose doctors tell them their best chance of survival is a high-dose chemotherapy treatment accompanied by a bone marrow transplant have battled insurance companies that refuse to pay for the procedure.

A bill sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) wouldn't give insurance companies the option. They'd have to pay.

**HF1742** passed the MinnesotaCare Division of the House Health and Human Services Committee on an 8-2 vote April 6. It now moves to the full committee and then to the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

The bill requires health plans — effective the day following final enactment — to provide bone marrow transplant coverage to Minnesota residents with breast cancer. It further requires that insurance companies not charge co-payments greater than those that apply to other portions of the policy.

Lawmakers heard debate from several doctors, all of whom agreed the treatment should be covered by insurance but some of whom said only patients in a clinical study should be covered.

Zweber and others disagree. In a clinical study there is a 50 percent chance you'll be a part of the study that receives the treatment but an equal chance you'll be a part of a "control" group that doesn't receive the treatment.

Her insurance company said they'd pay for the treatment if she joined a clinical study but her family said no. "No way. We're not flipping quarters," said her husband, Mark Zweber. "What are we paying premiums for?"

Dr. Linda Burns, an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota, called the treatment "investigational" and said she is working with breast cancer patients as part of a national clinical study. The study seeks to determine the effectiveness of a high-dose chemotherapy treatment accompanied by a bone marrow transplant in breast cancer patients.

"I ask you not to mislead the women of this state," Burns told committee members. "It is not known" whether the transplant treatment actually is effective.

The treatment, Burns said, can be fatal in and of itself.

Dr. John Schwerkoske, who has treated roughly 49 cancer patients (half of whom have breast cancer) with the transplant treatment, disagreed. Twenty-five percent are now in remission, he said, cautioning that it will be years before they know for sure if they are cured.

"I think it is a better treatment," he said. "We have to leave the decision in patients' hands."

Supporters argue that regardless of the conflicting scientific opinions, the issue is a matter of choice for patients. If a doctor and a patient believe this is the best treatment, an insurance company shouldn't have the right to say no.

Besides, proponents say, many doctors and studies show that it is an effective treatment, albeit a costly one.

Mike Hatch, former head of the Department of Commerce, and now an attorney representing women whose insurance companies refuse to pay for the procedure, said costs can run about \$65,000 compared to traditional chemotherapy, administered in low doses over several months, which costs about \$45,000.

He said he has represented many women in recent years and cited court decisions that have required insurance companies to pay for the procedure. Courts have found the procedure can be effective and is not experimental.

Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island) ques-

tioned why, if a doctor and a patient determine the transplant procedure is the best method of care, should they have to seek legal action to get coverage?

Carolyn Gohlke of Cambridge agrees. She was treated with high-dose chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant for her breast cancer and has been in remission since August.

"I thought I was just going to die. That's what happened to my mother," Gohlke said.



## HIGHER EDUCATION

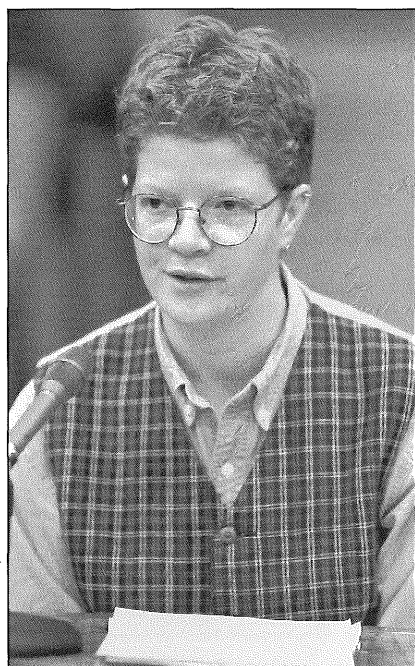
### Public colleges for \$1

Some of Minnesota's two-year schools could be sold for \$1, under a bill debated by a House committee. But such bargains would be available only to communities that have an alternative "public use" in mind for such a college.

Bill sponsor Rep. Ron Kraus (IR-Albert Lea) said Minnesota's 55 technical and community colleges are facing a budget squeeze that likely will force some of them to close.

**HF1591** would allow cities, counties, and school boards to have a role in deciding a new use for a technical or community college campus.

The alternatives, Kraus said, are not attractive. The state alone could decide which



Heidi Wrensen, a volunteer who provides in-home care for infants during a family crisis, testified before the House Health and Human Services Committee March 31. Wrensen and others are seeking continued funding for "crisis nurseries."

schools to close, or the state could continue to insufficiently fund two-year schools.

"What we're doing now — starving these institutions and hoping the problem will go away — is not something I can support," Kraus said.

His bill was discussed at an April 6 meeting of the House Capital Investment Committee.

Here's how Kraus' bill would work:

A community deciding to close its two-year school would have to propose an alternative public use, such as converting it to a high school or senior citizens' center.

The city, county or school board would have until Jan. 15, 1996, to apply to the state to purchase the facility for \$1. The application would have to be approved by the Finance Department and later passed into law by the Legislature.

If the deal is approved, the state would provide funding for converting the school to its new use. Local authorities would receive in the first year an amount equal to the school's 1995 physical plant operating budget. The state would contribute half that amount in the second year. (The funds provided by the state would not include dollars spent on salaries and programming costs for the school.)

Some committee members questioned whether the bill would really produce savings for the state.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) said it may simply shift costs to the remaining technical and community colleges that would have to absorb students cast off from closing facilities.

And committee chair Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters) said he has serious concerns about selling the colleges for just \$1.

"They belong to the taxpayers and we have to be very cautious with them," he said.

The committee did not act on the bill.



## LABOR

### Tackling 'corporate welfare'

A bill designed to make some businesses receiving state aid pay their newly hired employees at least \$7.21 per hour won approval from the House Taxes Committee April 4.

"This is about accountability," said bill sponsor Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls). "It's a very, very modest first step . . . so we know what we're getting for our dollar."

Her proposal would require companies receiving more than \$25,000 from the state in the form of grants, loans, or some tax

breaks, including tax increment financing (TIF), to pay employees enough to at least meet the federal poverty level for a family of four. That amounts to about \$14,900 a year, or \$7.21 per hour, Clark said.

The wage hike would apply to new employees hired by qualifying companies after Aug. 1, 1995.

The companies also would have two years to show a net job increase or show that jobs otherwise would have been lost without help from the state. Businesses that fail to do so would have to repay the state aid.

And the measure would also impose a penalty on employers that don't abide by the law. Employers that fail to pay the \$7.21 minimum wage to new employees would have to pay their local human services office a sum double the difference between that wage and the wage actually paid.

Exemptions would exist for companies or programs receiving state aid for reasons other than job or economic development. Tourism loan program recipients, for example, are exempt, as are those benefiting from TIF housing, redevelopment, or hazardous substance districts.

Small businesses — those with no more than 20 employees and gross annual revenues of less than \$1 million — also would be exempt, as would non-profit organizations. An amendment to include non-profits failed on a party-line 11-12 vote.

Under **HF869**, the legislative auditor would be required to report every two years on the jobs created and wages paid by companies receiving any form of tax reduction, grant, or waiver.

The report will answer a question posed by Gordon Voss, a former state representative (one-time chair of the House Taxes Committee) and bill proponent: "Are the [state] expenditures effective for the purposes for which they were given?"

Any future tax breaks granted by the Legislature to businesses must also include measurable goals for jobs and wages and require biennial review.

Business and retail associations opposed the bill, saying it would cost the state jobs.

"Artificially inflating wages above what the market will bear is not the answer," said Judy Cook, president of the Minnesota Retail Merchant's Association.

Several IR members also expressed opposition to the bill, including Rep. H. Todd Van Dellen (IR-Plymouth).

"This is like putting out a huge 'not welcome' sign for any small or medium-sized business looking to relocate in Minnesota," he said.

**HF869** now moves to the House floor.



## LAW

### Striking a real cord

When winter rolls around again and the time comes to restock firewood supplies, consumers may have a protection in place to make sure they're getting the wood pile they pay for.

Under a bill approved by the House on April 3, those who buy firewood will know how much wood actually makes up a cord (a common measurement for wood piles) and could request a receipt.

The vote was 101-28.

Currently, there is no way someone who buys a cord of firewood is assured of receiving a standard cord of firewood.

**HF1431** would allow anyone who buys firewood to ask for a receipt, which would include the name, address and telephone number of the seller's business or home address. Sellers who don't provide receipts, or who provide incorrect information, could be cited for a misdemeanor violation under the bill.

The bill would help consumers who may purchase firewood from someone they find simply by dialing a number posted on a billboard, said the bill's sponsor Rep. Thomas Bakk (DFL-Cook).

To further protect consumers, the bill specifies exactly how much wood is contained in a cord of firewood and specifies all firewood must be sold in cords. A cord equals a stack

of wood 4-feet by 4-feet by 8-feet.

Currently, firewood is sometimes sold in all sorts of measurements such as pulpwood cords or firewood cords, Bakk said. "That causes confusion to the consumers."

The bill will next be heard by the Senate.

### No baby food allowed

Flea marketgoers could no longer pick up some food for their newborns while they browse for antiques, under a bill given final passage April 6 by the House. The vote was 128 to 0.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), who sponsors **HF1091**, said some of his constituents have noticed a growing trend: merchants selling baby food from flea market booths. Anyone may rent a table at a flea market and sell items.

His bill would not allow merchants at flea markets to sell infant formula, other food intended for a child under two years old, over-the-counter drugs, medical devices, or cosmetics.

The sales of such items are unregulated if they're sold at such booths, so the items may not be safe to eat, Entenza said.

His bill would make exceptions for authorized manufacturers' representatives who may sell such items from booths they rent.

The bill will next be heard by the Senate.

### Ice house identification

In the land of Olsons, Petersons, and Johnsons, where the winter religion is ice fishing, how can you tell one ice house from another?

It's not easy — particularly when the only identifiable landmark on a windswept lake may be a frozen walleye or a block of ice.

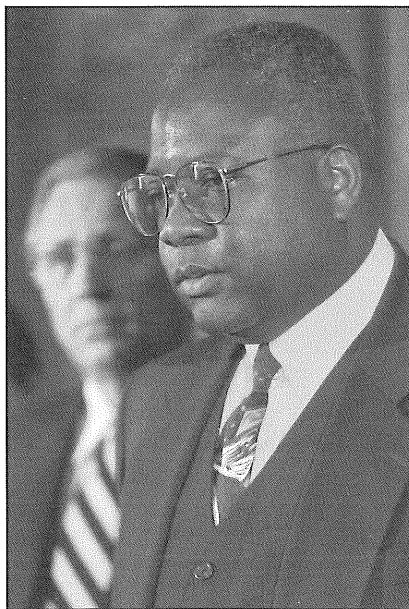
But a bill (**HF1307**) given final approval by the House April 6 would allow anglers to paint their drivers' license number — or their vehicle's license plate number — on the shack's outside wall. The vote was 127-1.

Currently, ice house residents must identify their home-away-from-home by painting their name and home address in letters at least three inches high.

But problems ensue when more than one — or even more than two or three — Johnsons or Olsons share the same lake, said bill sponsor Rep. Don Ostrom (DFL-St. Peter).

The painted names serve to identify fish house owners to the Department of Natural Resources.

The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.



Judge Edward Toussaint Jr., right, responds to questions during a press conference where Gov. Arne Carlson, left, named him chief judge of the Minnesota Court of Appeals on April 4.



## SPORTS

### 'Mighty Ducks' bill advances

A bill to authorize \$5 million in state bonds to build at least 20 indoor ice arenas in Minnesota won approval from a House panel April 3.

Under the bill (HF1260), the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission would use money from the sale of bonds to distribute grants of up to \$250,000 each to local communities.

Revenue generated from the current sales tax on sports and health club memberships would pay off the bonds.

Originally, the bill sought \$2.5 million in bonding authority for at least 10 new indoor ice arenas. But a successful amendment by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) transferred another \$2.5 million — set aside in the 1994 bonding law for an indoor shooting center on the Iron Range — to the ice rinks proposal. There is disagreement on where the shooting center should be built so its future is unclear.

With the additional funds, the bill would double the money available for ice center grants and subsidize at least 20 new indoor ice arenas, Rukavina said.

The State Government Finance Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee approved the bill after adopting the Rukavina amendment.

Bill sponsor Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul), also a member of the amateur sports commission, said a study of ice needs in Minnesota discovered more than 90 communities that say they need a new indoor ice arena or repairs for an existing arena. The

number of girls and boys participating in winter sports such as hockey and competitive figure skating has increased the demand for ice time.

(A 1994 law mandates that all public indoor ice arenas must give female hockey teams "up to 30 percent" of the prime ice time during the 1995 winter season and "up to 50 percent" by the 1996 season.)

Milbert said most ice arenas in the state will cost \$750,000 to about \$1 million to build. Since the maximum grant would amount to \$250,000, a community would have to come up with the rest.

The bill gives local governments the ability to sell bonds to supplement the state grant for an ice center. Local governments could also sell bonds without voter approval as long as two or more local governments agree and there is expert testimony that the ice arena's revenues will be enough to pay off the bonds without relying on property taxes.

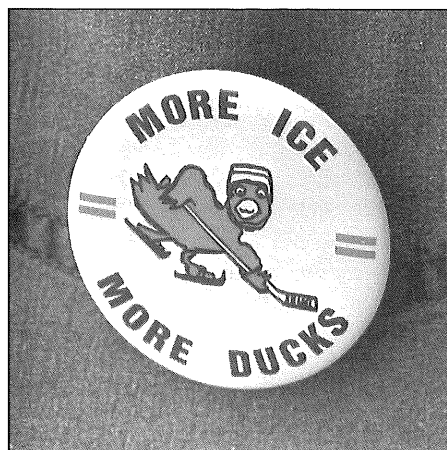
In addition, the bill provides a sales tax exemption for building materials used to construct the arenas if a school district is a party to an agreement to build.

Another section of the bill would set aside \$400,000 from the sale of state bonds to help renovate existing arenas.

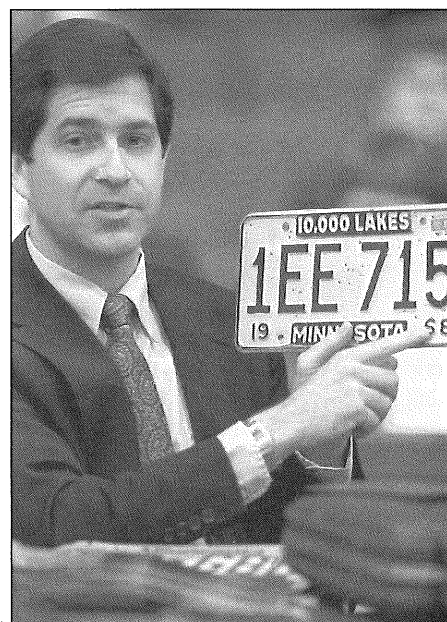
The proposal, dubbed the 'Mighty Ducks' bill, is named after a Walt Disney movie depicting a team of misfit youth hockey players.

Last year, Milbert tried to attach a version of his ice rink proposal to a bill authorizing a public buyout of the Target Center in downtown Minneapolis. Milbert's amendment never survived the final days of the 1994 session.

HF1260 now goes to the full Governmental Operations Committee.



Supporters of a bill that would help finance at least 20 indoor ice arenas distributed "Mighty Ducks" pins at the Capitol to show support for HF1260. The measure was dubbed the "Mighty Ducks" bill after a movie that depicted a team of misfit youth hockey players.



Bob Kruse of Bloomington held up a license plate originally stamped in 1968 that he'd like to display on his restored 1969 Dodge Charger. The House Transportation and Transit Committee heard a bill (HF1402) March 29 that would allow the issuance of original license plates for certain motor vehicles.

only drive 2,000 miles per year in the cars.

But Bob Kruse, who lives in Bloomington, said he wants to use 1968 license plates on a restored 1969 automobile. Because license plates back then were only issued every two years, the license plates resemble plates the car would have had when new, he said.

Kruse plans to drive the car to vintage automobile shows, but he also would like to take it for short spins to the grocery store or to visit friends, he said.

So Kruse contacted his state representative, Alice Seagren (IR-Bloomington), who sponsors HF1402.

He spent a great deal of time restoring the Dodge Charger and said attaching current Minnesota license plates would mar its vintage appearance.

"The only comparison I can make to having current license plates on my car is seeing a caveman walking down the street wearing wing-tipped shoes," Kruse said.

Under the bill, Kruse and other collector car owners would be allowed to use original-era license plates for cars that are at least 20 years old. The license plate number must not already be issued.

Owners of such plates would renew them yearly. To preserve the integrity of the antique license plates, they would not have to display the month and year renewal stickers on the plate's lower corners, though they would have to carry the vehicle license registration in the car with them at all times.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Plates for vintage cars

Vintage car owners would be able to display license plates that would better match the vintage of their cars, under a bill approved March 31 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

Currently, those who own restored or vintage automobiles can display special "collector license plates" that bear the same year a car was built, but the plates don't look like the original license plates issued that year.

Cars with collector plates can only be used to drive to and from collector car shows. Owners of such plates don't need to renew them on an annual basis. However, they may

"I warned my constituent he may be stopped quite often and asked to show his registration," Seagren said.

Rep. Don Frerichs (IR-Rochester) praised the bill as an example of "how the process works" for the individual constituent with a complaint.

## Private driver data

The names and addresses of disabled drivers wouldn't be available to the public, under a bill approved April 5 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

The bill is necessary to curb some medical equipment vendors from compiling lists of potential customers and contacting them in an attempt to make a sale, said Kurt Strom, an advocate for the State Council on Disabilities. Some disreputable vendors have made such contacts, Strom said.

Currently, only medical information on those disabled drivers is private — which means members of the public don't have access to that data. Social security and vehicle registration numbers and medical data for all licensed drivers also is considered private information. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety compiles the lists when Minnesotans apply for drivers' licenses.

The bill (HF144/SF144\*) also would ensure that the public wouldn't have access to disabled drivers' names and addresses. Currently, such information is public for all Minnesota drivers, unless an individual requests that it be made private.

The bill also would allow disabled drivers to display their handicapped parking certificate on the dashboard if their disability prevents them from hanging it from the rear view mirror as state law currently requires.

Next, the House Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee will hear the bill.

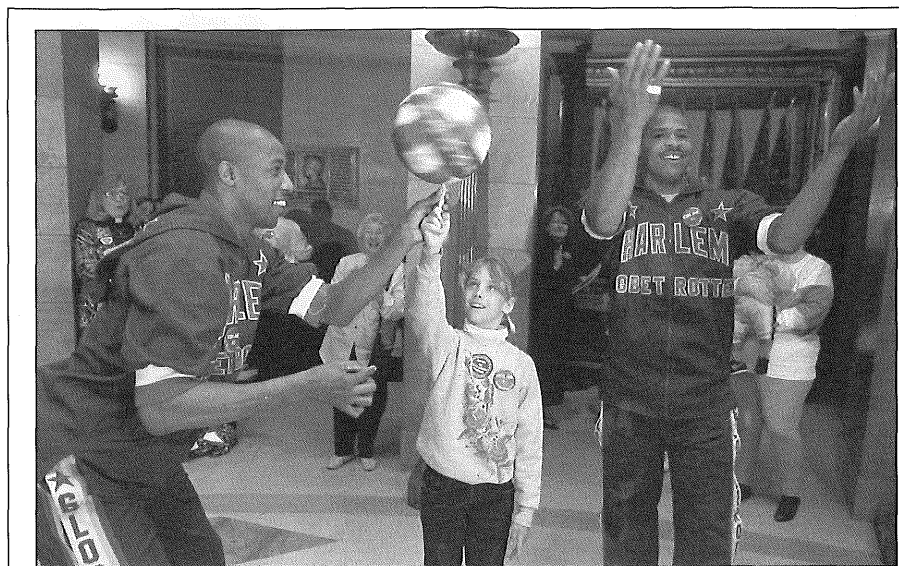
## Safe school buses

Minnesota school bus drivers convicted of a DWI while on duty would be banned from ever driving a school bus again, under a bill approved March 31 by the House Judiciary Committee.

The provision is included in a bill assembled by the School Bus Safety Task Force and sponsored by Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm).

Current law calls for a five-year ban in such a case — the same suspension that is in place for a school bus driver who is convicted of a DWI while in a personal car.

An amendment to weaken the "personal



Harlem Globetrotter Reggie Perkins, left, placed a spinning basketball on the outstretched finger of nine-year-old Jill Rimmey, Wayzata, Minn., as teammate Mario Green solicited applause from the crowd that gathered in the Capitol rotunda April 3. The Globetrotters attended the "Put Children First" rally and urged legislators to support funding for a variety of children's programs.

car" penalty failed. It would have graduated the bus license suspension depending on the number of DWI offenses (90 days for a first-time offender, for example, or one year for a three-time offender).

Additionally, the state would no longer require that school bus drivers learn first aid or take eight hours of annual in-service training.

"We're having an absolute terrible time providing training in rural Minnesota, said Joe Beaton of the Minnesota School Bus Driver's Association. "It is hindering the hiring of drivers."

Last year, the Legislature passed a comprehensive school bus safety law, which allowed school districts to get a 1 percent boost in their transportation safety aid each year to make their buses safer. The law also called for more school bus driver training.

HF892 would leave it up to school districts — not the state — to determine how much first aid training drivers should receive. Current law says all drivers have to show they know first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation before they can obtain a school bus driver's license.

Some members have called the requirement an unfunded mandate for local school districts.

Beaton said school districts face a bus driver shortage because the frequently low-paying and part-time positions require specific training and a criminal background check. Potential bus drivers also must show they understand student behavior, know how to get students on and off the bus in an orderly fashion, and know what to do in emergencies.

HF892 would also:

- clarify that school bus drivers are included in the state's Good Samaritan law, which makes them immune from criminal and civil liability when rendering emergency care or assistance while on duty;
- create a mandatory minimum fine of \$300 for failure to stop for a school bus with an extended stop arm. Current law calls for a driver's license suspension for a first-time offender. Under the bill, a license would only be suspended for a repeat offender;
- reduce the current five-year bus license cancellation to one year for a driver receiving a fourth moving violation in three years.

The bill now moves to the Education Committee.

## Creating local bus services

Cities and towns surrounding the Twin Cities would be able to create their own bus services, under a bill approved March 31 by the Transportation and Transit Committee.

HF1549 would allow communities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area — in which the Metropolitan Council levies a transportation tax — to use that money for their own bus service.

Currently, five companies in the metropolitan area offer "opt-out" transportation services. That means they don't choose to use the Metropolitan Council's coordinating bus system which operates throughout the Twin Cities, suburbs, and adjacent cities and towns.

The communities which use opt-out ser-

vices are still levied a transportation tax by the Metropolitan Council. The council levies the tax on all communities it serves or could potentially serve, said Jim Solem, the council's regional administrator.

The agencies that administer opt-out programs, such as the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority which serves riders in Apple Valley, Burnsville, Prior Lake, and other southern suburbs, submit their annual operating budgets to the council for approval. Once approved, the council rebates the agency that budget amount, Solem said.

But **HF1549** would allow local governments to automatically get back 90 percent of their transportation levy if they choose to operate or use an opt-out service, said bill sponsor Rep. Tom Workman (IR-Chanhassen). If the local government received more money back from the council than necessary to operate the bus service, it would place the money in a special reserve account for future opt-out use.

"We have communities that are paying the transportation levy and getting virtually no service," Workman told committee members.

To be eligible to take part under Workman's bill, communities must show the Metropolitan Council does not provide them with adequate busing service, though they pay the transportation levy. Potentially eligible cities include Lino Lakes in Anoka County, Vadnais Heights and North Oaks in Ramsey County, Medicine Lake and Osseo in Hennepin County, and Pine Springs and Woodbury in Washington County, according to Workman.

But Solem said the bill would splinter transportation busing services and create problems for passengers who wish to travel throughout the metropolitan area.

"This would have a big impact on our ability to have a regional transit system," he said.

The council is now studying the needs of the metropolitan busing system to better determine a way to serve all communities, he said.

Rep. Dan McElroy (IR-Burnsville) said the met council provides a high-cost bus service. Opt-out companies could cut busing costs by using smaller buses, he said.

Next, the bill will be heard by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

## Legislative Commissions

### Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC)

85 State Office Building ..... 297-3697

### LCC Central Accounting

198 State Office Building ..... 296-8890

### Claims (Joint Subcommittee on Claims)

198 State Office Building ..... 296-0099

### Geographic Information Systems

(GIS) Oversight Office/Subcommittee

70 State Office Building ..... 296-0098

### Legislative Advisory Commission (LAC)

Fourth Floor, Centennial Office Building  
658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 ..... 297-7881

### Audit Commission/Office of

#### Legislative Auditor

First Floor, Centennial Office Building  
658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 ..... 296-4708

### Legislative Commission on Children, Youth & Their Families

60 State Office Building ..... 282-6289

### Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women

85 State Office Building ..... 296-8590  
Toll-free number ..... 1-800-657-3949

### Legislative Commission on Employee Relations

85 State Office Building ..... 296-2963

### Legislative Commission on Health Care Access

375 State Office Building ..... 296-0173\*  
G-9 Capitol ..... 296-4261\*

### Legislative Commission on Long Term Health Care

375 State Office Building ..... 296-0173\*  
G-9 Capitol ..... 296-4261\*

### Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR)

65 State Office Building ..... 296-2406

### Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement

55 State Office Building ..... 296-2750

### Legislative Commission on Planning & Fiscal Policy

90 State Office Building ..... 296-0134

### Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules (LCRAR)

55 State Office Building ..... 296-1143

### Legislative Commission on Waste Management (LCWM)

85 State Office Building ..... 297-3604

### Legislative Water Commission

300 Centennial Office Building,  
Third Floor, Southwest  
658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 ..... 297-7905

### Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)

P.O. Box 441, Highway 53  
Eveleth 55734 ..... 218-749-7721

### Mississippi River Parkway Commission

Pioneer Building, Suite 1513  
336 Robert St., St. Paul 55101 ..... 224-9903

### Electric Energy Task Force

85 State Office Building ..... 297-3697

### Great Lakes Commission

569 State Office Building ..... 296-2228\*

### State Advisory Council on Metropolitan Airport Planning

G-24 State Capitol ..... 296-3205\*  
517 State Office Building ..... 296-5091\*

## Frequently called numbers

### Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol ..... 296-2344

Voice mail/order bills ..... 296-2343

### Chief Clerk of the House

211 Capitol ..... 296-2314

### Index, Senate

110 Capitol ..... 296-2887

### Index, House

211 Capitol ..... 296-6646

### Information, Senate

231 Capitol ..... 296-0504

### Information, House

175 State Office Building ..... 296-2146

Committee Hotline, Senate ..... 296-8088

Committee Hotline, House ..... 296-9283

### Sergeant at Arms, Senate

Senate Chamber ..... 296-7159

### Sergeant at Arms, House

45 State Office Building ..... 296-4860

### Counsel and Research, Senate

G-17 Capitol ..... 296-4791

### Research, House

600 State Office Building ..... 296-6753

### Legislative Reference Library

645 State Office Building ..... 296-3398

### Revisor of Statutes

700 State Office Building ..... 296-2868

### Governor's Office

130 Capitol ..... 296-3391

### Attorney General's Office

102 Capitol ..... 296-6196

### Secretary of State's Office

180 State Office Building ..... 296-3266

### Capitol Security

B-4 Capitol ..... 296-6741

Emergency ..... 296-2100

TDD\* Senate ..... 296-0250

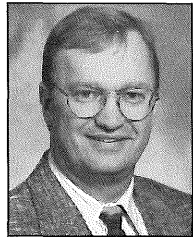
TDD\* House .. 296-9896 or 1-800-657-3550

\* These telephone numbers reflect lawmaker commission chairs which could change.

New members . . .

## Rostberg puts 'reap-what-you-sow' lessons to work

Growing up on a Kanabec County farm and attending a one-room school, Rep. Jim Rostberg (IR-Isanti) learned how common sense and careful work can bring future rewards.



Rep. Jim Rostberg

Serving his first term in the House, Rostberg is putting those you-reap-what-you-sow lessons to work on some of the tough issues facing state government.

Rostberg wants to improve education and to make sure there will be good jobs for those children later.

That way, the way Rostberg sees it, there will be less need for welfare, state-funded health care, or new prison space.

"By doing some preventive care up front, we can reduce the costs at the other end," he said.

Rostberg said a more business-friendly environment in Minnesota would help put people to work in good jobs with good benefits.

He is one of many lawmakers who is looking to make changes in workers' compensation laws this year in order to boost business and jobs.

"We need to look at our competition, our neighboring states, and see what we can do to bring ourselves into a better position," he said. "If we're not competitive with our neighbors, how can we blame businesses for moving over the border?"

Rostberg won the District 18A seat in the House in 1994 by defeating four-term in-

cumbent former Rep. Harold Lasley (DFL-Cambridge).

A 1992 race between the same two candidates was Rostberg's first run for state office.

Rostberg has worked for the past nine years as the emergency management director and veterans service officer for Isanti County — positions that have given him a close-up look at some of the problems facing people in his community.

There he worked with many low-income community members and saw their struggles for affordable housing, health care, and other essentials.

"I wanted to come down to the Legislature to do what I could do to help decrease the cost of government and to increase opportunities for people," he said.

Rostberg served six years on active duty in the Navy, three of which were spent on submarines, and he is a member of the Navy reserves. He and his wife, Kathy, have two children: Jacob, 12, and LeeAnn, 9.

During his years on the family farm, Rostberg developed a keen interest in agricultural and environmental issues.

He enjoys hands-on work such as cutting his own fire wood and heading out to do some deer hunting in the fall. And he wants to work in the Legislature to maintain Minnesota's agricultural strength and abundant natural resources.

"We need to do what we can to preserve our environment so my children and my children's children will be able to enjoy it as much as I have," Rostberg said.

Still, he believes there "needs to be a bal-

ance" between environmental protection and development.

"The best way to accomplish that is through local control," Rostberg said. "Common sense should dictate a lot of things, and I think you get common sense when local officials decide because the public is more actively involved."

He supports legislation being considered this year that would give counties more power to decide which wetlands should be protected and which can be developed.

Rostberg still owns a share of the family farm where he grew up and still works the land every year.

While he currently is busy trying to forge a better future for people in his district, Rostberg has some other seeds to sow this spring.

"The first thing I'm going to do when the session ends, if I don't have time before then, is get on my tractor, plow my field, and plant it," he said.

— Nick Healy

### District 18A

**Population:** 32,320

**Distribution:** 15.76 percent urban; 84.24 percent rural

**Counties:** Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine

**Largest city:** Cambridge

**Location:** east central Minnesota

**Unemployment rate:** 6.72 percent

**Residents living below poverty level:** 8.90 percent

**1992 presidential election results:**

Bush/Quayle ..... 28.97 percent

Clinton/Gore ..... 39.98 percent

Perot/Stockdale ..... 29.72 percent

Other: ..... 1.33 percent

## MINNESOTA'S CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

### Governor

**ARNE CARLSON (IR)**

Room 130  
State Capitol  
St. Paul 55155  
(612) 296-3391  
1-800-657-3717

### Lieutenant Governor

**JOANNE BENSON (IR)**

Room 130  
State Capitol  
St. Paul 55155  
(612) 296-3391

### Secretary of State

**JOAN ANDERSON GROWE (DFL)**

Room 180  
State Office Building  
St. Paul 55155  
(612) 296-3266  
Election Division: 296-2805  
Open Appointments: 297-5845  
Business Information: 296-2803  
UCC: 296-2434

### State Auditor

**JUDITH DUTCHER (IR)**

525 Park St.  
Suite 400  
St. Paul 55103  
(612) 296-2551

### State Treasurer

**MICHAEL A. McGRATH (DFL)**

303 State Administration Building  
50 Sherburne Ave.  
St. Paul 55155  
(612) 296-7091

### Attorney General

**HUBERT H. HUMPHREY III (DFL)**

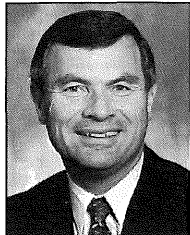
Room 102  
State Capitol  
St. Paul 55155  
(612) 296-6196  
Consumer Division: 296-3353  
1-800-657-3787



New members . . .

## Places in the heart — and head — for Bradley

When church or community groups go looking for someone to take charge, a lot of people duck the offer by saying, "No, but I'd like to help."



Rep. Fran Bradley

"I'm exactly the opposite," said Rep. Fran Bradley (IR-Rochester). "I love to lead. I love to organize. I have a propensity to be involved in a lot of community activities."

During the past three decades, Bradley has accepted more than a few offers to lead community efforts.

He has served as a board member for the Youth Employment Project and as a member of the Winona State University Foundation scholarship committee.

He also has worked in the youth ministry and served on the religious education board and parish council for his church.

But, until seeking the District 30A House seat in 1994, Bradley's experience in public office was limited to a six-year stint on the Oronoco City Council in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Still, he does not consider his decision to run for the seat left vacant by former Rep. Gil Gutknecht, who was elected to the U.S. Congress, a great departure.

"I think it's a fairly natural extension of a keen interest in the community and a desire for the chance to make a difference," Bradley said.

His involvement in IR politics stretches back to the 1970s, when he chaired the First District volunteer team for former congressman Al Quie.

Bradley served in that role during Quie's successful 1978 gubernatorial campaign and still considers him a "statesman mentor."

A longtime member of the Jaycees, Bradley said his most valuable campaign trail experience occurred when he mounted a successful run to become state president of the 10,000-member organization.

Before entering the 1994 House race, Bradley spent six weeks considering his options and discussing the possibilities with his family.

Once he decided to run, Bradley built a campaign around calls for welfare reform and for improvements in education and the economy. He set out determined to avoid negative campaign tactics.

"I was going to win or lose based on the way I live my life," Bradley said. "That is based on optimism."

Reforming workers' compensation, controlling taxes and taking other steps to create jobs in Minnesota, he maintains, could help solve some of the toughest problems facing the Legislature.

"The greatest welfare reform initiative I see is a very strong economy," he said. "There is nothing to take the place of being able to go out and find a good job."

The Ivanhoe, Minn., native doesn't put much stock in political labels, and adds that he doesn't easily fit into one category.

He describes himself as a "fiscal conservative" and as "pro-life." But he considers himself "progressive" when it comes to expanding opportunities for women and people of color and says he is not the kind of person "who makes [abortion] the only issue."

Bradley promises an understanding approach to even the most divisive issues that come before the Legislature. "I think we can have healthy differences of opinion and still respect each other," he said. "I hope we can debate, even sometimes get angry, and still respect each other."

A graduate of South Dakota State University, Bradley said he had "probably 10 different careers" during his 30 years with IBM. He worked most recently as a senior engineer-manager before retiring in August 1994.

He and his wife, Mary, have four children: Al, 30, Michelle, 28, Scott, 27, and Chris, 10.

In his first term in the House, Bradley is counting on his engineering background and his "deep spiritual values" to help him analyze both the technical and ethical issues that legislators' face.

"I tend to be driven in making decisions by a balance of heart and head," he said.

— Nick Healy

### District 30A

**Population:** 32,969  
**Distribution:** 99.41 percent urban; 0.59 percent rural  
**County:** Olmsted  
**Largest city:** Rochester  
**Location:** southeastern Minnesota  
**Unemployment rate:** 3.09 percent  
**Residents living below poverty level:** 4.61 percent  
**1992 presidential election results:**  
 Bush/Quayle ..... 42.48 percent  
 Clinton/Gore ..... 33.17 percent  
 Perot/Stockdale ..... 23.59 percent  
 Other: ..... 0.76 percent

## Minnesota State Agencies

Agriculture ..... 297-2200  
 Commerce ..... 296-4026  
 Corrections ..... 642-0200  
 Education ..... 296-6104  
 Employee Relations ..... 297-1184  
 Job Information ..... 296-2616  
 Finance ..... 296-5900  
 Gaming  
   Gambling Control Division .. 639-4000  
   MN State Lottery Division .... 635-8100  
   Toll Free ..... 1-800-475-4000  
 MN Racing Commission ..... 341-7555  
 Health ..... 623-5000

Human Rights ..... 296-5663  
 Toll Free ..... 1-800-657-3704  
 Human Services ..... 296-6117  
 Economic Security ..... 296-3711  
 Labor and Industry ..... 296-6107  
 Military Affairs ..... 282-4662  
 Natural Resources ..... 296-6157  
 Public Safety ..... 296-6642  
   Driver and Vehicle Services .. 296-6911  
   Fire Marshal ..... 643-3080  
   Liquor Control ..... 296-6159  
   State Patrol ..... 297-3935  
 Pollution Control ..... 296-6300

Public Service ..... 296-7107  
 Revenue  
   Taxpayer Assistance ..... 296-3781  
   Toll Free ..... 1-800-652-9094  
 Trade and Econ. Development 297-1291  
   Office of Tourism ..... 296-5029  
 Transportation ..... 296-3000  
 Veterans Affairs ..... 296-2562  
**State Information ..... 296-6013**

House Information ..... 296-2146  
 Senate Information ..... 296-0504

# Minnesota House of Representatives 1995-96

Unofficial list as of April 7, 1995

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-
45A Abrams, Ron (IR) .....	209 .....	9934	50B Lynch, Teresa (IR) .....	295 .....	5369
10A Anderson, Bob (DFL) .....	437 .....	4946	37B Macklin, Bill (IR) .....	349 .....	6926
19B Anderson, Bruce (IR) .....	281 .....	5063	40A Mahon, Mark P. (DFL) .....	401 .....	7158
3A Anderson, Irv (DFL) .....	463 .....	4936	55A Mares, Harry (IR) .....	239 .....	5363
6A Bakk, Thomas (DFL) .....	429 .....	2190	65B Mariani, Carlos (DFL) .....	403 .....	9714
14B Bertram, Jeff (DFL) .....	571 .....	4373	57B Marko, Sharon (DFL) .....	507 .....	3135
10B Bettermann, Hilda (IR) .....	243 .....	4317	55B McCollum, Betty (DFL) .....	501 .....	1188
30B Bishop, Dave (IR) .....	343 .....	0573	36B McElroy, Dan (IR) .....	259 .....	4212
25B Boudreau, Lynda (IR) .....	327 .....	8237	54A McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL) .....	567 .....	4342
30A Bradley, Fran (IR) .....	241 .....	9249	39B Milbert, Bob (DFL) .....	579 .....	4192
53B Broecker, Sherry (IR) .....	321 .....	7153	35A Molnau, Carol (IR) .....	287 .....	8872
13A Brown, Chuck (DFL) .....	597 .....	4929	21B Mulder, Richard (IR) .....	387 .....	4336
46B Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL) .....	379 .....	4255	7A Munger, Willard (DFL) .....	479 .....	4282
47B Carruthers, Phil (DFL) .....	459 .....	3709	8A Murphy, Mary (DFL) .....	557 .....	2676
61A Clark, Karen (DFL) .....	503 .....	0294	20A Ness, Robert "Bob" (IR) .....	335 .....	4344
38A Commers, Tim (IR) .....	217 .....	3533	2B Olson, Edgar (DFL) .....	565 .....	4265
15B Cooper, Roger (DFL) .....	549 .....	4346	19A Olson, Mark (IR) .....	223 .....	4237
11A Daggett, Roxann (IR) .....	225 .....	4293	20B Onnen, Tony (IR) .....	273 .....	1534
9B Dauner, Marvin (DFL) .....	581 .....	6829	16A Opatz, Joe (DFL) .....	377 .....	6612
31B Davids, Gregory M. (IR) .....	371 .....	9278	64B Orenstein, Howard (DFL) .....	529 .....	4199
65A Dawkins, Andy (DFL) .....	409 .....	5158	60B Orfield, Myron (DFL) .....	521 .....	9281
14A Dehler, Steve (IR) .....	203 .....	7808	29B Osskopp, Mike (IR) .....	329 .....	9236
51A Delmont, Mike (DFL) .....	575 .....	4226	66A Osthoff, Tom (DFL) .....	585 .....	4224
29A Dempsey, Jerry (IR) .....	251 .....	8635	24B Ostrom, Don (DFL) .....	433 .....	7065
24A Dorn, John (DFL) .....	533 .....	3248	11B Otremba, Ken (DFL) .....	545 .....	3201
64A Entenza, Matt (DFL) .....	531 .....	8799	37A Ozment, Dennis (IR) .....	283 .....	4306
42A Erhardt, Ron (IR) .....	237 .....	4363	42B Paulsen, Erik (IR) .....	221 .....	7449
67A Farrell, Jim (DFL) .....	423 .....	4277	38B Pawlenty, Tim (IR) .....	231 .....	4128
1B Finseth, Tim (IR) .....	253 .....	9918	52B Pellow, Richard (IR) .....	233 .....	0141
31A Frerichs, Don L. (IR) .....	247 .....	4378	32A Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL) .....	517 .....	8637
63B Garcia, Edwina (DFL) .....	411 .....	5375	57A Perl, Walter E. (DFL) .....	473 .....	7807
21A Girard, Jim (IR) .....	213 .....	5374	13B Peterson, Doug (DFL) .....	523 .....	4228
9A Goodno, Kevin (IR) .....	369 .....	5515	39A Pugh, Thomas (DFL) .....	583 .....	6828
62A Greenfield, Lee (DFL) .....	375 .....	0173	46A Rest, Ann H. (DFL) .....	443 .....	4176
54B Greiling, Mindy (DFL) .....	553 .....	5387	44B Rhodes, Jim (IR) .....	309 .....	9889
48A Haas, Bill (IR) .....	201 .....	5513	58A Rice, James I. (DFL) .....	381 .....	4262
50A Hackbarth, Tom (IR) .....	313 .....	2439	18A Rostberg, Jim (IR) .....	323 .....	5364
22B Harder, Elaine (IR) .....	277 .....	5373	5A Rukavina, Tom (DFL) .....	471 .....	0170
12A Hasskamp, Kris (DFL) .....	451 .....	4333	59A Sarna, John J. (DFL) .....	563 .....	4219
66B Hausman, Alice (DFL) .....	449 .....	3824	17B Schumacher, Leslie (DFL) .....	413 .....	5377
56A Holsten, Mark (IR) .....	345 .....	3018	41A Seagren, Alice (IR) .....	315 .....	7803
26A Hugoson, Gene (IR) .....	289 .....	3240	52A Simoneau, Wayne (DFL) .....	365 .....	4331
6B Huntley, Thomas (DFL) .....	569 .....	2228	62B Skoglund, Wesley J. "Wes" (DFL) .....	477 .....	4330
7B Jaros, Mike (DFL) .....	559 .....	4246	34A Smith, Steve (IR) .....	353 .....	9188
58B Jefferson, Richard H. (DFL) .....	577 .....	8659	3B Solberg, Loren (DFL) .....	445 .....	2365
18B Jennings, Loren (DFL) .....	537 .....	0518	33B Stanek, Rich (IR) .....	351 .....	5502
48B Johnson, Alice M. (DFL) .....	539 .....	5510	28B Sviggum, Steven A. (IR) .....	267 .....	2273
4A Johnson, Bob (DFL) .....	551 .....	5516	51B Swenson, Doug (IR) .....	255 .....	4124
32B Johnson, Virgil J. (IR) .....	207 .....	1069	23B Swenson, Howard (IR) .....	331 .....	8634
59B Kahn, Phyllis (DFL) .....	367 .....	4257	43B Sykora, Barbara (IR) .....	357 .....	4315
26B Kalis, Henry J. (DFL) .....	543 .....	4240	5B Tomassoni, David (DFL) .....	593 .....	0172
44A Kelley, Steve (DFL) .....	417 .....	3964	36A Tompkins, Eileen (IR) .....	245 .....	5506
35B Kelso, Becky (DFL) .....	415 .....	1072	67B Trimble, Steve (DFL) .....	491 .....	4201
4B Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony" (DFL) .....	453 .....	2451	25A Tuma, John (IR) .....	301 .....	4229
40B Knight, Kevin (IR) .....	307 .....	4218	1A Tunheim, Jim (DFL) .....	509 .....	9635
16B Knoblach, Jim (IR) .....	215 .....	6316	34B Van Dellen, H. Todd (IR) .....	291 .....	5511
17A Koppendray, LeRoy (IR) .....	389 .....	6746	15A Van Engen, Tom (IR) .....	359 .....	6206
27A Kraus, Ron (IR) .....	279 .....	8216	23A Vickerman, Barb (IR) .....	211 .....	9303
53A Krinkie, Phil (IR) .....	303 .....	2907	63A Wagenius, Jean (DFL) .....	439 .....	4200
56B Larsen, Peg (IR) .....	311 .....	4244	49B Warkentin, Eldon H. (IR)** .....		
27B Leighton Jr., Robert (DFL) .....	527 .....	4193	49A Weaver, Charlie (IR) .....	261 .....	1729
45B Leppek, Peggy (IR) .....	393 .....	7026	61B Wejcman, Linda (DFL) .....	431 .....	7152
2A Lieder, Bernie (DFL) .....	515 .....	5091	12B Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL) .....	487 .....	4247
33A Lindner, Arlon (IR) .....	227 .....	7806	22A Winter, Ted (DFL) .....	407 .....	5505
60A Long, Dee (DFL) .....	591 .....	0171	41B Wolf, Ken (IR) .....	317 .....	5185
8B Lourey, Becky (DFL) .....	421 .....	4308	28A Worke, Gary D. (IR) .....	229 .....	5368
47A Luther, Darlene (DFL) .....	525 .....	3751	43A Workman, Tom (IR) .....	337 .....	5066

Note: Room numbers are still subject to change.

\* All rooms are in the State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

\*\* Elected to the House in a special election April 4, 1995.  
Will be sworn in April 10, 1995.

# Bill Introductions

HF1772-HF1823

## Monday, April 3

### HF1772—Entenza (DFL)

#### Education

Special education services provided full state funding, fund transfers authorized, contract settlement deadline repealed, lease purchase levy modified, and property tax aid offsets provided.

### HF1773—Anderson, B. (IR)

#### Environment and Natural Resources

Sherburne county tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

### HF1774—Carlson (DFL)

#### Education

School district fund transfers authorized, required fund transfer eliminated, and lease purchase levy modified.

### HF1775—Pugh (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Unmarried mother right to custody provided, and child support order, paternity judgement, and right to counsel provisions modified.

### HF1776—Rhodes (IR)

#### Transportation and Transit

Railroad track zoning system established.

### HF1777—Simoneau (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Metropolitan council, metropolitan agency, and state historical society employees provided an early retirement incentive.

### HF1778—Ness (IR)

#### Education

School district projected capital expenditures report required.

### HF1779—Abrams (IR)

#### Governmental Operations

Government entity purchase of services prohibited from news media that do not annually publish their ethical standards.

### HF1780—McGuire (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Public information policy training program established for state and local government officials, and money appropriated.

### HF1781—Farrell (DFL)

#### Judiciary Finance

Red Wing and Sauk Centre correctional facilities juvenile placement prohibited, juvenile court

delinquent transfer provisions modified, and juvenile care privatization report required.

### HF1782—Daggett (IR)

#### Education

Independent School District No. 22, Detroit Lakes, fund transfer authorized.

### HF1783—Schumacher (DFL)

#### Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs

Fireworks display operators certification requirement provided, fees established, and money appropriated.

### HF1784—Kinkel (DFL)

#### Judiciary Finance

Ah Gwah Ching correctional facility established.

### HF1785—Long (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Local government state mandate development, imposition, and management regulated.

### HF1786—Pugh (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Gambling department created, gambling control and lottery boards abolished, horse racing commission modified, duties transferred, and agriculture commissioner required to provide technical and administrative horse racing support.

### HF1787—Carruthers (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations

Unicameral legislature provided with 112 members, and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF1788—Trimble (DFL)

#### Education

Higher education board appropriated money for land acquisition.

### HF1789—Johnson, A. (DFL)

#### Education

Special education services provided full state funding, and property tax aid offset provided.

### HF1790—Hausman (DFL)

#### Environment and Natural Resources

Forest resource management responsibilities of the natural resources department expanded.

### HF1791—Carlson (DFL)

#### Education

School systemic site decision making restructuring grants provided, and money appropriated.

### HF1792—Rest (DFL)

#### Taxes

Hennepin County property tax offset reduction provided.

### HF1793—Lieder (DFL)

#### Economic Development, Infrastructure, & Regulation Finance

Omnibus transportation appropriations bill.

### HF1794—Long (DFL)

#### Taxes

Senior citizen's property tax deferral program adopted, and money appropriated.

### HF1795—Anderson, R. (DFL)

#### Economic Development, Infrastructure, & Regulation Finance

Glendalough State Park, Molly Stark lake, free public access site construction provided, and money appropriated.

### HF1796—Entenza (DFL)

#### Education

School efficiency and flexibility promoted, and reporting requirements eliminated.

### HF1797—Murphy (DFL)

#### Judiciary Finance

Corrections and public safety department appropriations reduced.

### HF1798—Jennings (DFL)

#### Education

Independent School District No. 138, North Branch, increased student-teacher contact time grant provided, and money appropriated.

### HF1799—Entenza (DFL)

#### Education

Special education aid procedures modified.

### HF1800—Long (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Strategic and long-range planning office to develop a sustainable development planning guide for local government use.

### HF1801—Pelowski (DFL)

#### Education

Graduation rule adoption cost analysis required by state board of education.

### HF1802—Lourey (DFL)

#### Agriculture

Dairy education and technology transfer pilot program established, and money appropriated.

**HF1803—Hausman (DFL)****Education**

Flexible learning year building grants provided to school districts, and bonds issued.

**HF1804—Huntley (DFL)****Taxes**

Enterprise zone duration extended in certain cities.

**HF1805—Huntley (DFL)****Taxes**

Technical college student housing property tax exemption provisions modified.

**HF1806—Bakk (DFL)****Rules and Legislative Administration**

Root-Bryce Treaty; President and Congress memorialized to refer water use disagreements between the citizens of Minnesota and Ontario to the International Joint Commission for examination and determination under the Root-Bryce Treaty.

**HF1807—Kahn (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

Budget and oversight state council created, and duties specified.

**HF1808—Rest (DFL)****Taxes**

Bonding authority allocation procedures modified.

**HF1809—Osthoff (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

St. Paul Charter Commission alternative appointment method provided.

**HF1810—Rice (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Juvenile sex offender residential program license restrictions provided, and communities provided notification of facility siting.

**Wednesday, April 5****HF1811—Wagenius (DFL)****Taxes**

Mixed municipal solid waste and disposal service sales tax imposed.

**HF1812—Huntley (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Physician groups authorized to collectively bargain with benefit payors.

**HF1813—Rice (DFL)****Economic Development, Infrastructure, & Regulation Finance**

Commerce, Economic Security, Labor and Industry, Public Service, and Trade and Economic Development department appropriations reduced.

**HF1814—Leppik (IR)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Consumer credit equal treatment of spouses provided.

**HF1815—Entenza (DFL)****Judiciary Finance**

Ramsey County judge increase authorized.

**HF1816—Ottremba (DFL)****Labor-Management Relations**

Reemployment insurance benefit eligibility provided to certain business owners.

**HF1817—Knight (IR)****Governmental Operations**

State sovereignty defense council established, and attorney general directed to challenge certain federal mandates.

**HF1818—Knight (IR)****Governmental Operations**

Police and firefighters relief association member service pension calculation salary definition limited.

**Thursday, April 6****HF1819—Tunheim (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Lake of the Woods commercial rough fish and perch license limitation authorized.

**HF1820—Bakk (DFL)****Taxes**

Taconite economic development fund distribution extension provided.

**HF1821—Jaros (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

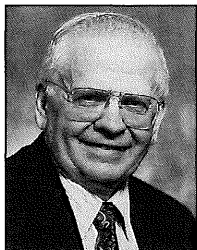
Pollution control agency sewage treatment system grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1822—Paulsen (IR)****Education**

Referendum allowance reduction discontinued.

**HF1823—Swenson, D. (IR)****Judiciary**

Design professional civil action expert review certification required.

**New House member**

Rep. Eldon Warkentin

The newest member of the Minnesota House is Eldon Warkentin, an Independent-Republican from Coon Rapids, Minn., who won the April 4 special election in District 49B.

He will assume the seat vacated by former Rep. Joel Jacobs, who was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission by Gov. Arne Carlson. Jacobs was serving his 12th term in the House.

IR candidates continue to dominate special elections in recent years, taking the last 15 legislative contests, and 35 of 45 special elections dating to 1971.

Warkentin received 48.8 percent of the vote in a three-way race. DFL candidate Luanne Koskinen received 39 percent, and Independence Party standard bearer Deb Skogen received 11.7 percent. A total of 4,690 votes were cast.

A licensed public accountant, Warkentin and his wife, Esther, have three children and six grandchildren. In addition to membership in several professional groups, Warkentin serves as

executive chairman of the Coon Rapids Evangelical Free Church.

"Serving the voters of District 49B would be another form of serving the public as I have done throughout my life," said Warkentin. I look forward to the hard work and responsibility required of a state representative."

Warkentin is expected to receive his committee assignments after he is sworn in April 10.

With his election, the House now has 70 DFL members and 64 Independent-Republican members.



# Committee Schedule

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

## MONDAY, April 10

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** HF210 (Carlson) Minnesota identification card fee changed.  
HF575 (Erhardt) Motor vehicle transfer notification by buyer required within ten days of purchase, and fees and penalties imposed.  
HF815 (Mariani) Wabasha Bridge in St. Paul removal and replacement provided, money appropriated, and bonds issued.  
HF971 (Tunheim) Manufacturer motor vehicle test license plate issuance authorized.  
HF1009 (McElroy) Drivers' license reinstatement fee waived in certain cases.  
HF1024 (Lieder) Roseville; Water's Edge Building purchased by Department of Transportation commissioner, bonds issued, and money appropriated.  
HF1638 (Kalis) Kee Theatre in Kiester restoration funding provided, and money appropriated.  
HF1639 (Kalis) FarmAmerica in Waseca County provided a grant, and money appropriated.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Environment and Natural Resources Omnibus Finance Bill.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** HF446 (Leppik) Acupuncture practitioner licensure by Board of Medical Practice established, and rules and penalties provided.  
HF503 (Bishop) Water supply systems and wastewater treatment facilities classified and operators certified by Department of Health and Pollution Control Agency, and money appropriated.  
HF506 (Clark) Lead abatement provisions modified and recodified, and money appropriated.

HF598 (Greenfield) Vulnerable Adults Reporting Act modified, and penalties provided.  
HF490 (Greenfield) Nursing home moratorium exception provisions modified.  
HF1201 (Greenfield) Health and human services appropriations reduced.

### K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Omnibus Education Bill: complete Art. 3 (special programs). Art. 4 (community education), and Art. 5 (facilities and equipment).

### Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** HF1192 (Hasskamp) Breezy Point lodging tax proceeds disposition specified.  
HF1682 (Bakk) Circuit breaker for seasonal recreational property.  
HF1545 (Kelley) Omnibus property tax bill modifying property tax classification, tax refunds, local government aid, municipal service charges, state aid, education cooperation, and court administration finance, and money appropriated.

### University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** HF156 (Finseth) University of Minnesota appropriated money for wheat and barley scab research.  
HF363 (Winter) Farmer-Lender Mediation Act sunset date eliminated.  
HF1697 (Wenzel) Relating to agriculture; appropriating money for the Minnesota Education in Agriculture Leadership Council.

10 a.m.

### JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Omnibus judiciary finance bill: formulation of priorities within agency requests, governor recommendations, bills before the committee. If necessary, the agenda will be continued in the evening.

### Select Committee on Technology

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

**Agenda:** Update on computer upgrades. House Television. E-mail.

### State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Preliminary budget allocations.

12:30 p.m.

### WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

**Agenda:** HF723 (Bakk) Youthful deer hunter license established, doe taking authority expanded, pelting fee increased, and family hunting license eliminated.  
HF2 (Johnson, A.) Motor vehicle emission inspection requirement waived for vehicles less than five years old.  
HF248 (Solberg) Pumped hydropower added to list of preferred alternative energy sources, and incentive payments provided for pumped hydropower facilities.  
HF1036 (Orenstein) Department of Public Safety, Higher Education Coordinating Board, State Racing Commission, Gambling Control Board, State Lottery Board, and Department of Public Service abolished, duties transferred, and new agencies created.  
HF1542 (Orenstein) State agency periodic report requirement eliminated.

2:15 p.m.

### RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

118 State Capitol  
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

**Agenda:** Special Orders.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

After Session

### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

**Agenda:** HF1350 (Opatz) Higher education merger technical and statutory provisions modified. Jay Noren, interim chancellor, Higher Education Board; Robert Bess, interim president, St. Cloud State University; Ed Twedt, president, Interfaculty Organization (IFO); John Ostrem, State Board of Technical Colleges; Frank Viggiano, executive director, Minnesota State

University Student Association (MSUSA); Bob Minne, co-president, UTCE.

**State Government Finance Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Continuation of morning agenda.

**TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** HF1077 (Cooper) MinnesotaCare; integrated service network requirements established, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

**TUESDAY, April 11**

7:30 a.m.

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

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Remaining articles in the Omnibus Education Bill.

8 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Environment and Natural Resources Omnibus Finance bill.

**JUDICIARY FINANCE**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Continuation of April 10 agenda. If necessary, the agenda will be continued in the evening.

**MinnesotaCare Finance Division/  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

**Agenda:** MinnesotaCare programs allocations for the 1996-97 biennium.

**Transportation Finance Division/  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** To be announced.

10 a.m.

**Financial Aid and Tuition Policy Working  
Group/Joint Higher Education Finance Divi-  
sion and University of Minnesota Finance  
Division/EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building  
Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Continued discussion of previous agendas.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing  
Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** HF1156 (Long) Metropolitan livable communities advisory board and fund established, and Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission and district provisions modified.

**State Government Finance Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Preliminary budget allocations.

12:30 p.m.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Higher education bonding recommendations presented by Reps. Tony Kinkel and Becky Kelso.

HF1507 (Murphy) Omnibus higher education bonding recommendations.

1 p.m.

**Legislative Commission on  
Pensions and Retirement**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** Consideration of the future provision of actuarial services to the commission after the June 30, 1995 expiration of the current contract with Milliman & Robertson, Inc. Appointment of actuarial services subcommittee. Consideration of timeline for rebidding actuarial services contract. Review and authorization of the issuance of a request for proposal document.

4 p.m.

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

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Complete remaining articles in the Omnibus Education Bill.

**WEDNESDAY, April 12**

8 a.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** Budget discussion.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** Environment & Natural Resources Omnibus Finance Bill.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Allocations for Health and Human Services programs for the 1996-97 biennium.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing  
Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

**Agenda:** SF953 (Solon); HF1273 (Jaros) Wind energy conversion systems property tax imposed and recovery provided.

HF1327 (Garcia) Richfield low and moderate income housing nonprofit corporation development authorized.

HF1400 (Murphy) Homestead assessment increase by Department of Revenue prohibited. HF1439 (Mahon) Bloomington fiscal disparity contribution provisions modified.

HF1566 (Long) Minneapolis authorized to establish special service districts.

HF1702 (Rukavina) Sharing C/I base within taconite tax relief area.

HF1770 (Kelley) Exemption to time requirements for qualifying for property tax exemption.

**University of Minnesota Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** University of Minnesota Finance Division Omnibus Bill.

10 a.m.

**JUDICIARY FINANCE**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Continuation of April 11 agenda. If necessary, the agenda will be continued in the evening.

**State Government Finance Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**  
400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina  
**Agenda:** Preliminary budget allocations.

12:30 p.m.

**WAYS & MEANS**  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

2:15 p.m.

**RULES &  
LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**  
118 State Capitol  
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers  
**Agenda:** Special Orders.

2:30 p.m.

**The House meets in Session.**

**After Session**

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing  
Division/TAXES**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ted Winter  
**Agenda:** HF1627 (Van Dellen) Metropolitan  
revitalization fund established to provide fund-  
ing for housing and urban development, and  
money appropriated.

**State Government Finance Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**  
400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina  
**Agenda:** Preliminary budget allocations.

**University of Minnesota Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**  
300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso  
**Agenda:** University of Minnesota Finance Divi-  
sion Omnibus Bill (continued).

7 p.m.

**EDUCATION**  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson  
**Agenda:** HF1000 (Johnson, A.) Omnibus K-12  
education finance bill.

## **THURSDAY, April 13**

7 a.m.

**EDUCATION**  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** HF1000 (Johnson, A.) Omnibus K-12  
education finance bill.

8 a.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**  
300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice  
**Agenda:** Budget discussion.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**  
Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown  
**Agenda:** Environment & Natural Resources  
Omnibus Finance Bill.

**JUDICIARY FINANCE**  
500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy  
**Agenda:** Continuation of April 12 agenda. If  
necessary, the agenda will be continued in the  
evening.

**MinnesotaCare Finance Division/  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper  
**Agenda:** HF1077 (Cooper) MinnesotaCare;  
integrated service network requirements estab-  
lished, penalties provided, and money appro-  
priated.  
Continuation of budget allocations.

10 a.m.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area  
Commission**  
Student Center, St. Mary's College  
700 Terrace Heights  
Winona, Minnesota  
**Agenda:** Special presentation: Midwest Area  
River Coalition (MARC 2000), Chris Brecia.  
Mississippi River sedimentation issue. St. Croix  
issues. Public forum. Reports from administra-  
tion and finance committees.

**Sales & Income Tax Division/TAXES**  
500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert  
**Agenda:** HF1653 (Dawkins) Revenue recap-  
ture debt collection notification provided an-  
nually.  
HF1435 (Pelowski) High School League tour-  
nament admissions exempted from sales tax.  
HF1422 (Winter) Horse sales and use tax ex-  
emption expanded to include racehorses, feed,  
and bedding.

HF1734 (Krinkie) Exempting used boats from  
the sales tax.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing  
Division/TAXES**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ted Winter  
**Agenda:** HF1656 (Dawkins) Restructuring aid  
paid to cities.  
HF1494 (Dawkins) Government Innovation and  
Cooperation Board fund distribution approval  
provided.  
HF1611 (Dawkins) Government Innovation and  
Cooperation Board authorized to conduct aid  
distribution council pilot project, and money  
appropriated.  
HF1673 (Wejeman) County boards may dele-  
gate authority to county auditor for tax-for-  
feited land administration and tax abatement.  
HF1725 (Otremba) Assessment of platted land.

**State Government Finance Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**  
400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina  
**Agenda:** Preliminary budget allocations.

12:30 p.m.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**  
500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis  
**Agenda:** Judiciary Committee bonding recom-  
mendations presented by Reps. Mary Murphy,  
Wes Skoglund. Environment & Natural Re-  
sources Finance Committee bonding recom-  
mendations presented by Rep. Chuck Brown.  
HF1024 (Lieder) Roseville; Water's Edge Build-  
ing purchased by Department of Transporta-  
tion commissioner, bonds issued, and money  
appropriated.  
HF351 (Dempsey) Red Wing provided com-  
bined sewer overflow grants, and money appro-  
priated.

2:15 p.m.

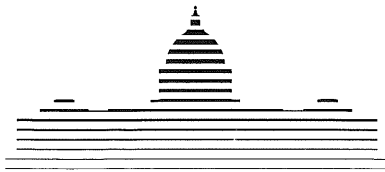
**RULES &  
LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**  
118 State Capitol  
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers  
**Agenda:** Special Orders.

2:30 p.m.

**The House meets in Session.**

## **FRIDAY, April 14**

**Holiday. No committee meetings  
scheduled.**



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
175 STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
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Speaker of the House: Irv Anderson  
Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Higher education in Minnesota

Percent of the state budget spent on higher education, FY1994 .....	13
Number of students on Minnesota higher education campuses, 1993 .....	300,000
Students receiving state grants, 1992-93 school year .....	62,000
total of those state grants, in millions .....	\$82.7
additional dollars in federal Pell Grants, in millions .....	\$70.7
Average state and federal grant award, per student .....	\$2,503
Total number of Minnesota public higher education campuses .....	66
nationally, average number of campuses per state .....	31
Number of public higher education campuses offering baccalaureate degrees .....	10
University of Minnesota .....	3
State university campuses .....	7
Degrees awarded in 1990-91 school year .....	16,000
in how many fields of study .....	230
Fields in which degree programs are offered at all 10 institutions, (computer and information science) .....	1
Percent of Minnesota teacher education graduates finding full-time teaching jobs, 1981 .....	61
in 1991 .....	41
Elementary teachers graduating from Minnesota's public and private institutions, per year .....	2,000
Elementary positions that the Department of Education estimates that Minnesota school districts will be eliminating, per year, between 1995 and 2000 .....	240
Student teacher ratio at technical colleges, 1992 .....	16:1
at community colleges .....	24:1
Spending per full-time student at technical colleges, 1992 .....	\$3,562
at community colleges .....	\$2,000
Percent of technical college graduates finding work in related fields .....	74 to 79
Percent that University of Minnesota tuition exceeds the national average for comparable universities, 1993 .....	24
Enrollment at Normandale, largest Minnesota community college, fall 1992 ..	9,221
at St. Cloud, largest state university, fall 1992 .....	15,507
at Anoka, largest technical college, fall 1992 .....	7,387

Sources: *Higher Education Programs, February 1994; Higher Education Tuition and State Grants, February 1993, Program Evaluation Division, Office of the Legislative Auditor.*



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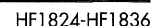


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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • April 13, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 15

## Week at a glance

**Equal access to videos** — Open- or closed-captioning would be required of all educational videotapes distributed for sale or rent in Minnesota, under a bill the House passed. .... **Page 5**

**Protecting vulnerable adults** — A bill that would increase criminal penalties for those who neglect or abuse vulnerable adults won approval from a House panel. The bill amends the 15-year-old law that protects adults who are vulnerable to abuse because they suffer from a physical or mental disability or because they depend on caregivers or institutionalized services. .... **Page 5**

**Deer hunting for kids** — Young people could buy an inexpensive license to hunt deer with firearms, under a bill approved by the House Ways and Means Committee. The "youth deer bill" would allow those under age 16 to buy a deer hunting license for \$5, instead of paying \$22 for a regular firearms license. .... **Page 8**

**Trapping great horned owls** — Does the Legislature give a hoot about the plight of Minnesota turkey farmers? A bill that would allow turkey farmers to trap great horned owls that threaten their flocks was approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee. .... **Page 8**

**Legislative interpreters** — A bill to require the Minnesota Legislature to hire one or more interpreters to make the legislative process more accessible to those who are deaf or hearing impaired was considered by a House panel. It is expected to be incorporated in the state government finance omnibus bill. .... **Page 9**

**Bonding for higher ed** — A bill to authorize the sale of \$3.37 million in state bonds to finance various higher education projects was heard April 11 by the House Capital Investment Committee. .... **Page 11**

**Abandoned waste** — A building owner would have a greater chance of successfully suing a renter who moves out and leaves behind containers of hazardous waste, under a bill given final approval by the House April 10. The vote was 130-0. .... **Page 13**

**A quick start** — Rep. Eldon Warkentin, the newest member of the House, says his April 10 swearing-in ceremony was one of the most exciting days of his life. But he also knows the thrill won't last. Warkentin, who dives into a session two-thirds finished, faces a tougher lot than some. In order to make informed votes on the floor, he has to pick up on issues in midstream and follow bills that have already received full hearings. .... **Page 16**

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On the cover: A State Capitol reflection in the black granite of the Minnesota Vietnam Veterans Memorial accents the names of the 1,120 Minnesotans killed or declared missing during the Vietnam War. It was 20 years ago, in April 1975, that Saigon fell to North Vietnamese forces, and United States troops completed their withdrawal from Vietnam to end the war.

— photo by Tom Olmscheid



# Highlights

K-12 education . . .

## House plan calls for more education aid, school safety

A \$5.9 billion K-12 education funding bill approved by a House panel this week would increase per pupil unit spending for school districts and would retain funding for programs that were the subject of proposed cuts.

The omnibus education bill, approved by the Education Committee's K-12 Education Finance Division April 11, would spend \$241 million more than proposed in Gov. Arne Carlson's budget.

The additional funds would ease the burden on local school districts by decreasing reliance on local property tax levies.

General education funding to districts would be set at \$3,240 per pupil unit in 1996 but would dip slightly to \$3,220 in 1997. The amounts in both years reflect an increase above the current \$3,150.

The general education funds to schools account for about \$4.2 billion of the total amount spent by the bill.

The bill also includes local levy authority for transportation funding that the governor proposed be eliminated.

The levies would provide funding for late activity buses, for busing students who would have to cross a hazard such as a highway or railroad tracks on their way to school, and for secondary students who live one to two miles from their school.

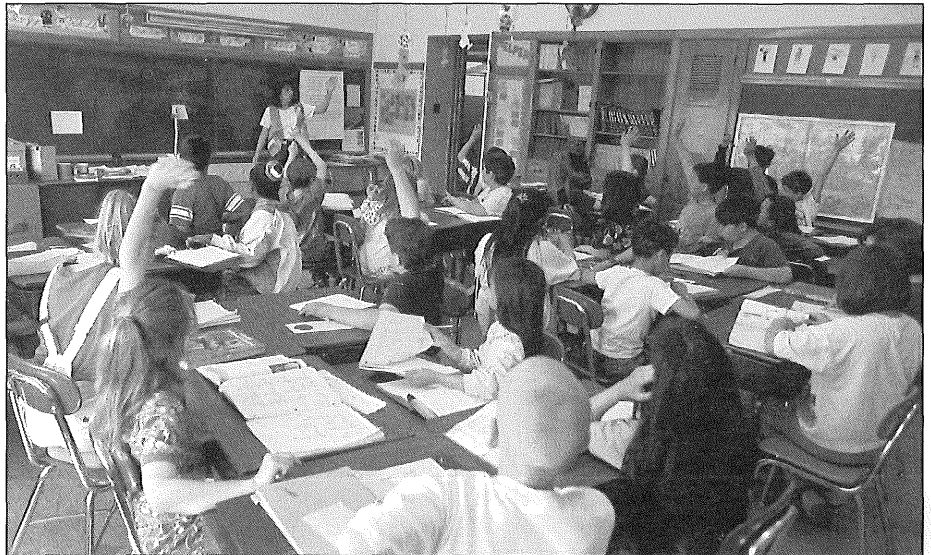
The proposal also would continue to fund programs such as a \$192,000 pilot study to examine the effects of giving a nutritious breakfast to all students in select elementary schools and a \$100,000 grant-funded effort to teach parental responsibility to young males. The governor's budget did not include funding for these programs.

Other provisions of the bill (HF1000) include:

### Special education

About \$590 million in state funds would be spent on special education programs during the biennium. An additional \$170 million in local dollars would also fund such programs.

The spending would be \$30 million more



The K-12 education finance bill was approved by a division of the House Education Committee April 11.

than the governor recommended for such programs.

The proposal also includes a process to eliminate local levies used to fund special education programs by the 1998-99 school year.

Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid, a portion of which is used to reduce school districts' reliance on property taxes, would replace revenue now generated from special education levies.

Local school districts, however, would have to absorb resulting decreases in property tax relief.

### Graduation rule

An additional \$4 million would be spent to continue development of graduation standards for Minnesota high school students over the next two years. The governor sought \$15 million for work on the graduation rule.

In the past two years, the Department of Education has spent about \$12 million on developing and testing the new graduation standards.

Requirements for reading and math proficiency are slated to take effect statewide for ninth graders in the 1996-97 school year.

The funding in the K-12 bill would allow continued study at 23 pilot sites throughout the state and work toward implementation of the reading and math requirements.

But the state Board of Education could not implement the reading and math standards until 30 days after the 1996 session convenes. The board first would be required to report to the Legislature during the 1996 session.

The bill also stipulates that no other standards could be implemented until the reading and math requirements are in place and their impact can be evaluated.

Under current law, ninth graders who begin high school in the 1997-98 school year will be required to achieve writing and science requirements — in addition to the requirements for reading and math that took effect the previous year.

### Internet connections

The bill would establish a grant program to help schools and regional public library systems connect to the information superhighway.

Some \$4.5 million in grant funding would be available to help schools and libraries to

link to the Internet and to expand access to the communications resource for those already online.

The grant program, based on a proposal (HF977) by Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins), aims to expand learning opportunities for both students and adults by giving them access to a broad scope of information via the high-tech Internet computer network.

### ITV and technology

The bill would broaden the availability of interactive television (ITV) and technology revenue for schools throughout the state in 1997.

Currently, only schools outside the seven-county metropolitan area are eligible for ITV aid. The bill would spend \$3.3 million to continue the program in 1996.

In 1997, districts statewide would be eligible for a total of \$9.8 million in state technology aid that could be used for ITV or for other purposes, including computer hardware and software or connections to the Internet.

Through a combination of local levy and state funding, districts would receive \$9 per pupil unit or a minimum of \$35,000 annually in technology revenue.

### Airport taxes

The bill would raise new revenue for metropolitan area schools by additional taxing of businesses at Twin Cities International Airport.

Currently, businesses in the airport terminal, such as a McDonald's restaurant, pay property taxes to the county but do not pay to a city or school district.

A Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) proposal (HF1169) included in the bill would raise an estimated \$12 million annually in tax revenue from the businesses.

The money would be earmarked to help finance all-day kindergarten programs at metropolitan area schools. The funds would be distributed by placing a priority on schools with the highest count of students receiving free or reduced lunches in the previous year.

### Settling early

Districts reaching collective bargaining agreements with teachers earlier than required by current law could benefit financially, under a provision of the bill.

Under current law, districts that fail to reach an agreement with teachers before Jan. 15 in a negotiating year are penalized — and

lose \$25 per pupil unit in state aid for that year.

The K-12 bill would redistribute the funds withheld from those districts and give them to those districts that reach a contract agreement by the previous September.

The money would be divided on a per pupil basis among districts that sign collective bargaining agreements before Sept. 1.

### School safety

The bill also would give districts new methods to protect students from their most dangerous peers.

Districts would be allowed to refuse admission to transfer students expelled from another school for "dangerous or assaultive behavior" or if the student has been convicted of a felony.

Schools also would be able to keep students who are released from the criminal corrections system out of the general school population for a limited time.

Students released from incarceration could be placed in an alternative instruction program for up to a year.

Also, schools would be required to attempt to contact the parents of a student who has been suspended before the individual is released from the school.

The school safety measures also were included in a bill (HF453) sponsored by Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka), which was approved by the House Education Committee and awaits action on the floor.

### Desegregation

The bill would spend \$42.8 million during the biennium to continue desegregation programs in the state and another \$22.6 million on busing required for desegregation. The program funding exceeds the governor's recommendations by \$5.5 million.

### Staff development

The bill would lift a requirement in current law that districts use 2.5 percent of their 1996 general education revenue for staff development and parental involvement programs.

Instead, districts would be "encouraged" to use an unspecified amount of general education revenue for those purposes.

## Department funding

The bill would reduce funding for the Department of Education by \$300,000 a year under the governor's proposal. The department would receive about \$14.4 million in each year of the biennium.

— Nick Healy



## AGRICULTURE

### Harnessing the wind

Minnesota farmers have long banded together to form co-ops in order to get the best prices for their corn and milk. So why not form the same associations to harness another plentiful resource in rural Minnesota?

The wind.

A bill recently approved by the House Agriculture Committee would help farmers do just that.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), would allow farmers to receive low-interest loans of up to \$50,000 to erect wind energy turbines that could generate up to one megawatt of electricity (enough to provide power for about 600 homes).

The measure also would provide affordable loans to farmers so they could buy stock in cooperatives that are formed to harness wind power in rural Minnesota.

Both provisions would expand existing programs operated by the state Department



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A bill recently approved by the Agriculture Committee is intended to spur the development of small wind co-ops. The wind turbines pictured above are near Lake Benton in southwestern Minnesota.



of Agriculture's Rural Finance Authority (RFA) which lends money to farmers through seven different programs.

Supporters of the wind-energy plan say that encouraging the development of small cooperatives will make it more likely for farmers to share in the wealth of the growing wind energy movement.

Minnesota, with nearly 30 megawatts of wind-generated electricity produced in the state, is already second to California in the amount of wind-energy that is online, according to Michael Noble of Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

And a law approved last year requires Northern States Power Co. to provide a total of 425 megawatts of wind power by the year 2002, which has intensified the interest in wind energy.

Although much of the attention has focused on creating large clusters of 200 or more wind turbines on "Buffalo Ridge" in southwestern Minnesota, Noble said the entire western and southern borders of the state also have good wind power potential.

Rather than exclusively focusing on large wind farms like those in California, Noble said **HF1669** is designed to follow the European model, where wind turbines are clustered in groups of two or three.

Not only would that permit farmers to share in some of the wealth, but it also would allow electric power to be created closer to where it is used, reducing the need for transmission lines, said Noble.

Here's how the bill would work:

Farmers could apply to their local lender to participate in the RFA loan program to receive loans of up to \$50,000 (a separate bill pending this year would raise the cap to \$100,000) for agricultural improvements, including wind energy conversion facilities. The RFA can participate in up to 45 percent of the loan principle. The "blended interest rate" would be about 8 percent, according to agriculture department officials.

Farmers also could apply to receive low-interest loans to buy stock in a cooperative that is designed to "add value" to agricultural commodities, which would be redefined to include wind power. This would be an expansion of a program created by the 1994 Legislature that was designed to spur farmers to invest in a proposed corn syrup plant in Moorhead, Minn.

A third provision in the bill requires the state to pay an "incentive payment" of 1.5 cents for every kilowatt of wind-generated electricity that is produced — similar to the subsidy to be paid for an existing hydroelectric facility in Coon Rapids.

**HF1669** now is pending in the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.



## BUDGET

### Emergency spending bill

A nearly \$3.2 million emergency state government spending bill was given final approval by the House April 10. The vote was 127-2.

The funds will be used to cover state spending during the current fiscal year. The measure now moves to the governor for his consideration.

About \$1 million would go to the Department of Health to cover costs incurred during the recent meningitis outbreak in Mankato, which killed one high school student and caused several other residents to be hospitalized.

The House version of the measure had included \$245,000 to cover the meningitis outbreak, which was a preliminary figure based on the first round of meningitis immunizations. The \$1 million figure reached by House and Senate conference committee members reflects the total costs incurred for some 31,000 immunizations.

Gone from the final bill is a section that would have provided \$790,000 to the Office of the Attorney General for expert witnesses used during the 1994 federal court case involving the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's disputed treaty rights in central Minnesota.

The funding had been included in the House bill but was deleted by a House-Senate conference committee that had been named to work out differences between the House and Senate versions of the "deficiency bill."

Those expenses will have to be covered by the regular appropriation given to the attorney general's office, explained bill sponsor Rep. Jim Girard (IR-Lynd). (See Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7; March 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11; and March 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10)

The deficiency bill also would provide:

- \$1.5 million to the Board of Public Defense to handle increased caseloads resulting from juvenile crime laws enacted in 1994;
- \$500,000 to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the emergency financial and medical needs of veterans;
- \$77,000 to the Minnesota Racing Commission to regulate pari-mutuel horse racing;
- \$46,000 to the Department of Military Affairs for paying the city of Roseville assessments due for National Guard property; and

- \$30,000 to the Department of Public Safety to match federal funds for flood relief.

Sen. Dennis Frederickson (IR-New Ulm) sponsored **HF355/SF335\*** in the Senate, which gave final approval to the measure on April 10.



## CONSUMERS

### Equal access to videos

Open-or closed-captioning would be required of all educational videotapes distributed for sale or rental in Minnesota, under a bill given final passage by the House April 10. The vote was 132-0.

The proposal would apply to tapes produced after June 1, 1997, for rental or sales to educational institutions, state and local governments, and medical facilities. Most titles seen at the local video store would not be affected by the bill.

Only tapes where more than 2,500 copies are produced would qualify, under the bill.

(Open-captioning is the term for subtitles, like those added to foreign language films. Closed-captioning refers to the subtitles that include descriptions of sound effects — encoded on a videotape or in a live broadcast — that can be switched on or off by a computer chip which is a requirement for all new television sets sold in the U.S.)

Bill sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said that Hollywood motion picture interests objected to the original measure that would have applied to both educational and entertainment videos. (See March 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; and March 31, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 4)

Deaf students who cannot understand educational videos shown in schools would benefit from the proposal, although Entenza noted that the compromise "scaled back significantly our original proposal."

**HF1048** now moves to the Senate.



## CRIME

### Protecting vulnerable adults

A bill that would increase criminal penalties for those who neglect or abuse vulnerable adults won approval from a House panel April 12.

The bill (**HF598**) amends the 15-year-old law that protects adults who are vulnerable to abuse because they suffer from a physical or mental disability or because they're dependent on caregivers or institutionalized services.

It also strengthens provisions under which someone can be prosecuted for neglecting or abusing a vulnerable adult, said Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), who sponsors the bill.

The proposal, approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee's Health and Human Services Finance Division, creates stiff felony penalties for any caregiver who intentionally physically or mentally abuses a vulnerable adult.

Should such an act result in the death of a vulnerable adult, an offender could face 15 years in prison and a \$30,000 fine. Lesser prison sentences of 10 and five years could also be imposed, depending on the injuries to the vulnerable adult.

Under current law, a person who intentionally fails to supply food, clothing, shelter, or other necessities to a vulnerable adult may be charged with the gross misdemeanor offense of criminal neglect, which carries a maximum penalty of a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine.

The bill would include a caregiver acting with "conscious disregard for danger to human life and reckless indifference to the risk of harm" under the criminal neglect statute and the penalty for such an action would be increased. Such a crime would be a felony offense, punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine.

Currently, 25 states have felony-level criminal neglect penalties.

Additionally, the bill would make someone who financially exploits a vulnerable adult guilty of a felony offense. Currently, it is a gross misdemeanor.

It also calls for criminal background checks to be conducted on personal care attendants who are providing services through the state's Medical Assistance program.

The bill also would streamline the current mandated reporting system, Greenfield said. People such as health care providers who suspect a vulnerable adult is being abused are legally mandated to report the suspected abuse to the state.

Those reports are sometimes investigated by more than one agency, which leads to needless duplication, Greenfield said. The bill would ensure that only "the most appropriate" agency would conduct an investigation, he said.

The bill's price tag amounts to about \$3 million. Much of the money would pay for criminal background checks and the cost of appeals filed by individuals denied employment or who disagree with an administrative charge against them.

Greenfield said licensing fees for certain hospitals, nursing homes, and home care

agencies will increase slightly to pay for the bill.

The bill now goes to the Health and Human Services Committee.

## Adjusting prison sentences

A bill to reserve prison space for violent offenders by shortening sentences for some non-violent crimes didn't win the approval of the House Judiciary Committee.

**HF550**, sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester), was laid over by the committee April 7.

The 1994 Legislature directed the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission to report any actions that could be taken to ensure cell space for violent offenders.

That report, submitted to the Legislature in January, included options for changes to sentencing guidelines that would result in shorter sentences for some people convicted of non-violent crimes such as drug possession and auto theft.

Bishop's bill is based on the commission's recommendations.

Shorter sentences for non-violent criminals would allow the state to save on corrections spending and would help alleviate the problem of projected shortages of prison space, according to Bishop.

"We now have drug offenders in prison doing as much time as murderers, and the public risk is just not there," he said.

The proposed sentencing changes would save the state an estimated \$320 million over the next 20 years, according to the Department of Corrections.

But the bill drew opposition from county attorneys and other county officials, who argued it would mean increased expenses for county jails and local corrections efforts.

Rep. Rich Stanek (IR-Maple Grove), a Minneapolis Police Department detective, questioned the wisdom of easing penalties for drug dealers and users.

"I've got a hundred examples from back in my unit where murder was a direct result of cocaine use — the buying, the selling and the fighting over it," Stanek said.

Acknowledging support for the bill could be a campaign liability, Bishop urged committee members not to be "intimidated by the elective process."

He said the sentencing changes would not turn dangerous individuals out onto the street. Criminals such as drug offenders would still face time behind bars, just not as much.

"I don't for a minute say that persons doing cocaine or selling it shouldn't be punished," Bishop said.

## Impolite to point

Under current law, you cannot point a gun — whether loaded or unloaded — at or toward another person.

If you do, you could face up to a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine, or an even greater penalty if prosecutors can prove you intended to harm someone.

But what about military personnel conducting training exercises?

Technically, any gun-pointing involved in such maneuvers is a criminal act.

A bill given final passage by the House April 10 would exempt all governmental military organizations from the law to the extent that they are "conducting safe training and recruiting activities under direct supervision of qualified military personnel." The vote was 129-0.

**HF853**, sponsored by Rep. Chuck Brown (DFL-Appleton), now moves to the Senate.



## DWI

## Plate impoundment expanded

One-third of chronic DWI offenders continue to drive with little risk of detection because of a loophole in the state's DWI law.

A bill to close that loophole received final passage in the House April 10. The vote was 119-12.

Under current law, when a person's driver's license is suspended for a third DWI offense in five years (or a fourth within 15 years), his or her license plates also are impounded for as long as the offender's driver's license is suspended. For a third-time offender, that's a minimum of one year.

But chronic DWI offenders are smart, said bill sponsor Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls). Once their plates are impounded, they often begin to drive their girlfriend's or their spouse's car.

Should they get caught under the influence in someone else's car, those license plates are then impounded. But all the car owner has to do is sign a statement that he or she was unaware of the DWI violation and new plates are issued — free of charge.

**HF416/SF308\*** still would give plates back to the car owner in such a situation, but they would be coded with specific letters, so that law enforcement officials would know the car had been involved in a prior DWI offense. The plates would remain on the car for a minimum of one year.

The coded plates would provide law enforcement officers with a "reasonable suspi-

cion" to pull the car over should the driver not be the registered owner of the car. From the patrol vehicle, an officer can check the car's registration and the license status of the car owner, which contains a description of the owner. If the driver doesn't match the description, the officer would have cause to stop the car.

About 35 percent of repeat DWI offenders are driving a car in someone else's name, Steve Simon, a University of Minnesota law professor and recognized authority on DWI issues, has told members.

Those repeat offenders are most often male, in their late 20s, often divorced, and marginally employed, Simon said.

Minnesota's plate impoundment law, originally passed in 1990, was the first of its kind in the nation.

About 3,700 Minnesota drivers are eligible to have their plates impounded each year, according to Department of Public Safety records. About one-third of those offenders skirt the law because they aren't the car's registered owner.

Overall, DWI arrests are down about 27 percent since 1986 (28,310 incidents in 1994 compared to 38,717 in 1986). Offenders with three or more offenses, however, have risen steadily over the same time period.

(See April 7, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 5)

## Seizing cars from drunks

A bill to clear up a glitch in the state's vehicle forfeiture law won final approval from the House April 10. The vote was 123-3.

Under current law, certain repeat DWI offenders lose not only their driver's license but their vehicles as well. The cars are then sold or kept by local law enforcement agencies for official use. Profits from the sale of most vehicles must be used for DWI enforcement, training, and education activities.

But at times, the offenders don't show up for their day in court. As a result, their cars remain in impound lots.

**HF377** would allow for the cars to be sold should a defendant fail to appear in court on such a DWI-related charge.

Under current law, drivers convicted of their fourth DWI-related offense within five years can have their vehicle seized by law enforcement officials, as can drivers convicted of their fifth DWI-related offense within 15 years.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), now moves to the Senate.



## EMPLOYMENT

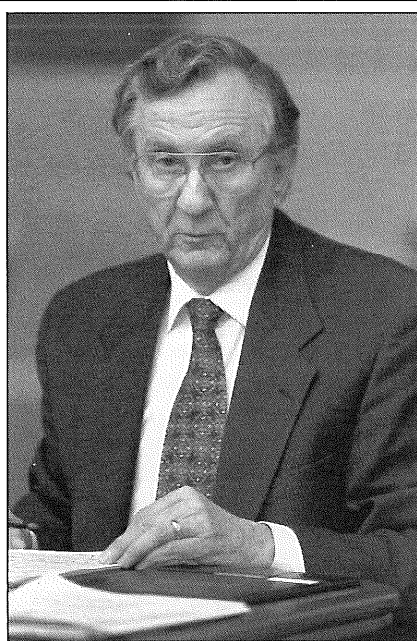
### Complete disclosure

Employers who recruit employees from out-of-town to work in food processing plants would have to explicitly tell them how much they'll be making and how many hours they'll work, under a bill the House approved April 11. The vote was 128-2.

The bill (**HF1437**) would require employers looking for people to work at a meat or poultry processing plant to provide specific documentation to potential employees who may relocate for work. This would include the potential employees' pay rate, the job's health and vacation benefits, the anticipated work hours, the job's duration, and other job specifics.

"This bill would affect the lowest-paid group of people. Sometimes employers recruit these people under false pretenses," said Rep. Kevin Goodno (IR-Moorhead) who sponsored the bill.

The "disclosure" would have to be written in both English and Spanish and signed and dated by the employer and the employee.



Lyle Olson, chief financial officer for the city of Bloomington, testified April 12 before the Property Tax and Tax Increment Financing Division of the House Taxes Committee in favor of **HF1439**. The bill would forgive Bloomington the \$50 million it owes the metropolitan fiscal disparities fund. Dollars from the fund — financed by a percentage of commercial-industrial property tax dollars from seven-county metropolitan area cities — helped finance highway improvements around the Mall of America. The division did not act on the bill.

An employee who does not receive the disclosure form before beginning work or whose employer doesn't abide by the tenets of the form could receive up to \$500 for each violation as well as attorney's fees incurred by bringing a civil action suit to collect the damages, under the bill.

Attorney's fees are included because "these people can't afford to hire attorneys if they're wronged," Goodno said.

The Department of Labor and Industry also could fine an employer between \$200 and \$500 for each violation of the disclosure agreement.

The Senate will hear the bill next.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Save Eagle Creek

A proposal to save one of the state's last healthy urban trout streams was approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee April 7.

The Eagle Creek watershed is located in Savage and Shakopee, two suburbs southwest of the Twin Cities. Commercial and housing developments have been proposed on the nearly 800 acres of land that would be purchased by the state, under **HF1488**. The bill would authorize the sale of bonds to purchase the land.

"This is not a health and safety emergency, but the [land] owners have agreed to sell right now," explained bill sponsor Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul).

He said that waiting to include the proposal in the 1996 Legislature's major bonding bill would be too late, and that developers already would have moved to purchase the land.

In addition to its value to trout anglers, Eagle Creek features an erupting cold water geyser, "the only one of its kind in the state," according to Greg Oltvedt of Trout Unlimited.

He said that the Eagle Creek watershed contains valuable wildlife habitat and a calcareous fen, a rare type of wetland.

In the Twin Cities area "there are not many natural resources of this quality remaining," added Don Arnosti, executive director of the state Audubon Society.

The land would become an aquatic management area under the Department of Natural Resources.

Originally, the bill called for a \$9.4 million bonding authorization to buy the land, but the dollar amount was deleted from the bill at

Trimble's request. A final figure will be determined at a later date.

**HF1488** now moves to the Capital Investment Committee.

## Deer hunting for kids

Young people could buy an inexpensive license to hunt deer with firearms in the 1995 and 1996 hunting seasons, under a bill approved by the House Ways and Means Committee April 10.

The "Youth Deer Bill," sponsored by Rep. Tom Bakke (DFL-Cook), would allow those under age 16 to buy a deer hunting license for \$5, instead of paying \$22 for a regular firearms license.

No tag would be included in the youth license, so a deer shot by a youth carrying the \$5 license would have to be tagged by a licensed hunter possessing a valid tag.

(Under current law, a tag is issued with each deer hunting license; hunters are allowed to take just one deer per season with a firearm.)

While regular deer hunting licenses are only sold prior to the opening day of the firearms season, the youth license could be purchased at any time during the season.

The bill also would allow any deer hunter "who fails to tag a deer" during the firearms season to get a second crack at a deer by buying another firearms license and hunting by muzzleloader.

The 16-day muzzleloader season — which allows hunting with an old-fashioned rifle that was common on the frontier — follows the regular firearms season in late November.

Under current law, a deer hunter is allowed to buy only one firearms license and to hunt either during the regular firearms season or during the muzzleloader season.

Both policy changes are scheduled to expire on June 30, 1997.

**HF723** now moves to the House floor.

## Emissions test exemptions

Cars under six years old need not face an annual exhaust emissions test, under a bill approved by the House Ways and Means Committee April 10.

Recent studies have shown nearly all cars that would be exempted by the proposal pass their annual emissions test.

Under **HF2**, the entire metropolitan auto emissions testing program could be abolished in 1998.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA) would have to approve the program's intended closure. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) also would have to show that the seven-county metropolitan area is meeting federal clean air requirements and would continue to do so.

If Minnesota falls below standards set in the 1990 federal Clean Air Act, the EPA may withhold federal highway funds — potentially \$100 million annually — from the state, MPCA officials have said.

The bill also would prohibit Envirotest Inc., the Arizona-based company that administers the testing program, from hiking the current \$8 testing fee. (Current law allows for a fee of up to \$10 to be charged.) The company, which receives about \$7.07 from each car tested, stands to lose nearly \$4 million per year should **HF2** become law.

Envirotest has been in contact with the MPCA to negotiate possible changes in its contract with the state to ease the potential revenue loss.

Sponsored by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), the bill now moves to the House floor.

(See March 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9; Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; and Jan. 27, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7)



## FAMILY

### Remember the children

Divorce is never easy, but it often hits children the hardest.

A bill that could require parents who are separating to attend a special workshop received final passage from the House April 10. The vote was 130-0.

"This bill will help families and children through the difficulties of divorce," said bill sponsor Rep. Fran Bradley (IR-Rochester).

Under **HF1008**, in a proceeding involving child custody, child support, or visitation of children, the court may require the parents to attend an orientation and education program which addresses the impact of such proceedings on children.

Parents could be required to pay a fee to cover the costs of the program. (Any fees would be waived for those who are unable to pay.)

The bill now moves to the Senate.



## GAME & FISH

### Trapping great horned owls

Does the Legislature give a hoot about the plight of Minnesota turkey farmers?

A bill that would allow turkey farmers to trap great horned owls that threaten their flocks was approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee April 7.

"Great horned owls love to kill turkeys," said John Stauffenecker, a turkey farmer from Greenbush, Minn., who showed lawmakers photographs of 500 birds killed when an owl entered a pen. The financial loss amounted to \$5,000.

Owls have caused more than \$670,000 in losses to state turkey farmers over the last five years, according to John Hausladen, executive director of the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association.

The proposal would allow turkey and other poultry farmers to catch great horned owls in a trap approved by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Current state law permits licensed game farm operators to trap the owls, but prohibits poultry farmers from trapping.

Under the bill, farmers first would have to obtain a federal permit to trap owls. The trap would have to be tended twice daily and uninjured birds would have to be taken at least 50 miles from the capture site and released alive; injured birds would have to be taken to a veterinarian.

Just the presence of an owl can have a disastrous effect on a turkey farm.

Stauffenecker explained that turkeys panic when an owl is near, and they will run against a wall, pile on one another, and smother each other. He said it was impossible to screen in birds roaming over 40 acres to prevent owls from attacking them.

Even an airplane can cause a flock of turkeys to run amok, according to House sponsor Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy).

Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison) said his uncle once lost 30,000 birds. "They panic. They're just not a real smart bird," he said.

Turkey farmers would like to use a small gopher trap with the steel jaws "padded with foam rubber and electrical tape," according to Stauffenecker. The trap is placed atop a pole and tethered with a chain so the trapped owl can rest on the ground. Such traps are currently used by licensed game farm operators.

The bill was opposed by conservationists and those who rehabilitate injured birds of prey.

But if traps must be used, a "Verball trap"



which snares a bird's leg is preferable to the steel jaw trap, according to Dr. Patrick Redig, a veterinarian with the University of Minnesota Raptor Center in St. Paul.

Mike DonCarlos of the DNR's wildlife section said his agency does not oppose the proposal. He did, however, express concerns that other kinds of birds could be caught in traps and possibly injured as a result.

The bill also would direct the DNR to assist poultry farmers with owl trapping and report back to the House and Senate environment committees by Jan. 1, 1996, on their efforts.

**HF120/SF155\***, passed by the Senate April 3 on a 41-24 vote, now moves to the House floor.



Mary Beth Garrigan, a staffer at the University of Minnesota Raptor Center, testified before the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee April 17 holding a great horned owl. She opposed HF120 which was approved by the committee and would allow turkey farmers to trap great horned owls to protect their flocks. John Stauffenecker, *foreground*, a turkey farmer from Green Bush, Minn., testified in favor of the bill.



## GOVERNMENT

### Legislative interpreters

A bill to require the Minnesota Legislature to hire one or more interpreters to make the legislative process more accessible to those who are deaf or hearing impaired was heard by a House panel April 11.

The State Government Finance Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee heard the bill (**HF1116**) and will consider incorporating it into its omnibus state government finance bill.

Bill sponsor Rep. Teresa Lynch (IR-An-dover) said an interpreter is needed to help people who are hearing impaired understand and participate in legislative committee hearings, floor sessions, and meetings with individual legislators and staff members.

The bill, so far, carries no dollar figure. But a fiscal note suggests one interpreter would cost \$42,500 in salary, benefits, and office equipment in fiscal year 1996. The Legislative Coordinating Commission would be charged with hiring the interpreter.

Doug Bahl, who spoke through an interpreter, told lawmakers that "right now the current system is not working."

He spoke of times this session when he's tried to work with both the House and Senate to obtain an interpreter, but the system has been less than flexible. The Sergeant at Arms Office in each body helps arrange for interpreters, who are often scheduled for specific two-hour blocks of time. Committee meetings and floor sessions are anything but specific and time-certain. Bills are shifted around on agendas, and committee meetings run long.

Sometimes, Bahl said, an individual can be ready with an interpreter to listen or testify to a bill, but the bill is delayed until the next meeting. Then, the hearing-impaired person has to arrange for an interpreter all over again.

Cathleen Meyer said she, too, has had trouble with both the House and Senate when she has tried to arrange for an interpreter. She also finds fault with the two-hour time block requirement and the mandate that a person in need of an interpreter request services 24 hours in advance. Meyer said when she wants to talk to someone, she doesn't want to wait 24 hours to do it.

Speaking through an interpreter, Meyer said she recently had a meeting scheduled with a senator for 15 minutes to discuss a particular bill. But because she didn't have one hour and 45 minutes worth of meetings

to follow, the Senate sergeant's office canceled her meeting without notifying her.

"I'm stuck. I don't have equal access to all of you."

The State Government Finance Division's omnibus bill is expected to be completed the week of April 17.

### Offensive place names

The word "squaw" — a term considered derogatory by some American Indians — would vanish from some place names in Minnesota, under a bill given final passage by the House April 10 on a 126-5 vote.

New names in their place would be selected by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) commissioner in cooperation with county boards, said House sponsor Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls).

The proposal specifically would change the name of any "geographic feature" containing the word "squaw." It would affect lakes, ponds, islands, bays, and other natural features. (See April 7, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9)

Angelene Losh and Dawn Litzau, two Cass Lake-Bena High School students, started the movement against offensive place names by organizing to change the name of Squaw Point, which is on the Leech Lake Indian reservation in northern Minnesota.

Their personal testimony and supporting materials presented to legislators indicated that the word "squaw" is a French corruption of "otsiskwa," an Iroquois word denoting female sexual parts. The Ojibwe word for woman is "ikwe."

The name-change campaign met with success Feb. 7 when the Cass County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to change the name of Squaw Point to Oak Point.

There is another Squaw Point in Minnesota, six Squaw Lakes, and a Squaw Pond, according to Glen Yakel, a supervisor in the DNR's waters division.

Anticipating that the measure would become law soon, letters from the DNR have been sent to the five county boards that will be involved in future place name changes, explained Yakel.

The Senate version of the bill, sponsored by Sen. Skip Finn (DFL-Cass Lake), passed that body March 20 on a 63-0 vote.

**HF714/SF574\*** now goes to the governor for his consideration.

## Collecting bad debt

A measure to give the state more power to collect overdue debts owed to state agencies and threaten deadbeat debtors with a penalty surcharge is expected to be included in the omnibus state government finance bill.

The State Government Finance Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee April 11 reinstated the section calling for the penalty. The Judiciary Committee removed the language at a March 22 meeting.

The penalty — of up to 25 percent of the debt — would be added to an existing bad debt, such as a student loan, back taxes, or a fee, to pay for the cost of the collection.

Although some have criticized the penalty as "arbitrary," members of the division said it was necessary so taxpayers weren't footing the bill for those who refuse to pay their debts.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (IR-Lake City) said he couldn't understand why the language was taken out in the Judiciary Committee and said its omission "wounds the bill." His amendment to reinstate the penalty was successful.

As of Sept. 30, 1994, people owed \$641 million to the state's general fund and \$587 million to other state accounts, according to the Minnesota Collection Enterprise (MCE). The MCE was established by the 1994 Legislature to coordinate a statewide effort on bill collections.

(See March 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10, and March 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6)

Another provision in the bill (**HF625**) would allow the state to seize or reduce an individual's tax refund check or other state payment of more than \$5,000 to pay debt owed the state. (Public assistance checks would not be seized.)

Current law allows for such deductions only for back taxes or child support payments owed the state.

The state would notify the person whose funds would be taken, and the individual would have 30 days to request a hearing to dispute the matter.

Under **HF625**, wages also could be garnished until a debt is paid off, as long as no other creditors were garnishing the wages.

Currently, the state and other creditors can garnish a person's wages for up to 70 days. Debtors who prove that they need more money for necessities, such as shelter, food, and work transportation, could reduce a garnishment.

Another successful amendment would allow the Department of Finance to begin a

pilot program to compare which is more effective in collecting debt — the state's MCE or private collection agencies.

The finance department would farm out \$35 million in debt to private collection agencies, compare their collections with the MCE, and report to the Legislature by Feb. 1, 1997. The department currently farms out debt to several national firms, but the amendment calls on the department to try out different firms for the pilot project.

## Unfunded mandates

A bill to help determine how much money federal mandates are costing the state won final approval from the House April 10. The vote was 131-0.

**HF139/SF204\*** would call for every state agency that runs a program subject to federal mandates or supported by federal funds to report certain information to the Department of Finance.

This would include anticipated federal and state funding for programs for the next biennium, the extent to which the state funding is mandated by federal law, and the extent to which state funding mandated by federal law is in compliance with state policy.

Departments also would be asked to submit suggestions as to how state costs could be minimized by changing state laws or rules or seeking waivers of federal requirements.

Finally, departments would need to report "the extent to which the agency could achieve the outcomes desired by the federal mandate in a less expensive or more efficient manner if the federal mandate were modified or repealed."

The Department of Finance would, in conjunction with Minnesota Planning, report back to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 1996, with its findings.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Tim Pawlenty (IR-Eagan), now goes to the governor for consideration.

## Incapacitated chief officer

A bill to clarify who would run the state if the governor is unable to carry out the duties of the office received final passage April 6 from the House. The vote was 128-1.

Present law stipulates the lieutenant governor would take over if the governor dies. But it says nothing about what would happen should the governor become too ill to run the state.

**HF1468**, sponsored by House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon), would

clarify present law to say the governor who anticipates becoming incapacitated — such as a terminal or debilitating illness — would write to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House declaring the inability to discharge the duties of office. The lieutenant governor would then take over those duties.

In unanticipated cases, such as when the governor suddenly becomes too sick to perform the job, the lieutenant governor would take over when four of five officials declare in writing the governor cannot discharge the duties of office. Those officials are the chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, the lieutenant governor, the governor's chief of staff, the governor's personal physician, and a member of the governor's cabinet designated in advance by the governor.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said the bill would apply when the governor is genuinely disabled "and not just doing a rotten job."

The bill now moves to the Senate.

## Processing zoning permits

A developer, homeowner, or other person who requests a zoning permit from a county, city, or town would know within 60 days whether their request was approved or denied, under a bill the House approved April 12. The vote was 88-41.

The bill (**HF641**) provides a "critical government streamlining process," said Rep. Chuck Brown (DFL-Appleton) who sponsors the legislation.

It requires a 60-day response from local government units regarding zoning and sewage permit requests. Failure of the agency to meet the request within 60 days would constitute approval of the request, under the bill.

Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth are exempt from the bill.

The permitting requirements in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth are too cumbersome to be met within 60 days, said Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), who supported the exclusion.

"Minneapolis and St. Paul zoning requirements change from plot to plot sometimes. They have complicated zoning requirements," she said.

The bill does not apply to state agencies. But Brown said he would like to see those agencies included in the future.

Under some circumstances, local governments may be granted an extension from the 60-day requirement, such as when a permit request requires approval from a state or federal agency. But, local government officials must notify the permit applicant in writing.

The measure now moves to the Senate for consideration.



## HEALTH

### Diabetes coverage

Health plans supplementing Medicare insurance would have to provide coverage for doctor-prescribed equipment and supplies needed for the "management and treatment of diabetes," under a bill given final approval by the House April 10. The vote was 129-0.

Coverage would be subject to the same deductible or other co-payment provisions applicable to an insurance plan's specific hospital, medical equipment, or prescription benefits.

Health plans were required to provide coverage for all items prescribed for patients with diabetes under a 1994 law, but it did not apply to health plans supplementing Medicare.

**HF350/SF34\*** was sponsored by Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) in the House. Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan) carried it in the Senate where it received final passage March 30 on a 63-0 vote.

The bill now goes to the governor for consideration.



## HIGHER EDUCATION

### Bonding for higher ed

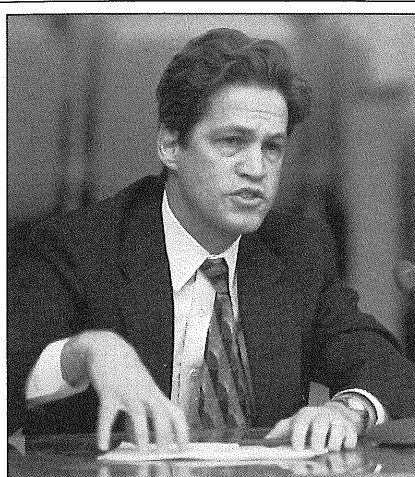
A bill to authorize the sale of \$3.37 million in state bonds to finance various higher education projects was heard April 11 by the House Capital Investment Committee.

The committee did not act on the bill, but committee members may include all or part of it in a House bonding bill, if they decide to draft one in this non-bonding year. (Large bonding bills are typically assembled in the second year of the state's two-year spending cycle.)

**HF1507**, sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), includes the following provisions:

- \$1 million for the State University System so Metropolitan State University can buy a 4.7-acre parcel of land adjacent to its St. Paul campus at 700 E. 7th St.

The land, home to a manufacturing firm which will close its doors June 30, 1995, includes a warehouse which could be used as a student activity center. Another building would provide 800,000 square feet of office space, said Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul),



St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman testified in favor of **HF1156** before the Property Tax and Tax Increment Financing Division of the Taxes Committee April 11. The bill is designed to create more affordable housing and to stimulate economic development in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The committee did not act on the bill.

who authored the amendment to include the provision in the bill.

The St. Paul campus eventually will need to expand and the property sale should be taken advantage of, Trimble said.

- \$500,000 for Fond Du Lac Community College so the school can build a dormitory to house 150 students.

The money would be used to design and plan the facility, said Jack Briggs, president of the community college. School administrators tentatively think the dormitory will cost \$6.5 million. Next year, they plan to ask the state for another \$2.5 million in bonding money to build the dormitory, Briggs said.

The community college is unique because it receives about \$2,100 per Native American student in federal Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funds. To receive the money, Native American students must make up 51 percent of school enrollment, Briggs said.

Currently, only 25 percent of students are Native Americans. But the BIA will allow the students to receive federal funds if the school finds ways to attract more Native American students, Briggs said.

Building the dormitory will help because it will allow Native American students from other areas to live in Cloquet, where the school is located, he said.

The town itself does not have enough rental housing to support many of its students who are not from northeastern Minnesota, explained Murphy, who sponsored this provision in the bill.

She said the state bonding money is needed as an emergency appropriation because the school would lose federal money without it.

- \$1.87 million for the University of Minnesota for construction repairs to two pedestrian bridges (which cross Washington Avenue on the Twin Cities campus), to make necessary repairs to the university sprinkler system and to replace and repair fumehoods on all University of Minnesota campuses. (Fumehoods in laboratories vent toxic fumes.)
- Another portion of the bill calls for state universities, technical colleges, and community colleges to be exempted from paying back the one-third debt service on library projects.

The language was originally included in **HF487** sponsored by Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona). It was then folded into **HF1507**. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11)

Higher education projects receiving state-issued bonds must reimburse the state one-third of the cost of the bond plus interest. Prior to a 1990 law change, state universities were exempted from repaying bonds when they were used to finance school libraries.

The bill would apply only to the three library bonding projects authorized in 1994, which totaled \$30.1 million. The schools affected would be exempted from paying back about \$10 million plus interest accrued on their library projects.

Those three schools are Winona State University, Bemidji State University and St. Cloud State University.



## HOUSING

### Omnibus housing bill

A bill that would help people buy and fix up dilapidated housing and require all cities in the metropolitan area to replace low-income housing destroyed by new development is moving through the House.

Those are among the provisions included in the Housing Committee's omnibus bill, which is now pending in the Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee.

The level of funding for the bill (**HF509**), which is sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), will be determined by that committee.

Below are some of the bill's key provisions.

- It would set aside money for loans to help people buy and repair homes in worn-down neighborhoods across the state. The

idea is to target "eyesore" neighborhoods and make them owner-occupied again instead of overcome by rental properties with absentee landlords.

This provision was originally part of (HF380) sponsored by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul). He envisioned \$30 million for the program to buy or repair 1,000 homes with loans averaging \$30,000 each.

With ownership comes the desire to maintain and take pride in the neighborhood, Dawkins has said.

Only low-income neighborhoods would qualify for the program, under the bill. Some of the other qualifications include a neighborhood where at least 70 percent of the single-family homes are at least 35 years old and at least 60 percent of the homes are owner-occupied. Another requirement specifies that the number of owner-occupied homes in a neighborhood must have declined by at least 5 percent between 1980 and 1990.

- The bill would set aside money to help people convert contracts for deed on their homes to traditional mortgages, which would eliminate the need for large balloon payments. Coming up with the money for those lump-sum payments has been a problem for many low-income families.
- It would set aside money to help cities create more affordable rental housing. Fifty percent of any allocated program money would go to cities in the metropolitan area and 50 percent to Greater Minnesota cities, such as Willmar and other cities with

housing shortages. Priority would be given to cities that can come up with money to match the state grant.

- The bill would require the Metropolitan Council to prepare housing impact reports for local governments in the metropolitan area and would expand the requirement that a city that displaces 10 or more low-income housing units must replace them. Currently, the replacement mandate includes only Minneapolis and St. Paul. The bill would include all cities in the seven-county metropolitan area.
- A provision in the bill would set aside money to help residents clean up lead paint and lead-contaminated soil which is known to poison children.
- Finally, the bill would expand a family rental housing assistance program so more families could qualify for help. The program currently provides loans or direct rental subsidies for families with incomes of about 60 percent of an area's median income, which range from a high of \$30,600 in the metropolitan area to a low of \$14,100 in Mahan County. The bill would raise the percentage so that families who earn up to 80 percent of the state's median income (\$34,800) would qualify for help. Those with the lowest incomes, however, would be served first.



## LAW

### Thwarting frivolous lawsuits

It costs the state \$27,803 to house and feed each Minnesota prisoner per year, according to the Department of Corrections.

But that figure doesn't include the hundreds of thousands of additional taxpayer dollars spent to challenge lawsuits filed each year by those prisoners.

Cathy Haukedahl, state assistant attorney general, said that in 1994 her office spent \$340,000 defending the state against inmate claims, "of which 95 percent are frivolous," she said.

The Office of the Attorney General receives about 125 new cases per year filed by inmates.

Actual civil suits have been filed over prison-issued underwear that was allegedly too tight and the lack of fresh salsa in a prison cafeteria. The state must respond to each suit. It's up to a judge to decide the merits of each case.

A bill (HF1309) to make prisoners think twice before they file a civil suit is now pending on the House floor.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul), calls for disciplinary action against inmates where the court finds their claims are "frivolous or malicious."

Such penalties could include loss of privileges, isolation, loss of good time, or "discipline confinement" time.

Most prisoners lack the financial resources necessary to pay for court filing fees and associated costs. So the law allows them to bring their actions "in forma pauperis," or as an indigent, and they don't pay a dime.

But under the bill, any inmate seeking to file a case without paying the fees would later be billed should they earn or otherwise come into any funds. And prisoners seeking to avoid filing fees by filing as indigents when they really do have the funds in their prison accounts would have their cases dismissed.

Should an inmate prevail in a civil action and be awarded monetary damages, those funds could be seized to pay for their court costs, any taxes they may owe, support for their family, or fines ordered by the court.

The National Association of Attorneys General has developed model legislation designed to thwart prisoners seeking to tie up the court system. As a result, the states of Arizona and California have recently passed similar laws to save their states some money. Efforts are also under way to bring the issue before Congress.



Nadine Knibb, center, of the Southside Neighborhood Housing Service in south Minneapolis, represented one of several groups that came to the Capitol rotunda April 12 for the People's Rally for Affordable Housing. Participants met with legislators after the rally to gain support for HF509, which includes funding for homeless people, those threatened with homelessness, or in transitional housing programs.



## Abandoned waste

A building owner would have a greater chance of successfully suing a renter who moves out and leaves behind containers of hazardous waste, under a bill given final approval by the House April 10. The vote was 130-0.

The bill sponsored by Rep. Robert Leighton (DFL-Austin) would apply to both residential or commercial space rental. It would require the property owner to request in writing that the former renter "remove and properly dispose of the abandoned waste."

Cleaning solvents or other flammable or corrosive liquids are examples of such waste. By law, they must be properly disposed of at an authorized waste facility.

If the renter does not remove all the waste within 20 days, the property owner could then remove the waste and would be entitled to twice the cleanup and disposal costs. The owner also would be entitled to "losses that result from court costs and attorney fees."

Under current law, a property owner's only financial recourse is to withhold a tenant's damage deposit. (See March 31, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 15)

**HF1320** now moves to the Senate.



## TRANSPORTATION

### Longer semi-trucks

A bill to give over-the-road truckers more sleeping room inside their cabs won final approval from the House April 12. The vote was 121-8.

The proposal would allow semi-tractors which pull trailers to be five feet longer than allowed under current law.

Current law says semi-tractor trailer combinations cannot be more than 65 feet long. **HF1207**, sponsored by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), would allow those combinations to equal 70 feet in length.

The bill would not affect the length of the trailer, which can be either 53 or 48 feet long, Winter said.

The additional five feet would be added to the "tractor cab" that pulls the trailer, Winter said. That length would widen the bed in the tractor cab. Truck drivers often sleep in their cabs when they park their truck overnight at truck stops.

"Some of the new cabs out there have wider beds. I think it's worth it to give our drivers a little more comfort and keep our roads a little safer because they're sleeping better," Winter said during an April 5 Trans-

portation and Transit Committee hearing.

The bill originally called for a 75-foot combination to be allowed, though the trailer length still would not have increased.

But some committee legislators said the additional length would do additional damage to state highways.

Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters) said semi-tractor trailers do more damage to roads than passenger vehicles. In a tight budgeting year with scarce highway improvement funds, Kalis said he could not support lengthening truck combinations.

Winter said the trailer length would remain the same under his bill, so the trucks would not be hauling a heavier load.

The bill now moves to the Senate.

## Bridge of Hope

A bridge over the Mississippi River at St. Cloud would be named the "Bridge of Hope," under a bill given final passage by the House April 10. The vote was 131-0.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Jim Knoblach (IR-St. Cloud), said the Highway 15 bridge would be named in honor of Jacob Wetterling and other abducted and missing children.

Jacob Wetterling of St. Joseph, Minn., was abducted near his home in 1989 and is still missing.

Under the bill, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) would create a

suitable design for signs and plaques marking the bridge. Members of the local community would reimburse MnDOT for costs incurred in "marking and memorializing" the bridge.

Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville) sponsored **HF175/SF194\*** in the Senate where it was given final approval March 9 on a 62-0 vote.

The bill now goes to the governor for his consideration.

## Vintage license plates

Vintage car owners would be able to display license plates from the year their car was made, under a bill given final approval by the House April 10. The vote was 128-0.

Currently, those who own restored or vintage automobiles can display special "collector license plates" that bear the year a car was built, but the plates don't look like the original license plates issued for that year.

Cars with collector plates can be used only to drive to and from collector car shows. Owners of such plates don't need to renew them on an annual basis. However, they may only drive 2,000 miles per year in the cars.

Under the bill, collector car owners would be allowed to use the original plates for cars that are at least 20 years old. The license plate number must not already be issued.

Owners of such plates would renew them each year. To preserve the aesthetic integrity of the original plates, they would not have to display the month and year renewal stickers on the plate's lower corners, though they would have to carry the vehicle license registration in the car with them at all times.

**HF1402**, sponsored in the House by Rep. Alice Seagren (IR-Bloomington), now goes to the Senate.

Transportation Continued on page 15



Leon Pearson, a city bridge engineer for the city of St. Paul, testified before the House Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee in support of **HF815** April 10. The bill would authorize \$3 million in state transportation bonds to help replace the 100-year-old Wabasha Street Bridge. The committee approved the bill.

Thirty-five and counting . . .

## Lawmakers call for moratorium on specialty plates

The Minnesota Timberwolves' team logo won't be seen on a state license plate, at least not this year.

Although the House Transportation and Transit Committee gave the go-ahead for the specially designed license plates, Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston), who heads the Transportation Finance Division where HF952 is now pending, said he will not act on the proposal this session.

Nor will his committee act on HF808 or HF1606, which would create different specialty plates.

Each of the three bills would create a new plate in an attempt to raise funds for a particular organization. Those buying the plates must agree to make an annual donation to a specific charity or state agency.

Before authorizing any additional plates, lawmakers want to study whether any money is being made by existing specialty plates that were authorized to help specific groups.

Thirty-five specialty plates are already available, but only a select few are set up to raise funds for a charity or agency, said Jack Wildes, assistant director of the Department of Public Safety's Driver and Vehicle Services Division.

And the revenue being generated for those who hoped to benefit financially from the sale of such plates has fallen far short of projected income.

In 1991, for instance, the Legislature authorized the Department of Public Safety to create a special collegiate license plate series



The 1991 Legislature authorized 14 different license plates to sport the logos of select Minnesota colleges and universities. The move was touted as a way to raise money for a special scholarship fund, with a \$100 donation made with the sale of each set of specialty plates sold. At the time, University of Minnesota officials estimated they would sell 20,000 of the license plates. To date, less than 400 sets of U of M plates have been sold.

for each of 14 Minnesota colleges and universities. Drivers who buy the plates contribute \$100 to a special scholarship fund for students.

"The University of Minnesota was bound and determined at that time they would sell 20,000 plates that first year," Wildes said. "So far, the U of M has sold under 400."

In fact, only 799 plates to benefit the scholarship fund for various other colleges and universities have been sold so far. And they're expensive to make, unlike standard plates, because they require the department to purchase special sheeting for the complex logos and coloring. The other plates can be much more cheaply pressed, Wildes said.

Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), chair of the Transportation and Transit Committee, said the Legislature needs to control the proliferation of bills calling for special license plates. Many programs with plates don't find enough buyers to make implementing the special plates worthwhile, he said.

Groups that think creating a special license plate tied to a special contribution fund will start the money flowing in should perhaps think twice, Tunheim said.

"These things are a good cause, but they might not be good money raisers," he has said.

Also, the Department of Public Safety must determine how to collect the money, how to design and market the plates, and how to get the money to the charity, Tunheim said.

Because each program proposes to fund start-up costs in a different manner, the department faces a "logistical nightmare" in supervising the plate programs, he said.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), who now adamantly opposes specially designed license plates, nevertheless claims responsibility for getting the ball rolling.

He successfully sponsored the first legislation in 1976 calling for a license plate honoring prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action.

Though a worthy cause, the legislation

### Specialty license plates

(Number sold as of 4/1/95)

Amateur Radio Operators/CB .....	8,644
Classic motor cycle .....	928
Classic plate .....	950
Collector military .....	15
Collector plate .....	71,336
Combat wounded .....	784
Ex-Prisoner of War .....	610
Firefighter .....	9,414
Gulf War .....	776
Korean Vet .....	1,212
Medal of Honor .....	4
National Guard .....	1,705
Pearl Harbor Survivor .....	173
Personalized .....	60,646
Pioneer plate .....	15,680
Reserves .....	254
Street rod .....	1,976
Vietnam Vet .....	3,136
World War I .....	3
World War II .....	2,071

Source: Department of Public Safety's Driver and Vehicle Services Division

### Collegiate scholarship series

(The following license plates are part of the series. Those who buy the plates contribute \$100 to a scholarship fund.)

University of Minnesota "UM" series ..	287*
University of Minnesota "UN" series .....	146
University of Minnesota-Crookston .....	11
University of Minnesota-Duluth .....	31
University of Minnesota-Morris .....	32
Bemidji State University .....	38
Gustavus Adolphus University .....	45
Hamline University .....	20
Mankato State University .....	69
Moorhead State University .....	20
Southwest State University .....	17
St. Catherine's College .....	0
St. Cloud State University .....	41
St. John's University .....	13
Winona State University .....	27

\* \$125 contribution

Source: Department of Public Safety's Driver and Vehicle Services Division

opened a Pandora's box, Osthoff said.

"Now I think it's run amok," he said.

So the three license plate bills heard this session will remain tabled, awaiting the results of a Department of Public Safety study (HF1606) called for by Tunheim. The department also would recommend future legislative policy on the plate issue and report to the Legislature by February 1996.

State legislators in Florida faced the same special-plate proliferation problem, but they found a solution: repeal all the plates, Osthoff said.

Minnesota legislators aren't at that point — yet. But the Department of Public Safety study results may determine if vehicle owners can steer away from the basic blue Minnesota license plates in the future.

The following three bills are now before

the Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee's Transportation Finance Division:

- **HF1606**, sponsored by Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) would authorize critical habitat license plates. Drivers who buy the plates must agree to contribute at least \$30 annually to the Minnesota critical habitat private sector matching account, which matches public funds.

The bill calls for \$100,000 to be appropriated from the highway user tax distribution fund for the Department of Public Safety to manufacture the plates.

- **HF952**, sponsored by Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), would create special license plates with the Minnesota Twins, Timberwolves, Vikings, or an Olympics insignia. Drivers who purchase the plates

would have to contribute at least \$15 annually to the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission.

The sports commission would put up the money to start the license plate program, under the bill.

- **HF808**, sponsored by Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport), would authorize special child protection license plates. The Department of Public Safety would design the plates, under the bill. And those who bought them would have to contribute at least \$25 annually to a county child protection service.

The department would get 1 percent of the \$25 to cover costs for the plates, under the bill.

—Jean Thilmany

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Transportation continued from page 13

## Ensuring bike safety

Motorists who pass alongside a bicycle at closer than three feet would be subject to a petty misdemeanor fine, under a bill given final approval by the House April 12. The vote was 123-6.

The bill (HF1134/SF687\*) is intended to make the roads safer for bicyclists, said sponsor Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton).

The bill calls for cars or other vehicles passing bicyclists to leave at least three feet of space between the vehicle and the bicycle.

No current law stipulates a safe passing distance.

Motorists who don't observe the three-foot passing distance could be stopped by officers and slapped with a petty misdemeanor, Schumacher told members of the House Transportation and Transit Committee April 7. The maximum fine would be \$200.

Schumacher said she has not talked to law enforcement officials about whether they would be able to enforce the passing distance requirement.

The bill also calls for drivers' examination tests to include questions about traffic laws

relating to bicycles. The questions would ensure that drivers know about bicycle safety, Schumacher said.

It also would require the Minnesota drivers' manual — which potential drivers read before taking the driver's license examination — to include a section on bicycle traffic laws.

The bill now moves to the governor for consideration.



## Q. Do committees have complete control over which bills get to the floor? Can this be bypassed?

A. The committee is the heart of the legislative process where the most detailed work of the Legislature takes place. It is the job of each committee to hold public hearings on bills, to put each bill it hears into its best form,

and to recommend to the full body only those bills which the committee feels merit further consideration.

Many bills affect several aspects of life in Minnesota. These may be studied by more than one committee before traveling to the House or Senate floor.

Most committees don't hear every bill referred to it. Committee chairs schedule hearings on a bill after a request from the chief sponsor has been received. But committee chairs have a great deal of discretion on when and if a bill is heard.

If a committee cannot reach agreement, or does not hold hearings on a bill, the bill has

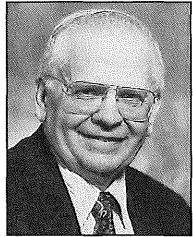
most often ended its journey. While it is technically possible to bring a bill to the full House without committee approval, the tactic is not frequently successful. Some lawmakers, for instance, will attempt to attach their bill, which is stalled in a committee, as an amendment to a separate, but somewhat related bill being debated on the House floor.

Legislators rely on the knowledge gained during committee hearings to weed out the bills they favor from those they oppose.

New members . . .

## Warkentin carries heavy load: tax time and session

Rep. Eldon Warkentin, the newest member of the House, says his April 10 swearing-in ceremony was one of the most exciting days of his life. But he also knows the thrill won't last.



Rep. Eldon Warkentin

Now it's time to get down to hard work. And Warkentin, who dives into a session two-thirds finished, faces a tougher lot than some. In order to make informed votes

on the floor, he has to pick up on issues in midstream and follow bills that have already received full hearings.

"Today was a highly emotional day," he said on the day he was officially sworn in as a House member. "Being sworn in was a very exciting moment. I got to press the voting button quite a bit, but mostly for consent calendar bills which received little discussion and were fairly easy to comprehend."

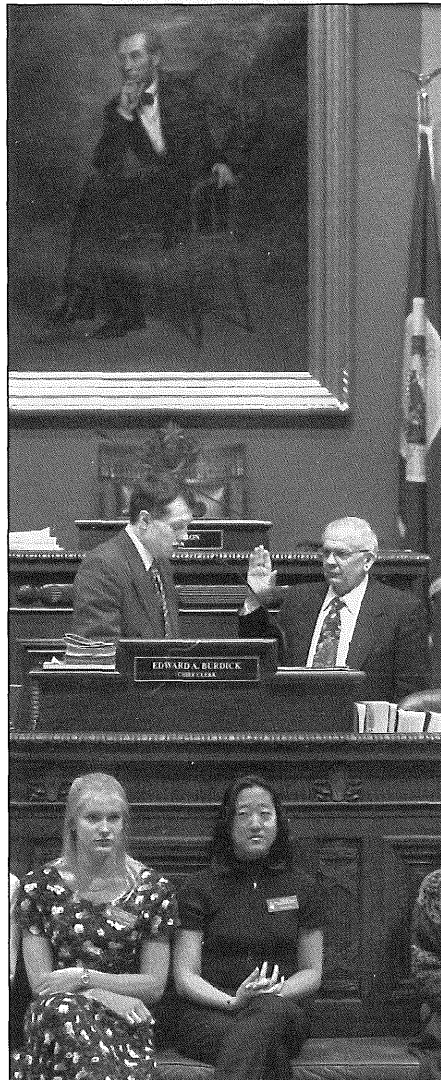
Warkentin, an Independent-Republican, comes to the Capitol from Coon Rapids after winning an April 4 special election to fill former Rep. Joel Jacobs' seat. Jacobs, who was in his 12th House term, was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission by Gov. Arne Carlson.

The results of the three-way race for the open seat continues the IR tradition of winning special elections — even in traditionally DFL areas. Warkentin said his election means an IR will represent his district for the first time.

Though he's a member of several professional groups and is now in his sixth term as executive chairman of the Coon Rapids Evangelical Free Church, Warkentin has never held a political office.

"This is the first time I've ever been involved in politics. In fact, I've never attended a caucus to tell the truth. I've always been a faithful voter, but I've never been a player in the political arena," he said.

He was encouraged to run by several friends and by clients at the public accounting practice he operates in Coon Rapids. With their backing, Warkentin started to think seri-



Rep. Eldon Warkentin, right, the newest member of the Minnesota House, was given the oath of office by Minority Leader Steve Sviggum April 10 in the House chamber.

ously about throwing his hat into the ring.

"I felt my experiences as owner of my own accounting practice and as an accountant helped me understand people. I hear what people are talking about. I thought I could impact legislation with my insights," he said.

His daughter, Colleen Graber, served as his campaign manager for the intense, one-month campaign. They papered the district with fliers announcing his candidacy. And he

walked miles, knocking on numerous district doors along the way, he said.

Warkentin and his wife, Esther, also have another daughter, a son, and six grandchildren.

He will bring a business-oriented focus to the Capitol, he said. He wants to work on legislation that will improve the business climate. Workers' compensation reform is "very important on the list of items I'd like to address," he said.

Warkentin will also look at legislative issues through his role as a small business owner. Those business people face a hostile tax climate and some taxes levied against them, Warkentin feels, are unfairly imposed or unnecessary.

He also pledges to work for tougher criminal laws, for welfare reform, and for laws that would hold parents more accountable for their children's behavior.

Though Warkentin has plunged into a session that is two-thirds over, he also has another consideration: tax time.

This is the busiest time of year for the accountant of 27 years. But he's taking it in stride.

"I'll just have to work in the evenings and weekends. Luckily, someone who used to work for me is willing to come back and help out on his evenings and weekends," Warkentin said.

"So far at the Legislature things are going great," he said on the day of his swearing-in. "But I've only been here one day."

— Jean Thilmany

### District 49B

Population:	33,208
Distribution:	100 percent urban
County:	Anoka
Largest city:	Coon Rapids
Location:	north Metro
Unemployment rate:	4.52 percent
Residents living below poverty level:	5.51 percent
1992 presidential election results:	
Bush/Quayle	29.63 percent
Clinton/Gore	42.91 percent
Perot/Stockdale	26.69 percent
Other:	0.77 percent



**T**here's a human story behind many of the laws that are passed each year by the Minnesota Legislature. Often, an idea for a new law comes from an ordinary citizen.

When 6-year-old Katie Fritz of Farmington was killed by a garage door opener, her parents and others successfully lobbied the Legislature for a law — the first in the nation — to regulate the openers.

When reports of a brutal dog beating were first aired, Deb Lester of Minneapolis and other animal rights activists sprang to action. They mounted a drive in a few short months to get a law passed which would prevent dogs that are the victims of abuse from being returned to their abusive owners.

And when Sandra Shanley of Anoka, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, tired of the bureaucratic process of applying for absentee ballots before each election, she spoke with her representative. The result was a new law that allows permanently disabled people to automatically receive absentee ballots before each election, which will help ensure their right to vote and prevent an often trying trip to the polls.

Those were just a few of the 255 bills that were signed into law during one legislative session.

Former Minneapolis senator Jack Davies, who served in the state Senate from 1959 to 1982, summed it up nicely when he said, "After all is said and done, ideas dominate legislative life."

**S**o how does a bill become law? In many different ways. But the basic process works like this:

Legislative staff translates the idea for a new law into proper legal form. A legislator, who either initiated the idea or acted upon a suggestion, becomes the chief author of the bill.

The bill is then introduced in

either the House or Senate and referred to a committee — the Agriculture or Environment and Natural Resources committees, for example — where members will discuss it, invite public testimony, and take amendments. The identical bill (called a companion bill) is usually introduced in the other body.

Committees in both bodies can either recommend the bill to pass, amend it and then recommend it to pass, or defeat the measure.

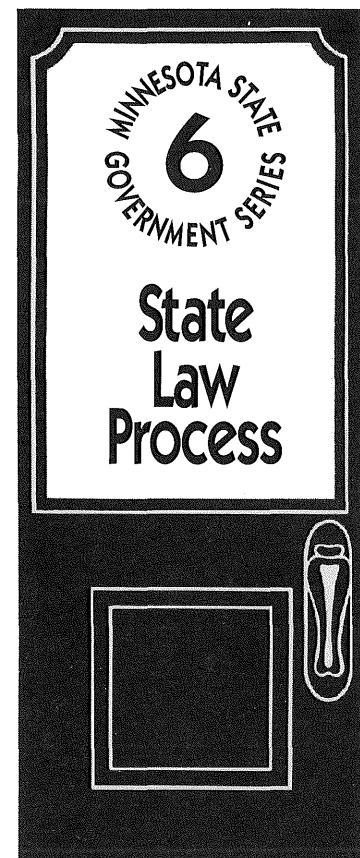
If the bill is recommended to pass, it can then be re-referred to another committee for consideration or to the full House for a vote by all the members. Typically, a bill must be voted on twice by the full House — once in the "committee of the whole" when amendments can be offered and adopted by a majority, and a second time when amendments can be offered only if *all* members consent to the additions. For most bills, 68 votes are all that's needed for a bill to pass in the House; 34 in the Senate.

If the bill is passed by both the House and Senate, it's then sent to the governor for a signature. Although this often happens with minor, non-controversial bills, it rarely occurs with major spending or tax bills.

The Senate and House typically approve much different bills in addressing the same topic. When that occurs, a conference committee — either three or five members from each body — is named to work out the differences.

Once a compromise is reached, the bill is returned to both the House and the Senate for final approval, and then sent to the governor for his or her signature.

Although the process is simple in theory, it can often be confusing



in practice. A bill that is defeated or amended in committee early in a session is often resurrected in a different form a few weeks later.

That's just what happened with a bill to appropriate money to help pay for the investigation of the Jacob Wetterling kidnapping, for example. The appropriation request wasn't approved in a committee, so on the House floor, the chief author added the proposal as an amendment to a separate bill on taxes. It passed, and later the governor signed it into law.

**T**he legislative process in practice is akin to those long balloons that can be twisted into various shapes. Squeeze the air out of one section and it'll pop up in another.

For that reason, legislators, during legislative sessions, often recite the immortal words of baseball great Yogi Berra: "It ain't over 'til it's over." ▼

# How a Bill Becomes

## Idea

**1** A bill is an idea for a new law or an idea to change an old law. Anyone can suggest an idea for a bill — an individual, consumer group, professional association, government agency, or the governor. Most often, however, ideas come from legislators, the only ones who can begin to move an idea through the process. There are 134 House members and 67 senators.

## General Orders

**7** On General Orders, all House or Senate members, acting as the "committee of the whole," have a chance to debate the issue, offer amendments, and present arguments on the bill. Afterwards, they vote to recommend: passage of the bill, progress (delay action), or further committee action. And sometimes they recommend that a bill not pass. Members' votes on General Orders are usually not recorded unless there is a specific request to do so. From here, the bill is placed on the Calendar.

## Legal form

**2** The Office of the Revisor of Statutes and staff from other legislative offices work with legislators in putting the idea for a new law into proper legal form. The revisor's office is responsible for assuring that the proposal's form complies with the rules of both bodies before the bill can be introduced into the Minnesota House of Representatives and the Minnesota Senate.

## Calendar

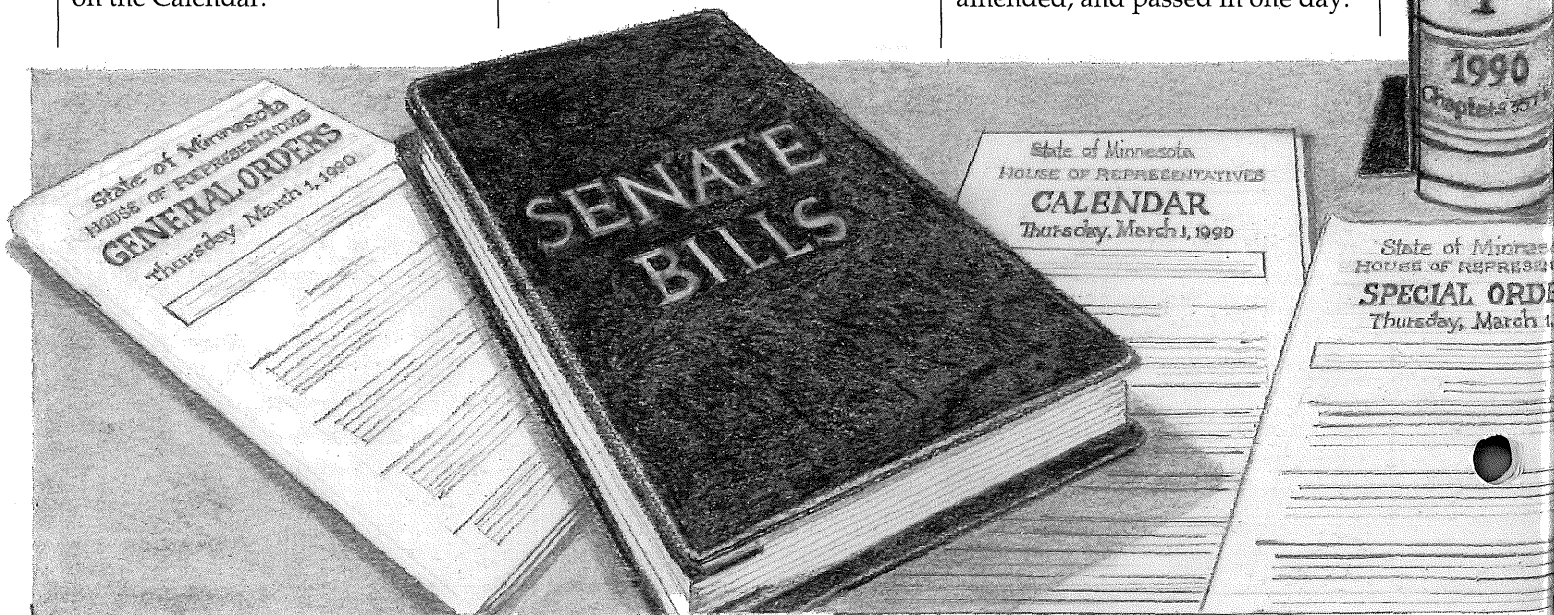
**8** The Calendar is a list of bills the full House and full Senate vote on. At this point, the bill has its *third reading*. The bill cannot be amended unless the entire body agrees to it. Here, representatives and senators vote on the bill for the last time. A bill needs 68 votes to pass the House and 34 votes to pass the Senate. If the House and Senate each pass the same version of the bill, it goes to the governor for a signature.

## Authors

**3** Each bill must have a legislator to sponsor and introduce it in the Legislature. That legislator is the chief author whose name appears on the bill along with the bill's file number to identify it as it moves through the legislative process. There may be up to four co-authors from the House and four from the Senate. Their names also appear on the bill.

## Special Orders

**9** Toward the end of the session, the rules committees of the House and Senate designate bills from the General Orders calendar to receive priority consideration. These Special Orders bills are debated, amended, and passed in one day. The House also has a Rule 1.10 calendar which allows the chairs of the Taxes and Appropriations committees to call up for consideration any tax or appropriations bill that has had a second reading. These Rule 1.10 bills are debated, amended, and passed in one day.



# a Law in Minnesota

## Introduction

**4** The chief House author of the bill introduces it in the House; the chief Senate author introduces it in the Senate. Identical bills introduced in each body are called *companion* bills. The bill introduction is called the *first reading*. The presiding officer of the House then refers it to an appropriate House committee for discussion; the same thing happens in the Senate.

## Conference

**10** If the House and Senate versions of the bill are different, they go to a conference committee. In the House, the speaker of the House appoints three or five representatives, and in the Senate, the Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee on Rules and Administration selects the same number of senators to form the committee. The committee meets to work out differences in the two bills and to reach a compromise.

## Committee

**5** The bill is discussed in one or more committees depending upon the subject matter. After discussion, committee members recommend action — approval or disapproval — to the full House and full Senate. The House committee then sends a report to the House about its action on the bill; the Senate committee does likewise in the Senate.

## Floor

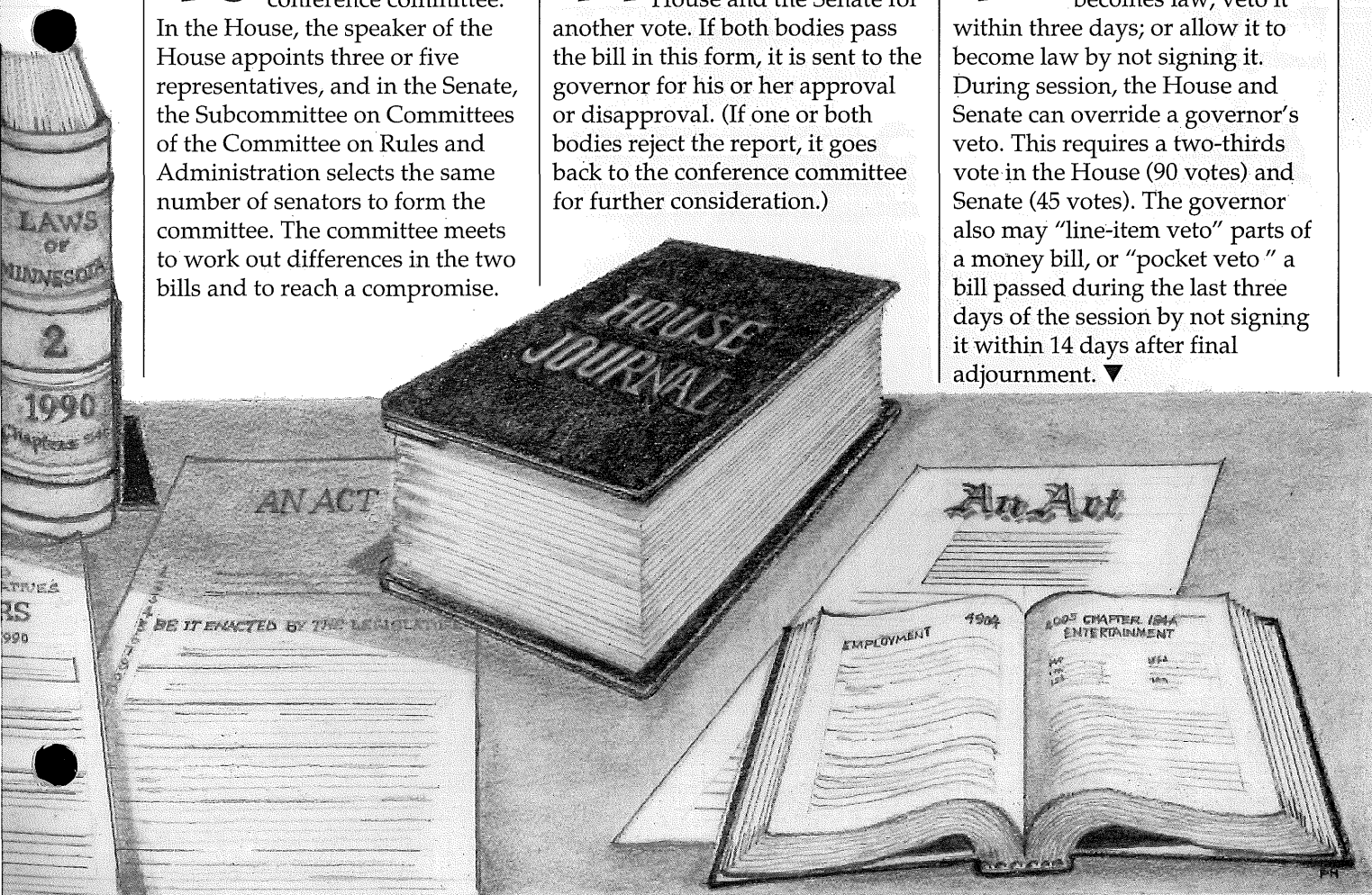
**11** The conference committee's compromise bill then goes back to the House and the Senate for another vote. If both bodies pass the bill in this form, it is sent to the governor for his or her approval or disapproval. (If one or both bodies reject the report, it goes back to the conference committee for further consideration.)

## Floor

**6** After the full House, or Senate, accepts the committee report, the bill has its *second reading*. From here, the bill is usually placed on the House and Senate agendas called General Orders. (A committee can recommend that a local or non-controversial bill bypass General Orders and go onto the Consent Calendar where it usually passes without debate.)

## Governor

**12** Once the governor has the bill, he or she may: sign it, and the bill becomes law; veto it within three days; or allow it to become law by not signing it. During session, the House and Senate can override a governor's veto. This requires a two-thirds vote in the House (90 votes) and Senate (45 votes). The governor also may "line-item veto" parts of a money bill, or "pocket veto" a bill passed during the last three days of the session by not signing it within 14 days after final adjournment. ▼



# Questions and Answers

## How are bills amended?

**B**ills going through the Legislature are often amended, which can greatly change the thrust of a bill.

Most often legislators make amendments to bills when they are being considered in committee. Committee members are usually well-versed in the subjects of the bills, and they have the time at this point to consider making changes. Legislators can also amend bills when they reach the House floor. In both cases, amendments are adopted by a majority vote.

Generally, the legislator offering the amendment will have the proposal drafted by legislative staff before offering it for discussion ▼

## What are first, second, and third readings?

**A** "reading" is the presentation of a bill before either house when the bill title is read. Bills must have three readings, one on each of three separate days, before they can receive final approval. Each of these readings is a stage in the enactment of a measure. Exceptions can occur, however, if the rules are suspended.

The Minnesota Constitution outlines this procedure to ensure that legislators know exactly what bills are before them, and to allow time for legislators to study the proposals.

The first reading occurs when a bill author introduces a bill on the House or Senate floor, after which it is sent to a committee for consideration.

The second reading occurs when either body accepts the committee report regarding the action the committee took on the

bill. This happens in advance of the floor debate on the bill.

The third reading occurs immediately preceding the final vote on the bill.

Even though the Minnesota Constitution requires this process, it permits legislators to dispense with the rule when necessary. ▼

## What happens to bills remaining on calendars at the end of the first session of a biennium?

**B**ills of this nature are returned to the last committee from which they were reported to the floor. But before they can be reported to the floor in the succeeding year, the committee must again recommend action. ▼

## Are there any legislative deadlines?

**B**ills can be introduced at any time during a session, but there are committee deadlines after which a bill will no longer be considered that session.

Committee deadlines are announced during the first half of a session in order to winnow the list of topics to be dealt with that year. The first deadline requires bills to have passed all House or Senate policy committees in order to be considered further that session.

The second deadline sets a date after which bills will not be considered unless they have passed through all policy committees.

In 1995, the first deadline was March 31; the second, April 7. Of course, there are exceptions to every rule; these deadlines generally do not apply to tax and appropriations bills. ▼

## How do legislators vote on various issues?

**A**lthough people frequently call and ask for a legislator's "voting record," no such complete document exists. In reality, each legislator casts hundreds of votes on assorted bills that are subsequently recorded in the *Journal of the House*. The Senate has a comparable journal.

If you want to know how a legislator voted on a specific bill, the House Index Office and the Senate Information Office can help you.

Probably the best way to get a feel for a legislator's voting record is to contact any number of special interest groups that rate legislators based on issues that are important to them. Several business associations and environmental groups, for example, issue regular ratings. ▼

## When do new laws go into effect?

**M**ost new laws go into effect on Aug. 1 following a legislative session unless a bill specifies another date. Exceptions are bills that contain an appropriation, which become effective July 1, the same date the fiscal year begins. ▼

## What is an omnibus bill?

**A**n omnibus bill is a large bill that includes several different issues under one general topic such as education. It's usually an appropriations bill, contains many pages, and is often comprised of several individual bills. Legislators often say the smaller bills are "rolled into" the larger one. ▼



# Bill Introductions

HF1824-HF1836

## Monday, April 10

### HF1824—Milbert (DFL)

#### Taxes

Dakota County public defender cost aid payment adjustment provided.

### HF1825—Rest (DFL)

#### Taxes

Sales and use tax advisory council established.

### HF1826—Ness (IR)

#### Education

Education department abolished, teaching and learning board established, Faribault academies governance provided, education commissioner duties modified, and money appropriated.

### HF1827—Kahn (DFL)

#### Education

Higher education administrative rotation plan provided.

### HF1828—Rukavina (DFL)

#### Judiciary

Self-insured employer access to employee medical records regulated.

### HF1829—Koppendrayner (IR)

#### Agriculture

Agriculture commissioner grain inspection, grading, weighing, sampling and analysis authority repealed, and grain inspection division of the Department of Agriculture abolished.

## Tuesday, April 11

### HF1830—Rest (DFL)

#### Taxes

Tax increment financing state aid offset and local approval requirements modified.

### HF1831—Rest (DFL)

#### Taxes

Property tax refund deduction provided on property tax statement, and money appropriated.

## Wednesday, April 12

### HF1832—Bettermann (IR)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Sauk Centre authorized to determine the number of members of local public utilities commission.

### HF1833—Milbert (DFL)

#### Taxes

Sparkling wine excise tax rate reduced.

### HF1834—Solberg (DFL)

#### Ways and Means

Higher Education Coordinating Board, state universities, University of Minnesota, and Mayo Medical Foundation appropriated money.

### HF1835—Anderson, B. (IR)

#### Governmental Operations

Legislature bound by bidding, contract, and accounting laws imposed on state agencies.

### HF1836—Rest (DFL)

#### Taxes

Corporate franchise tax apportionment factor definition modified.

The Legislature, it seems, is always under attack by at least some factions of the public.

But did you know that a formal plan exists in Minnesota law for how the Legislature should conduct its business should the bombs really start falling?

Right there in *Minnesota Statutes* 3.95, under "SPECIAL SESSION IN EVENT OF ATTACK," is the following declaration:

"In the event of an attack, if the legislature is not in session, the governor shall convene a special session as soon as practicable, but within 30 days after the inception of the attack.

"If the governor fails to issue the call, the legislature, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday more than 30 days after the inception of the attack, shall convene at the place where the governor then maintains official office."

The law was adopted in 1961 when tensions with the former Soviet Union, and Cuba, were at an all-time high. The Senate passed the bill 51-2 on April 14,

## It's a fact!



On Jan. 16, 1991, House members and their guests monitored developments in the Persian Gulf on a small television set just outside the House Chamber.

1961, and the House passed it the next day on a 96-0 vote.

Just two days later, on April 17,

1961, CIA-trained Cuban refugees invaded Cuba at the Bay of Pigs.

As to just where the Legislature should meet in the event of an attack, it could be just about anywhere. The law states that the governor could convene a session "to any other place within or without the state which the governor deems safe and convenient."

The Legislature also recognized that not all members may be able to show up during a time of a national emergency, and modified the quorum requirement for convening the Legislature.

Currently, it takes 68 members in the 134-member House to convene a session and 34 members in the 67-member Senate.

"[But] in the event of an attack the quorum requirement for the legislature is a majority of the members of each house who convene for the session," states *Minnesota Statutes* 3.96.

So if only 20 House members showed up, the magic quorum number would be 11.

Coming Up Next Week . . . April 17 - 21, 1995

# Committee Schedule

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

## MONDAY, April 17

No committee meetings scheduled.

## TUESDAY, April 18

8 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel  
**Agenda:** Omnibus Higher Education Finance  
Bill.

### Transportation Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder  
**Agenda:** HF1404 (Lieder) Transportation com-  
missioner allowed to accept federal money on  
behalf of nonpublic organizations for transpor-  
tation purposes.  
HF1793 (Lieder) Relating to the organization  
and operation of state government; appropriat-  
ing money for the Department of Transporta-  
tion and other agencies with certain conditions.  
Other bills may be added.

10 a.m.

### CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis  
**Agenda:** HF324 (Lieder) Bridge construction  
and reconstruction bond issuance authorized  
and proceeds appropriated as grants to political  
subdivisions.  
HF815 (Mariani) Wabasha Bridge in St. Paul  
removal and replacement provided, money  
appropriated, and bonds issued.  
HF1260 (Milbert) Amateur Sports Commis-  
sion ice arena authority increased, bond use

authorized, and money appropriated.  
HF1652 (Trimble) Public property acquired  
with bond funds lease and disposition provi-  
sions modified.  
HF1705 (Knoblach) Seven year limit on bond  
authority.  
HFXXXX (Kalis) Bond authorization cancella-  
tions.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson  
**Agenda:** HF1077 (Cooper) MinnesotaCare;  
integrated service network requirements estab-  
lished, penalties provided, and money appro-  
priated.

### State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina  
**Agenda:** State Government Finance Division  
Omnibus Bill.

### TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest  
**Agenda:** HF755 (Johnson, R.) Insurance com-  
pany gross premium tax rate modified for fire,  
lightning, and sprinkler coverage.

15 minutes before Session

### RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

118 State Capitol  
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers  
**Agenda:** Special Orders.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.  
(Session televised on Metro Cable Channel 6.)

After Session

### Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel  
**Agenda:** Omnibus Higher Education Finance  
Bill (continued).

### RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

400N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers  
**Agenda:** House budget for the next biennium.

### State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina  
**Agenda:** Continuation of morning agenda.

## WEDNESDAY, April 19

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

### TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest  
**Agenda:** HF1000 (Johnson, A.) K-12 Omnibus  
Education Bill.

### University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso  
**Agenda:** Omnibus University of Minnesota Fi-  
nance Bill.

10 a.m.

### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau  
**Agenda:** HF1742 (Long) Health plans to pro-  
vide coverage for autologous bone marrow trans-  
plants.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn  
**Agenda:** Omnibus State Departments Appro-  
priations Bill. Other bills recommended by  
division.

12:30 p.m.

**WAYS & MEANS**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

**Agenda:** To be announced.

15 minutes before Session

**RULES &**

**LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

118 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

**Agenda:** Special Orders.

One half hour after Session

**EDUCATION**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Omnibus Higher Education Finance Bill.

6 p.m.

**Joint House/Senate Subcommittee on Claims**

500S State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Edgar Olson, Sen. Randy Kelly

**Agenda:** Injury claims against the Department of Corrections. Discussion of Diekman et. al. vs. the Department of Corrections. Property claims against the Department of Corrections. Discussion of MCF-Stillwater property room issue.

\*\*\*The House will likely meet in Session.  
Time to be announced.\*\*\*

**THURSDAY, April 20**

8 a.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

**Agenda:** To be announced.

10 a.m.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** HF1010 (Kalis) Water and Soil Resources Board project bond proceed financing report requirements modified.  
Bond authorization allocations.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Omnibus State Departments Appropriations Bill. Other bills recommended by division.

HF976 (Orenstein) Human resources, gainsharing, and procurement pilot projects established to improve state agency efficiency and effectiveness.

HF1473 (McGuire) Government data classification provisions modified, financial assistance data classification provided, and information policy training program established.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** To be announced.

15 minutes before Session.

**RULES &**

**LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

118 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

**Agenda:** Special Orders.

After Session

**RULES &**

**LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

400N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**WAYS & MEANS**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

**Agenda:** Omnibus Bills: Economic Development Infrastructure & Regulation Finance (Rice), Transportation Finance Division (Lieder), K-12 Education Finance Division (Johnson, A.) and Higher Education Finance Division (Kinkel).

\*\*\*The House will likely meet in Session.  
Time to be announced.\*\*\*

**FRIDAY, April 21**

8 a.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
REGULATION FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** Omnibus Tax Bill.

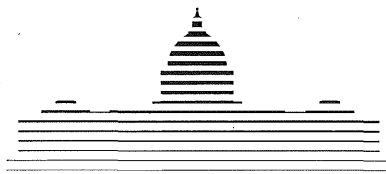
10 a.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Continuation of April 20th agenda.



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

Speaker of the House: Irv Anderson  
Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Minnesota waste and garbage

Tons of solid waste generated by Minnesota citizens and businesses, 1992 .....	4.4
Cost to collect and dispose of that solid waste, in millions .....	\$440
Tons of recyclables collected, 1992 .....	1.7
Percent of solid waste that was recycled .....	39
Number of curbside recycling programs .....	651
Minnesotans served by those programs, in millions .....	3.2
Curbside yard waste programs .....	220
Minnesotans served by those programs, in millions .....	2.2
Minimum block grant awarded to each Minnesota county for use in reduction, recycling, waste education, and problem materials/household hazardous waste management programs, per year .....	\$55,000
Total state dollars allocated each year for the programs, in millions .....	\$15
Percent of Minnesota's trash composed of paper, May 1994 .....	40
Percent composed of food waste .....	13.3
Percent composed of plastic .....	11.4
Percent composed of diapers .....	2.4
Years that it takes for a plastic "disposable" diaper to decompose .....	500
Trees required to make one ton of paper .....	17
Pounds of solid waste created in the manufacturing of one ton of paper .....	176
Tons of paper used in the United States each year, in millions .....	67
Pounds of paper for each person in the United States .....	600
Rank of the United States, in worldwide paper consumption .....	1
Times that the garbage created in the United States each day would fill the New Orleans Superdome .....	2
Percent of an average grocery bill spent on packaging that is discarded .....	9
Percent of all drinks in the United States sold in returnable containers, 1958 .....	98
in 1986 .....	15

Sources: Minnesota Office of Waste Management, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Public Information Office, Legislative Commission on Waste Management.

### For more information . . .

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95, April 21

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# SESSION WEEKLY

A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ April 21, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 16



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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • April 21, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 16

## Week at a glance

**Omnibus higher education spending** — A \$1.9 billion omnibus higher education funding bill was approved by the House Education Committee. The proposal wouldn't meet school administrators' state aid requests for the next biennium, but it would give more state money than the governor recommended to the newly merged higher education system. .... **Page 3**

**Drunken snowmobiling and boating** — Certain repeat DWI offenders caught while driving a boat or snowmobile would lose their pleasure vehicles to the state, under a bill approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee. .... **Page 6**

**Wetlands changes** — Counties would have more flexibility in developing their wetlands, under a bill that was given final approval by the House. The vote was 127-4. The bill would amend the 1991 Wetlands Conservation Act to allow local governments to adopt their own "comprehensive wetland protection and management plans." .... **Page 8**

**Improving child support** — A comprehensive proposal to help collect delinquent child support payments — which includes provisions to suspend drivers and occupational licenses — won approval from the House Health and Human Services Committee. .... **Page 9**

**To kill a mourning dove** — For the first time since 1946, mourning doves would be in the gun sights of Minnesota hunters, under a proposal approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee. .... **Page 10**

**Omnibus state government spending** — A more than \$500 million omnibus state government spending bill with money for everything from ice rinks to a Korean War veterans memorial passed the House Governmental Operations Committee. The bill includes new policies such as eliminating three gambling boards and cutting state agency money spent on private consultants. .... **Page 11**

**Omnibus MinnesotaCare** — Insurance companies no longer would be required to cover abortion services as part of a standard health care policy in Minnesota, under the Omnibus MinnesotaCare bill approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee. .... **Page 14**

**Selling junked cars** — Junked vehicles that have been towed to private or public impound lots could be immediately sold, under a bill given final approval by the House. The vote was 125-6. .... **Page 17**

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On the cover: The Capitol dome is reflected in the chrome tail light of a 1959 Cadillac. The automobile is one of a dozen classic cars brought to the Capitol April 18 by the Minnesota Street Rod Association to raise awareness of their organization and promote the hobby of "Street Rodding."

— photo by Andrew Von Bank

# Highlights

Omnibus higher education funding . . .

## Proposal eliminates HECB, favors semester system

**T**he \$1.9 billion omnibus higher education funding bill was approved April 20 by the House Ways and Means Committee.

The proposal wouldn't meet school administrators' state aid requests for the next biennium, but it would give more state money than the governor recommended to the newly merged higher education system.

It also would eliminate the Higher Education Coordinating Board and would shift all the state's public colleges and universities (except the University of Minnesota) toward a semester system and abandon the current quarter system.

The University of Minnesota would receive \$970.6 million over the next biennium and the newly merged state university, community college, and technical college system would get about \$935.6 million, under the bill.

Both amounts exceed spending caps established by a 1993 law designed to control costs — \$895 million for the merged system and \$908 million for the U of M — but there is no penalty for exceeding the limit.

In his budget proposal, Gov. Arne Carlson recommended \$986.9 million for the University of Minnesota for the biennium. U of M administrators had asked for \$995.7 million.

Carlson had called for \$905 million in spending for the merged state university, technical, and community college system. Administrators had requested \$1 billion for the next biennium.

The bill specifies separate appropriations for each of the three higher education systems slated to be merged in July. Under the bill, the state community colleges would receive \$369 million, the state community colleges \$215 million, and the technical colleges \$351 million.

Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids), who chairs the committee's Higher Education Finance Division, said the appropriated amounts specify the maximum amount the HEB can spend on each individual system. HEB administrators would still decide how to distribute merged system funds under the bill, he said. Dividing up the appropriation means costs for the merger would be neces-

sarily spread across the three systems, he added.

Also under the bill, the newly created Higher Education Services Office (HESO), responsible for distributing financial aid to students, would receive about \$240 million. And the Mayo Medical School would receive \$1.8 million in state aid over the next biennium.

**HF1856**, sponsored by Kinkel, which now goes to the House floor, includes the following provisions.

### U2000

A total of \$55.7 million in state funding would go to the University of Minnesota for U2000 initiatives. The funds do not include the \$9.1 million appropriation vetoed by the governor in 1994. University administrators had requested \$7.7 million of that appropriation again this year.

The U2000 plan, originally unveiled in 1993, calls for strengthening undergraduate programs, raising faculty salaries to attract and keep quality faculty, and upgrading the university's research environment.

The governor proposed the university re-

ceive \$53.8 million as a one-time only appropriation for U2000.

University officials requested \$25.6 million for U2000 over the next biennium, but would like that funding to continue.

The House proposal is also a one-time only funding appropriation.

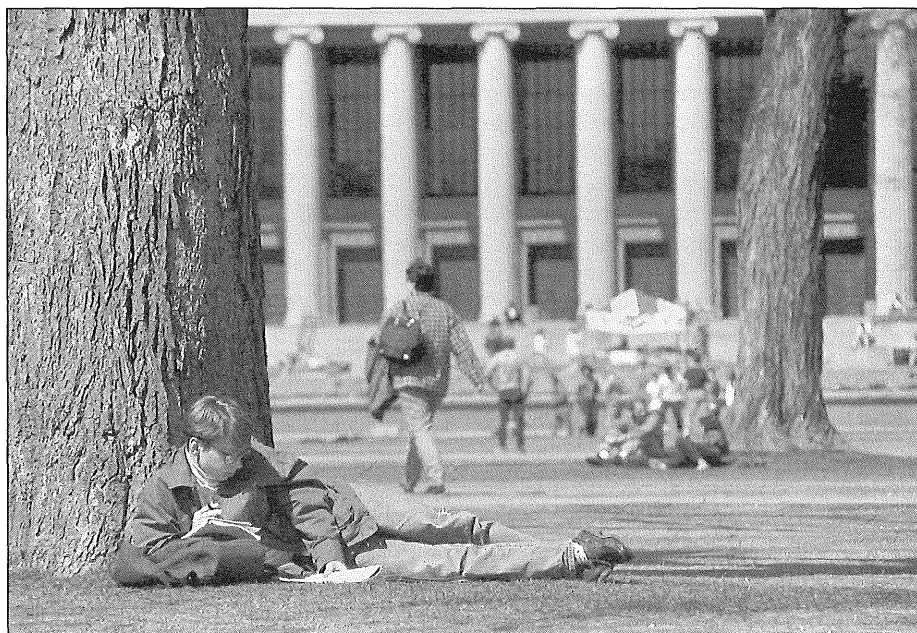
### Semester system

Classes at Minnesota's state universities, community colleges and technical colleges would last one semester rather than one quarter of the academic year.

The Higher Education Board, which will coordinate those college systems when they merge in July, would have until fall 1998 to begin a semester school year. (See March 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 13)

Kinkel has said the move would save money because students would have to register only twice during the academic year instead of three times and financial aid would be distributed only twice. Also, 80 percent of colleges and universities nationwide use a semester school year, he said.

Also under this section of the bill, schools in the soon-to-be-combined state university,



University of Minnesota-Twin Cities sophomore Dustin Nygard of Duluth, Minn., found the base of a tree in front of Northrop Auditorium Mall an inviting place to study on a sunny April 19.



technical and community college system would begin classes on the same fall date.

If all system classes start at the same time, students could more easily transfer between schools, Kinkel said. The University of Minnesota would be exempted from this provision because the Legislature has no authority to mandate changes at that school.

This portion of the bill was originally included in **HF899**, which Kinkel sponsored.

### Financial aid limited

The bill also calls for the state to stop subsidizing tuition costs after a student has earned 48 more credits than is needed for a degree in his or her major.

This would apply to students at any public college or university in Minnesota.

Currently, the state pays 60 percent of a Minnesota student's education costs for up to 180 credit hours. Student tuition pays the remaining 40 percent.

After the excess 48 credit limit is reached, students would be responsible for the true cost of a course. That would mean an otherwise \$280 four-credit course at the U of M would cost about \$467.

Also, the state university campus in Akita, Japan, would have two years to bring state funding of its Minnesota students in line with state funding of students on Minnesota public campuses.

Currently, the state pays about \$17,000 to subsidize the education of each Minnesota student in Akita. For students studying in Minnesota, the subsidy amount is about \$3,500.

This portion of the bill was originally included in **HF899**, which Kinkel sponsored.

### HECB eliminated

The Higher Education Coordinating Board, which is responsible for distributing financial aid to Minnesota's post-secondary students, would be eliminated and its duties moved to a newly created Higher Education Services Office (HESO), under the bill.

Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona) sponsored **HF307**, which has been rolled into the omnibus bill, said the move would save about \$3.7 million over the next biennium. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11)

The bill would eliminate 27 of the 67 HECB employee positions, Pelowski said. The remainder would be transferred to the HESO.

The bill would also set up an 11-member Higher Education Administrators Council

(HEAC) made up of campus presidents, the president of the private college council, the commissioner of education and others. The HEAC would be responsible for consulting with a newly established student advisory council, appointing the HESO director, and communicating with the Legislature and the governor.

### More rural doctors

A program to train medical residents at the St. Cloud Hospital would receive \$120,000 from the state in 1997, with a stepped-up appropriation in following bienniums.

The money would go to establish a family practice residency program to be run in conjunction with the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine in Rochester, Minn. The hospital would also use federal government and hospital money to fund the program. (See March 31, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11)

After they finish medical school, doctors need to complete a residency program before they can become certified doctors.

Rural Minnesota—like rural areas throughout the nation—faces a shortage of doctors because only about 30 percent of medical students today become general practitioners.

Presently, 220 additional doctors are needed in rural Minnesota. The hospital would train residents who would hopefully stay in the area and practice as rural doctors.

The hospital's residency program would kick off in 1999 with four residents. Four students would be added each year until there are 12 students total in the three-year program.

The Mayo Graduate School of Medicine request for a state appropriation would rise to \$720,000 for each biennium when the program is fully implemented in 2001. The amount would equal \$30,000 per resident.

This portion of the bill originally entered the legislative process as **HF1028**, sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud). Higher Education Finance Division members voted to include it in the omnibus bill.

### Increased minority enrollment

The bill would stipulate that \$5 million of the University of Minnesota's second-year appropriation be placed in a special account. Money from that account—\$1.25 million—would be released to the school each time it reached one of the goals administrators have set for the institution.

Those goals include increasing the number of incoming freshmen at the Twin Cities

campus who are in the top 25 percent of their high school class. The school would also like to increase the retention rate of 1995 new entering freshmen.

Other goals include increasing the number of new freshmen who are minority students, and increasing the number of minority faculty members. Also, the school would like to increase the number of students who graduate from the school within five years.

The school has set and outlined specific goals, said Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) who amended this portion of legislation into the bill. The legislation would help ensure the school continues to work toward the goals, he said.

### Fee waiver

The bill includes a provision to allow the president of a state university, community college or technical college to waive the fee a student pays when applying for admission.

Frequently, this fee is prohibitive for poverty-stricken students, who may still receive enough financial aid to attend the college, said Rep. Steve Dehler (IR-St. Joseph), who sponsored this provision.

No part of current law allows for an application fee waiver, he said. The student or student's family would have to show need for the exception, he said.

### Interpreter training

An advisory committee could determine how best to start a training program to certify interpreters and translators, under this portion of the bill.

Certification would begin in September 1998. (See March 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7)

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) who sponsored the original language of this provision (**HF678**), has said because interpreters are untrained and are sometimes friends and relatives of the non-English speaking person, the actual interpretation could be sketchy.

Certifying interpreters would ensure they meet certain standards and would protect those who use interpreters at court hearings and doctor's appointments, Clark said.

The Higher Education Board would determine standards interpreters would need to meet for certification.

An interpreter acts as a go-between for people carrying on an oral conversation. Translators work from written material.

— Jean Thilmany





## BUDGET

### Emergency spending bill



Signed  
by the  
governor

A new state law authorizes nearly \$3.2 million for emergency state government spending.

The funds, which became available April 19, will be used to cover state spending during the current fiscal year.

Just over \$1 million will go to the Department of Health to cover costs incurred during the recent meningitis outbreak in Mankato, which killed one high school student and caused several other residents to be hospitalized.

The House version of the measure had included \$245,000 to cover the meningitis outbreak, which was a preliminary figure based on the first round of meningitis immunizations. The \$1 million figure reached by House and Senate conference committee members reflects the total costs incurred for some 31,000 immunizations.

The deficiency bill also provides:

- \$1.5 million to the Board of Public Defense to handle increased caseloads resulting from juvenile crime laws enacted in 1994;
- \$500,000 to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the emergency financial and medical needs of veterans;
- \$77,000 to the Minnesota Racing Commission to regulate pari-mutuel horse racing;
- \$46,000 to the Department of Military Affairs for paying the city of Roseville assessments due for National Guard property; and
- \$30,000 to the Department of Public Safety to match federal funds for flood relief.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Jim Girard (IR-Lynd) and Sen. Dennis Frederickson (IR-New Ulm).

(HF355/SF335\*/CH48)

### Tell us exactly



Signed  
by the  
governor

Minnesota lawmakers are encouraging their federal counterparts to balance the federal budget, but they want to know what such efforts are going to mean to Minnesotans.

The Legislature has passed a non-binding resolution asking Congress for financial information on the impact of a balanced federal budget amendment on the Minnesota state budget.

The Republican Party's "Contract with America" promised a vote within the first 100

days of the 104th Congress on a balanced budget amendment. It passed the U.S. House, but failed by a single vote in the U.S. Senate.

The contract says the amendment is necessary to "restore fiscal responsibility to an out-of-control Congress, requiring them to live under the same budget constraints as families and businesses." While the balanced budget amendment failed, the contract still promises a balanced federal budget by the year 2002.

The resolution does recognize that working to balance the federal budget "may impose on the states unfunded mandates that shift to the states responsibility for carrying out programs that the Congress can no longer afford."

A recent study completed by the U.S. Treasury Department for the nation's governors estimates that the balanced budget amendment would reduce federal grants to Minnesota by \$1.2 billion. But some have dismissed that estimate as being politically motivated.

Copies of the resolution have been forwarded to the speaker and clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the president and secretary of the United States Senate, the presiding officers of both houses of the legislature of each of the other states in the Union, and to Minnesota's senators and representatives in Congress.

The proposal was sponsored by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine).

(HFnone/SF66\*/R1)



## BUSINESS

### Free haircuts



Signed  
by the  
governor

A new law will allow charities and homeless shelters to provide free haircuts to the clients they serve.

The law stems from an incident last summer involving two volunteers at the Union Gospel Mission

in Duluth, Minn.

Two sisters, Theresa Taylor and Velma Williamson, for years had been giving free haircuts to the poor, first out of their home and later in a makeshift hair salon in the ladies' restroom at the mission.

But then the Minnesota Board of Barber Examiners, after complaints from several Duluth barbers, stepped in to say barbering without a license is against the law. Violators could face up to 90 days in jail and a \$700 fine.

Since the 1920s, the state has required barbers to be licensed. Cutting hair for immediate family members is the only exception to the law.

After several media outlets picked up the story, including the nationally syndicated Paul Harvey radio program, the Board of Barber Examiners had a change of heart. Members of the board voted unanimously to grant the sisters honorary licenses.

But before they could be back in business, the barber board said the two women needed to attend a Minneapolis barber school for two weeks to learn how to sanitize the tools of the trade.

"We couldn't afford it," Taylor said. "We've got families to take care of and couldn't just pick up and go to the Cities for several weeks."

The sisters never did get the training. They also haven't touched a head of hair since August 1994.

"We're scared to do it," Taylor said.

The new law, effective Aug. 1, 1995, permits barbering for several charitable purposes "in nursing homes, shelters, missions, or other similar facilities." The cuts must be free, and there is no training required of the barbers.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth) and Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth).

(HF1747/SF838\*/CH59)



## CRIME

### Unlawful masks



Signed  
by the  
governor

Effective Aug. 1, 1995, covering one's face in public for religious reasons no longer will be a crime, under a new state law.

House sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) says present law, which prohibits concealing one's identity by means of a "robe, mask, or other disguise," is unconstitutional.

The law, originally placed on the books in 1923, targeted Ku Klux Klan members, who maintained a significant presence in the state at the time. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, pages 6 and 17)

The proposal stems from a Sept. 28, 1994, arrest of a Muslim woman in downtown St. Paul. Police officers asked the woman, dressed in traditional Muslim attire, to lift the veil from her face. When she refused, they issued her a citation.

The local Islamic community called the incident a clear violation of her First Amendment rights.

In light of Minnesota's winter climate, anyone covering their face "as protection from weather" also will be exempt from the law.

Technically, under current law, snowmobilers and others protecting their faces in the winter months are in violation of the law.

Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

(HF735/SF214\*/CH30)



## DWI

### Snowmobiling, boating, DWIs

Certain repeat DWI offenders caught while driving a boat or snowmobile would lose their pleasure vehicles to the state, under a bill approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee April 18.

**HF423**, sponsored by Rep. Tom Van Engen (IR-Spicer), also would apply to all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).

Under current law, those convicted of a fourth DWI offense within five years or a fifth DWI offense within 15 years lose their cars.

Under the bill, if that fourth or fifth conviction happens in a boat, snowmobile, or ATV, the recreational vehicle also would be taken — for good.

Only the vehicle used to commit the drunken driving offense would be seized. The vehicle would not be subject to forfeiture if the person convicted of a DWI was not the vehicle's owner.

Local law enforcement agencies could keep the vehicles for official use or sell them. The profits would have to be used for anti-DWI efforts. If the arresting officer works for the state, such as a DNR conservation officer, the proceeds must be forwarded to the snowmobile trails and enforcement account or the all-terrain vehicle account, depending on type of vehicle involved.

"We don't really want the vehicles, we just want [drunk] people to stop driving them," Van Engen explained.

He said the bill would generate an "incredibly small amount" of revenue for the state — \$11,000 over the next two years. A fiscal note prepared for the bill indicates that counties could gain \$55,000 each year through the sale of boats, snowmobiles, and ATVs.

In response to a question about a person snowmobiling drunk on their own property, Mike Grupa of the DNR's Enforcement Division said that a person can be cited for driving while impaired on both public and private property.

**HF423** now moves to the Ways and Means Committee.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Environmental spending bill

State spending for environment and natural resource programs would total almost \$566 million over the next two-year budget cycle, under a bill approved by the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee April 13.

**HF1857** funds the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Minnesota Zoo and 10 other state agencies.

Nearly 55 percent of the state spending in the bill — almost \$312 million — would go to the DNR.

The MPCA, the next largest recipient under the bill, would receive about \$77 million.

The spending bill also includes nearly \$36 million for 86 environmental and recreational programs selected by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), which is funded from a two-cent per-pack cigarette tax and limited state lottery proceeds. (See March 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9)

Other provisions of the bill include:

#### State parks, trails, recreation areas

Funding for state parks and recreation areas would total more than \$54 million, a spending increase of \$1.6 million over the previous two-year budget.

A total of \$9 million — \$4.5 million each from the general fund and the environment and natural resources trust fund — would go to acquire land and improve the metropolitan regional park system. Nearly \$4 million more would add land to existing state park and recreational areas and finance other improvements. (An additional \$1.4 million from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund would supplement the funds for metropolitan and state parks.)

An additional \$25 million would go to programs to maintain existing hiking and biking trails and waterways.

A \$140,000 appropriation for fiscal year 1996 would replace trucks and other vehicles destroyed in a February 1995 arson fire at William O'Brien State Park.

#### Fish and wildlife

More than \$70 million would be spent in fiscal years 1996 and 1997 on programs for lake, stream and wildlife area management.

Nearly \$2 million of the funds would be marked for non-game wildlife management programs. Another \$2.6 million would be

marked to fund game and fish critical habitat programs and wetlands protection under the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program.

An additional \$2.65 million would be marked for RIM programs contained in the LCMR recommendations.

#### Clean air and water

The MPCA would continue existing programs to clean up Minnesota lakes and rivers with \$18 million in state funds, under the bill. It would receive another \$14.3 million for air pollution programs, and almost \$16 million for protection of groundwater and management of solid waste. The agency's hazardous waste programs would receive about \$12.4 million over the next two-year budget period.

The funding for each of those programs will more than double when federal dollars are secured.

More than \$2.5 million would fund continuation of the MPCA's four-year project to computerize its data for its varied environmental oversight programs. MPCA officials say completion of the Delta Project would increase the agency's efficiency and help businesses that it now regulates.

#### Ethanol production

Minnesota farmers would be encouraged to produce all the ethanol that is used in the state, under the bill.

It would raise to \$30 million per year the amount the state would pay to subsidize the production of ethanol, although the state would actually spend about half that yearly amount in the next two years.

The cap is currently at \$10 million per year, which proponents of the bill say is not enough to encourage the long-term development of more ethanol plants in Greater Minnesota.

Ethanol is made from the fermentation of corn and other agricultural products and has been used as an additive in gasoline to make it burn more cleanly.

There are currently five ethanol plants in Minnesota (a sixth will begin production in April) that combined produce a total of 59 million gallons of ethanol per year.

That's less than half of the 120 million gallons of ethanol that is consumed per year in Minnesota, most of which is imported from plants in Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska.

The proposal was introduced as **HF202**, sponsored by Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison). Peterson has argued that raising the cap to \$30 million per year would send a message to potential investors in ethanol plants that the state is committed to helping

the industry.

"If Minnesota doesn't act this year, the window of opportunity is going to be gone," he has said.

That's because beginning Oct. 1 of this year, gasoline used in automobiles in the 10-county metropolitan area will be required to burn "oxygenated fuel" year round, instead of just during the winter (Oct. 1 to Feb. 1) as is required under current law.

(The law was enacted in 1991 because the Twin Cities was in violation of federal Environmental Protection Agency clean air requirements. Adding one part ethanol for every 10 parts of gas is one way to oxygenate gas, although there are petroleum-based additives that can do the same thing.)

The need for year round "oxygenated fuel" in the metro area will greatly increase the demand for ethanol. And beginning Oct. 1, 1997, all gasoline sold in the state will have to be oxygenated, which will further increase demand for ethanol.

The bill also provides for \$550,000 in state loans to companies building ethanol production facilities in Minnesota.

### Treaty litigation costs

The bill would give the DNR \$750,000 to defend the state against the 1990 hunting and fishing rights lawsuit brought by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe in federal court and to contest a similar lawsuit brought by the Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe.

The governor had recommended \$1 million in funding.

The bill would allocate \$400,000 for the DNR to survey fish and wildlife resources "in the counties covered by the 1837 Treaty." The DNR sought \$808,000 for the survey.

"We're very concerned about that reduction," DNR deputy commissioner Ron Nargang told lawmakers. He said the survey would be critical in the second phase of the trial next year, which will determine how the band and the state divide the "harvestable surplus" of fish and game in twelve Minnesota counties.

A federal court decided last year that the Mille Lacs Band retains its rights to hunt, fish and gather under the 1837 Treaty.

(A separate bill (HF1001) would give the Office of the Attorney General another \$790,000 to pay for state expert witnesses in the treaty court case.)

### Youth deer licenses

Young people could buy an inexpensive license to hunt deer with firearms, under the bill.

The "Youth Deer" provision, also contained

in HF723 sponsored by Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), would allow those under age 16 to buy a deer hunting license for \$5, instead of paying \$22 for a regular firearms license.

No tag would be included in the youth license, so a deer shot by a youth carrying the \$5 license would have to be tagged by a licensed hunter possessing a valid tag.

(Under current law, a tag is issued with each deer hunting license; hunters are allowed to take just one deer per season with a firearm.)

While regular deer hunting licenses are only sold prior to the opening day of the firearms season, the youth license could be purchased at any time during the season.

The bill also would allow any deer hunter "who fails to tag a deer" during the firearms season to get a second crack at a deer by buying another firearms license and hunting by muzzleloader.

The 16-day muzzleloader season — which allows hunting with an old-fashioned rifle that was common on the frontier — follows the regular firearms season in late November.

Under current law, a deer hunter is allowed to buy only one firearms license and hunt either during the regular firearms season or during the muzzleloader season.

HF723 is pending on the House floor.

### Recreational vehicle fees

Owners of boats, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off-road motorcycles would pay a \$2 registration fee for a three-year license. The registration surcharge has been 50 cents since 1971. Originally intro-

duced as HF1483 by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), the revenue generated by proposed surcharge increase would be kept by deputy registrars in Minnesota.

Also, a current \$5 surcharge on boats to fund public awareness efforts about Eurasian water milfoil, zebra mussels and purple loosestrife would remain in effect. Under current law, the \$5 surcharge is set to dip to \$3 in 1997.

### Used oil disposal

Retailers selling more than 1,000 motor oil filters each year would have to accept and properly dispose of used oil and oil filters from the public, under a bill approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee April 4.

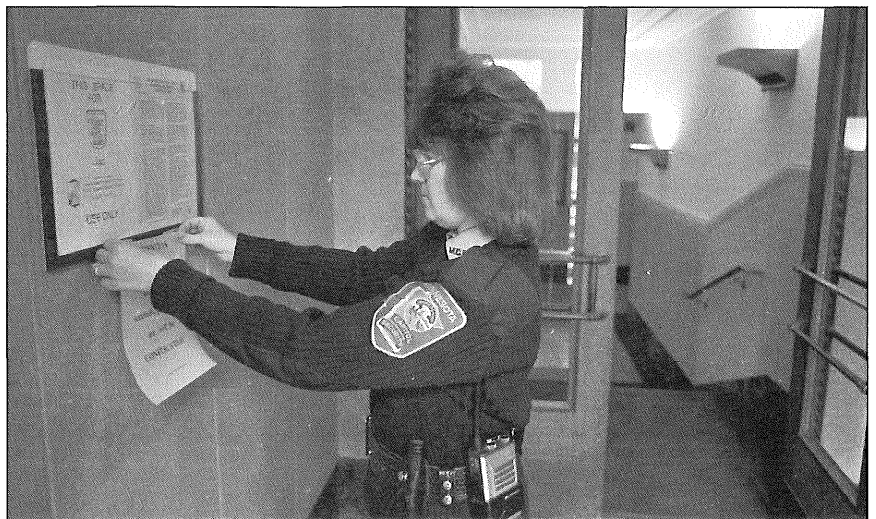
The MPCA would receive \$100,000 in fiscal year 1996 to administer the program.

The program would affect major retailers and exclude small business and gas stations, which don't accept more than 1,000 oil filters.

Businesses either would have to set up their own collection facility or contract with another business — within two miles in the Twin Cities metropolitan area or within five miles in Greater Minnesota — to accept used oil and filters.

Also, the bill explicitly states that retailers "may not charge a fee" to accept used oil and filters. Under the original bill, retailers could charge 50 cents per filter to recover disposal costs.

Under current law, a retailer selling motor oil is required only to post a notice advising consumers of a location within 10 miles of



Capitol Security Officer Vicky Logary posted a flier that reads "ATTENTION — All unattended briefcases, satchels, packages, etc. will be CONFISCATED!" at one of the ground floor entrances of the State Office Building April 20. The precautionary measure was taken in the wake of the April 19 bombing of the Alfred Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The fliers also were posted in the Capitol and the Judicial Center.

where they can dispose of used oil.

The bill was originally sponsored by Rep. Robert Leighton (DFL-Austin) as **HF1073**.

### Forest resources council

A forest resources council charged with developing sustainable management practices for state forests would be established under the bill. The 13 members of the council would be appointed by the governor from business, labor, and environmental groups and government agencies.

The governor recommended about \$2.4 million for funding this initiative, but the House pared that figure to about \$1.1 million.

### Wetland development changes

Counties would have more flexibility in developing their wetlands, under a bill that was given final approval by the House April 19. The vote was 127-4.

The bill (**HF787**) would amend the 1991 Wetlands Conservation Act to allow local governments to adopt their own "comprehensive wetland protection and management plan," said bill sponsor Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth).

Those plans would take the place of rules adopted by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), which currently oversees the law. Many local officials have complained those rules are too strict and make land development too costly. (See March 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 3; March 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8)

Under the bill, the BWSR would still have to approve or reject a county plan, however.

The bill would also ease current wetland replacement mandates that have led five northern Minnesota counties to refuse to comply with the 1991 Wetlands Conservation Act.

The law now requires local governments to replace wetlands drained for roads, housing, or other development.

The bill says that in counties that have 80 percent of the wetlands that existed when Europeans first arrived in Minnesota, the minimum size of a wetland requiring replacement would be raised to 7,500 square feet, up from 400 square feet.

Another provision would ease replacement requirements involving "public transportation projects." The measure would allow wetlands displaced because of these projects to be replaced on a one-for-one basis — the same requirement that exists under current law for agricultural land.

Under current law, wetlands in most parts of the state must be replaced one a two-for-one basis, except in areas that 80 percent or more of their pre-settlement wetlands. Those areas are allowed under current law to replace wetlands on a one-for-one basis.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

### State-owned waters

A bill asserting state ownership of waters inside federal nature areas in northern Minnesota won final passage April 13 in the House. The vote was 96-31.

Bill sponsor Rep. Thomas Bakk (DFL-Cook) said the bill would make it clear the state has never given up jurisdiction over surface waters and lake beds inside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park.

And he said he hopes the "ultimate outcome" of the legislation would be to prompt the National Park Service and other federal agencies "to have the courtesy" to get legislative approval for any further restrictions on motor boating, fishing and snowmobiling on the lakes.

"The people of Minnesota should have something to say about the restrictions the federal government puts on waters that I believe belong to us," Bakk said.

During floor debate on the bill, lawmakers questioned the effect the bill would have on federally imposed restrictions on boat travel and other activities within the areas.

Bakk said the bill would not have an immediate impact on the federal regulations; rather, it is a matter of halting a "chipping away" of the access boaters and others have in the areas.

He and other supporters of the bill would like to see fewer restrictions on the use of the waters. In particular, Bakk expressed opposition to newer restrictions banning fishing contests and forbidding snowmobiling on specific lake bays in Voyageurs.

"It seems to be moving more and more away from being a multi-use park, and that's what we were promised," Bakk said.

It would take a court challenge to link ownership of the waters to regulatory power, Bakk said. His bill puts the state on record about where it stands on ownership of the waters, he added.

**HF54** now goes to the Senate.

### Emission omissions

Newer cars no longer would be required to pass annual emissions tests, under a bill given final passage by the House April 18. The vote was 133-0.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), would exempt vehicles under six years old from the emissions tests required for vehicle registration renewal in the seven-county metropolitan area.

Because so few newer cars fail the test, the procedure is unnecessarily costly and time consuming, Johnson said.

Residents in the metro area now pay \$8 to get their vehicle's exhaust system tested. Passing this test is mandatory before an owner can buy new license plate tabs.

The 1988 Legislature enacted the vehicle emissions testing program, which took effect in mid-1991, because the state was in violation of federal clean air requirements.

"We can see that this program could be modified and that we would still be able to maintain our clean air status," Johnson said.

The changes in **HF2** would take effect in Aug. 1, 1995. At that time, cars from the 1991 model year or later would not have to be tested.

During debate on the House floor, Rep. Kevin Knight (IR-Bloomington) tried to amend the bill to eliminate the testing program entirely and, when that failed, to extend the testing exemption to cars dating back 10 model years.

Both of the proposed amendments drew opposition from Johnson, who argued the state could be hurt by going too far in its effort to reduce emissions testing.

If the state falls below standards set in the 1990 Clean Air Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may withhold federal highway funds from the state.

House members rejected the proposal to eliminate the entire testing program on a 64-68 vote and the plan to extend the exemption cars dating back 10 model years 61-72.

But a successful amendment by Rep. Eileen Tompkins (IR-Apple Valley) calls for the testing program to be completely eliminated at the end of 1995 or thereafter as long as the EPA agrees to it.

Johnson said, however, she does not expect the EPA will agree to the complete elimination of the emissions testing program soon.



## Expanding trails



The Blufflands Trail System in southeastern Minnesota will have its legal boundaries expanded, under a new state law. But it will be up to future legislatures to actually appropriate money to develop the trail system.

The trail was originally authorized by the 1992 Legislature. It called for connecting the Root River Trail to a number of towns in the area.

It was extended by the 1994 Legislature to connect several cities in Houston and Fillmore counties — and the city of Winona — to the Root River Trail, which runs from Fountain, through Lanesboro, to Rushford.

The new law will add Minnesota City, Rollingstone, Altura, Lewiston, Utica, St. Charles, and Elba, all located in Winona County, to the trail system.

Funding for the trail has yet to be secured.

The measure, effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Virgil Johnson (IR-Caledonia) and Sen. Steve Morse (DFL-Dakota). (HF121\*/SF310/CH26)



## FAMILY

### Improving child support

A comprehensive proposal to help collect delinquent child support payments — which includes provisions to suspend drivers and occupational licenses — won approval from the House Health and Human Services Committee April 18.

As of July 1994, Minnesota kids were owed \$551 million in delinquent support payments, according to the Office of the Attorney General.

Supporters say the bill should be considered welfare reform, as well.

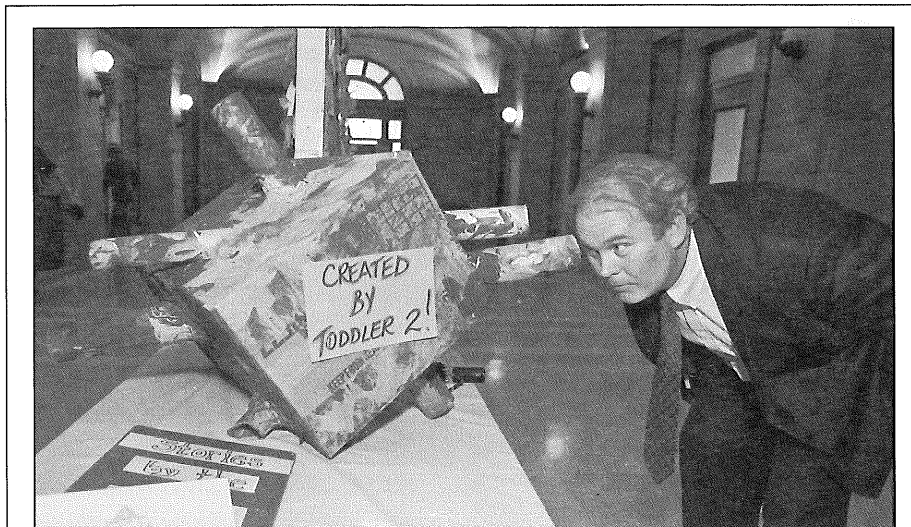
There are currently 91,600 Minnesota child support cases involving families on public assistance.

The bill would suspend the drivers' and occupational licenses of certain parents who refuse to pay up. It also would establish a program to make custody and visitation proceedings less confrontational.

It is unclear how much it would cost to implement the bill's programs.

The bill now moves to the Ways and Means Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), the major provisions of HF966 include:



Mark Manning of the state Department of Education stopped April 19 to examine a sculpture made by a group of toddlers from the Capitol Child Care Center. The exhibit, on display in the State Capitol, featured the artwork of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in observance of the National Week of the Young Child.

### Pay it or park it

Parents who are at least three months behind in their child support payments could lose their driver's license.

The "pay it or park it" provision would notify those at least three months behind in their child support that they have 90 days to work out a payment plan with the county or the court. Failure to do so would result in a suspended driver's license. (The debtor may request a hearing on the matter.)

The provision is modeled after a current Maine law which has generated \$21 million in collections since its 1992 inception. It cost the state \$70,000 to implement the program. Only 39 drivers' licenses have been suspended.

Bill sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) called the Maine program a successful deterrent. He said the goal is to collect money, and that few license suspensions are expected.

Estimates from the Department of Human Services (DHS) place administrative costs for the program at about \$70,000 annually. By fiscal year 1999, when the program would be fully operational, DHS conservatively estimates the program will account for the collection of an additional \$30 million in child support.

### Occupational license suspension

Those who are at least three months behind in their child support payments also could lose a state-issued occupational license. Current law doesn't specify a minimum amount before a license can be suspended.

The state issues occupational licenses including those for barbers, doctors, contrac-

tors and other professions. Without a license they could not practice.

Parents would be warned 30 days in advance that such a license suspension will be sought, and would have a right to a hearing on the matter.

### Curbing teen sex

To curb the trend of teens becoming pregnant at younger and younger ages, the state would authorize a grant program for communities that develop programs to target 12- to 14-year-old boys and girls.

Funding for the program will be debated during the Health and Human Services Finance Division hearings. As yet, no money has been allocated. Originally sponsored by Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) as HF517, the ENABL (Education Now And Babies Later) program would be created, modeled after a similar program in California.

School districts, churches, YMCAs, and other groups would qualify for grants as long as they could come up with 25 percent of the cost of the program.

The program would focus on convincing 12- to 14-year-olds to postpone sex by using an existing curriculum that doesn't include birth control information.

Part of the program would include a statewide media campaign that would encourage parents to talk with their children about postponing sex. Older teens also would talk to their younger peers on abstaining from sex.

The state would distribute grants to community organizations across the state to implement the ENABL program.

The need to reduce teen pregnancy is a

taxpayer issue, according to proponents. In 1993, Minnesota spent \$20 million on Aid to Families with Dependent Children welfare grants to families that began with a teen birth.

There are about 7,100 parents on AFDC who are either minors now or were under 18 when their oldest child was born. That accounts for about 14,000 children.

### Support or service

A "support or service" pilot project would be established to make able-bodied debtors without jobs perform community service work. They could be made to work up to 32 hours per week for six weeks. Entenza has said a similar Wisconsin program has proven to be an incentive for debtors to find work and has resulted in improved child support compliance.

### Work reporting system

A centralized employment database at the DHS would be created by Jan. 1, 1996. Business owners must report all new hires to the department within 15 days or face up to a \$500 fine, per employee, for repeatedly (and intentionally) failing to report. Its purpose is to track those who drift from job to job to avoid having wages garnished to pay child support.

When the state or any other governmental unit hires a contractor, it, too, will be reported to the DHS.

### Delinquent parents

The names of those delinquent in their support payments would not be published in local papers again until Jan. 1, 1997.

When the program resumes, those who are on public assistance, have filed for bankruptcy, or have a pending court case concerning what they owe in delinquent support would not see their names in print. The changes follow the recent erroneous publication of the names of several people in newspapers statewide.

The DHS would also need to publish "a printed retraction and apology" acknowledging those whose names are published in error.

### Motor vehicle liens

The state (or person owed child support) would be a "secured party" listed on the motor vehicle title of someone at least three months delinquent in child support payments. When such a vehicle, valued at more than \$4,500 is sold, the seller would keep \$4,500 and the state or the person owed child support would get the rest.

### Cooperation for kids

A "cooperation for the kids" pilot project would be created to address issues of custody and visitation in a mediation setting without judges or attorneys. It would be implemented by the DHS, the Office of Administrative Hearings, and the Office of the Attorney General.

The program would be implemented in select counties and participants would be charged on a sliding-fee scale. All couples would be screened to identify a domestic abuse situation.

### Support payment center

A centralized state child support collections unit would be established within the DHS in 1997. All payments made to local agencies would be forwarded to the DHS.

### Freezing interest

The accrual of interest on back child support owed if the parent makes timely payments for 36 consecutive months would be frozen. This is designed to aid parents who at one time owed a lot in back child support but were unable to pay; by freezing the interest on that large unpaid balance, it is hoped that parents who resume paying can catch up and pay off the debt's principal. This provision was previously contained in HF348, sponsored by Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids), which was incorporated into HF966.



## GAMBLING

### Gambling treatment funds

Public funds for treatment of compulsive gamblers would be available to private, for-profit agencies, under a bill given final passage April 13 in the House. The vote was 128-0.

Under the bill, sponsored by Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids), for-profit agencies would be able to compete with non-profits for the grant funding.

Kinkel said the bill is necessary to give Minnesotans, especially in outstate areas, more opportunities for treatment.

During the current two-year spending cycle, the state will spend about \$1.2 million to treat problem gamblers. Non-profit treatment facilities are selected to receive some of that money through Department of Human Services grants. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9)

The House passed similar legislation in 1993, but it did not survive conference committee negotiations.

This year, the Senate already has approved HF83/SF91\*. The bill now goes to the governor.

## GAME & FISH

### To kill a mourning dove

For the first time since 1946, mourning doves would be in the gun sights of Minnesota hunters, under a proposal approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee April 13.

The mourning dove is a "migratory bird that nests in Minnesota" in plentiful numbers, said Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison), who amended the proposal onto HF1857, the omnibus environment and natural resources finance bill. He said that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) also supports a state mourning dove season.

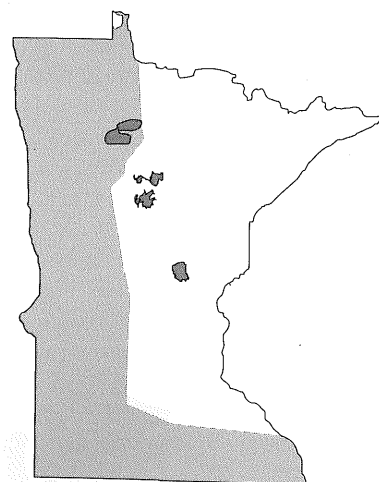
Kevin Lines, the DNR's farmland wildlife program leader, said the mourning dove is the "number one game bird in North America."

Some 50 million birds are killed each year out of a population of 500 million mourning doves. The doves are ranked 11th in abundance out of 251 species tracked in North America, according to Lines.

The DNR would determine the hunting season dates and rules for hunting mourning doves.

Hunters would need to buy a small game license and a \$5 mourning dove stamp, under the bill.

A fall hunting season for mourning doves and bag limits would have to follow U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations, explained Lines. A season could run for 60 days begin-



The shaded areas show where it would be legal to hunt mourning doves should HF1857 become law.

ning Sept. 1 and hunters could kill a daily limit of 15 birds, he said.

Under the bill, shooting mourning doves would be allowed only in southern and western Minnesota: south of Highway 14 from Winona to Mankato; southwest of the Minnesota River between Mankato and Morton; west of Highway 71 up to Blackduck and continuing up Highway 72 to Baudette.

There was "no good reason" to eliminate the mourning dove season in 1947, Roger Holmes, director of the DNR's Fish and Wildlife Division, said.

Holmes said opponents of shooting mourning doves came to the Legislature and "hounded" lawmakers daily until they banned hunting the birds.

Since shooting mourning doves has been illegal during his lifetime, Lines said he never has hunted the birds, but "colleagues in other states rave about its table qualities."

**HF1857** now moves to the Ways and Means Committee.

## Turkey saved, owls trapped

Minnesota turkey farmers soon could have a new way to protect their flocks from the threat of great horned owls.

A bill given final approval by the House would allow farmers to catch the owls in traps approved by the Department of Natural Resources.

Currently, only licensed game farmers are permitted to trap the birds.

The bill (**HF120/SF155\***), sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), was given final approval by the House April 13 on an 82-45 vote.

Turkey farmers say they suffer large financial losses at the hands of owls. They say the mere presence of an owl can cause serious problems on a turkey farm.

Turkeys panic when an owl is near, and they have been known to run in fear, pile on one another and smother each other. (See April 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8)

Under the bill, farmers would have to obtain a federal permit to trap owls. Traps would have to be tended twice daily. Uninjured owls captured in traps would have to be released at least 50 miles from the site, and injured birds would have to be taken to a veterinarian.

Since there are differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill, a conference committee will be appointed.

## Antlerless permits



Youths under age 16 who have completed certified gun training will still be able to bag a deer of either sex, under a new state law.

In 1993, lawmakers set up a two-year pilot program to allow youths to take a deer of either sex.

The new law repeals a Dec. 31, 1995, sunset date for the program.

Older hunters in a group are still prohibited from taking an antlerless deer unless they have the required permit.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) and Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls).

(**HF321\*/SF174/CH32**)



## GOVERNMENT

### Omnibus state government bill

A more than \$500 million omnibus state government spending bill with money for everything from ice rinks to a Korean War veterans memorial passed the House Governmental Operations Committee April 20.

The bill (**HF1001**) includes new policies such as eliminating three gambling boards and cutting state agency money spent on private consultants. It is now on its way to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) who chairs the committee's State Government Finance Division, the bill's general fund spending amounts to about \$15.5 million less than Gov. Arne Carlson recommended.

Below are some of the bill's highlights for the 1996-1997 biennium.

### Mighty Ducks

The omnibus bill spends \$3.2 million to build more indoor ice arenas in Minnesota.

The proposal was originally part of **HF1260**, sponsored by Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul). The Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission would use money to distribute grants of up to \$250,000 each to local communities.

Milbert, also a member of the amateur sports commission, said a study of ice needs in Minnesota discovered more than 90 communities that say they need a new indoor ice arena or repairs for an existing arena. The number of girls and boys participating in winter sports such as hockey and competitive figure skating has increased the demand for ice time.

(A 1994 law mandates that all public indoor ice arenas must give female hockey teams "up to 30 percent" of the prime ice time during the 1995 winter season and "up to 50 percent" by the 1996 season.)

### Gambling

The bill would abolish the nine-member Minnesota Racing Commission, seven-member Gambling Control Board, and seven-member State Lottery Board.

This provision was originally part of **HF138** sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls). Elimination of the three boards is expected to save about \$136,000.

The advisory duties of the gambling boards would be transferred to the directors they used to serve.

The gambling departments function independently of one another. The racing commission oversees pari-mutuel horse racing. The Gambling Control Board regulates lawful gaming activities, such as bingo and pull-tabs. The State Lottery Board advises the lottery director on games and rules.

The omnibus bill also creates new language that requires 70 percent of all unclaimed prize money from the lottery at the end of each fiscal year to be deposited in the state treasury. Currently, unclaimed prize money is added to the prize pool for future lottery games.

### County boundaries, mandates

A provision to study whether some of Minnesota's 87 counties could be consolidated and the effect of state mandates on local governments also are included in the omnibus bill.

A total of \$25,000 is set aside in fiscal year 1996 for the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation to conduct the studies.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) originally sponsored the county boundary study as **HF130** and Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul) originally sponsored the mandate study as **HF1059**.

Although Gov. Arne Carlson has proposed that the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation be eliminated, the House omnibus state government spending bill sets aside about \$1.9 million during 1996-1997. The board was created in 1993 and awards grants to local governments that want to work together to share resources and offer better customer service.

The board — in the interest of government efficiency — also has the power to waive certain rules placed on local governments.

## Mille Lacs court fight

Costs continue to mount in the state's challenge of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians' established claim to hunting and fishing rights in a 12-county area of east-central Minnesota that includes Lake Mille Lacs, the state's premier walleye lake.

The omnibus state government spending bill gives the Office of the Attorney General another \$790,000 to pay for state expert witnesses in the treaty court case.

Peggy Willens, finance director for the Office of the Attorney General, has told lawmakers that none of the \$790,000 would pay for attorneys. The Legislature in 1993 appropriated about \$1 million for the attorney general's office to take the case to court. About half of that was to go to pay for expert witnesses.

Willens has said, "\$500,000 was our estimate. It was low." (See related story, page 7)

## State debt collection

A measure to give the state more power to collect overdue debts owed to state agencies and threaten deadbeat debtors with a penalty surcharge also can be found in the omnibus state government finance bill.

The penalty — of up to 25 percent of the debt — would be added to an existing bad debt, such as a student loan, back taxes, or a fee, to pay for the cost of the collection.

As of Sept. 30, 1994, people owed \$641 million to the state's general fund and \$587 million to other state accounts, according to the Minnesota Collection Enterprise (MCE). The MCE was established by the 1994 Legislature to coordinate a statewide effort on bill collections.

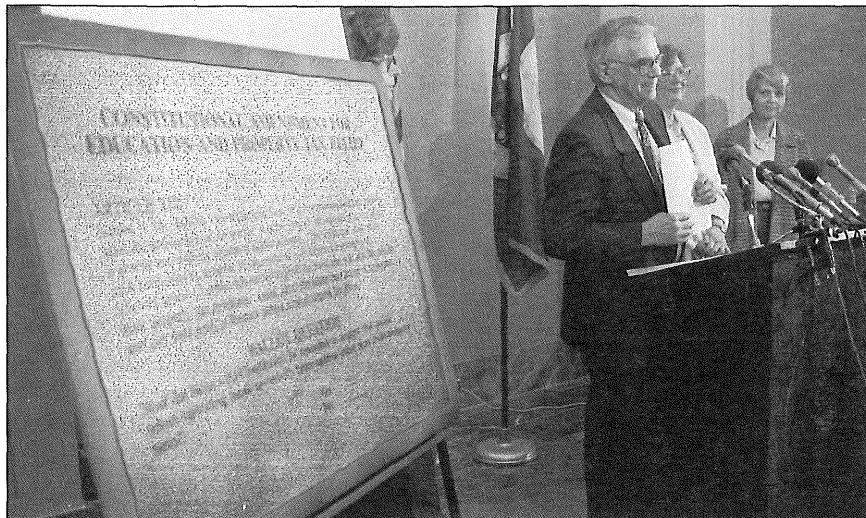
Another provision in the measure, originally sponsored by Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul) as **HF625**, would allow the state to seize or reduce an individual's tax refund check or other state payment of more than \$5,000 to pay debt owed the state. (Public assistance checks would not be seized.)

Current law allows for such deductions only for back taxes or child support payments owed the state.

The state would notify the person whose funds would be taken, and the individual would have 30 days to request a hearing to dispute the matter.

Wages also could be garnished until a debt is paid off, as long as no other creditors were garnishing the wages.

Currently, the state and other creditors can garnish a person's wages for up to 70 days. Debtors who prove that they need more money for necessities, such as shelter, food, and work transportation, could reduce a garnishment.



House DFL leaders April 18 unveiled a proposed constitutional amendment to end the use of local property taxes to fund public elementary and secondary schools. House Speaker Irv Anderson, left, said the amendment would require the state government to come up with a "more fair, more progressive" way to finance schools. The amendment would require that funding to operate public schools come exclusively from the state, and the cost of building schools would be the only education expense left on local levies. The proposal, which could become effective for taxes payable in 1998 should it be approved, was introduced as a bill sponsored by Rep. Ann H. Rest. HF1844 awaits a hearing in the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee. Also pictured are Reps. Dee Long, center, and Jean Wagenius, right.

The measure also would allow the Department of Finance to begin a pilot program to compare which is more effective in collecting debt — the state's MCE or private collection agencies.

The finance department would farm out \$35 million of the money owed to the state to private collection agencies, compare their collections with the MCE, and report to the Legislature by Feb. 1, 1997. The department currently farms out debt to several national firms, but the amendment calls on the department to try out different firms for the pilot project.

## Private consultants

The state's use of private contracts and consultants would be cut by 10 percent during the 1996-1997 biennium, under the omnibus state government spending bill.

The state's 20 main agencies would have to cut 10 percent off the aggregate amount they spent on consultants in fiscal years 1994-1995. They could not make the cuts from grant money or federal funds. Instead, they must cut from the dollars allocated to them by the state.

The measure was originally sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) as **HF123**. It is expected to save the state's general fund \$9.2 million over the biennium.

Under the measure, the governor would decide which agencies would face contract cuts. Some could increase their use of consultants as long as others decreased enough

for an overall reduction of 10 percent.

The provision also would apply to the House of Representatives, the Senate, the Legislative Coordinating Commission, and the Metropolitan Council. Each would be required to cut 10 percent in their consultant spending.

There are exemptions in the bill, such as contracts for highway construction and maintenance; consultants hired by a Minnesota state college or university to teach public or private organizations, agencies, or businesses; and consultants used to help with pension plans.

Part of the provision also would require agencies to seek prior approval before hiring a consultant for a contract exceeding \$5,000. The agency must determine that no current state employee, including employees outside its own agency, could do the job. The agency must also certify that it has publicized the contract.

## Legislative Coordinating Commission

Several legislative commissions would be abolished. Those to be eliminated include the Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules, the Legislative Commission on Employee Relations, the Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy, the Legislative Water Commission, and the Legislative Commission on Children, Youth, and Their Families.

The Mississippi River Parkway Commis-



sion and the Great Lakes Commission also would be eliminated.

The Legislative Coordinating Commission also would receive an additional \$30,000 over the biennium to contract with the Minnesota Foundation for Better Hearing and Speech to ensure that a sign language interpreter is available for hearing impaired citizens who seek access to lawmakers, legislative floor sessions, and committee hearings.

## Veterans

A memorial to be built on the Capitol grounds honoring those who served in the Korean War would be given \$50,000 over the biennium.

In addition, \$16,200 would be set aside under the bill to contribute to a memorial honoring women in military service which is being built at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery.

Another \$30,000 over the 1996-1997 biennium would go to help Vietnam veterans and Vietnam-era veterans prepare and present their claims to the U.S. government for compensation and other benefits they are entitled to as a result of disabilities incurred in military service. Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport) originally sponsored this provision as HF1045.

## House and Senate television

The House and Senate television departments would receive \$300,000 over the 1996-1997 budget period. The money would be used to expand the broadcasts of House and Senate floor sessions and some committee hearings. At least half the money must go

toward broadcasting in rural Minnesota. The proposal (HF1120), sponsored by Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), originally had asked for \$425,000 over the biennium.

## Leif Erikson face-lift

A proposal to repair the Leif Erikson statue on the Capitol grounds would receive \$20,000 in fiscal year 1996. The proposal was originally sponsored by Rep. Mark Holsten (IR-Stillwater) as HF1219. Erikson, son of Eric the Red who colonized Greenland, is reputedly the first European to discover the American continent.

## Following union raises

A bill to grant salary hikes to top level state employees, lawmakers and judges that are in line with raises given other state employees through union contracts was approved April 20 by the House Governmental Operations Committee.

HF1710 calls for state agency heads to receive annual raises equal to the lowest amount of pay increase in collective bargaining agreements with state employees.

Elected officials including legislators, constitutional officers and judges would receive raises in 1997 and 1998 of 3 percent, or the lowest amount in contract agreements with state employees, whichever is less.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (IR-Preston), originally centered on recommendations of the state Compensation Council, an independent body that makes salary recommendations for government officials.

But the bill was significantly altered during

debate in the committee and in its State Government Finance Division.

A proposal to divide department commissioners into two salary ranges, each tied to the governor's pay (currently \$114,506 a year), was stripped from the bill.

That provision called for a first range with a maximum salary equal to 85 percent of the governor's salary (\$97,330) and a second range capped at 75 percent (\$85,880). (See April 7, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9)

Gov. Arne Carlson has argued increases in commission salaries are needed to attract top candidates for the high-level state jobs. But several lawmakers argued the proposed changes could result in pay increases that would simply be too great.

The bill now calls for commissioners to continue to be divided into three salary ranges, depending on the size of the agency. The ranges — capped at \$78,000, \$67,500, and \$60,000 respectively — were last increased in 1987.

The original bill also called for raises for some administrative law judges, but that provision was altered in committee.

Originally, the bill would have pushed the salaries of all administrative law judges to the current maximum of \$75,144, or 90 percent of a district court judge's salary. But the bill was amended to grant administrative law judges raises equal to those given to legislators and other elected officials.

HF1710 now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.

## Paying old debts

A bill authorizing the sale of state revenue bonds to pay off a more than \$300 million legal judgment against the state was approved April 19 by the State Government Finance Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee.

The bill (HF1331), sponsored by Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon), seeks to address a costly legal loss resulting from a Minnesota tax policy of more than a decade ago.

The Minnesota Supreme Court has held the state illegally taxed banks and other corporations on the interest paid on federal bonds during a four-year span in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The amount of the judgment against the state is unclear because all of the affected banks and corporations have yet to come forward for repayment, according to Sviggum. He estimated the judgment will cost the state about \$350 million.

Gov. Arne Carlson recommended the state



A House Public Information Office photographer caught what she thought were three passing tourists examining the Capitol rotunda. When she went to get the names of the three figures in the photograph, she discovered that the man closest to the Star of the North was none other than U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Texas), who was on a presidential campaign swing through Minnesota April 20. He was accompanied to the Capitol by campaign chairmen, Ron Carey of Shoreview, left, and Jack Meeks of Minneapolis, right.

make a \$75 million cash payment in fiscal year 1996, and then sell bonds to pay off the rest of the judgment.

Sviggum's bill would sell up to \$400 million in bonds to pay off the judgment, which the state has four years to do. Any money from the general fund would have to be approved separately by the Legislature.

The bill calls for the bonds to be paid off with a share of state lottery proceeds, payments to rural treatment centers and non-dedicated fees paid to state agencies.

Only the share of the state lottery proceeds that would otherwise go to the state's general fund would be used; the 40 percent share of lottery proceeds that is dedicated to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund would not be affected.

The bill now goes to the full Governmental Operations Committee.

## Unfunded mandates



A new state law will help determine how much money federal mandates are costing the state of Minnesota.

It calls for every state agency that runs a program subject to federal mandates or supported by federal funds to report certain information to the Department of Finance.

This will include anticipated federal and state funding for programs for the next biennium, the extent to which the state funding is mandated by federal law, and the extent to which state funding mandated by federal law is in compliance with state policy.

Departments also will be asked to submit suggestions as to how state costs could be minimized by changing state laws or rules or seeking waivers of federal requirements.

Finally, departments will need to report "the extent to which the agency could achieve the outcomes desired by the federal mandate in a less expensive or more efficient manner if the federal mandate were modified or repealed."

The Department of Finance will, in conjunction with Minnesota Planning, report back to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 1996, with its findings.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Tim Pawlenty (IR-Eagan) and Sen. Kevin Chandler (DFL-White Bear Lake), becomes effective Aug. 1, 1995.

(HF139/SF204\*/CH57)

## Offensive place names



The word "squaw" — a term considered derogatory by some American Indians — will soon vanish from some place names in Minnesota, under a new state law.

New names in their place will be selected by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) commissioner in cooperation with county boards, said House sponsor Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls).

The proposal specifically will change the name of any "geographic feature" containing the word "squaw." It will affect lakes, ponds, islands, bays, and other natural features.

Angelene Losh and Dawn Litzau, two Cass Lake-Bena High School students, started the movement against offensive place names by organizing to change the name of Squaw Point, which is on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation in northern Minnesota.

Their personal testimony and supporting materials presented to legislators indicated that the word "squaw" is a French corruption of "otsiskwa," an Iroquois word denoting female sexual parts. The Ojibwe word for woman is "ikwe."

The name-change campaign met with success Feb. 7 when the Cass County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to change the name of Squaw Point to Oak Point.

There is another Squaw Point in Minnesota, six Squaw Lakes, and a Squaw Pond, according to Glen Yakel, a supervisor in the DNR's Waters Division.

Anticipating that the measure would become law, letters from the DNR already have been sent to the five county boards that will be involved in name changes.

The measure, which became effective April 19, was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Skip Finn (DFL-Cass Lake).

(HF714/SF574\*/CH53)



## HEALTH

### Omnibus MinnesotaCare

Insurance companies no longer would be required to cover abortion services as part of a standard health care policy in Minnesota, under a bill approved April 18 by the House Health and Human Services Committee.

The successful amendment offered by Rep. Ken Otremba, (DFL-Long Prairie) was attached to the omnibus MinnesotaCare bill (HF1077).

Currently, the state mandates that private insurance companies cover basic procedures that are "appropriate and necessary."

Otremba's amendment eliminates "elective abortions" from the list.

He said elective abortions — those not performed to benefit the life of the female or in cases of rape or incest — don't qualify as "appropriate and necessary."

Under the amendment, if a judge determines any part of the language about elective abortion unconstitutional, everything in the bill about standard health coverage, including what it is and which health care procedures would be considered "appropriate and necessary" would be stricken from the bill, changing its scope.

Otremba's move has abortion-rights advocates and abortion opponents lobbying hard on the bill.

Those supporting the amendment maintain it would not prevent insurance companies from providing abortion coverage. Instead, it no longer would require insurers to offer abortion coverage as part of a basic package of care.

Abortion-rights advocates, however, argue the amendment limits a woman's access to an abortion by requiring her to buy special coverage if her employer chooses not to purchase a plan that covers the procedure.

They argue the amendment is too broad and wouldn't cover an abortion of a severely deformed fetus or other problem pregnancy that doesn't threaten the life of the mother.

The omnibus MinnesotaCare bill (HF1077) also includes the following provisions:

- Minnesotans insured through MinnesotaCare, the state-subsidized health insurance program for the uninsured, would have to pay at least \$4 per month to be enrolled in the program. Many people now pay for their MinnesotaCare but they pay based on their income. In 1994, it was estimated that 8.9 percent of Minnesotans were uninsured.
- More people would be eligible for MinnesotaCare. Income eligibility requirements would change so single adults and couples with no children could earn up to 150 percent of the federal poverty level. That is up from 125 percent. Under the bill, couples earning up to about \$14,760, and single people earning up to \$11,040, would qualify. Current law sets the income limit at \$12,300 and \$9,200, respectively.
- The bill no longer contains a provision that would penalize people with annual incomes above 275 percent of the federal poverty level (\$37,592 for a family of four) who don't buy their own health insurance. Under the original bill, those people would have faced a reduced tax deduction.
- Also, the bill no longer includes the regulated all-payer option (RAPO), which would have

allowed the state to standardize insurance prices and ensured health insurance companies operated under uniform rules.

The bill (HF1077), which is sponsored by Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island), next heads to the House Ways and Means Committee. (See April 7, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10)

## Breast cancer treatment

A bill to require insurance companies to pay for bone marrow transplants for Minnesota residents with breast cancer passed the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee April 19.

Some breast cancer patients whose doctors tell them their best chance of survival is a high-dose chemotherapy treatment accompanied by a bone marrow transplant have battled insurance companies that refuse to pay for the procedure.

A bill sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) wouldn't give insurance companies the option. They'd have to pay. (See April 7, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10)

HF1742 also would prohibit insurance companies from charging co-payments greater than those that apply to other portions of the policy.

Lawmakers have heard debate from several doctors, all of whom agree the treatment should be covered by insurance. But some doctors say only patients in a clinical study should be covered.

Patients, however, don't want to take the chance they'll be part of the group that doesn't receive the treatment. In a clinical study there is a 50 percent chance you'll be a part of the study that receives the treatment but an equal chance you'll be a part of a "control" group that doesn't receive the treatment.

Dr. Linda Burns, an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota, has called the treatment "investigational" and said she is working with breast cancer patients as part of a national clinical study.

"I ask you not to mislead the women of this state," Burns has said. "It is not known" whether the transplant treatment actually is effective.

Dr. John Schwerkoske, who has treated roughly 49 cancer patients (half of whom have breast cancer) with the transplant treatment, disagrees. Twenty-five percent are now in remission, he said, cautioning that it will be years before it is known if they are cured.

"I think it is a better treatment," he has said. "We have to leave the decision in patient's hands."

Supporters argue that regardless of the conflicting scientific opinions, the issue is a matter of choice for patients. If a doctor and a patient believe this is the best treatment, an insurance company shouldn't have the right to say no.

Besides, proponents say, many doctors and studies show that it is an effective treatment, albeit a costly one.

Mike Hatch, former head of the Department of Commerce, and now an attorney who has represented women whose insurance companies refused to pay for the procedure, has said costs can run about \$65,000 compared to traditional chemotherapy, administered in low doses over several months, which costs about \$45,000.

He said he has represented many women in recent years and cited court decisions that have required insurance companies to pay for the procedure. Courts have found the procedure can be effective and is not experimental.

The bill now moves to the Ways and Means Committee.

## Vulnerable adults

Adults vulnerable to abuse because they suffer from a physical or mental disability or are dependent on caregivers would receive further protection, under a bill approved April 13 by the House Health and Human Services Committee.

The bill (HF598) would strengthen the law which allows for someone to be prosecuted for neglecting or abusing a vulnerable adult, said Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), who sponsors the bill. It also would create felony penalties for any caregiver who intentionally physically or mentally abuses a vulnerable adult. (See April 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; March 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 12)

Under current law, a person who intentionally fails to supply food, clothing, shelter, or other necessities to a vulnerable adult may be charged with the gross misdemeanor offense of criminal neglect, which carries a maximum penalty of up to one year in jail and a fine of up to \$3,000.

The bill would include a caregiver acting with "conscious disregard for danger to human life and reckless indifference to the risk of harm" under the criminal neglect statute and the penalty for such an action would be increased to a felony offense. The maximum penalty would be 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine.

The bill also calls for criminal background checks to be conducted on personal care attendants who are providing services through

the state's Medical Assistance program.

It would also streamline the current mandated reporting system, Greenfield said. People such as health care providers who suspect a vulnerable adult is being abused are legally mandated to report the suspected abuse to the state. Under the bill, mandated reports could be made orally; now they must be written. Also, the reports would be made to one designated county site.

The House Ways and Means Committee will hear the bill next.

## Criminal doctors



Any doctor convicted of a felony-level criminal sexual conduct offense will have his or her medical license automatically — and permanently — revoked, under a new state law.

And Minnesota doctors convicted of felonies "reasonably related to the practice of patient care" will have their licenses automatically suspended.

The law also will apply to physician's assistants, physical therapists, or other health professionals licensed by the state Board of Medical Practice.

Under the measure, license suspension will be automatic following a felony conviction, and a doctor or other health professional will have to request a hearing to get back his or her license. For reinstatement, the individual will have to demonstrate that he or she has been rehabilitated by "clear and convincing evidence."

Under current law, the board has the authority to suspend a doctor's license, but a hearing is held first. The board can suspend a license without a hearing in some circumstances, but the burden is then on the board to set up a hearing seeking a final determination.

The new law will shift the burden to the health professional, who must seek a hearing and prove the suspension should not be made permanent.

Another provision in the bill will allow the medical board to suspend or revoke the license of a doctor or health professional who fails to repay a state or federal student loan.

Most of the proposal becomes effective Aug. 1, 1995. The provision relating to the revocation of a state license because of a criminal sexual misconduct conviction became effective March 28, 1995.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) and Sen. Pat Piper (DFL-Austin).

(HF231\*/SF95/CH18)



## LAW

### Seized goods for sale

Unclaimed items recovered by police departments across the state could be sold in non-profit stores, under a bill on its way to the governor.

The initial version of the bill approved last month by the House aimed to let the Minneapolis Police Department sell some of the 18,000 items — such as electronic equipment, tools and lawn mowers that it recovers each year — through a non-profit store.

The Senate altered **HF859** to extend the policy to police departments throughout the state.

The bill, given final passage by the House April 13 on a 108-17 vote, would allow merchandise not claimed within 60 days to be sold at auction, as is the current practice, or by sale through a non-profit agency.

In 1992, Minneapolis police began working with a community organization on a plan to teach young people bicycle repair, business management, and other skills by setting up a non-profit store, the Phantom Bike Shop, for the sale of "recycled" bicycles. The store receives damaged bikes the police cannot auction off, fixes them up, and sells them.

The bill would allow the police departments to dispose of unclaimed items through similarly run second-hand goods stores. Police would not provide items such as clothing, fine jewelry, and firearms to the stores.

Police departments would benefit by gaining a percentage of the sale price on the items sold at the store and clearing out storage space, said bill sponsor Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls).

### Inmate name changes



Harley Davidson, Punisher X, and Jay De Lawless are Minnesota prisoners, but they didn't go behind bars with those names. Once incarcerated, they obtained legal name changes at taxpayer expense.

A new law to curtail the occurrence of such name changes will take effect Aug. 1, 1995.

The law will limit prisoners to one name change while within the state prison system. And it can be done at public expense only when "failure to allow the name change would infringe on the constitutional rights of an inmate." Religious reasons would be an example of such a case.

A total of 305 name changes were made



Ramsey County Commissioner Richard Wedell testified before the Property Tax and Tax Increment Financing Division of the Taxes Committee April 13 on **HF1656**, which would restructure the way state aid is paid to cities.

between 1990 and February 1995, according to Jim Bruton, deputy commissioner of the Department of Corrections. Some inmates have changed their name as many as three times. Currently, there is no limit on the number of name changes a prisoner may request.

Each change costs between \$400 and \$500, Bruton has said. The most concrete cost is in the form of a \$142 filing fee that is waived for most prisoners because they can't afford it. The remainder of the cost is the price of bringing a judge, court reporter, and bailiff to the state prisons several times per year. Time spent by Department of Corrections staff renaming prison files also adds up, Bruton has said.

The proposal was sponsored in the House by Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester) and in the Senate by Sen. Tracy Beckman (DFL-Bricelyn).

(**HF125\*/SF197/CH16**)



## TRANSPORTATION

### Omnibus transportation bill

An omnibus transportation appropriation bill outlining funding for the state's roads, bridges, and aviation projects won approval from the House Ways and Means Committee April 20.

The spending bill closely mirrors the governor's recommendations for both total spending as well as the \$2.2 billion appropriated to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

In all, the bill (**HF1793/SF1536\***) would appropriate about \$2.5 billion to various transportation projects and departments. The governor had recommended about the same amount in transportation spending.

The bill calls for \$20.2 million to go to the Driver and Vehicle Services Department within the Department of Public Safety over the next biennium. Also, \$20.4 million would go to the Department of Public Safety for its pipeline safety and traffic safety departments.

State road construction projects would receive \$754 million, under the bill.

The Metropolitan Council, which is responsible for coordinating the metropolitan area public transportation system, would receive \$84.2 million over the next biennium. Of that money, \$30.6 million would go to Metro Mobility, which provides rides to approximately 24,000 people with disabilities around the metropolitan area.

Also, \$625,000 would go to the council to study operating buses between suburbs, and from downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis to the suburbs. Few such routes exist now.

The met council had requested \$93.3 million for the next biennium in state funds to run its transportation programs. The governor had recommended \$89 million to operate metropolitan area buses and the Metro Mobility program.

The bill also sets out a schedule for the department of transportation to follow when constructing the Wakota Bridge between St. Paul and Newport.

The present bridge is in such poor repair a new one is needed by the year 2000, said Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul), who sponsored in the bill.

The Legislature needs to ensure that MnDOT will include the project on its construction schedule. Though the state appropriates MnDOT funding, that department is free to schedule road construction and repair projects.



The bill calls for the bridge construction to begin by August 1999.

The omnibus transportation spending bill also includes a \$250,000 appropriation to help build the world's first bus powered by an electric strip embedded in the road.

That money would be matched by federal and private dollars and would help pay for vehicle testing.

In 1994, the Legislature appropriated \$200,000 to the St. Cloud-based Saints Road Project to study how the electric bus developed by the company would move through snow and ice.

The 1995 bill stipulates the Metropolitan Council Transit Operation would analyze findings of the continued testing.

The bus' developers hope it is one day used as public transportation in Minnesota and internationally.

The bill will next be heard on the House floor.

## Safe school buses

Minnesota school bus drivers convicted of a DWI while on duty would be banned from ever driving a school bus again, under a bill now pending before the full House.

The provision has been included in Article 2 of the K-12 education omnibus bill (HF1000).

Current law calls for a five-year ban in such a case — the same suspension that is in place for a school bus driver who is convicted of a DWI while in a personal car.

Additionally, the state would no longer require that school bus drivers learn first aid or take eight hours of annual in-service training.

Last year, the Legislature passed a comprehensive school bus safety law, which allowed school districts to get a 1 percent boost in their transportation safety aid each year to make their buses safer. The law also called for more school bus driver training.

HF1000 would leave it up to school districts — not the state — to determine how much first aid training drivers should receive. Current law says all drivers have to show they know first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation before they can obtain a school bus driver's license.

Some members have called the requirement an unfunded mandate for local school districts.

Proponents have said school districts face a bus driver shortage because the frequently low-paying and part-time positions require specific training and a criminal background check. Potential bus drivers also must show

they understand student behavior, know how to get students on and off the bus in an orderly fashion, and know what to do in emergencies.

Other changes would:

- clarify that school bus drivers are included in the state's Good Samaritan law, which makes them immune from criminal and civil liability when rendering emergency care or assistance while on duty;
- create a mandatory minimum fine of \$300 for failure to stop for a school bus with an extended stop arm. Current law calls for a driver's license suspension for a first-time offender. Under the bill, a license would only be suspended for a repeat offender;
- reduce the current five-year bus license cancellation to one year for a driver receiving a fourth moving violation in three years.

Article 2 of HF1000 was previously moving through the House as HF892, a bill assembled by the School Bus Safety Task Force and sponsored by Rep. David Tomasoni (DFL-Chisholm).

## Selling junked cars

Junked vehicles which have been towed to private or public impound lots could be immediately sold, under a bill given final approval by the House April 13. The vote was 125-6.

Junked vehicles — vehicles with little value that often don't run — frequently sit at impound lots. No one comes to claim them or to pay the towing and storage fees, which results in income lost for lot owners, said Rep. Jeff Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), who sponsors HF586.

To be defined as a "junk vehicle" under the bill, a vehicle must be three or more years old, extensively damaged, apparently inoperable, not registered, and having value only as scrap.

Such vehicles could be immediately sold at public auctions or sold as scrap.

The bill also would allow the towing of "unauthorized" vehicles — those left unattended on public property more than 24 hours after being tagged for unauthorized parking.

Currently, local governments can tow only abandoned vehicles — vehicles which have sat for long periods of time on public or private property. (Vehicles also can be towed immediately if parked in a location that creates a traffic hazard.)

Such vehicles could be sold at a public auction 45 days after notice is given to the vehicle's owner of the proposed sale.

The bill would also allow impound lot

owners to notify a vehicle owner of the proposed public sale of their car. Under present law, only units of local government can give such notice.

The bill now moves to the Senate.

## Hats and driver's licenses



A new law will allow those suffering hair loss due to illness or head injury to wear a head covering in their driver's license photograph.

House sponsor Rep. Jeff Bertram (DFL-Paynesville) proposed the bill after learning of a constituent who was told she had to take off her turban before her driver's license photograph could be taken. She wore the turban to cover up hair loss due to chemotherapy treatment for cancer.

"It was very traumatic to her," Bertram said.

Public safety employees now use their discretion in letting people wear hats or a head covering for photographs. The bill also will apply to state-issued identification cards.

Additionally, the bill will allow Minnesotans with religious objections to leave their photographs off their state identification cards. Current law allows the practice for a state driver's license.

The measure, which becomes effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville) in the Senate. (HF52/SF33\*/CH7)

## Betty Adkins Bridge



A new state law will name a bridge near Elk River, Minn., after a former state senator who represented the area for 12 years.

The bridge over the Mississippi River near Elk River connecting Highway 101 in Wright County with Highway 169 in Sherburne County will be designated the "Betty Adkins Bridge."

The commissioner of transportation will furnish and erect plaques or signs to mark and memorialize the bridge.

Betty Adkins, of St. Michael, Minn., was first elected to the Senate in 1982 and served through the 1994 session. At the time, she was chair of the Senate Metropolitan and Local Government Committee.

The measure, which becomes effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Bruce Anderson (IR-Buffalo Township) and Sen. Mark Ourada (IR-Buffalo).

(HF6/SF50\*/CH19)

## Bridge of Hope



A bridge over the Mississippi River at St. Cloud will be named the "Bridge of Hope," under a new state law.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Jim Knoblach (IR-St. Cloud), said the Highway 15 bridge will be named in honor of Jacob Wetterling and other abducted and missing children.

Jacob Wetterling of St. Joseph, Minn., was abducted near his home in 1989 and is still missing.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) will create a suitable design for signs and plaques marking the bridge. Members of the local community will reimburse MnDOT for costs incurred in "marking and memorializing" the bridge.

Rep. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

The new law becomes effective Aug. 1, 1995.

(HF175/SF194\*/CH50)



Kinderchor Conzanetta, a touring concert choir from Berlin made up of 13- to 16-year-olds, gave an impromptu concert on the Capitol steps April 20. The choir, under the direction of Jochen Wittur, will visit the Twin Cities and New Ulm before returning to Germany.

## Minnesota Senate 1995-96

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-
66 Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL) .....	G-27 Cap. ....	5537	33 Limmer, Warren (IR) .....	132D SOB .....	2159
26 Beckman, Tracy L. (DFL) .....	306 Cap. ....	5713	54 Marty, John (DFL) .....	G-9 Cap. ....	5645
41 Belanger, William V., Jr. (IR) .....	113 SOB .....	5975	49 Merriam, Gene (DFL) .....	122 Cap. ....	4154
13 Berg, Charles A. (DFL) .....	328 Cap. ....	5094	39 Metzen, James P. (DFL) .....	303 Cap. ....	4370
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL) .....	G-9 Cap. ....	4261	2 Moe, Roger D. (DFL) .....	208 Cap. ....	2577
14 Bertram Sr., Joe (DFL) .....	323 Cap. ....	2084	44 Mondale, Ted A. (DFL) .....	226 Cap. ....	7-8065
48 Betzold, Don (DFL) .....	G-24 Cap. ....	2556	32 Morse, Steven (DFL) .....	G-24 Cap. ....	5649
55 Chandler, Kevin M. (DFL) .....	111 Cap. ....	9307	29 Murphy, Steve L. (DFL) .....	301 Cap. ....	4264
8 Chmielewski, Florian W. (DFL) .....	325 Cap. ....	4182	25 Neuville, Thomas M. (IR) .....	123 SOB .....	1279
64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL) .....	317 Cap. ....	5931	52 Novak, Steven G. (DFL) .....	322 Cap. ....	4334
28 Day, Dick (IR) .....	105 SOB .....	9457	43 Oliver, Edward C. (IR) .....	121 SOB .....	4837
20 Dille, Steve (IR) .....	103 SOB .....	4131	34 Olson, Gen (IR) .....	119 SOB .....	1282
4 Finn, Harold R. "Skip" (DFL) .....	306 Cap. ....	6128	19 Ourada, Mark (IR) .....	145 SOB .....	5981
62 Flynn, Carol (DFL) .....	G-29 Cap. ....	4274	65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL) .....	G-27 Cap. ....	1802
23 Frederickson, Dennis R. (IR) .....	139 SOB .....	8138	37 Pariseau, Pat (IR) .....	109 SOB .....	5252
50 Hanson, Paula E. (DFL) .....	328 Cap. ....	3219	27 Piper, Pat (DFL) .....	G-9 Cap. ....	9248
24 Hottinger, John C. (DFL) .....	G-29 Cap. ....	6153	59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL) .....	235 Cap. ....	7809
5 Janezich, Jerry R. (DFL) .....	328 Cap. ....	8017	57 Price, Leonard R. (DFL) .....	235 Cap. ....	7-8060
15 Johnson, Dean E. (IR) .....	147 SOB .....	3826	63 Ranum, Jane B. (DFL) .....	325 Cap. ....	7-8061
6 Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL) .....	205 Cap. ....	8881	46 Reichgott Junge, Ember D. (DFL) .....	205 Cap. ....	2889
18 Johnson, Janet B. (DFL) .....	322 Cap. ....	5419	40 Riveness, Phil J. (DFL) .....	317 Cap. ....	7-8062
35 Johnston, Terry D. (IR) .....	117 SOB .....	4123	45 Robertson, Martha R. (IR) .....	125 SOB .....	4314
67 Kelly, Randy C. (DFL) .....	122 Cap. ....	5285	53 Runbeck, Linda (IR) .....	107 SOB .....	1253
30 Kiscaden, Sheila M. (IR) .....	143 SOB .....	4848	11 Sams, Dallas C. (DFL) .....	G-9 Cap. ....	7-8063
16 Kleis, David (IR) .....	151 SOB .....	6455	12 Samuelson, Don (DFL) .....	124 Cap. ....	4875
36 Knutson, David L. (IR) .....	133 SOB .....	4120	31 Scheevel, Kenric J. (IR) .....	129 SOB .....	3903
47 Kramer, Don (IR) .....	131 SOB .....	8869	7 Solon, Sam G. (DFL) .....	303 Cap. ....	4188
51 Krentz, Jane (DFL) .....	235 Cap. ....	7061	60 Spear, Allan H. (DFL) .....	G-27 Cap. ....	4191
58 Kroening, Carl W. (DFL) .....	124 Cap. ....	4302	17 Stevens, Dan (IR) .....	127 SOB .....	8075
56 Laidig, Gary W. (IR) .....	141 SOB .....	4351	1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL) .....	G-24 Cap. ....	8660
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL) .....	G-24 Cap. ....	3205	42 Terwilliger, Roy W. (IR) .....	115 SOB .....	6238
10 Larson, Cal (IR) .....	153 SOB .....	5655	22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL) .....	226 Cap. ....	5650
21 Lesewski, Arlene J. (IR) .....	135 SOB .....	4125	38 Wiener, Deanna (DFL) .....	303 Cap. ....	7-8073
3 Lessard, Bob (DFL) .....	111 Cap. ....	4136			

\*Capitol or State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

# Minnesota House of Representatives 1995-96

Unofficial list as of April 12, 1995

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-
45A Abrams, Ron (IR)	209	9934	50B Lynch, Teresa (IR)	295	5369
10A Anderson, Bob (DFL)	437	4946	37B Macklin, Bill (IR)	349	6926
19B Anderson, Bruce (IR)	281	5063	40A Mahon, Mark P. (DFL)	401	7158
3A Anderson, Irv (DFL)	463	4936	55A Mares, Harry (IR)	239	5363
6A Bakk, Thomas (DFL)	429	2190	65B Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	403	9714
14B Bertram, Jeff (DFL)	571	4373	57B Marko, Sharon (DFL)	507	3135
10B Bettermann, Hilda (IR)	243	4317	55B McCollum, Betty (DFL)	501	1188
30B Bishop, Dave (IR)	343	5073	36B McElroy, Dan (IR)	259	4212
25B Boudreau, Lynda (IR)	327	8237	54A McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	567	4342
30A Bradley, Fran (IR)	241	9249	39B Milbert, Bob (DFL)	579	4192
53B Broecker, Sherry (IR)	321	7153	35A Molnau, Carol (IR)	287	8872
13A Brown, Chuck (DFL)	597	4929	21B Mulder, Richard (IR)	387	4336
46B Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	379	4255	7A Munger, Willard (DFL)	479	4282
47B Carruthers, Phil (DFL)	459	3709	8A Murphy, Mary (DFL)	557	2676
61A Clark, Karen (DFL)	503	0294	20A Ness, Robert "Bob" (IR)	335	4344
38A Commers, Tim (IR)	217	3533	2B Olson, Edgar (DFL)	565	4265
15B Cooper, Roger (DFL)	549	4346	19A Olson, Mark (IR)	223	4237
11A Daggett, Roxann (IR)	225	4293	20B Onnen, Tony (IR)	273	1534
9B Dauner, Marvin (DFL)	581	6829	16A Opatz, Joe (DFL)	423	6612
31B Davids, Gregory M. (IR)	371	9278	64B Orenstein, Howard (DFL)	529	4199
65A Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	409	5158	60B Orfield, Myron (DFL)	521	9281
14A Dehler, Steve (IR)	203	7808	29B Osskopp, Mike (IR)	329	9236
51A Delmont, Mike (DFL)	575	4226	66A Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	585	4224
29A Dempsey, Jerry (IR)	251	8635	24B Ostrom, Don (DFL)	433	7065
24A Dorn, John (DFL)	533	3248	11B Otremba, Ken (DFL)	545	3201
64A Entenza, Matt (DFL)	531	8799	37A Ozment, Dennis (IR)	283	4306
42A Erhardt, Ron (IR)	237	4363	42B Paulsen, Erik (IR)	221	7449
67A Farrell, Jim (DFL)	491	4277	38B Pawlenty, Tim (IR)	231	4128
1B Finseth, Tim (IR)	377	9918	52B Pellow, Richard (IR)	233	0141
31A Frerichs, Don L. (IR)	247	4378	32A Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	517	8637
63B Garcia, Edwina (DFL)	411	5375	57A Pert, Walter E. (DFL)	473	7807
21A Girard, Jim (IR)	213	5374	13B Peterson, Doug (DFL)	523	4228
9A Goodno, Kevin (IR)	369	5515	39A Pugh, Thomas (DFL)	583	6828
62A Greenfield, Lee (DFL)	375	0173	46A Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	443	4176
54B Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	553	5387	44B Rhodes, Jim (IR)	309	9889
48A Haas, Bill (IR)	201	5513	58A Rice, James I. (DFL)	381	4262
50A Hackbarth, Tom (IR)	313	2439	18A Rostberg, Jim (IR)	323	5364
22B Harder, Elaine (IR)	277	5373	5A Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	471	0170
12A Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)	451	4333	59A Sarna, John J. (DFL)	563	4219
66B Hausman, Alice (DFL)	449	3824	17B Schumacher, Leslie (DFL)	413	5377
56A Holsten, Mark (IR)	345	3018	41A Seagren, Alice (IR)	315	7803
26A Hugoson, Gene (IR)	289	3240	52A Simoneau, Wayne (DFL)	365	4331
6B Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	569	2228	62B Skoglund, Wesley J. "Wes" (DFL)	477	4330
7B Jaros, Mike (DFL)	559	4246	34A Smith, Steve (IR)	353	9188
58B Jefferson, Richard H. (DFL)	577	8659	3B Solberg, Loren (DFL)	445	2365
18B Jennings, Loren (DFL)	537	0518	33B Stanek, Rich (IR)	351	5502
48B Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)	539	5510	28B Sviggum, Steven A. (IR)	267	2273
4A Johnson, Bob (DFL)	551	5516	51B Swenson, Doug (IR)	255	4124
32B Johnson, Virgil J. (IR)	207	1069	23B Swenson, Howard (IR)	331	8634
59B Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	367	4257	43B Sykora, Barbara (IR)	357	4315
26B Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	543	4240	5B Tomassoni, David (DFL)	593	0172
44A Kelley, Steve (DFL)	417	3964	36A Tompkins, Eileen (IR)	245	5506
35B Kelso, Becky (DFL)	415	1072	67B Trimble, Steve (DFL)	485	4201
4B Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony" (DFL)	453	2451	25A Tuma, John (IR)	301	4229
40B Knight, Kevin (IR)	307	4218	1A Tunheim, Jim (DFL)	509	9635
16B Knoblach, Jim (IR)	215	6316	34B Van Dellen, H. Todd (IR)	291	5511
17A Koppendrayner, LeRoy (IR)	389	6746	15A Van Engen, Tom (IR)	359	6206
27A Kraus, Ron (IR)	279	8216	23A Vickerman, Barb (IR)	211	9303
53A Krinkie, Phil (IR)	303	2907	63A Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	439	4200
56B Larsen, Peg (IR)	311	4244	49B Warkentin, Eldon H. (IR)	253	4231
27B Leighton, Robert (DFL)	527	4193	49A Weaver, Charlie (IR)	261	1729
45B Leppik, Peggy (IR)	393	7026	61B Wejcman, Linda (DFL)	431	7152
2A Lieder, Bernie (DFL)	515	5091	12B Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	487	4247
33A Lindner, Arlon (IR)	227	7806	22A Winter, Ted (DFL)	407	5505
60A Long, Dee (DFL)	591	0171	41B Wolf, Ken (IR)	317	5185
8B Lourey, Becky (DFL)	421	4308	28A Worke, Gary D. (IR)	229	5368
47A Luther, Darlene (DFL)	525	3751	43A Workman, Tom (IR)	337	5066

Note: Room numbers are still subject to change.

\*All rooms are in the State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

Of Germans and prohibition . . .

## Capitol 'rathskeller' victim of anti-German sentiment

**B**eneath the flaking paint in the Capitol's basement cafeteria lies bits and pieces of Minnesota's German heritage — before the storm clouds of WWI cast a suspicious shadow on many German-Americans in Minnesota.

"The restaurant is rather unique," stated the 1905 *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, as quoted by *North Star Statehouse: An Armchair Guide to the Minnesota State Capitol*. "Its decoration and style of architecture are fashioned after the rathskeller of Germany."

Americanized German eagles were painted on the ceiling and German slogans such as "Esset und trinket, was ihr habt und denket, was ihr wollt" ("Eat and drink what you have, and think what you choose") were painted over the arches in the cafeteria, wrote *North Star Statehouse* author Thomas O'Sullivan.

But the war and the 1917 Minnesota Legislature's creation of the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety — considered a low point in the state's history by some — led to a crackdown on many things German.

The commission was empowered to "maintain domestic law and order and to assure a decent contribution by the people of Minnesota to the war effort," according to *Watchdog of Loyalty: The Minnesota Commission of Public Safety During World War I*.

"In a move unusual even in wartime, the lawmakers invested the commission with sweeping powers which it used energetically to harass

non-English-speaking immigrants, especially Germans, and members of the Nonpartisan League, a supposedly radical farmer-labor movement which had begun in North Dakota and spread to Minnesota," according to *They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of The State's Ethnic Groups*.

"To carry out its overly zealous aim of achieving what it regarded as nothing less than 100 percent patriotism, the commission employed a network of spies, undue use of its investigatory powers, the encouragement of denunciations often made out of personal spite, and the deplorable compliance of Minnesotans, including German-born citizens, many of whom hastened to express their loyalty."

Of the 1,739 complaints made to the commission in 1917 and 1918, 974, or 56 percent, were aimed at Germans, wrote June Drenning Holmquist, author of *They Chose Minnesota*.

History books even compare the commission's de facto leader, Minneapolis corporate attorney John F. McGee, to the Wisconsin senator of a generation later, Joseph McCarthy, who built a career rooting out supposed communists.

Meanwhile, the prohibition movement was building in Minnesota in particular and across the country in general. It was a Minnesotan, Congressman Andrew J. Volstead, who authored the law that brought prohibition to the country in the 1920s and early 1930s.

That led to further concern about having a beer hall in the basement of the Capitol.

"In this climate, slogans like . . . "eat and drink what you have, and think what you choose" were deemed inappropriate for the statehouse of a loyal and sober commonwealth," wrote O'Sullivan.

It was the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety's Women's Auxiliary Committee that applied the pressure to purge the German atmosphere of the cafeteria.

An Aug. 21, 1917, letter to then-Gov. J.A.A. Burnquist from the committee's Alice Ames Winter asked that "the German inscriptions on the walls of the restaurant in the basement of the capital" [sic] be removed, according to state archive records.

Their existence, she contended, was "very unfortunate," particularly because the somewhat "bibulous character of some of the mottoes does not seem to accord with the spirit of the times."

Bibulous, for the record, means "of or relating to drink or drinking."

Eventually, Burnquist consented. O'Sullivan quoted a 1939 Capitol guidebook as describing the room "in tones of pastel yellow, deep blue and silver."

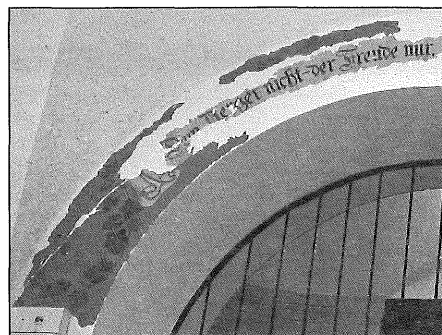
Traces of the old decor were uncovered during a partial renovation of the Capitol in the late 1980s. But until that restoration is complete, Capitol cafeteria diners are permitted only a glimpse of the state's rich German-American past.

— Grant Moos



Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

Americanized German eagles were painted on the ceiling of the Capitol cafeteria when it opened in 1905, but were later painted over due to anti-German sentiment. Traces of the old decor were uncovered during a partial renovation of the Capitol in the late 1980s. But until that restoration is complete, Capitol cafeteria diners are permitted only a glimpse of the state's rich German-American past.



A German inscription, *Dem aerger nicht, der Freude nur*, is uncovered beneath layers of paint on an archway in the Capitol cafeteria. The phrase says "Do not anger, (be) joyful instead."

— translation by Carl Hamre



# Bills Sent to the Governor

## Bills await the governor's signature — or veto

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
- do nothing, which results in the bill becoming law in the first year of the biennium.

The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is this: the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays aren't counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include

a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
RES. 1	NONE	66	Memorializing Congress to continue its progress at reducing the federal deficit and provide to the state information on the impact that a balanced federal budget will have on the state of Minnesota.	1/20/95	
1	45	87	Relating to taxation; making technical corrections and clarifications; making administrative changes.	2/14/95	
2	98	134	Relating to gambling; providing for an alternate member of the advisory council on gambling.	2/17/95	
3	29	42	Relating to traffic regulations; repealing sunset provision concerning recreational vehicle combinations.	2/22/95	
4	31	44	Relating to energy; extending the deadline for the initial report of the legislative electric energy task force.	2/22/95	
5	262	75	Relating to real property; clarifying requirements relating to filing of notices relating to mechanics' liens.	2/24/95	
6	137	213	Relating to utilities; abolishing sunset provision related to competitive rates for electric utilities	3/1/95	
7	52	33	Relating to drivers' licenses; permitting certain licensees to wear headwear in driver's license and Minnesota identification card photographs.	3/1/95	
8	103	141	Relating to elections; providing for review of certain school board plans by the Secretary of State; changing allocation of certain election expenses; providing for retention of election materials.	3/2/95	
9	164	65	Relating to utilities; regulating area development rate plans.	3/10/95	
10	37	49	Relating to local government; allowing either the town of Glen or the town of Kimberly in Aitkin County to have an alternative annual meeting day.	3/17/95	
11	554	620	Relating to securities; regulating enforcement actions against licensees; modifying the definition of investment metal.	3/17/95	
12	74	64	Relating to corrections; requiring that the commissioner of corrections notify affected local governments before licensing certain foster care facilities for delinquent children.	3/20/95	
13	726	323	Relating to housing; clarifying provisions relating to retaliatory conduct and manufactured home parks.	3/20/95	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
14	749	350	Relating to housing; modifying eligibility for transitional housing services.	3/22/95	
15	362	266	Relating to local government; towns; authorizing the town board to set up a petty cash fund.	3/22/95	
16	125	197	Relating to corrections; prohibiting correctional inmates from applying for name changes more than once during an inmate's confinement.	3/27/95	
17	435	275	Relating to public utilities; authorizing performance-based gas purchasing regulation for gas utilities.	3/27/95	
18	231	95	Relating to occupations and professions; Board of Medical Practice; changing licensing requirements for foreign applicants; changing certain disciplinary procedures.	3/27/95	
19	6	50	Relating to highways; designating a bridge as the Betty Adkins Bridge.	3/27/95	
20	647	181	Relating to elections; allowing time off to vote in elections to fill a vacancy in the legislature.	3/27/95	
21	229	182	Relating to towns; clarifying the procedure to fill a vacancy in the office of town supervisor.	3/27/95	
22	887	764	Relating to public administration; providing St. Paul with additional authority in regard to the Teacher Training Institute.	3/27/95	
23	95	132	Relating to highways; prohibiting headwalls in highway rights-of-way; imposing a penalty.	3/27/95	
24	570	318	Relating to insurance; changing the date on which crop hail insurance rates must be filed with the commissioner.	3/27/95	
25	654	534	Relating to towns; clarifying authority of town board to alter or vacate town roads dedicated by plat.	3/29/95	
26	121	310	Relating to state trails; authorizing extension of the Blufflands Trail System in Winona County.	3/29/95	
27	305	265	Relating to local government; clarifying provisions for financial audits in certain circumstances.	3/29/95	
28	153	145	Relating to motor vehicles; providing time limit for refunding motor vehicle registration tax overpayment.	3/29/95	
29	129	229	Relating to government data practices; medical examiner data; allowing sharing of such data with a state or federal agency charged with investigating a death.	3/31/95	
30	735	214	Relating to crime prevention; providing an exception to the prohibition on concealing identity.	4/5/95	
31	367	293	Relating to debt; providing for prompt payment of subcontractors of municipal contractors; modifying certain provisions relating to liens and performance bonds.	4/5/95	
32	321	174	Relating to game and fish; continuing the authorization for residents under the age of 16 to take deer of either sex.	4/5/95	
33	337	739	Relating to agriculture; changing certain procedures for compensating crop owners for damage by elk.	4/5/95	
34	1148	1099	Relating to elections; permitting election judges to serve outside the county where they reside in certain cases.	4/10/95	
35	282	237	Relating to state government; permitting state employees to donate vacation leave for the benefit of a certain state employee.	4/12/95	
36	812	710	Relating to natural resources; broadening the uses permitted for emergency materials and equipment.	4/12/95	
37	564	748	Relating to notaries; providing licensed peace officers with the powers of a notary public for administering oaths upon information submitted to establish probable cause.	4/12/95	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
38	567	983	Relating to data practices; providing for disclosure of certain hospital and health care provider tax data to the commissioner of human services and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.	4/12/95	
39	1176	1043	Relating to agriculture; modifying provisions related to farmed cervidae.	4/12/95	
40	568	528	Relating to traffic regulations; requiring adult motorcycle rider to wear eye protection device.	4/19/95	
41	782	427	Relating to Western Lake Superior Sanitary District; providing for compliance with certain requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.	4/18/95	
42	150	220	Relating to liquor; term of temporary on-sale licenses.	4/18/95	
43	228	72	Relating to occupations and professions; Board of Medical Practice; reinstating certain advisory councils.		
44	226	73	Relating to occupations and professions; requiring reporting of certain insurance settlements to Board of Medical Practice.	4/19/95	
45	715	453	Relating to towns; providing for damage award to affected property owner when town board adopts a recorded town road map.	4/18/95	
46	216	426	Relating to motor vehicles; changing definition of fleet for vehicle registration purposes.	4/18/95	
47	1065	859	Relating to St. Louis County; modifying certain accounting and expenditure requirements for road and bridge fund tax money derived from unorganized townships.	4/18/95	
48	355	335	Relating to the organization and operation of state government; providing supplemental appropriations for certain purposes.	4/18/95	
49	1463	77	Relating to civil actions; new motor vehicle warranties; clarifying the limitation on actions after informal dispute settlement mechanism decisions.	4/19/95	
50	175	194	Relating to highways; designating bridge as Bridge of Hope.	4/18/95	
51	1433	1176	Relating to utilities; providing that Sleepy Eye need not provide notice to the commissioner of trade and economic development before discontinuing steam heating operations.	4/18/95	
52	350	34	Relating to insurance; health; requiring plans issued to supplement Medicare to provide coverage for equipment and supplies for the management and treatment of diabetes.	4/19/95	
53	714	574	Relating to Indians; requiring the commissioner of natural resources to change certain names of geographic features of the state.	4/18/95	
54	1145	1060	Relating to employment; modifying provisions relating to re-employment insurance.	4/18/95	
55	110	320	Relating to criminal procedure; allowing warrantless probable cause arrests for certain offenses committed on school property.	4/18/95	
56	1390	264	Relating to drivers' licenses; abolishing separate review process for commercial drivers' license disqualification.	4/19/95	
57	139	204	Relating to state government; requiring reporting on and certain analysis of federal mandates imposed on state agencies.	4/18/95	
RES. 2	957	777	Memorializing the President and Congress to abandon the proposed sale of the Western Area Power Administration.	4/19/95	
58	1338	1042	Relating to limited liability organizations; modifying name requirements; eliminating a filing requirement; clarifying when debts arise or accrue for limited liability partnerships.	4/19/95	
59	1747	838	Relating to barbers; exempting persons performing barbering services for charitable purposes from registration and other requirements.	4/18/95	
60	1039	856	Relating to Dakota County; assigning to the county administrator the duties of the clerk of the county board.	4/18/95	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
61	1075	521	Relating to adoption; requiring the listing of all children freed for adoption on the state adoption exchange within 20 days.	4/19/95	
62	345	239	Relating to state lands; authorizing the sale of certain tax-forfeited land that borders public water in Kandiyohi County.	4/18/95	
63	724	1055	Relating to occupations and professions, exempting certain social workers from needing home care provider license; exempting some social workers employed in a hospital or nursing home from examination; modifying licensure requirements; requiring licenses for hospital and nursing home social workers.	4/19/95	
64	1091	1337	Relating to commerce; regulating sales by transient merchants; prohibiting the sale of certain items by certain merchants; prescribing penalties.	4/19/95	
65	1307	867	Relating to game and fish; identification required on ice fishing shelters.	4/19/95	
66	1363	1336	Relating to health; modifying provisions relating to drug dispensing.	4/19/95	
67	670	none	Relating to Winona County; authorizing Winona County to negotiate and enter into a contract for deed with Winona County Developmental Achievement Center.	4/19/95	
68	457	469	Relating to commerce; real estate; regulating certain licensees and registrants and recovery fund actions.	4/20/95	
69	612	543	Relating to health; requiring equal treatment of prescription drug prescribers; clarifying the role of practice guidelines in prescribing legend drugs.	4/19/95	
70	145	1255	Relating to corrections; authorizing use of force in defense of assault in correctional facilities under the control of or licensed by the commissioner.	4/19/95	
71	831	348	Relating to motor vehicles; clarifying power to appoint motor vehicle deputy registrars.	4/19/95	
72	1134	687	Relating to traffic regulations; requiring minimum clearance when passing bicycle or individual on roadway or bikeway; requiring bicycle traffic laws to be included in driver's manual and driver's license tests.	4/20/95	
73	661	446	Relating to commerce; restraint of trade; repealing price markup provisions in the sales discrimination law.	4/19/95	
74	971	172	Relating to motor vehicles; providing for issuance of manufacturer test plates.	4/19/95	
75	687	474	Relating to insurance; Medicare-related coverage; regulating policy reinstatement.		
76	679	566	Relating to education; allowing the residential program operated by Independent School District No. 518 to remain open until 7/1/96 (Lakeview School).		
77	316	133	Relating to state lands; authorizing the private sale of certain tax-forfeited lands bordering public waters in Cook and St. Louis counties.		
78	544	520	Relating to courts; requiring the state court administrator to prepare a guide to informal probate.		
79	859	833	Relating to cities; authorizing cities to conduct private sales of unclaimed property through nonprofit organizations.		
80	823	726	Relating to hospitals; removing an exception for certain cities and counties from certain hospital financing activities.		
81	744	577	Relating to health; modifying provisions relating to nursing home administrators.		
82	765	299	Relating to vocational rehabilitation; changing references to visually disabled person; making changes of a technical and housekeeping nature.		
83	1441	1023	Relating to public lands; notice requirements for sales of tax-forfeited lands; leasing of tax-forfeited lands; roads used by counties on tax-forfeited lands.		
84	1255	644	Relating to state lands; modifying the provisions of a land sale to the city of Anoka.		



Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
85	900	144	Relating to traffic regulations; limiting access to data on holders of disabled parking certificates; modifying provisions governing display and use of certificates.		
86	83	91	Relating to gambling; providing eligibility for participation as a provider in the state compulsive gambling program.		
87	485	445	Relating to the environment; requiring the Pollution Control Agency to permit the operation of certain waste combusters.		
88	806	680	Relating to state lands; authorizing the commissioner of natural resources to sell certain land in Scott County.		
89	1553	1209	Relating to Hennepin County; modifying certain provisions concerning the county medical examiners office.		
90	1063	858	Relating to the city of Duluth; making certain statutory provisions concerning public utilities applicable to the city of Duluth; authorizing a demonstration project to develop methods to prevent the infiltration and inflow of storm water into the city's sanitary sewer system.		
91	843	613	Relating to insurance; health; requiring coverage for hospitalization and anesthesia coverage for dental procedures; requiring coverage for general anesthesia and treatment for covered medical conditions rendered by a dentist.		
92	344	303	Relating to real property; providing for the form and record of certain assignments; revising the Common Interest Ownership Act; changing the application of curative and validating law for mortgage foreclosures.		

Source: Office of the Governor - Legislative Relations

## Minnesota House and Senate Membership

<b>1</b> A • Jim Tunheim-DFL B • Tim Finseth-IR Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-DFL	<b>15</b> A • Tom Van Engen B • Roger Cooper-DFL Sen. Dean E. Johnson-IR	<b>29</b> A • Jerry Dempsey-IR B • Mike Osskopp-IR Sen. Steve L. Murphy-DFL	<b>43</b> A • Tom Workman-IR B • Barbara Sykora-IR Sen. Edward C. Oliver-IR	<b>57</b> A • Walter E. Perl-DFL B • Sharon Marko-DFL Sen. Leonard R. Price-DFL
<b>2</b> A • Bernie Lieder-DFL B • Edgar Olson-DFL Sen. Roger D. Moe-DFL	<b>16</b> A • Joe Opatz-DFL B • Jim Knobloch-IR Sen. David Kleis-IR	<b>30</b> A • Fran Bradley-IR B • Dave Bishop-IR Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-IR	<b>44</b> A • Steve Kelley-DFL B • Jim Rhodes-IR Sen. Ted A. Mondale-DFL	<b>58</b> A • James I. Rice-DFL B • Richard H. Jefferson-DFL Sen. Carl W. Kroening-DFL
<b>3</b> A • Irv Anderson-DFL B • Loren Solberg-DFL Sen. Bob Lessard-DFL	<b>17</b> A • LeRoy Koppenderayer-IR B • Leslie Schumacher-DFL Sen. Dan Stevens-IR	<b>31</b> A • Don L. Frerichs-IR B • Gregory M. Davids-IR Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel-IR	<b>45</b> A • Ron Abrams-IR B • Peggy Leppik-IR Sen. Martha R. Robertson-IR	<b>59</b> A • John J. Sarna-DFL B • Phyllis Kahn-DFL Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-DFL
<b>4</b> A • Bob Johnson-DFL B • Anthony G. "Tony" Kinkel-DFL Sen. Harold R. "Skip" Finn-DFL	<b>18</b> A • Jim Rostberg-IR B • Loren Jennings-DFL Sen. Janet B. Johnson-DFL	<b>32</b> A • Gene Pelowski Jr.-DFL B • Virgil J. Johnson-IR Sen. Steven Morse-DFL	<b>46</b> A • Ann H. Rest-DFL B • Lyndon R. Carlson-DFL Sen. Ember D. Reichgott Junge-DFL	<b>60</b> A • Dee Long-DFL B • Myron Orfield-DFL Sen. Allan H. Spear-DFL
<b>5</b> A • Tom Rukavina-DFL B • David Tomassoni-DFL Sen. Jerry R. Janeczko-DFL	<b>19</b> A • Mark Olson-IR B • Bruce Anderson-IR Sen. Mark Ourada-IR	<b>33</b> A • Arlon Lindner-IR B • Rich Stanek-IR Sen. Warren Limmer-IR	<b>47</b> A • Darlene Luther-DFL B • Phil Carruthers-DFL Sen. Don Kramer-IR	<b>61</b> A • Karen Clark-DFL B • Linda Wejman-DFL Sen. Linda Berglin-DFL
<b>6</b> A • Thomas Bakke-DFL B • Thomas Huntley-DFL Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-DFL	<b>20</b> A • Robert Ness-IR B • Tony Onnen-IR Sen. Steve Dille-IR	<b>34</b> A • Steven Smith-IR B • H. Todd Van Dellen-IR Sen. Gen Olson-IR	<b>48</b> A • Bill Haas-IR B • Alice M. Johnson-DFL Sen. Don Betzold-DFL	<b>62</b> A • Lee Greenfield-DFL B • Wesley J. "Wes" Skoglund-DFL Sen. Carol Flynn-DFL
<b>7</b> A • Willard Munger-DFL B • Mike Jaros-DFL Sen. Sam G. Solon-DFL	<b>21</b> A • Jim Girard-IR B • Richard Mulder-IR Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski-IR	<b>35</b> A • Carol Molnar-IR B • Becky Kelso-DFL Sen. Terry D. Johnston-IR	<b>49</b> A • Charlie Weaver-IR B • Eldon H. Warkentin-IR Sen. Gene Merriam-DFL	<b>63</b> A • Jean Wagenius-DFL B • Edwina Garcia-DFL Sen. Jane B. Ranum-DFL
<b>8</b> A • Mary Murphy-DFL B • Becky Lourey-DFL Sen. Florian W. Chmielewski-DFL	<b>22</b> A • Ted Winter-DFL B • Elaine Harder-IR Sen. Jim Vickerman-DFL	<b>36</b> A • Eileen Tompkins-IR B • Dan McElroy-IR Sen. David L. Knutson-IR	<b>50</b> A • Tom Hackbarth-IR B • Teresa Lynch-IR Sen. Paula E. Hanson-DFL	<b>64</b> A • Matt Entenza-DFL B • Howard Orenstein-DFL Sen. Richard J. Cohen-DFL
<b>9</b> A • Kevin Goodno-IR B • Marvin Dauner-DFL Sen. Keith Langseth-DFL	<b>23</b> A • Barb Vickerman-IR B • Howard Swenson-IR Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-IR	<b>37</b> A • Dennis Ozment-IR B • Bill Macklin-IR Sen. Pat Pariseau-IR	<b>51</b> A • Mike Delmont-DFL B • Doug Swenson-IR Sen. Jane Krentz-DFL	<b>65</b> A • Andy Dawkins-DFL B • Carlos Mariani-DFL Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-DFL
<b>10</b> A • Bob Anderson-DFL B • Hilda Betermann-IR Sen. Cal Larson-IR	<b>24</b> A • John Dorn-DFL B • Don Ostrom-DFL Sen. John C. Hottinger-DFL	<b>38</b> A • Tim Commers-IR B • Tim Pauley-IR Sen. Deanna Wiener-DFL	<b>52</b> A • Wayne Simoneau-DFL B • Richard Pellow-IR Sen. Steven G. Novak-DFL	<b>66</b> A • Tom Osthoff-DFL B • Alice Hausman-DFL Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-DFL
<b>11</b> A • Roxann Daggett-IR B • Ken Otremba-DFL Sen. Dallas C. Sams-DFL	<b>25</b> A • John Tuma-IR B • Lynda Boudreau-IR Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-IR	<b>39</b> A • Thomas Pugh-DFL B • Bob Milbert-DFL Sen. James P. Metzner-DFL	<b>53</b> A • Phil Krinkle-IR B • Sherry Broecker-IR Sen. Linda Runbeck-IR	<b>67</b> A • Jim Farrell-DFL B • Steve Trimble-DFL Sen. Randy C. Kelly-DFL
<b>12</b> A • Kris Hasskamp-DFL B • Stephen G. Wenzel-DFL Sen. Don Samuelson-DFL	<b>26</b> A • Gene Hugoson-IR B • Henry J. Kalis-DFL Sen. Tracy L. Beckman-DFL	<b>40</b> A • Mark P. Mahon-DFL B • Kevin Knight-IR Sen. Phil J. Riveness-DFL	<b>54</b> A • Mary Jo McGuire-DFL B • Mindy Greiling-DFL Sen. John Marty-DFL	
<b>13</b> A • Chuck Brown-DFL B • Doug Peterson-DFL Sen. Charles A. Berg-DFL	<b>27</b> A • Ron Kraus-IR B • Robert Leighton Jr.-DFL Sen. Pat Piper-DFL	<b>41</b> A • Alice Seagren-IR B • Ken Wolf-IR Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-IR	<b>55</b> A • Harry Mares-IR B • Betty McCollum-DFL Sen. Kevin M. Chandler-DFL	
<b>14</b> A • Steve Dehler-IR B • Jeff Bertram-DFL Sen. Joe Bertram Sr.-DFL	<b>28</b> A • Gary D. Worke-IR B • Steven A. Sviggum-IR Sen. Dick Day-IR	<b>42</b> A • Ron Erhardt-IR B • Erik Paulsen-IR Sen. Roy W. Terwilliger-IR	<b>56</b> A • Mark Holsten-IR B • Peg Larsen-IR Sen. Gary W. Laidig-IR	

Unofficial list as of April 11, 1995

# Bill Introductions

HF1837-HF1860

## Thursday, April 13

HF1837—Solberg (DFL)

### Ways & Means

Legislative, executive and state agency appropriations reduced.

HF1838—Ostrom (DFL)

### Taxes

Federal adjusted gross income adopted as tax base, personal exemptions and dependent credits provided, and money appropriated.

HF1839—Wenzel (DFL)

### Taxes

Local government aid formula modified for cities with a population of 2,500 or less.

HF1840—Wenzel (DFL)

### Taxes

Local government aid reduction calculation method modified.

HF1841—Johnson, V. (IR)

### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Environmental learning center matching money provisions modified.

HF1842—Solberg (DFL)

### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Aitkin area resource recovery authority established.

HF1843—Pugh (DFL)

### Judiciary

Uniform land security interest act adopted.

## Tuesday, April 18

HF1844—Rest (DFL)

### Rules & Legislative Administration

Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1845—Huntley (DFL)

### Rules & Legislative Administration

Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1846—Jefferson (DFL)

### Rules & Legislative Administration

Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1847—Johnson, R. (DFL)

### Rules & Legislative Administration

Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1848—Mariani (DFL)

### International Trade & Economic Development

Congress memorialized to prohibit states from certain practices used to attract and retain businesses.

HF1849—Bishop (IR)

### General Legislation, Veterans Affairs, & Elections

Attorney General candidates required to be learned in the law, and constitutional amendment proposed.

## Wednesday, April 19

HF1850—Sarna (DFL)

### Education

Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis, School District dissolved and portions attached to other districts.

HF1851—Pugh (DFL)

### General Legislative, Veterans Affairs, & Elections

School district special election contribution restrictions provided.

HF1852—Solberg (DFL)

### Environment & Natural Resources

Game and fish short-term license period of validity established.

HF1853—Wenzel (DFL)

### Taxes

Local government aid formula modified for cities with a population of 2,500 or less.

HF1854—Long (DFL)

### Taxes

Omnibus state and local tax and budget reform bill, and money appropriated.

## Thursday, April 20

HF1855—Hasskamp (DFL)

### Rules & Legislative Administration

Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1856—Kelso (DFL)

### Ways & Means

Omnibus higher education appropriations bill.

HF1857—Brown (DFL)

### Ways & Means

Omnibus environment and natural resources appropriations bill.

HF1858—Carruthers (DFL)

### Judiciary

Criminals barred from recovering damages for injuries sustained during criminal conduct.

HF1859—Winter (DFL)

### Rules & Legislative Administration

Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1860—Bettermann (IR)

### Judiciary Finance

Parkers Prairie appropriated money for explosion damage.

Coming Up Next Week . . . April 24 - 28, 1995

# Committee Schedule

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

Session dates and times to be announced.

## MONDAY, April 24

10 a.m.

### Joint JUDICIARY/JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chrs. Reps. Wes Skoglund, Mary Murphy  
**Agenda:** HF1542 (Orenstein) Relating to state  
departments; abolishing certain departments  
and agencies; transferring duties.

After Session

### WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg  
**Agenda:** Omnibus Tax Bill.

## TUESDAY, April 25

8 a.m.

### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson  
**Agenda:** Discussion of Department of Children  
and Families proposals.

8:30 a.m.

### WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg  
**Agenda:** Omnibus bills: environment and natu-  
ral resources, bonding, economic development,  
and state government.

9:30 a.m.

### LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Johnson  
**Agenda:** SF368 (Lesewski); HF275 (Molnau)  
Farm crisis assistance personnel employment  
status clarified.

## WEDNESDAY, April 26

8 a.m.

### Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

9 a.m.

### WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg  
**Agenda:** Health and human services and judi-  
ciary omnibus bills.

## THURSDAY, April 27

8:30 a.m.

### WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

7 p.m.

### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson  
**Agenda:** 5th congressional district. University  
of Minnesota regent interview and recommen-  
dation for 5th district seat.

## FRIDAY, April 28

8:30 a.m.

### WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg  
**Agenda:** To be announced.



**Q. Do committees have complete control over which bills get to the floor?**

**A.** The committee is the heart of the legislative process and where the detailed work of the Legislature takes place. It is the job of each committee to hold public hearings on bills, to put each bill it hears into its best form, and to ultimately recommend to the full body only those bills which the committee feels merit further consideration.

Many bills affect several aspects of life in Minnesota and may be studied by more than

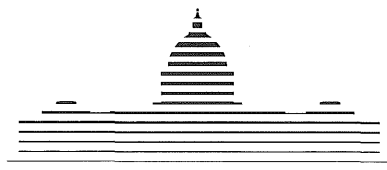
one committee before traveling to the House or Senate floor.

No committee hears every bill referred to it. Committee chairs schedule hearings on a bill after a request from the chief sponsor has been received. But committee chairs have a great deal of discretion in deciding when — and if — a bill is heard.

If a committee does not refer the bill to another committee (or the floor) or does not hold hearings on a bill, its chances for passage are slim. While it is technically possible to bring a bill to the full House without committee approval, the tactic is frequently unsuc-

cessful. Some lawmakers, for instance, will attempt to attach a bill that is stalled in a committee as an amendment to a separate, but somewhat related bill being debated on the House floor. Such efforts meet with mixed success.

Legislators rely on the knowledge gained during committee hearings to weed out the bills they favor from those they oppose. Most do not like to have a proposal debated on the House floor that has not had a committee hearing and public testimony from constituents and experts.



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

Speaker of the House: Irv Anderson  
Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Minnesota Fishing

Anglers taking to Minnesota lakes for the season opener, in millions .....	1
Times in the 47-year history of the governor's fishing opener that it has not been held on a predetermined lake (On May 13, 1995, it will be held on several lakes in Kandiyohi County) .....	1
Years since the opener was last held in Kandiyohi County .....	20
Percent of Minnesotans who fish .....	34
Percent of people nationwide who fish .....	19
Boaters who died in watercraft accidents, 1994 .....	19
Victims who died during opening weekend .....	2
Minnesotans arrested for boating while intoxicated, 1994 .....	120
Fee for an annual resident fishing license .....	\$13
Amount that the store selling the license gets to keep .....	\$1
Fine for fishing without a license .....	\$75
Annual DNR fisheries budget, in millions .....	\$17
Percent of that budget paid for by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service .....	43
Employees in the fisheries division of the DNR .....	285
Spread over how many Minnesota offices, (including area, regional, headquarters, and hatchery offices) .....	56
Percent of those staffers who are 'field level,' "in rubber boots hauling up nets, meeting with anglers and working along shorelines" according to a DNR publication .....	88
Game fish lakes overseen by the DNR .....	5,483
Acreage of those lakes, in millions .....	3.8
Lakes with walleyes .....	1,753
Lakes with northern pike .....	4,000
Panfish caught and kept by anglers for every walleye kept .....	20:1
Number of walleye fingerlings it takes to make a pound .....	20
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Designated trout streams .....	623
Lakes stocked by the DNR .....	900
Species of catfish in Minnesota .....	7
Number of those that are bullheads .....	3
Weight of the state record flathead catfish taken from the St. Croix River in 1970, in pounds .....	70

Source: *Minnesota Fishing '95*, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.



### For more information . . .

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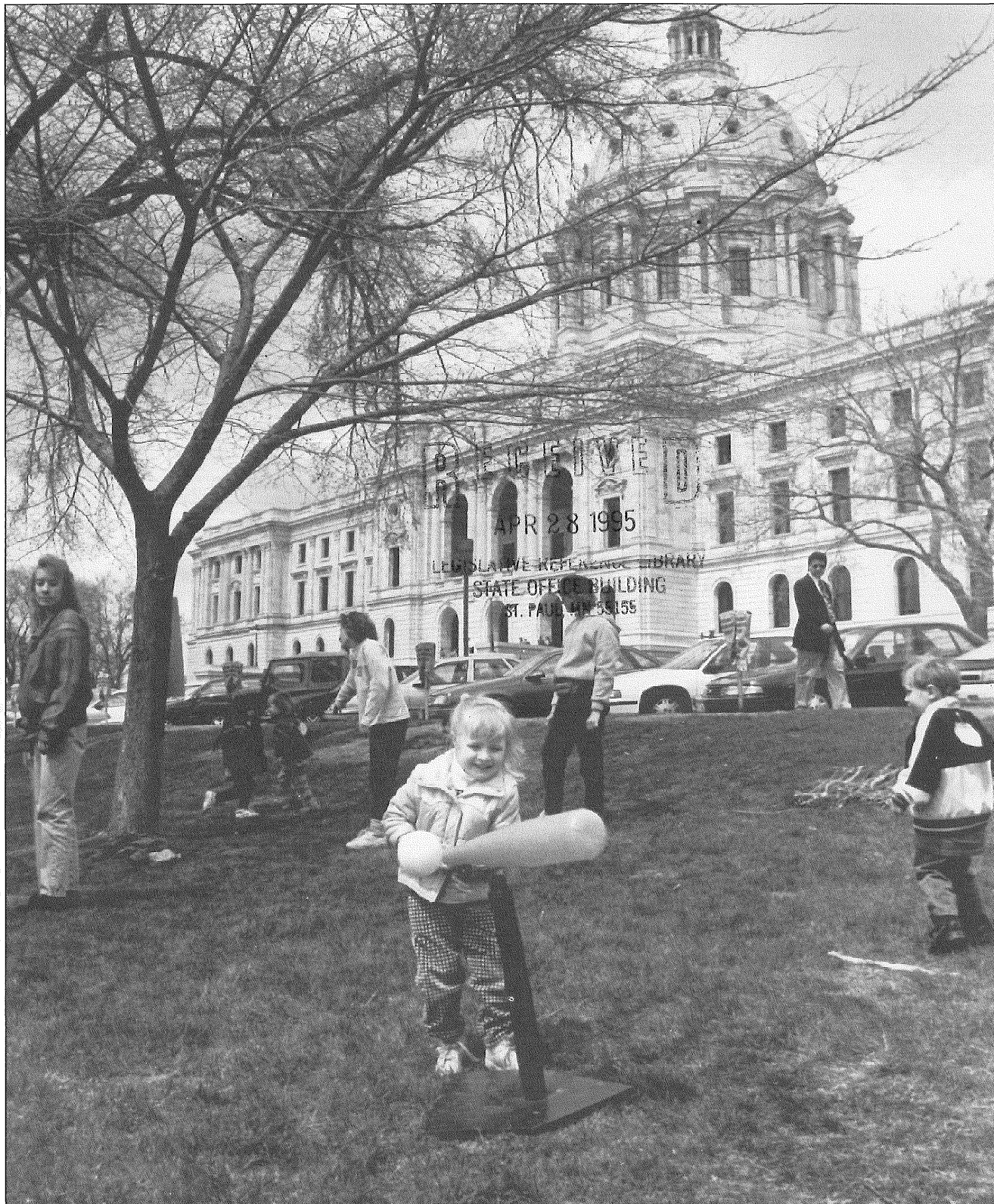
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# SESSION WEEKLY

A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ April 28, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 17



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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • April 28, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 17

## Week at a glance

**Omnibus judiciary funding bill** — Minnesota taxpayers would spend \$875.5 million to fund the state's prisons, courts, and crime prevention programs over the next two-year spending cycle, under a bill approved by the Ways and Means Committee. The huge price tag indicates that crime and corrections is one of the fastest growing areas of the state budget. .... **Page 6**

**Omnibus K-12 bill passes** — School districts could require a moment of silence each day and would be barred from offering any curriculum that encourages sex among minors, under the House omnibus K-12 Education funding bill. The \$5.9 billion proposal won final passage in the House on a 95-38 vote. .... **Page 8**

**Environment spending** — Minnesota hunters can shoot ruffed grouse, snipes, woodcocks, and Hungarian partridges, but not mourning doves. A nearly \$566 million environmental spending bill gained final passage in the House, minus a provision that would have allowed the first mourning dove hunting season in Minnesota since 1946. .... **Page 10**

**Abolishing the DPSv** — The Department of Public Service (DPSv) would be abolished and its duties transferred to the Office of the Attorney General and a new public utilities agency, under a proposal approved by a House panel. .... **Page 13**

**Health and human services funding** — A \$5 billion bill that would set limits on in-home personal care services for the disabled but retain money to help parents with disabled children afford long-term medical care passed the House Ways and Means Committee. .... **Page 15**

**Repealing education merger III** — The House voted to call off the planned July 1995 merger of the state university, community and technical college systems. The move came as an amendment to the \$2.1 billion omnibus higher education spending bill given final approval by the House on a 124-8 vote. .... **Page 15**

**Authorized use of force** — Workers at the privately owned Prairie Correctional Facility in Appleton, Minn., have a right to defend themselves against an assault by an inmate — just as guards currently do in state-owned prisons, under a new state law. .... **Page 18**

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On the cover: Shannon Carlson, 3, bats during a T-ball game with her classmates from the Downtown Child Care Center. The game was held on the State Capitol mall April 25. The day marked National Youth Service Day, a celebration to honor the contributions Minnesota young people have made to their communities. The games and festivities were sponsored by the National Youth Leadership Council and organized by the Nestle Chocolate VERY BEST in Youth Program.

— photo by Laura Phillips



# Highlights

Omnibus tax bill . . .

## Cabin owners, seniors would benefit from proposal

Certain Minnesota cabin owners would get a property tax break, under the omnibus tax bill given final approval April 25 by the House. The vote was 75-57.

Residents earning less than \$62,000 annually who pay high taxes on their lake cabins in proportion to their income would see their taxes decline as much as \$440 each year.

The current "circuit breaker" property tax refund program, designed to help those with lower incomes who live in higher-valued homes, would be expanded in 1997 to include lake cabins.

The tax break would cost the state between \$8 million and \$9 million in lost revenue per year. The maximum tax credit available under the program is \$440 per year.

The tax bill passed by the Senate (HF602) would aid all cabin owners, regardless of income. It would also give the tax break to non-residents.

The current property tax rate on seasonal recreation property is 2 percent of the property's value up to \$72,000, and 2.5 percent on the value over \$72,000.

An amendment to cut the rate to 1.5 percent on the first \$72,000 of value was unsuccessful.

The House tax bill (HF1864) also would impose a new property tax on wind energy conversion systems, but the tax would be a boon for Lincoln and Pipestone counties in southwestern Minnesota.

The proposal does not cut \$57 million in local government aid for the current year, as called for by Gov. Arne Carlson. But an across-the-board cut of \$20 million in Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid to local governments would take effect in the second year of the biennium.

Stripped from the bill during an April 24 Ways and Means Committee hearing was a provision to increase the cigarette tax to 51 cents per pack — up from the current 48 cents per pack. The tax hike would have generated \$23.6 million over the biennium to help fund state tobacco prevention efforts.

Attempts to reinstate the cigarette tax increase on the House floor were unsuccessful.

HF1864, sponsored by Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope), sets a budget reserve of



Certain cabin owners would see up to a \$440 tax break should the House omnibus tax bill (HF1864) become law. The bill would expand the current "circuit breaker" tax refund program. Cabins valued at less than \$72,000 are currently taxed at twice the rate of a home with the same value. Owners of seasonal recreational property have said those taxes are too high.

\$350 million for the state and also includes the following tax changes.

### Tax deferral for seniors

Senior citizens on fixed incomes could defer a portion of their property taxes, under the bill.

The bill states it is "in the public interest of this state" to stabilize the tax burden of low-income seniors, and that the current tax system "does not adequately recognize the unique financial circumstances" of such homeowners.

The bill would require those over age 65 with a total household income of less than \$30,000 to pay only 5 percent of their income toward property taxes.

(The homeowner must have lived in the residence for at least 15 years to qualify for the tax break.)

A couple whose income totals \$20,000, for example, would pay a maximum of \$1,000 annually in property taxes. The remainder would be deferred. The state would pick up the rest of the tab, and place the cost of the deferment as a lien on the property.

Interest would be charged on the deferred amount, and tied to the prime lending rate.

The deferral period would end if the property is sold, the homeowner dies, or the property is no longer homesteaded.

The program would take effect for taxes payable in 1996.

This portion of the bill was originally sponsored as HF461, sponsored by Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls). (Art. 4)

### Wind energy property tax

The current property tax exemption for wind energy conversion systems would end, under the bill.

The change would be a boon to Lincoln and Pipestone counties, both property-poor but geographically poised nearby the "Buffalo Ridge," an area wind energy experts have called one of the best resources in the United States to tap wind and convert it to electricity.

And with last year's law mandating that Northern States Power Co. (NSP) produce 425 megawatts of wind energy by Dec. 31, 2002 (as a condition of allowing the company to store spent nuclear fuel at Prairie Island), there are many more wind turbines coming to the area.

Under the bill, new wind energy systems generating less than two megawatts of electric-

ity would remain tax exempt, as would the 73 existing wind towers in Lincoln County. Beginning with taxes payable in 1996, all other new wind energy systems would be taxed.

The owner of the wind power system would pay at the commercial-industrial property tax rate: 3 percent of the first \$100,000 of the wind energy system's value and 4.6 percent on any value exceeding \$100,000.

But the tax would not apply to the entire value of the wind power structure — each of which is estimated at between \$325,000 and \$400,000. Only the value of the structure's foundation and tower would be taxed — or about 25 percent of the entire system's value.

The tax bill passed by the Senate would tax only the structure's foundation — or about 8 percent of the entire system's value.

Since NSP already has taken bids for the first 100 megawatts of wind energy, the bill would allow NSP to pass the cost of property taxes resulting from these wind energy systems on to rate payers. (Art. 3, Secs. 4, 5, 9, 14-15)

### **TIF district changes**

Under Minnesota law, cities can offer tax breaks to companies to help create jobs in their communities. In exchange for creating jobs, a city can agree to forego property taxes on a business for a set number of years.

Proponents say these tax increment financing (TIF) district arrangements place businesses — and jobs — in Minnesota cities that would otherwise build elsewhere. Opponents have said they cost too much in lost property tax revenue — about \$260 million per year, statewide, by some counts — and at times provide tax breaks where businesses would be built without the state's help.

Several bills were heard this session to limit the way different cities sometimes compete with one another to lure businesses to either move or expand in their towns through the creation of TIF districts.

Under provisions in the omnibus tax bill, cities would be required to show that the use of a TIF district would increase the taxable market value of a site over what would have occurred without TIF.

And those who receive TIF benefits would have to pay the city back, on a pro-rated basis, in certain cases where the property is sold or transferred.

If the property is sold or transferred within five years, the recipient would have to pay back 100 percent of the benefit to the city. The repayment rate would drop to 20 percent after eight years, with nothing owed if the sale or transfer occurs after nine years.

This would apply to assistance authorized after July 31, 1995.

Additionally, more details about TIF districts would need to be disclosed in legal sections of newspapers. Under current law, the disclosure doesn't have to be published if the city files an annual report with the state auditor. (Enforcement of the TIF law also would be shifted to the Office of the State Auditor from the Department of Revenue.)

Finally, the Metropolitan Council would study the effect of TIF on land use patterns in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and report back to the Legislature by Feb. 1, 1996. Specifically, the council would study whether TIF has encouraged redevelopment and more efficient property uses in already developed areas, or whether it is accelerating the development of outlying areas.

The provisions were originally contained in **HF147**, sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment (IR-Rosemount). The more restrictive provision of that proposal — limiting the use of TIF districts to cases where a business is considering a move out of state — is not contained in the omnibus tax bill.

While several bills were heard to authorize new TIF districts throughout the state, none are included in the bill. The Senate tax bill includes "special" provisions for 23 specific TIF districts throughout the state, from Crookston to Morris to Mankato to Lake City. (HF602, Art. 7, Secs. 12-13, 21, 28, 31)

### **Help for St. Paul landlords**

A program established in 1994 to encourage St. Paul landlords to reinvest more money in their properties would be extended for another year.

Owners of single-family and duplex rental units would get a property tax break for repairing or upgrading their properties, under the program.

The goal is to establish more safe, affordable housing for renters and to improve St. Paul neighborhoods.

A total of \$1 million was earmarked for the program, and about half of the money was not used.

To participate, a landlord must pay a fee to hire a housing evaluator to inspect the rental unit or units, repair the property based on the evaluator's findings, have the property re-inspected after repairs, and gain approval from city officials. (Any life and safety hazards identified in the inspection would need to be repaired even if the building owner withdraws from the program.) (Art. 3, Sec. 29)

### **Rural property tax break**

Those who own apartment buildings with four or more units in small cities outside the seven-county metro area would see their property taxes decline.

Currently, those property owners are taxed at 3.4 percent of the property's value. Under the bill that would dip to 2.3 percent for taxes payable in 1996.

The tax break would apply to all apartment buildings located in cities outside the metro area with less than 5,000 residents.

The provision is also designed as an incentive to encourage the building of such units, which are in short supply in Greater Minnesota's small cities. (Art. 3, Secs. 7-8)

### **'Targeting' refund program**

A state property tax refund program scheduled to end after the 1996 tax season would be made permanent and fully funded by the state.

The state's "targeting" refund program helps property owners whose taxes go up more than 12 percent and increase by at least \$100 over the previous year.

Under current law, the state can only give a maximum of \$5.5 million in refunds under the program in a given year. When property taxes increase sharply across the state — as they did for the 1994 tax year — those funds don't provide help to everyone who is eligible.

(In 1994, lawmakers made a one-time exception to the law and pumped a total of \$11.7 million into the program to cover all those eligible for targeted refunds.)

The maximum refund under the targeting program is \$1,000. (Art. 5, Sec. 12)

### **Sales tax changes?**

Should clothing be taxed? Or should more services be subject to a sales tax?

A 17-member advisory council would be established to study and recommend possible changes in the sales tax system.

The council would be composed of five members each from the House and Senate, the commissioner of revenue, and six members of the public.

The council would have to suggest changes to the current sales tax system, and would specifically examine alternative forms of taxation, including a value-added tax or another form of consumption tax. Current tax exemptions also would be examined for possible alteration or elimination.

The council would need to consider equity, efficiency, and ease of understanding in formulating its proposals for changing the current sales tax system.



Its findings would be presented to lawmakers by Feb. 1, 1996—in time for consideration by the 1996 Legislature. (Art. 2, Sec. 41)

### Tax-free horses (and feed)

In 1994, lawmakers exempted many horse purchases (except race horses) from the state sales tax. When it goes into effect June 30, 1995, it's estimated to save horse buyers \$200,000 a year.

This year, lawmakers have decided race horses ought to be sold tax-free as well. Horse feed and bedding used in breeding and racing horses would also be exempt. (Art. 2, Sec. 27)

### Tax-free materials

Materials and supplies used to construct an indoor ice arena would be exempt from the sales tax if it would be used primarily for youth activities or owned and operated under a joint powers agreement with a school district.

This provision goes hand-in-hand with the "Mighty Ducks" provisions of the omnibus state government finance bill (HF1001), which would mark \$3.2 million to help build ice arenas throughout the state. (Art. 2, Sec. 30)

Also, construction materials used to improve and expand the Duluth Convention Center would be exempt from the sales tax, under the bill. (Art. 2, Sec. 29)

### Tax-free farm machinery

The current sales tax exemption for used farm machinery, set to expire on June 30, 1995, would be extended until June 1, 1996.

The extension would cost the general fund \$300,000 and the Local Government Trust Fund \$1.3 million in lost revenue in fiscal year 1996. (Art. 2, Sec. 28)

### 1-900 calls

Since 1992, there has been a 50-cent per-call tax on 1-900, 1-976, and other fee-per-call services.

This year, lawmakers are trying to repeal the tax entirely, as of June 30, 1995.

The original law was targeted at phone sex operations, but most are located out of state—and therefore aren't subject to the tax. Some also skirt the tax by providing a 1-800 number and then use the connection to refer callers to 1-900 extensions.

Those that are paying the tax include legitimate information services that have testified the tax has put them at a competitive disadvantage because out-of-state services are exempt from the surcharge.

The Department of Revenue estimates the state would lose about \$400,000 over the biennium if the tax is repealed. (Art. 2, Sec. 42)

### Hutchinson taxes

Stopping to eat or drink in Hutchinson, Minn., would cost a few cents more.

The city would be allowed to impose a 1 percent sales tax on sales of food and liquor in its bars and restaurants.

City residents would not be required to vote on the tax increase in order for it to take effect, but could petition to repeal it.

The locals would, however, get to vote on a proposed one-half of 1 percent local sales tax increase that the bill would authorize. The revenue from both taxes would help build a new regional softball facility, construct bike and walking trails, fund a new radio dispatch system for local police and fire, and other specific projects.

Car dealers in Hutchinson could also charge an extra \$20 for each car sold to help fund the local projects.

The provisions were originally sponsored as HF1495 by Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel). (Art. 2, Secs. 37-38)

— John Tschida



## AGRICULTURE

### Jumping the fence



Any new fences erected by Minnesota deer and elk ranchers to contain their domesticated herds will have to be a little higher, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 1995.

The law raises the height to 8 feet for fences built after Aug. 1—up from the old standard of 75 inches for deer and 90 inches for elk.

It's not as if state agricultural and game officials miscalculated the jumping abilities of deer and elk when the "farmed cervidae" law was first adopted in 1993.

Rather, the change was made because the 8-foot fence has become the industry standard to keep the domesticated animals contained—and the wild ones out, explained Paul Hugenin, a marketing specialist with the state Department of Agriculture.

It's important to segregate the wild and domesticated animals to ensure that diseases can't spread from one group to the other, said Hugenin, who worked with the farmed cervidae advisory committee in developing the law changes.

But even if a deer or elk does make a break for it, they usually don't stray far.

"If they get out, they're right back again when it's time to eat," said Dr. Bill Hartmann, a veterinarian with the state Board of Animal Health. "They're domesticated to the point

that they don't go out and search for feed elsewhere."

Hartmann estimated that there are between 200 and 300 cervidae herds (with an average size of about 20) in Minnesota.

Deer and elk meat is increasingly being marketed as a low-cholesterol alternative to beef, and is sometimes available at fancier, "white tablecloth" restaurants.

Supporters of the industry say domesticated deer and elk taste better than their wild cousins because their feed is controlled and their age at slaughter can be regulated. (Younger animals generally taste better.)

The new law also requires such animals to be identified with ear tags, electronic implants or in other ways as long as they are approved by the Department of Natural Resources.

Under the old law, brands, collars, and tattoos were acceptable.

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison) and Sen. Charles Berg (DFL-Chokio).

(HF1176/SF1043\*/CH39)

### Farms rule

Any state agency that is proposing a rule change that would affect farming operations would have to notify the Department of Agriculture of the proposed rule, under a bill given final approval by the House April 19. The vote was 129-0.

Under the bill (HF1478), the state agency would have to provide a copy of the proposed rule change to the department at least 60 days before the proposed rule is published in the *State Register*.

(The *State Register* is a legal publication that lists proposed rule changes and other information; it was created to increase public participation in the rule-making process.)

When a public hearing is held on a proposed rule change related to farming, at least one of the hearings must be in an "agricultural area of the state," under the bill.

Bill sponsor Rep. Ken Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie) said the measure ensures that farmers and those with agricultural interests are fully informed of proposed rules which may affect their operations.

The Senate will hear the bill next.



## CRIME

### Omnibus judiciary funding bill

Minnesota taxpayers would spend \$875.5 million to fund the state's prisons, courts, and crime prevention programs over the next two-year spending cycle, under a bill approved by the Ways and Means Committee April 25.

The huge price tag indicates that crime and corrections is one of the fastest growing areas of the state budget.

The bulk of the funding — about \$547 million — would go to the Department of Corrections (DOC). That's a 28 percent increase over corrections spending for the current biennium.

Nearly two-thirds of the corrections budget — almost \$360 million — would pay for Minnesota's juvenile and adult correctional institutions.

Spending for community services by the DOC would total more than \$145 million — a 50 percent increase over the \$97 million spent during the current biennium.

This dramatic increase in spending includes more than \$23 million for counties to hire additional probation officers and to operate community-based treatment programs.

Caseloads for state district court judges would be eased through the hiring of nine new judges. The bill would provide almost \$2.4 million for four judges to assume office in 1995 and for five judges to start in 1997.

Another provision of the bill would realize a cost savings for the courts by reducing the initial amount of vacation time given to a new judge from six weeks to 13 days. This would apply to judges assuming office on or after July 1, 1995.

**HF1700**, sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), Judiciary Finance Committee chair, also increases criminal penalties for a number of offenses, funds a host of crime prevention programs and includes the following provisions.

#### State public defenders

The bill would spend \$81.9 million over the next biennium for state public defenders. That's a 46 percent increase over current funding levels.

The increase is largely due to changes made by the 1994 Legislature.

In establishing a new class of serious juvenile offenders — the extended jurisdiction juvenile (EJJ) — lawmakers gave these kids in juvenile court the right to a public defender and a jury trial.

The resulting increased burden on the public defender system threatened to cause a huge log jam in the juvenile court system, according to testimony given earlier this session.

The state would spend an additional \$7.5 million for incarcerating and treating EJJ offenders.

The EJJ classification is a hybrid between the traditional informal juvenile court and adult court. It is intended for serious juvenile offenders, but not for those whose crimes warrant a transfer to adult court.

Under an EJJ proceeding, a teenager receives a juvenile court penalty and a stayed adult penalty — often a prison sentence. But if he or she violates the condition of the sentence, the adult penalty is imposed.

An extra \$1 million appropriation to the State Board of Public Defense would hire additional public defenders and pay for trial transcripts needed in EJJ court cases. (Art. 1, Sec. 10)

#### Community notification

The bill would notify neighbors when the most serious Minnesota sex offenders are released into their communities.

The measure would allow law enforcement officials to disclose information about high-risk offenders as "necessary to protect the public and to counteract the offender's dangerousness."

What information is released and to whom disclosure is made would depend on the "level of danger posed by the offender," as defined by the bill.

Offenders would be classified as either low, intermediate, or high risk.

Law enforcement agencies and crime victims could be notified of a low-level offender's release. School officials and neighborhood groups could be notified of an intermediate-level offender's release. And individuals and those community members and establishments to whom, in the law enforcement agency's judgment, the offender "may pose a direct or potential threat," would be notified of a high-risk offender's release.

Offenders considered to be high risk would include those who have refused or failed treatment and have been determined "highly likely to re-offend." Violent, repeat offenders who abuse children also would be considered high risk.

A committee consisting of the commissioner of corrections, the head of the facility where the offender has been confined, the chief law enforcement official where the offender will live, a treatment counselor trained in sex offender assessment, and the offender's

parole officer would determine the offender's classification 30 days before the prison release date.

Those classified as either an intermediate or high-risk offender may appeal their classification to district court. The community notification would not be stopped by the appeal, unless so ordered by the court.

Members of the public would *not* be notified if an intermediate or high-risk offender is placed in a halfway house licensed by the department of Corrections or Human Services if the home has staff trained in the supervision of sex offenders.

The community notification proposal is patterned after a Washington state law that has been in effect for five years. Fourteen states have similar notification laws.

Only a small percentage of released offenders would trigger the notification.

The state of Washington has released thousands of sex offenders in the five years that the law has been in effect. In most cases, law enforcement officials are the only ones who have been notified.

The provisions were included in **HF181**, sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester). (Art. 4, Secs. 4-6, 24-25)

#### Background checks

The bill would require criminal background checks on potential apartment building managers.

The proposal stems from the 1994 abduction and murder of Kari Koskinen, a New Brighton woman believed to have been killed by her building manager. It would be called the "Kari Koskinen Manager Background Check Act."

It would require apartment building owners to have the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) conduct a criminal history check on every building manager applicant (or other employee) who would have the authority to enter a tenant's apartment.

(The background check could also be done by a private business or a local law enforcement agency.)

Owners who fail to conduct a background check would be guilty of a petty misdemeanor, punishable by up to a \$200 fine.

Provisions calling for a nationwide background check for those who have lived in Minnesota for less than five years were deleted from the bill.

Owners could hire an applicant before the results of the checks are made available, and could also hire someone who is shown to be a convicted criminal.

While the checks will aid in uncovering an applicant's past, they are not perfect. The

BCA tracks only *state* offenses occurring within Minnesota — not federal offenses. Any applicant who has committed crimes in other states also would not be detected by the BCA search.

Also included in the bill is a tenant's right-to-privacy section, which states that a landlord may only enter an apartment — after giving reasonable notice — for a "reasonable business purpose." This would include showing an apartment, or for maintenance reasons. Limited exceptions would be allowed for emergency or safety reasons.

A landlord privacy violation could result in a tenant being released from a lease, a recovery of a damage deposit, and up to a \$100 civil penalty for each violation.

Tenants and landlords of mobile homes are exempt from the tenant's right to privacy.

The provisions were included in **HF72** sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville). (Art. 4, Secs. 16-19)

### F frivolous lawsuits

The bill would call for disciplinary action against inmates who file "frivolous or malicious" lawsuits against the state.

Such penalties could include loss of privileges, isolation, loss of good time, or "discipline confinement" time.

It costs the state about \$350,000 each year to challenge lawsuits filed by those prisoners.

Most prisoners lack the financial resources necessary to pay for court filing fees and associated costs. So the law allows them to

bring their actions "in forma pauperis," or as indigents, and they don't pay a dime.

Under the bill, any inmate seeking to file a case without paying the fees would later be billed should they earn or otherwise come into any funds. And prisoners seeking to avoid filing fees by filing as indigents when they really do have the funds in their prison accounts would have their cases dismissed. (They could be filed again later.)

Should an inmate prevail in a civil action and be awarded monetary damages, those funds could be seized to pay for their court costs, any taxes they may owe, support for their family, or fines ordered by the court.

The provisions were included in **HF1309** sponsored by Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul). (Art. 6, Secs. 4-5, 12)

### Fighting sex crimes

Patterned sex offenders could face up to 40 years in prison, under the bill.

Under Minnesota law, a patterned sex offender is a repeat offender or someone who has been determined likely to re-offend in the future.

Current law mandates that a judge sentence a patterned sex offender to twice the penalty called for under the state's sentencing guidelines.

This measure would allow judges to impose a prison term of up to 40 years — regardless of the penalty called for under the state's sentencing guidelines.

The 40-year maximum prison term also

would apply to a first-time offender who planned the crime in advance.

Once released from prison, a patterned sex offender would remain on parole for life. Under current law, parole can last either 10 years or the time remaining under the maximum sentence for the offender's crime set by law, whichever is longer. Violating the conditions of that parole at *any* time after release from prison could put the offender back in jail.

The proposal also would require the state's training program for judges and other court personnel to include information on sentencing laws involving sex crimes — specifically repeat offenders and patterned sex offenders.

Committee testimony indicated many judges are unfamiliar with current patterned sex offender statutes.

The provisions were included in **HF177**. The proposal was drafted by the 1994 Sexual Predators Task Force. (Art. 2, Secs. 9-11)

The bill also would increase to a gross misdemeanor from a misdemeanor the penalty for the crime of indecent exposure in the presence of a minor (under age 16).

The provision was previously included in **HF633**. (Art. 2, Sec. 17)

Additionally, it would extend the statute of limitations for criminal sexual conduct crimes from seven to nine years. The provision was formerly **HF176**. (Art. 2, Sec. 20)

**HF176**, **HF177**, **HF633** all were sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls).

### Sex offender registration

The bill also would require those convicted of sex offenses in other states to register in Minnesota upon arrival. Such offenders would need to register for 10 years after they enter Minnesota.

Minnesota now requires all felony-level sex offenders to register their address with a probation officer for at least 10 years following release from a Minnesota prison.

Failure to register is now a gross misdemeanor. Under the bill, a second conviction for failure to report would be a felony offense.

Offenders also could register with the local police or sheriff, under the bill. Current law mandates that sex offenders register with their assigned probation officer. The registration information would mandate that a current photo of the offender be included in the file. The provisions were included in **HF178**, sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls). The sections were drafted by the 1994 Sexual Predators Task Force. (Art. 4, Sec. 3)



Cheryl Matis, Plymouth, Minn., brought a picture of her son, Brandon Block, and a pair of his shoes to the State Capitol April 24, as she spoke to a crowd gathered to commemorate Crime Victim Rights Week. She told the gathering how her son was accidentally shot to death by a school friend 30 days before his 15th birthday. She further shared her frustration with the legal system for allowing people to store loaded weapons in their homes and for not holding someone responsible when a person is shot or killed.

## County curfews

The 1994 Legislature gave each county board in Minnesota the authority to establish a countywide curfew for juveniles under age 17.

The bill would cover those up to age 18, and would require each county curfew ordinance to set an earlier curfew time for children under age 12. (Art. 2, Sec. 1)

## 'Peeping Tom' law expansion?

The bill would expand the current 'peeping Tom' law to include any place where an individual has a "reasonable expectation of privacy" and has removed or is likely to remove some or all of their clothing.

(Hospitals and other medical facilities would be exempt, as would stores that place warning signs in their dressing rooms that individuals may be observed to prevent theft.)

Current law applies to those peeping in windows or secretly photographing or videotaping outside someone's home. Such a crime is a misdemeanor.

But offenses occurring away from the home have frustrated county attorneys, who have said they lack the legal tools to slap offenders with real consequences.

The bill originally applied only to hotel rooms and tanning booths, based on a voyeuristic incident at a tanning salon in Windom, Minn.

Prosecutors considered charging the man under a section of the state's stalking law, but the incident didn't quite fit there, either. In the end, the business owner agreed to pay a \$500 fine to close the case.

The bill also would explicitly include peeping into a tanning bed or hotel room under the state's "pattern of harassing conduct" definition in the stalking law. Photographing or videotaping a person in such a setting also would be a misdemeanor.

The original proposal, **HF272**, was sponsored by Rep. Teresa Lynch (IR-Andover). (Art. 2, Secs. 15-16)

## Safer schools

A student who brings a gun to school would be expelled for at least one year, under the bill.

If a student expelled for a gun violation applies for admission to another school, the school district that expelled the student could disclose that information to the other school.

School boards also would be required to develop a policy directing their schools to refer to the criminal or juvenile system any student who brings a gun onto school property.

Another section of the bill would establish

a statewide policy that school lockers are the property of school districts and can be searched by school authorities "for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant." Notice of the policy would have to be distributed in advance to parents and students, and would take effect at the beginning of the 1995-96 school year.

The school locker proposal was introduced as **HF107** and sponsored by Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul). (Article 3, Sec. 17-19)

## Background checks for schools

All people hired to work at a Minnesota school — public or private — would face a criminal background check, under the bill.

Anyone who has lived in Minnesota for less than 10 years would face a national criminal background check. Criminal records from all states where an applicant has lived for the 10 years prior to moving to Minnesota also would be checked, as would welfare agency records to see if any child maltreatment claim has been substantiated against the applicant. (Art. 3, Secs. 3, 13)

## Criminal parents

The bill contains criminal sanctions for parents who fail to make a good faith effort to exercise "reasonable care, supervision, protection and control" over their children. The same misdemeanor penalty — up to 90 days in jail and a \$700 fine — would apply if parents fail to make sure their kids are in school. (Currently, the maximum penalty is a \$50 fine and not more than 30 days in jail.) (Art. 3, Secs. 15, 44)

## Revoking drivers' licenses

Juvenile courts are now required to order that the drivers' licenses of minors found in possession of guns or other dangerous weapons at school or on a school bus be canceled, or their driving privileges revoked, until they turn 18.

The bill would allow courts to deny or revoke the drivers' license of habitual truants as well, until the truant turns 18 years old. (Art. 3, Sec. 20)

## Combating truancy

The proposal also would create a series of programs to better address the growing truancy problem.

Community-based truancy service centers would be established to coordinate intervention efforts, and school attendance review boards would be responsible for matching students with appropriate community services. Each review board would be composed

of school officials, parents, school counselors, law enforcement officials, individuals from community agencies, and a probation officer.

County attorney truancy mediation programs also would be established to resolve truancy matters outside of juvenile court. (Art. 3, Secs. 48-51)

## Productive day programs

Last year, the Legislature established "productive day programs" in Hennepin, Ramsey, and St. Louis counties designed to motivate inmates in local jails to develop life and work skills. The goal is to provide training and education to create opportunities for inmates upon their release.

The Legislature earmarked \$1 million to be split among the counties, but it was vetoed by the governor.

This year, lawmakers would earmark \$2.35 million for the programs — \$783,000 each for Hennepin and Ramsey counties, and \$784,000 for St. Louis County. (Art. 1, Sec. 11, Subd. 3)



## EDUCATION

### Omnibus K-12 bill passes

School districts could require a moment of silence each day and would be barred from offering any curriculum that encourages sex among minors, under the House K-12 Education funding bill.

The \$5.9 billion omnibus K-12 education bill won final passage April 24 on a 95-38 House vote taken after more than seven hours of wide-ranging and sometimes divisive debate.

The proposal would spend \$241 million more on K-12 education than the amount in Gov. Arne Carlson's proposal. (See April 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 3)

The heart of the bill — an increase in the per pupil funding to districts — remains in place.

Gone are proposed changes to the Post-Secondary Enrollment Option Program (PSEO) and a proposed tax on businesses at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Included is a potential "moment of silence" to start the school day and a prohibition on any school programs promoting teen sex.

### Moment of silence

The amendment added by Rep. Eileen Tompkins (IR-Apple Valley) would allow local school boards to decide if each school



day should start with a moment (not more than a minute) of silence.

A moment of silence would "encourage students to be reflective and reverent" and would allow them to "think about what they're doing," Tompkins said.

She originally called for a mandatory moment of silence in each public school statewide. But her proposal was made optional on a 70-63 vote.

House members voted 100-33 to attach the altered provision to the funding bill. A similar provision failed in the Senate later the same day on a 33-34 vote.

### Teen sex discouraged

The ban on programs encouraging students to be sexually active was adopted on a unanimous 133-0 vote.

But amendment sponsor Rep. Mike Oskopp (IR-Lake City) had sought to forbid schools from teaching the "acceptance of homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative."

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) proposed the change to instruct schools to quash materials or activities that encourage *any* sexual activity among minors.

"I don't think kids should be sexually active heterosexually, homosexually, or bisexually," Skoglund said. "I don't think kids should be sexually active. Period."

Skoglund's language replaced Oskopp's on a 67-66 vote.

### No additional airport tax

The plan to raise new revenue for all-day kindergarten programs at poorer metropolitan area schools was stripped from the bill during debate on the House floor.

The money would have been distributed by placing a priority on schools with the highest concentration of students receiving free or state-subsidized lunches.

The proposal aimed to raise funds — an estimated \$12 million annually — through the additional taxing of businesses at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Currently, businesses at the airport — ranging from airlines to gift shops — pay property taxes to the county but not to a city or school district.

Rep. Phil Krinkie (IR-Shoreview) opposed the new tax, and his amendment to delete that portion of the bill passed on a 74-59 vote.

### Post-secondary option

Another provision removed from the bill would have placed new restrictions on the Post-secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program, which allows high school juniors and seniors to take college classes.



Three of Minnesota's top science students, left to right, Mary Vancura, 15, New Ulm Cathedral School, Samantha Tuttle, 18, and Shelise Gieseke, 16, both from New Ulm Senior High, met with Rep. Howard Swenson in the Great Hall of the Capitol April 24. The three had projects on display as part of the Minnesota Academy of Science's 1995 State Science Fair exhibit.

Since 1985, qualifying students have been able to attend public and private colleges full or part time, and the state picks up the tab for tuition and books. The program also allows colleges to offer courses in high schools.

But it has drawn criticism from some lawmakers, who argue students enjoy a financial windfall while progressing toward a college degree at state expense. And some local school officials have complained of program abuses while lamenting the loss of some per pupil dollars to school districts.

The bill would have required students to take International Baccalaureate or advanced placement courses available at their high schools before they could enter the PSEO program. And students would not have been allowed to earn both high school and college credit for "non-academic" classes, such as physical education courses.

An amendment offered by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) removed the provisions from the bill on a 102-31 vote.

Instead, the bill now would require the Legislature to study the program and hold hearings before the 1996 session to identify necessary changes.

Another adopted amendment would prohibit colleges from using the financial advantages of PSEO to advertise or recruit students for the program.

In outspending the governor's proposed spending for education, the K-12 bill would spend the \$220 million that Carlson had asked to be set aside in a "rainy day" fund that could be used to offset anticipated cuts in federal aid.

An amendment by Rep. Leroy Koppenrader (IR-Princeton) would have set aside the \$220 million for the rainy day fund.

It would have cut about \$50 million from the bill and used money from other sources to come up with the \$22 million reserve.

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon) said the amendment offered a way around disputes over the rainy day fund and the threat of a veto by Carlson.

"We can end this session in a very cooperative manner," Sviggum said.

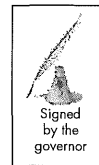
The amendment failed on a 63-68 party-line vote.

**HF1000**, sponsored by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), now will go to conference committee to reconcile differences with the Senate version of the bill.



## ELECTIONS

### Special time off to vote



A new state law will allow voters to take time off work to vote in a special election held to fill a seat in the Minnesota Legislature.

Under current law, any Minnesotan who is eligible to vote has the right to be absent from work to cast a ballot in the morning on election day. The employer cannot penalize or deduct wages because of the absence.

But current law only applies to a state primary or general election, an election to fill a vacancy in the office of U.S. senator or

representative, or a presidential primary election.

The new law adding special elections for state legislative races became effective March 28, 1995.

Since the 1994 general election, there have been five special elections for state legislative seats.

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Richard Cohen (DFL-St. Paul).

(HF647/SF181\*/CH20)

## Town supervisor vacancies



An appointed town supervisor must be at least 21 years old and have lived in the town at least 30 days, under a new law that became effective March 28.

Current law says when a vacancy occurs in a town office, the town board must appoint someone to the post until the next annual town election.

The 1995 law change says when a town supervisor needs to be appointed, the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be an eligible voter, be at least 21 years old, and have lived in the town at least 30 days.

Before the change, state law did not specify an age or residency requirement for a town supervisor. Most supervisors fill three-year terms and are elected at a town general election. Metropolitan supervisors hold four-year terms and are elected in the November election.

The law also specifies that a vacancy be filled by an "appointment committee" made up of the remaining town supervisors and the town clerk.

The technical change was sought by the Minnesota Association of Townships which argued that the old law wasn't as clear as it should be.

The new law does not specify age or residency limits for elected town supervisors.

(HF229/SF182\*/CH21)



## ENVIRONMENT

### Environment spending

The \$566 million omnibus environmental finance bill was given final approval by the House April 27. The vote was 113-20.

Gone from the proposal is a provision that would have allowed the shooting of mourning doves for the first time since 1946.

It was removed by the Ways and Means

Committee, on a 15-4 vote, at an April 25 hearing.

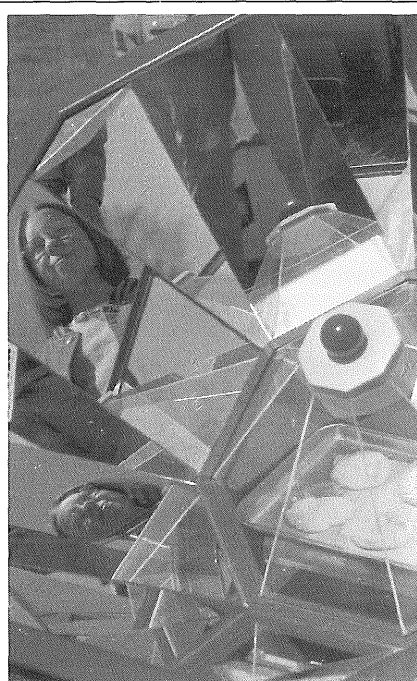
But the provision may still survive. It is contained in the Senate's omnibus game and fish bill (SF621). That bill is awaiting action on the Senate floor.

No other substantive changes were made to the environmental spending bill (HF1857/SF106\*) sponsored by Rep. Chuck Brown (DFL-Appleton). The measure funds the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Minnesota Zoo and 10 other state agencies. (See April 21, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6)

The total spending for fiscal years 1996 and 1997 represents a modest \$10 million increase over spending for the previous biennium.

The proposal includes all the environmental and recreational program recommendations of the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR). The \$36 million appropriated for 86 items comes from a two-cent per pack cigarette tax and limited state lottery proceeds. (See March 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9)

The largest single LCMR appropriation — over \$4.5 million — would go to the Metropolitan Regional Park System to acquire land and rehabilitate existing facilities. The DNR would receive almost \$3.8 million to acquire land for state parks and improve parks and recreation areas across the state. State and



Sandy Johnson of Golden Valley is reflected in a solar oven which baked chocolate chip cookies during the April 22 Earth Day celebration at the State Capitol.

metropolitan parks would each receive an additional \$720,000 appropriation for projects which would have to be completed by Dec. 31, 1995.

The LCMR provisions also would provide:

- \$100,000 to the Minnesota Historical Society to survey "shipwrecks in Minnesota inland lakes and rivers," and organize a conference in Duluth on "underwater cultural resources";
- \$575,000 to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to determine the sources of toxic mercury emissions in Minnesota's air and how much is ending up in the state's lakes;
- \$150,000 to the Neighborhood Energy Consortium in St. Paul to conduct workshops on landscaping with native Minnesota plants in the Twin Cities metropolitan area;
- \$2.3 million to the DNR for four Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) projects to acquire land to improve streams and wildlife habitat;
- \$900,000 to the DNR for the ninth and 10th years of a 24-year project studying the "ecology of rare plants, animals, and natural communities" in Minnesota counties;
- \$680,000 for an expansion of the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and development of a wetland restoration demonstration project; and
- \$250,000 to Twin Cities Public Television to create an environmental video resource center and to produce and broadcast a series about environmentalism in Minnesota.

The bill now moves to a conference committee where members will reconcile differences with the Senate proposal.



## GAMBLING

### Gambling treatment funds



Public funds for treatment of compulsive gamblers will be available to private, for-profit agencies, under a new state law.

Bill sponsor Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) has said the bill is necessary to give Minnesotans, especially in outstate areas, more opportunities for treatment.

Effective April 25, for-profit agencies are now able to compete with non-profits for the grant funding.

During the current two-year spending cycle, the state will spend about \$1.2 million to treat problem gamblers. Non-profit treat-

ment facilities are selected to receive some of that money through Department of Human Services grants. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9)

The House passed similar legislation in 1993, but it did not survive conference committee negotiations.

Sen. Skip Finn (DFL-Cass Lake) sponsored the proposal in the Senate.

(HF83/SF91\*/CH86)



## GOVERNMENT

### Omnibus economic development

"Corporate welfare" reform provisions are included in a \$407 million economic development spending bill that won final passage in the House April 26. The vote was 74-59.

The omnibus community development bill (SF1670/HF1886) provides funding in the next two-year spending cycle for a diverse group of state agencies, ranging from the Office of the Secretary of State to the Board of Boxing.

Provisions in the bill would affect the Minnesota-Ontario fishing dispute, the 1996 presidential primary, and the viability of some historical sites in the state.

But it was the "corporate welfare" provisions that drew heated debate on the House floor. The following are among the bill's major provisions:

#### Corporate welfare

The bill would require some companies receiving financial assistance from the state to meet certain requirements for wages and job growth.

Companies receiving more than \$25,000 from the state in the form of grants, loans, or some tax breaks including tax increment financing would have to pay employees at least the federal poverty level for a family of four. That amounts to about \$15,150 annually.

The wage standards would apply only to employees hired after the state money is received.

"That should not be in here," said Rep. Don Frerichs (IR-Rochester), who called the corporate welfare provisions "the most destructive part of the bill."

Companies also would have to demonstrate a net job growth or the retention of jobs that would have been lost without help from the state. Businesses that fail to meet the wage and job standards would face penalties.

Companies receiving grants, loans, or tax increment financing for redevelopment pur-

poses would be exempt from the requirements. Small businesses — those with no more than 20 employees and gross annual revenues of less than \$1 million — and nonprofit organizations also would be exempt.

The bill would require the legislative auditor to report every two years on the jobs created and wages paid by companies receiving any form of tax reduction or waiver.

The requirements in the omnibus bill are drawn from a separate bill (HF869) originally sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls). (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 4)

Clark has argued her proposal would ensure that Minnesota see some return on its business investments.

Rep. Ron Abrams (IR-Minnetonka) called the provisions "veto bait," and Rep. Todd Van Dellen (IR-Plymouth) said the requirements would undermine economic growth in the state.

"We won't just have jobs not paying a livable wage. We won't have job expansion at all," Van Dellen said. (Sec. 51)

#### Presidential primary

Local municipalities would have to bear the cost of the 1996 presidential primary, under the bill.

The Secretary of State would receive \$12.2 million for the biennium, more than \$4 million below the agency's request.

Much of that cut — \$3.1 million — would have reimbursed municipalities for the expense of the presidential primary.

The bill also does not include \$1.3 million the agency requested for optical imaging equipment to store records electronically. The bill, however, does include money for equipment for a statewide computer network. (Sec. 25)

#### Ontario border war

A total of \$100,000 would be appropriated to the Department of Trade and Economic Development to explore some form of legal challenge to Ontario fishing restrictions on Minnesotans.

Although a successful challenge of the Ontario restrictions in U.S. courts is considered unlikely, there may be a better chance to petition the U.S. trade representative to enter the dispute or to mount a challenge in the Canadian courts.

Minnesota and Ontario have battled for several years over an Ontario restriction that limits the number of walleyes anglers who stay on the Minnesota side of Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake can keep. Both lakes lie on the U.S.-Canadian border.

In response, Minnesota has enacted laws in both 1993 and 1994 that are designed to discourage tourists from entering Ontario to fish.

This year another bill (HF1651), sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), is pending that would require all anglers who return through Minnesota from anywhere in Canada to transport their fish unfilled.

That measure also contains a \$100,000 appropriation to mount a legal challenge of the Ontario restrictions, but cites the Office of the Attorney General as the lead agency. (See March 31, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9)

An amendment that would have repealed the requirement that fish transported into Minnesota be unfilled was defeated on a 66-66 vote that was divided along party lines. (Sec. 2, subd. 4)

#### Minority affairs councils

Four state councils that are designed to ensure minority groups in Minnesota get equal access to the state's services would be funded for an additional year, but funding for the second year is not set in stone.

The measure requires the Indian Affairs Council, the Council on Affairs of Spanish-speaking People, the Council on Black Minnesotans, and the Council on Asian-Pacific Americans to conduct a study of their operations.

In his proposed budget, Gov. Arne Carlson said he intends to submit legislation that would remove these councils from "state agency status."

The bill states that the study must, among other issues, consider:

- removal of council members by the governor;
- methods of reducing overall costs of the councils through sharing of staff and administrative expenses;
- methods of improving coordination with other state agencies; and
- methods of educating council members in management issues for state agencies, including statewide budget and accounting practices, management practices, and legal liability.

Each council must submit its report to the Legislature by Feb. 1, 1996. The bill states that funding for each council in the second year of the biennium is contingent upon the report being completed.

Another provision in the bill would allow the Council on Affairs of Spanish-Speaking People to sell advertising in its publications to help underwrite publication costs. (Secs. 20-23, 31)

## Koch refinery

The Koch Refining Co. in Rosemount just south of the Twin Cities could have an easier time constructing a nearby co-generation power plant, under a section of the measure.

The refinery is considering constructing a co-generation plant that would burn "petroleum coke," which is a byproduct of the refining process.

The proposed plant would burn the petroleum coke to generate up to 250 megawatts of electricity — which would more than meet the plant's electrical needs — and steam, which would be used for heating.

The measure would streamline power plant siting laws that are administered by the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board.

The major provision would allow the Environmental Quality Board to waive an Environmental Impact Statement for the project provided the board "determines that the proposed site will not have a significant human and environmental impact."

All that would be needed is a less detailed environmental assessment worksheet.

Supporters of the Koch proposal argue that co-generation plants are much more efficient than traditional power plants and that the project would make use of a byproduct that is essentially wasted now.

Petroleum coke is now being sent to Turkey and Japan so it can be processed there, explained Buzz Anderson, a lobbyist for Koch.

The measure does not contain earlier proposals advanced by Koch that would have exempted the project from the Public Utilities Commission's certificate of need process and from paying *personal* property taxes, which are not to be confused with local property taxes. (Personal property taxes are only paid by pipeline companies and electric utilities.)

Those provisions were among the most controversial of the proposals put forward by Koch, which processes crude oil into a variety of more refined petroleum products, including gasoline and heating oil.

The refinery, which processes crude oil from Canada and the Gulf of Mexico region that is sent here via pipelines, produces about half of the gas used in Minnesota, said Anderson. (Sec. 37)

## Juvenile sex offenders

Smaller, residential treatment programs that are designed to treat juvenile sex offenders will no longer be permitted in residential neighborhoods, under the bill.

Such facilities will no longer be considered a "permitted single-family residential use" under the state's zoning law definitions.

The law would now specifically exclude a

"residential program whose primary purpose is to treat juveniles who have violated criminal statutes relating to sex offenses or have been adjudicated delinquent on the basis of conduct in violation of criminal statutes relating to sex offenses. . . ." (Secs. 53 & 57)

## Historical Society

The omnibus bill would keep open historical sites such as the James J. Hill House in St. Paul which may have closed under Gov. Arne Carlson's budget recommendations.

The Minnesota Historical Society would receive a total of \$38 million for the biennium — about \$800,000 more than called for by the governor.

The money in the bill would pay for the operation of the Hill House and other historical sites, some of which may have closed under the governor's budget such as the Northwest Co. Fur Post in Pine County, the Mille Lacs Indian Museum, and the Children's Museum in St. Paul.

## Housing

A family housing assistance program would be expanded so more families could qualify for help, under the bill.

The program currently provides loans or direct rental subsidies to families with incomes of up to 60 percent of the area's median income, which range from a high of \$30,600 in the metropolitan area to a low of \$14,000 in Mahanomen County. (Sec. 70)

The bill would change the maximum qualifying level to 80 percent of the state's medium income, which is \$34,800.

The provision was part of **HF509** — the omnibus housing bill — sponsored by Rep.

Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls). (See April 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11). Some of the proposals from that bill were folded into the economic development omnibus bill.

The bill includes a provision that would expand the requirement that a city that displaces 10 or more low-income housing units replace them. Currently, the stipulation includes only Minneapolis and St. Paul. The bill would include all cities in the seven-county metropolitan area. (Sec. 79)

And the bill would set aside money to help people convert contracts for deed on their homes to traditional mortgages. That would eliminate the need for home owners to come up with large balloon payments. (Sec. 72)

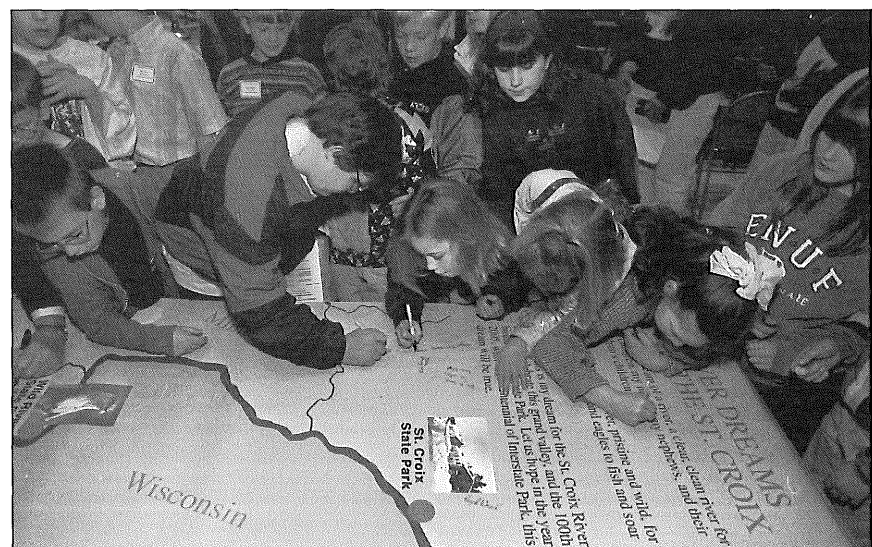
## Omnibus state government bill

A more than \$500 million omnibus state government bill that spends money on public television and on a center to promote "the development of the human person" was given final approval by the House April 27.

The bill (**HF1001/SF1678\***) also works to collect more outstanding debt owed to the state, eliminates three gambling boards, and cuts state agency money spent on private consultants. The vote was 79-50.

Sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), who chairs the House Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division, the bill's general fund spending amounts to \$18 million less than Gov. Arne Carlson recommended.

Below are some of the bill's highlights for the 1996-1997 biennium. (See April 21, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11)



During a centennial anniversary celebration of Interstate State Park held April 25 in the Capitol rotunda, fifth graders from Taylors Falls Grade School wrote on a 12-foot banner their dreams and hopes for the state park and the St. Croix River Valley for the next 100 years.



## Human Development Center

The omnibus bill would spend \$570,000 to begin planning for a human development center in or near the Capitol area. The center would focus on the development of the human person. The center would serve as a research and demonstration center and would be a public-private partnership.

## Public broadcasting

The bill sets aside about \$5 million for public television and public radio. Rep. Mike Osskopp (IR-Lake City) introduced an unsuccessful amendment to eliminate that funding, stating it was taxpayer money that could better be spent on education or health and human service programs.

A successful amendment by Rep. Ron Abrams (IR-Minnetonka) would require public broadcasting stations to pay their employees at least a poverty-level wage of more than \$7 an hour.

## 'Mighty Ducks'

The bill spends \$3.2 million to build more indoor ice arenas in Minnesota.

The proposal was originally part of **HF1260**, sponsored by Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul). The Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission would use money to distribute grants of up to \$250,000 each to local communities.

Milbert, also a member of the amateur sports commission, said a study of ice needs in Minnesota discovered more than 90 communities that say they need a new indoor ice arena or repairs for an existing arena. The number of girls and boys participating in winter sports such as hockey and competitive figure skating has increased the demand for ice time.

(A 1994 law mandates that all public indoor ice arenas must give female hockey teams "up to 30 percent" of the prime ice time during the 1995 winter season and "up to 50 percent" by the 1996 season.)

The "Mighty Ducks" label is in reference to a movie about a group of misfit youthful hockey players.

## Gambling

The bill would abolish the nine-member Minnesota Racing Commission, seven-member Gambling Control Board, and seven-member State Lottery Board.

This provision was originally part of **HF138** sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls). Elimination of the three boards is expected to save about \$136,000.

The advisory duties of the gambling boards would be transferred to the directors they used to serve.

The gambling departments function independently of one another. The racing commission oversees pari-mutuel horse racing. The Gambling Control Board regulates lawful gaming activities, such as bingo and pull-tabs. The State Lottery Board advises the lottery director on games and rules.

The omnibus bill also creates new language that requires 70 percent of all unclaimed prize money from the lottery at the end of each fiscal year to be deposited in the state treasury. Currently, unclaimed prize money is added to the prize pool for future lottery games.

An unsuccessful amendment by Rep. Kevin Knight (IR-Bloomington) would have taken some of that unclaimed prize money each year and given it to the Metro Mobility program which helps transport people with disabilities.

## Legislative Coordinating Commission

Several legislative commissions would be abolished. Those to be eliminated include the Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules, the Legislative Commission on Employee Relations, the Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy, and the Legislative Commission on Children, Youth, and Their Families.

The Great Lakes Commission also would be eliminated. Earlier, the bill had called for the elimination of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission but the commission was reinstated in the Ways and Means Committee.

That committee also merged the Legislative Water Commission (originally slated for elimination) with the Legislative Commission on Waste Management.

The Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) also would receive an additional \$30,000 over the biennium to ensure that a sign language interpreter is available for hearing impaired citizens who seek access to lawmakers, legislative floor sessions, and committee hearings.

An unsuccessful amendment introduced by Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon) also would have eliminated the Legislative Committee on Waste Management, Legislative Commission on Health Care Access, the Legislative Commission on Long Term Health Care, and the Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women.

## Abolishing the DPSv

The Department of Public Service (DPSv) would be abolished, under a proposal approved by the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee April 27.

The DPSv is currently responsible for protecting the public interest in the areas of energy, telecommunications, and weights and measures. The measure would eliminate the DPSv on July 1, 1996.

The bill (**HF1867**) would transfer the department's role as consumer watchdog in public utility rate cases before the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to the Office of the Attorney General.

(The PUC is a quasi-judicial body that regulates the rates and services of Minnesota telephone, natural gas, and electric utilities.)

The bill also lays the groundwork for the creation of an unnamed "public utilities agency." The new agency would serve as an umbrella organization housing the PUC and the remaining duties of the DPSv.

Under the bill, the commissioners of the DPSv and the PUC would develop a plan to create the new state agency. The report would need to be submitted to the Legislature by October 15, 1995.

"It's important to me that we take some action and not just study all the time," said bill sponsor Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul).

As far as cost savings, merging the DPSv and the PUC under a new agency would result in the elimination of some management-level positions, Orenstein said.

The proposal was strongly opposed by DPSv Commissioner Kris Sanda, who said the department is nationally recognized as a leader in nuclear waste issues, telecommunications policy, and weights and measures oversight.



Kris Sanda, commissioner of the Department of Public Service, testified before the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee April 27 in opposition to a bill (HF1867) that would abolish her department. The committee approved the bill.

She told lawmakers that it is not good public policy to "attack" an agency intervening on behalf of consumers in electric utility rate cases where millions of dollars are at stake.

"Did voters send you here to reduce consumer protection? I would say no," Sanda said, adding that the "only purpose" of the bill is to eliminate seven agency officials appointed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

The bill encompasses a portion of the legislative session's major government reorganization bill (HF1542), which would eliminate a handful of state boards and agencies — including the DPSv.

Orenstein indicated that he will incorporate the provisions of HF1867 into HF1542, which is now before the Governmental Operations Committee.

HF1867 now moves to the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

## Seized goods for sale



Unclaimed items recovered by police departments across the state will soon be sold in non-profit stores, under a new state law.

The law will allow merchandise not claimed within 60 days to be sold at auction, as is the current practice, or by sale through a non-profit agency.

In 1992, Minneapolis police began working with a community organization on a plan to teach young people bicycle repair, business management, and other skills by setting up a non-profit store, The Phantom Bike Shop, for the sale of "recycled" bicycles. The store receives damaged bikes the police cannot auction off, fixes them up, and sells them.

The law will allow the police departments to dispose of unclaimed items — such as electronic equipment, tools, and lawn mowers that it recovers each year — through similar stores that sell second-hand goods. Police will not provide items such as clothing, fine jewelry, and firearms to the stores.

Police departments will benefit by gaining a percentage of the sale price on the items sold at the store and clearing out storage space.

The proposal, which becomes effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Carol Flynn (DFL-Mpls).

(HF859\*/SF833/CH79)



## HEALTH

### Insurance and prescriptions



Health insurance plans that cover prescription costs will have to help pay those costs whether a doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant wrote the prescription, under a new state law.

Currently, many health plans pay only for prescriptions written by a doctor. But under current law, nurse practitioners and physicians' assistants also are able to write patient prescriptions.

The law won't cost insurance companies anything or affect insurance rates. It only ensures that prescriptions legally written by nurse practitioners and physician's assistants are covered by an insurance plan.

The House and Senate passed the same provision last year as part of the Health and Human Services supplemental appropriations bill, which was vetoed by the governor.

The proposal, effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples). (HF612\*/SF543/CH69)

### Insurance and dental work



Health plans that insure Minnesota residents will have to cover general anesthesia and treatment for dental work if the work is for a medical condition covered by the plan, under a new state law.

Sponsored by Rep. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick), the law also calls for health plans to cover dental treatment that requires general

anesthesia, a hospital stay, or both, if the patient is a child under five, a severely disabled patient, or a person who, due to a medical condition, needs anesthesia or a hospital stay for dental work.

Such cases may not be covered by health plans now, Lourey said.

The law becomes effective for health plans issued or renewed on or after Aug. 1, 1995.

Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the proposal in the Senate. (HF843\*/SF613/CH91)

### Diabetes coverage



Health plans supplementing Medicare insurance will have to provide coverage for doctor-prescribed equipment and supplies needed for the "management and treatment of diabetes," under a new state law.

Coverage will be subject to the same deductible or other co-payment provisions applicable to an insurance plan's specific hospital, medical equipment, or prescription benefits.

Health plans were required to provide coverage for all items prescribed for patients with diabetes under a 1994 law, but it did not apply to health plans supplementing Medicare.

The proposal, effective Jan. 1, 1996, was sponsored by Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) and Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan). (HF350/SF34\*/CH52)



U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala, right, was pleased to pass to Gov. Arne Carlson, left, two waivers from federal Medicaid rules that will help Minnesota offer children and the elderly more access to health care services. She presented the waivers at an April 27 news conference at the State Capitol.

## Complete malpractice reports



A new state law will ensure that the Board of Medical Practice receives the names of all doctors who are the subject of malpractice awards or settlements.

Under current law, insurance companies are required to provide the board reports of all settlements or awards involving doctors.

But hospitals, clinics, and other entities paying off settlements against physicians have been able to dodge the requirement to provide details to the board. Since they are not insurance companies, they technically have not been required to report.

The new law closes that loophole by specifically requiring that hospitals and other entities that provide malpractice coverage for doctors or other health professionals report all settlements and awards to the Board of Medical Practice.

Reports must include the health professional's name, the allegations in the claim or complaint, and the date and dollar amount of the settlement or award.

The measure, which becomes effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) and Sen. Pat Piper (DFL-Austin).

(HF226\*/SF73/CH44)

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### Repealing education merger III

The House voted April 25 to call off the planned July 1995 merger of the state university, and community and technical college systems. The move came as an amendment to the \$2.1 billion higher education spending bill given final approval by the House on a 124-8 vote.

Legislation to place the three higher education systems under the administrative control of one board passed the Legislature in the waning moments of the 1991 session. A last minute amendment by the Senate set the merger plans in motion.

Had the House rejected the Senate proposal, it would have meant a special session to resolve the issue. The House voted overwhelmingly to call off the merger during the 1992 and 1993 sessions. The provisions, however, never survived conference committee negotiations.

On the floor this year, Rep. Barbara Sykora (IR-Excelsior) successfully offered what she called the "standard repealer of merger language."

"Ever since I got here I've heard about the huge cost increases of the merger with no increase in services," said Sykora, a first-term legislator.

Bringing the three individual systems under one administrative office will increase higher education costs, Sykora said, in part because technical college employees will move from being school district to state employees. Their employment contracts are being renegotiated and they may receive salary and benefit increases, Sykora said. Technical colleges are currently part of local school districts.

Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) said making those employees state employees could cost as much as \$26 million. No appropriations have been made to pay for that cost, he argued.

But Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul), who sponsored the original merger legislation four years ago, said it should be given a chance to work, and that in the long run it will save money. Other legislators said merger proceedings are too far along to turn back.

"But if you had a wedding coming up in a month and you knew it was a big mistake you would not allow it to happen," Sykora said.

Sykora's amendment passed on a 78-54 vote.

To fund higher education, the bill calls for the University of Minnesota to receive \$970.6 million in state appropriations over the next biennium. The merged system would receive \$935.6 million, under the bill. Also, the newly created Higher Education Services Office (HESO), responsible for distributing financial aid to students, would receive about \$240 million and the Mayo Medical School about \$1.8 million in state aid over the next biennium.

The bill anticipates higher education tuition increases of 5 percent each year for the next biennium.

In addition, the bill would eliminate the Higher Education Coordinating Board and would shift all the state's public colleges and universities toward a semester system and abandon the current quarter system. The University of Minnesota maintains constitutional autonomy, so the Legislature cannot call for a semester system at the U of M campuses.

In what Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) called the biggest potential change for higher education, the bill calls for the state to stop subsidizing tuition costs after a student has earned 48 more credits than is needed for a degree in his or her major.

Currently, the state pays 60 percent of a Minnesota student's education costs for up to 180 credit hours. Student tuition pays the remaining 40 percent.

After the excess 48-credit limit is reached,

students would be responsible for the true cost of a course.

"That's a good incentive to finish in time," Kinkel said. He said the provision encourages students to complete their education within five years.

The Senate higher education funding bill, passed April 24, calls for \$2.2 billion in higher education spending over the upcoming biennium.

That bill would overhaul the way the state funds higher education — based on degrees granted and on certificates and diplomas issued rather than on the number of students attending a particular school.

The House bill (HF1856), sponsored by Kinkel contains no similar provision, meaning the bills will head to a House-Senate conference committee so differences between the two can be worked out. (See April 21, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 3)



## HUMAN SERVICES

### Health, human services funding

A \$5 billion bill that sets limits on in-home personal care services for the disabled but retains money to help parents with disabled children afford long-term medical care was approved by the House Ways and Means Committee April 26.

The House's Omnibus Health and Human Services bill (HF1588/SF1110\*) for 1996-1997 would spend about \$60 million less than Gov. Arne Carlson recommended.

The bill, on its way to the House floor, appropriates money for programs in the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, and several other smaller agencies.

It sets aside more than \$3 billion for the state's medical plans such as Medical Assistance, \$269.5 million for Aid to Families with Dependent Children grants, \$94.5 million for General Assistance grants, and \$112 million in other public assistance and work and training grants.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), became wrapped in heated debate earlier this session when Carlson proposed cutting back two programs that help disabled people remain at home instead of in an institution.

Specifically, the governor proposed to cut a program that provides in-home personal care attendants for the disabled and another that allows the families of children with disabilities to buy into a state medical care plan. The program is known as TEFRA.

But after hours of public hearings and hundreds of people who testified — many who came in wheelchairs, with guide dogs, or with a ventilator — lawmakers backed down from most of the cuts.

The omnibus bill, however, does tighten some eligibility requirements and limits some services for personal care attendants and the TEFRA program.

It reduces by 12.5 percent the maximum number of personal care service hours a recipient may receive. It also eliminates personal care services for ventilator-dependent people in hospitals and prohibits legal guardians from being personal care service providers.

The bill further expands the list of personal care services not eligible for Medical Assistance reimbursement. Only care prescribed by a doctor could be reimbursed. Currently only a registered nurse, in conjunction with the personal care assistant, needs to authorize care.

Personal care that involves social activities, recreational activities, and educational services also would be prohibited from reimbursement.

The bill also tightens eligibility requirements for people seeking personal care services. To qualify for those services under the bill, individuals must be able to "identify their needs, direct and evaluate task accomplishment, and assure their health and safety."

Children receiving care under the state's Medical Assistance program (including those in the TEFRA program) would have to contribute more for the care. Under the bill, parents with an adjusted gross income of \$30,000 or more would have to pay a minimum \$25 fee plus an additional amount depending on their income. The bill changes the formula so more of a family's income is chargeable to the fee.

Currently, only the income above 200 percent of the federal poverty level is used to calculate the fee. The bill would lower that to 150 percent. For a family of four that would mean that instead of income more than about \$29,600 being used to calculate the fee, income more than about \$22,200 would apply.

Some of the bill's highlights include the following provisions.

### **Electronic welfare**

The bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety to issue cards to welfare recipients across the state so they can access their food stamp and other public assistance benefits electronically. Ramsey County piloted the program.

Under the system, people receiving public

assistance use a "cash card" to withdraw their benefits — both monetary and food stamp — from either machines stationed at grocery store checkout lanes or a typical "cash machine."

Although costly to set up, the electronic system reduces the potential for theft and fraud and eliminates mailing costs.

### **Foster care by relatives**

An individual who wishes to provide foster care to a child who they are related to must have a foster care license, under the bill. This provision would take effect the day following final enactment.

"Relative" is defined to include members of the child's extended family as well as important friends with whom the child has had significant contact.

The bill does make room for an emergency license that allows a county to place a child in foster care with an unlicensed relative so long as the county inspects the home within three days, requires the relative to apply for a regular foster care license, and obtains background information on the relative.

If an emergency license is granted, it stays in effect until a regular license is obtained, but for no longer than 90 days. If the request for an emergency license is denied, the child is taken out of the home. The relative does have the option to appeal the decision to the commissioner of human services.

### **Cultural child care centers**

The bill requires licensed child care providers — as part of their on-going training — to be trained in "cultural dynamics." The training would include understanding the importance of the cultural differences and similarities in working with children. It also would include learning skills to help children develop unbiased attitudes about cultural differences.

### **Welfare fraud**

The measure would expand a two-year pilot program to investigate, uncover, and prevent welfare fraud in a handful of counties to all counties in Minnesota.

### **Northfield home**

The Department of Human Services would be required to inspect and certify the expansion of a Northfield, Minn., hospital to a 44-bed crisis facility for persons with Prader-Willi Syndrome, a genetic obesity disease. The hospital would be eligible for Medical Assistance funding, under the bill. Currently there are two other facilities in the state to care for people with this disease but there is a long waiting list.

### **Home visits**

The bill sets aside \$82,000 to expand the current public health nurse and family aide home visiting program. The money would be used to fund additional projects to help prevent child abuse and neglect and reduce juvenile delinquency. The projects, through a public health nurse or other trained individual, would contact adolescent parents and families with a history of violence or drug abuse at the birth of a child.

The nurse or other home-visitor would offer to visit, answer parenting questions, provide information on breast-feeding and other infant health issues, and make referrals to any other appropriate state or county services. Staff would also screen the family to determine if families need additional support or are at risk for child abuse and neglect.

### **Children's Mental Health Act**

A county board could continue to provide services under the Children's Mental Health Act to an individual even if he or she is no longer a minor. The act requires counties to make available a range of mental health services, both inpatient and outpatient, for all county residents. If state aid or private insurance is unavailable to pick up the tab, the county charges fees based on income.

This provision is designed not to abruptly switch a child's mental health care simply because he or she reaches age 18. It would allow a county board to continue mental health services to individuals older than 18 but younger than 21 if the individual is enrolled in special education lessons through the local school district or it is in the best interest of the person to continue their current treatment.

### **Homeless youth**

The bill requires the Department of Human Services to solicit proposals to create safe houses and transitional housing for homeless youth. The department must request the proposals from groups knowledgeable about the homeless youth problem. The bill sets aside \$1.3 million.

Safe houses provide emergency housing for homeless youth ages 13 to 21. Transitional housing provides housing for homeless youth ages 16 to 21 who are preparing to live independently on their own. The bill spells out that the housing should resemble a family atmosphere in a neighborhood or community and, if possible, provide separate homes for males and females.

The homes would also provide counseling services, employment services, health care, and education services.



## Child care slots

The measure would help some families on public assistance — specifically Aid to Families with Dependent Children — more easily find child care slots.

Currently, AFDC recipients who are enrolled in STRIDE (the federally mandated employee and training program for AFDC participants) are entitled to full payment of child care costs. But there is a waiting list for STRIDE.

The bill would allow those on the waiting list to obtain a slot in a separate child care program for AFDC participants who are in a self-initiated employment and training program independent of STRIDE. The bill reallocates the child care slots from counties that have vacancies to counties that have a waiting list.

## Home care for some

Pending federal approval, an individual who is mentally retarded or otherwise developmentally disabled, may receive state Medical Assistance benefits for care in their own home, even if that home is not licensed, under the bill.

The home, however, would have to be inspected and care provided by qualified professionals. The provision is designed to provide care at home instead of at an institution.

## Assets for AFDC

To qualify for Aid to Families with Dependent Children, families are not allowed to have much in the way of property and assets. Under the bill, families with too much property can receive welfare for nine months as long as they are making a good faith effort to sell the property and to repay the AFDC benefits received during the nine-month period.

## Nursing home restrictions

Effective July 1, 1996 — pending federal approval — people considered “high functioning” could no longer be admitted to nursing homes where their care is paid for by state medical assistance programs, under the bill.

High functioning is defined in part as a person who is “independent in orientation and self-preservation.” Instead of nursing home care, they would be eligible for personal care services, home health aide services, or an allowance to arrange for their own care.

This provision would exempt nursing home residents admitted before July 1, 1996, and provides an appeals process for those denied admission into a nursing home.

## Estates subject to MA claims

The bill would allow a claim against the estate of a person who is over 55 and who receives state Medical Assistance. Currently, the age is 65.

## Osteoporosis prevention

A statewide osteoporosis prevention and treatment program would be created with \$300,000, under the omnibus bill.

If women learn how to prevent the disease early, fewer will need to use hospitals and nursing homes for fractures and other osteoporosis problems. Many women entering nursing homes now do so because of osteoporosis, said Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport), sponsor of this provision.

The provision would require the Department of Health to assess how many Minnesotans have the disease which strikes mostly women but also has been found in men. The condition is characterized by a decrease in bone mass leading to fragile bones that can fracture easily.

The measure also calls on the state Department of Health to design a statewide educational program about the disease.

The program would implement strategies for raising public awareness on the causes and personal risk factors for the disease, as well as how to prevent, detect, and treat osteoporosis.

The Department of Health would be required to report to the Legislature by Jan. 31, 1997, on the program's accomplishments.

## U.S. Army spraying examined

The bill requires the Department of Health to review the National Academy of Science's report on the past and future adverse effects, if any, on public health and the environment from the U.S. Army's spraying of zinc cadmium sulfide and other chemicals in Minnesota in the 1950s and 1960s.

Some residents in Minneapolis and around the state maintain they have health problems due to the spraying.

It further requires the Office of the Attorney General to determine whether any state or federal laws or constitutional provisions were broken and what legal action is available to recover damages and prevent any future spraying.



## LABOR

### Essential court employees

An assistant county attorney in Minnesota would be classified as an “essential employee” and could not strike, under an amendment to the judiciary finance bill.

The measure was approved by the House Ways and Means Committee April 26.

The proposal originally introduced by Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul) is designed to head off a simmering labor-management conflict involving Ramsey County and its prosecutors.

“It scares me that the county attorneys in Ramsey County are seriously thinking about striking this summer,” Farrell said.

Farrell, who is a Ramsey County public defender, said that a strike could take place following the July 4 weekend, when holding cells are full and numerous felony trials are scheduled.

A strike by prosecutors would cripple the courts and force those accused of crimes to languish in jail.

If assistant county attorneys — like firefighters and police officers — were classified as essential employees, contract disputes with county officials would be settled through binding arbitration.

Assistant county attorneys from Ramsey and Hennepin counties told members of the Labor-Management Relations Committee April 25 that becoming essential employees would clarify their status in contract disputes.

While state law — PELRA (Public Employment Labor Relations Act) — permits county attorneys to strike, the issue is not at all clear.

“The right to strike is really an illusion,” said Bill Richardson, a Hennepin County prosecutor.

He explained that an attorney cannot “walk away from a case in litigation without the permission of the court and the client.”

This is explicit in the Rules of Professional Responsibility issued by the state Supreme Court. An attorney violating these rules can lose his or her license to practice law.

Al Zdrazil, a Ramsey County prosecutor who is the local AFSCME union steward said, “It is unrealistic to say we have the right to strike” while trying a serious felony case or while involved in a commitment proceeding for a mentally ill person.

Farrell's proposal would allow the assistant prosecutors to resolve a contract impasse through “binding arbitration,” which would provide them “with greater equity” but not permit a strike, according to Zdrazil.

AFSCME, the union representing state,

county, and municipal employees, and the AFL-CIO "historically supports the right to strike," said Steve Hunter, political action director for AFSCME, which represents the county attorneys.

Hunter acknowledged that within AFSCME there is "room for diversity" and local councils can take their own positions.

The original provision in the judiciary finance bill would have limited the essential employee designation to assistant county attorneys in Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties.

The Ways and Means Committee approved an amendment that would designate assistant county attorneys statewide as essential employees.

**HF1700** now goes to the House floor.



## LAW

### Protection orders granted

A person who petitions the court to receive an order for protection would not automatically have to attend a hearing before receiving the order, under a bill given final approval by the House April 19. The vote was 130-0 vote.

Orders of protection particularly aid victims of domestic abuse because they legally keep the abuser from having contact with the victim.

Under the bill (**HF927**), the order for protection would be granted without the normal court hearing attended by both the person seeking the order and the respondent named in the order.

Such a hearing would be held if either person requested one, however, said bill sponsor Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester). Both parties would be apprised of their right to a hearing.

"The bill would reduce the pressure on both parties to continue their confrontation in the courtroom and to leave their employment for a court hearing," Bishop said.

Fewer hearings also would mean more time for judges to handle other matters, he said.

The bill now moves to the Senate.

## No baby food allowed



Flea marketgoers could no longer pick up some food for their newborns while they browse for antiques, under a new state law.

There is a growing trend among transient vendors: selling baby food from flea market booths. Anyone may rent a table at a flea market and sell items.

Effective Aug. 1, 1995, merchants at flea markets cannot sell infant formula, other food intended for a child under two years old, over-the-counter drugs, medical devices, or cosmetics.

Since the sales of such items are unregulated if they're sold at such booths, the safety or freshness of the products can't be assured.

The law does make an exception for authorized manufacturers' representatives who may sell such items from booths they rent.

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato).

(**HF1091\*/SF1337/CH64**)

## Authorized use of force



Workers at the privately owned Prairie Correctional Facility in Appleton, Minn., have a right to defend themselves against an assault by an inmate — just as guards currently do in state-owned prisons, under a new state law.

The law, effective Aug. 1, 1995, clarifies that the power to use force in defense of an assault also applies in Minnesota prisons that are not run by the state. The Appleton prison is the only such facility in Minnesota.

The law applies to anyone assaulted by a prison inmate, including another inmate.

The law currently states that "if any inmate attempts to damage the buildings or appurtenances, resists the lawful authority of any correctional officer, refuses to obey the correctional officer's reasonable demands, or attempts to escape, the correctional officer may enforce obedience and discipline or prevent escape by the use of force. If any inmate resisting lawful authority is wounded or killed by the use of force by the correctional officer or assistants, that conduct is authorized under this section."

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Chuck Brown (DFL-Appleton) and Sen. Warren Limmer (IR-Maple Grove).

(**HF145/SF1255\*/CH70**)



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Noisy town hall



Two towns in Aitkin County will be allowed to work around a state statute which says town meetings are to be held the second Tuesday in March.

A new 1995 law pertains specifically to Glen and Kimberly, two towns sharing a town hall.

The town boards can't hold town meetings on the same state-mandated day — the second Tuesday in March — because the hall becomes too noisy, said Rep. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick) who sponsored the legislation in the House.

Under the new law, either town may hold its town meeting the day before or the day after the second Tuesday in March. The other town would meet on the mandatory meeting day.

The boards would determine between them which will meet on what date.

The proposal, effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake).

(**HF37\*/SF49/CH10**)



## TAXES

### Property taxes and education

Minnesota voters would decide if local property taxes should continue to fund K-12 education, under a bill on its way to the House floor.

**HF1844**, passed April 27 by the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, proposes an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution to stop using property tax revenues to pay for school operating costs.

If the bill wins approval, the proposed amendment would be put to voters in the 1996 general election.

Bill sponsor Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope) said the amendment would "increase fairness" by forcing changes in the property tax system and the way schools are financed.

And the amendment would permanently end a pattern of "year after year" property tax hikes, she said.

But House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon) questioned the need for the bill.

"If we really wanted to do this, we could do it now without a constitutional amendment," he said.

House Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) said property tax and education funding reform "would never get done" without something to force action.

"We've got to have a mandate from the people saying, 'Deal with the issue of property taxes,'" Anderson said.

The amendment would eliminate \$1.7 billion in property taxes that now go to K-12 education and shift school operating costs exclusively to the state, Rest said.

Local levies for school construction and equipment costs would not be affected by the amendment.

If voters approved the amendment in 1996, the Legislature would have to devise a new plan for education funding before property taxes were cut July 1, 1998.

The proposed wording of the ballot question drew criticism from committee members, including Sviggum and Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka).

The bills calls for this question to appear on ballots:

*"Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to require that operating funds for public schools come from sources other than local property taxes?"*

Weaver tried unsuccessfully to amend the bill to tack on words informing voters the amendment could force increases in sales or income taxes or cuts in state aid to cities and counties, which could cause cuts in local government services.

Minnesotans should "at least know what they're voting for," Weaver said.

Anderson called the attempt to include language about potential tax increases "a veiled attempt to bring disapproval" from voters.

The proposed amendment is "an honest effort" to let Minnesotans play a role in dealing with the issue of property tax funding for education, he added.

"If it's an honest effort, then let's give an honest question to the people of Minnesota," Sviggum said.



## TRANSPORTATION

### Plates for test cars



Automobile manufacturers testing their cars in Minnesota will need to purchase special license plates for the vehicles, under a new state law.

The law creates a new Minnesota license plate called a manufacturer test plate. Automobile manufacturers will buy such plates for cars which are tested in Minnesota to assess cold weather performance.

Such test cars are usually parked for long

periods of time in northern Minnesota, then driven to determine how they perform after being idle in cold weather, said Katherine Burke Moore, director of the Driver and Vehicle Services Division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

The division will issue the license plates. Manufacturers must pay \$40 per year for the four plates. Of that charge, the department keeps \$25 and the remaining \$15 goes to the general fund. Each additional plate would cost \$25 — \$10 of which is kept by the division with the remainder going to the general fund.

Currently, test cars usually come from Michigan auto plants and use Michigan manufacturer plates, Burke Moore said.

Her division will pay only about \$300 to begin making the plates, because they are pressed from standard stock used to create Minnesota license plates, she said.

Under the law, cars with such plates can be operated on streets and highways by employees of the automobile manufacturing company testing the plates.

The law, sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) and Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls), became effective April 20, 1995. (HF971/SF172\*/CH74)

### Ensuring bike safety



Motorists who pass alongside a bicycle at closer than three feet are subject to a petty misdemeanor fine, under a new state law.

The law is intended to make the roads safer for bicyclists, said House sponsor Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton).

The law, effective Aug. 1, 1995, calls for cars or other vehicles passing bicyclists to leave at least three feet of space between the vehicle and the bicycle. Current law does not stipulate a safe passing distance.

Motorists who don't observe the three-foot passing distance could be stopped by officers and slapped with a petty misdemeanor. The maximum fine is \$200.

The law also calls for drivers' examination tests to include questions about traffic laws relating to bicycles to ensure that drivers know about bicycle safety.

It also requires that the Minnesota drivers' manual — which is studied before taking the drivers' license examination — must include a section on bicycle traffic laws.

Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township) sponsored the proposal in the Senate.

(HF1134/SF687\*/CH72)

### Eye protection mandated



All motorcycle drivers and riders must wear glasses, goggles, visors, or some other type of eye protection, even if their vehicles have windshields, under a new law.

Both the Minnesota Motorcycle Riders Association and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety support the law which is effective Aug. 1, 1995.

State law has long required a motorcycle rider or driver to wear eye protection unless their motorcycle had a windshield. But many new windshields are too low to offer any real protection from objects that may fly up from the road, said Rep. Don Frerichs (IR-Rochester), sponsor of the bill.

The new law, effective Aug. 1, 1995, mandates drivers or riders to wear eye protection, which could be regular eyeglasses, sunglasses, a helmet visor, or "anything else that literally protects the eye," Frerichs said.

(HF568\*/SF528/CH40)

### Private driver data



The names and addresses of disabled drivers won't be available to the public, under a new state law.

The law is necessary to curb some medical equipment vendors from compiling lists of potential customers and contacting them in an attempt to make a sale, said Kurt Strom, an advocate for the State Council on Disabilities. Some disreputable vendors have made such contacts, he said.

Currently, only medical information on those disabled drivers is private — which means members of the public don't have access to that data. But the fact that a driver has a handicapped parking permit has been public.

The law also will allow disabled drivers to display their handicapped parking certificate on the dashboard if their disability prevents them from hanging it from the rear view mirror as state law currently requires.

The proposal, effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Sherry Broecker (IR-Vadnais Heights) and Sen. Paula Hanson (DFL-Ham Lake).

(HF900/SF144\*/CH85)

# Bills Sent to the Governor

## Bills await the governor's signature — or veto

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
- do nothing, which results in the bill becoming law in the first year of the biennium.

The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is this: the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays aren't counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include

a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
1	45	87	Relating to taxation; making technical corrections and clarifications; making administrative changes.	2/14/95	
2	98	134	Relating to gambling; providing for an alternate member of the advisory council on gambling.	2/17/95	
3	29	42	Relating to traffic regulations; repealing sunset provision concerning recreational vehicle combinations.	2/22/95	
4	31	44	Relating to energy; extending the deadline for the initial report of the legislative electric energy task force.	2/22/95	
5	262	75	Relating to real property; clarifying requirements relating to filing of notices relating to mechanics' liens.	2/24/95	
6	137	213	Relating to utilities; abolishing sunset provision related to competitive rates for electric utilities	3/1/95	
7	52	33	Relating to drivers' licenses; permitting certain licensees to wear headwear in driver's license and Minnesota identification card photographs.	3/1/95	
8	103	141	Relating to elections; providing for review of certain school board plans by the Secretary of State; changing allocation of certain election expenses; providing for retention of election materials.	3/2/95	
9	164	65	Relating to utilities; regulating area development rate plans.	3/10/95	
10	37	49	Relating to local government; allowing either the town of Glen or the town of Kimberly in Aitkin County to have an alternative annual meeting day.	3/17/95	
11	554	620	Relating to securities; regulating enforcement actions against licensees; modifying the definition of investment metal.	3/17/95	
12	74	64	Relating to corrections; requiring that the commissioner of corrections notify affected local governments before licensing certain foster care facilities for delinquent children.	3/20/95	
13	726	323	Relating to housing; clarifying provisions relating to retaliatory conduct and manufactured home parks.	3/20/95	
14	749	350	Relating to housing; modifying eligibility for transitional housing services.	3/22/95	



Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
15	362	266	Relating to local government; towns; authorizing the town board to set up a petty cash fund.	3/22/95	
16	125	197	Relating to corrections; prohibiting correctional inmates from applying for name changes more than once during an inmate's confinement.	3/27/95	
17	435	275	Relating to public utilities; authorizing performance-based gas purchasing regulation for gas utilities.	3/27/95	
18	231	95	Relating to occupations and professions; Board of Medical Practice; changing licensing requirements for foreign applicants; changing certain disciplinary procedures.	3/27/95	
19	6	50	Relating to highways; designating a bridge as the Betty Adkins Bridge.	3/27/95	
20	647	181	Relating to elections; allowing time off to vote in elections to fill a vacancy in the legislature.	3/27/95	
21	229	182	Relating to towns; clarifying the procedure to fill a vacancy in the office of town supervisor.	3/27/95	
22	887	764	Relating to public administration; providing St. Paul with additional authority in regard to the Teacher Training Institute.	3/27/95	
23	95	132	Relating to highways; prohibiting headwalls in highway rights-of-way; imposing a penalty.	3/27/95	
24	570	318	Relating to insurance; changing the date on which crop hail insurance rates must be filed with the commissioner.	3/27/95	
25	654	534	Relating to towns; clarifying authority of town board to alter or vacate town roads dedicated by plat.	3/29/95	
26	121	310	Relating to state trails; authorizing extension of the Blufflands Trail System in Winona County.	3/29/95	
27	305	265	Relating to local government; clarifying provisions for financial audits in certain circumstances.	3/29/95	
28	153	145	Relating to motor vehicles; providing time limit for refunding motor vehicle registration tax overpayment.	3/29/95	
29	129	229	Relating to government data practices; medical examiner data; allowing sharing of such data with a state or federal agency charged with investigating a death.	3/31/95	
30	735	214	Relating to crime prevention; providing an exception to the prohibition on concealing identity.	4/5/95	
31	367	293	Relating to debt; providing for prompt payment of subcontractors of municipal contractors; modifying certain provisions relating to liens and performance bonds.	4/5/95	
32	321	174	Relating to game and fish; continuing the authorization for residents under the age of 16 to take deer of either sex.	4/5/95	
33	337	739	Relating to agriculture; changing certain procedures for compensating crop owners for damage by elk.	4/5/95	
34	1148	1099	Relating to elections; permitting election judges to serve outside the county where they reside in certain cases.	4/10/95	
35	282	237	Relating to state government; permitting state employees to donate vacation leave for the benefit of a certain state employee.	4/12/95	
36	812	710	Relating to natural resources; broadening the uses permitted for emergency materials and equipment.	4/12/95	
37	564	748	Relating to notaries; providing licensed peace officers with the powers of a notary public for administering oaths upon information submitted to establish probable cause.	4/12/95	
38	567	983	Relating to data practices; providing for disclosure of certain hospital and health care provider tax data to the commissioner of human services and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.	4/12/95	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
39	1176	1043	Relating to agriculture; modifying provisions related to farmed cervidae.	4/12/95	
40	568	528	Relating to traffic regulations; requiring adult motorcycle rider to wear eye protection device.	4/19/95	
41	782	427	Relating to Western Lake Superior Sanitary District; providing for compliance with certain requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.	4/18/95	
42	150	220	Relating to liquor; term of temporary on-sale licenses.	4/18/95	
43	228	72	Relating to occupations and professions; Board of Medical Practice; reinstating certain advisory councils.	Approved w/o signature	
44	226	73	Relating to occupations and professions; requiring reporting of certain insurance settlements to Board of Medical Practice.	4/19/95	
45	715	453	Relating to towns; providing for damage award to affected property owner when town board adopts a recorded town road map.	4/18/95	
46	216	426	Relating to motor vehicles; changing definition of fleet for vehicle registration purposes.	4/18/95	
47	1065	859	Relating to St. Louis County; modifying certain accounting and expenditure requirements for road and bridge fund tax money derived from unorganized townships.	4/18/95	
48	355	335	Relating to the organization and operation of state government; providing supplemental appropriations for certain purposes.	4/18/95	
49	1463	77	Relating to civil actions; new motor vehicle warranties; clarifying the limitation on actions after informal dispute settlement mechanism decisions.	4/19/95	
50	175	194	Relating to highways; designating bridge as Bridge of Hope.	4/18/95	
51	1433	1176	Relating to utilities; providing that Sleepy Eye need not provide notice to the commissioner of trade and economic development before discontinuing steam heating operations.	4/18/95	
52	350	34	Relating to insurance; health; requiring plans issued to supplement Medicare to provide coverage for equipment and supplies for the management and treatment of diabetes.	4/19/95	
53	714	574	Relating to Indians; requiring the commissioner of natural resources to change certain names of geographic features of the state.	4/18/95	
54	1145	1060	Relating to employment; modifying provisions relating to re-employment insurance.	4/18/95	
55	110	320	Relating to criminal procedure; allowing warrantless probable cause arrests for certain offenses committed on school property.	4/18/95	
56	1390	264	Relating to drivers' licenses; abolishing separate review process for commercial drivers' license disqualification.	4/19/95	
57	139	204	Relating to state government; requiring reporting on and certain analysis of federal mandates imposed on state agencies.	4/18/95	
58	1338	1042	Relating to limited liability organizations; modifying name requirements; eliminating a filing requirement; clarifying when debts arise or accrue for limited liability partnerships.	4/19/95	
59	1747	838	Relating to barbers; exempting persons performing barbering services for charitable purposes from registration and other requirements.	4/18/95	
60	1039	856	Relating to Dakota County; assigning to the county administrator the duties of the clerk of the county board.	4/18/95	
61	1075	521	Relating to adoption; requiring the listing of all children freed for adoption on the state adoption exchange within 20 days.	4/19/95	
62	345	239	Relating to state lands; authorizing the sale of certain tax-forfeited land that borders public water in Kandiyohi County.	4/18/95	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
63	724	1055	Relating to occupations and professions; exempting certain social workers from requirement to obtain home care provider license; exempting some social workers employed in a hospital or nursing home from examination; modifying licensure requirements; requiring hospital and nursing home social workers to be licensed.	4/19/95	
64	1091	1337	Relating to commerce; regulating sales by transient merchants; prohibiting the sale of certain items by certain merchants; prescribing penalties.	4/19/95	
65	1307	867	Relating to game and fish; identification required on ice fishing shelters.	4/19/95	
66	1363	1336	Relating to health; modifying provisions relating to drug dispensing.	4/19/95	
67	670	none	Relating to Winona County; authorizing Winona County to negotiate and enter into a contract for deed with Winona County Developmental Achievement Center.	4/19/95	
68	457	469	Relating to commerce; real estate; regulating certain licensees and registrants and recovery fund actions.	4/20/95	
69	612	543	Relating to health; requiring equal treatment of prescription drug prescribers; clarifying the role of practice guidelines in prescribing legend drugs.	4/19/95	
70	145	1255	Relating to corrections; authorizing use of force in defense of assault in correctional facilities under the control of or licensed by the commissioner.	4/19/95	
71	831	348	Relating to motor vehicles; clarifying power to appoint motor vehicle deputy registrars.	4/19/95	
72	1134	687	Relating to traffic regulations; requiring minimum clearance when passing bicycle or individual on roadway or bikeway; requiring bicycle traffic laws to be included in driver's manual and driver's license tests.	4/20/95	
73	661	446	Relating to commerce; restraint of trade; repealing price markup provisions in the sales discrimination law.	4/19/95	
74	971	172	Relating to motor vehicles; providing for issuance of manufacturer test plates.	4/19/95	
75	687	474	Relating to insurance; Medicare-related coverage; regulating policy reinstatement.	4/21/95	
76	679	566	Relating to education; allowing the residential program operated by Independent School District No. 518 to remain open until 7/1/96 (Lakeview School).	4/21/95	
77	316	133	Relating to state lands; authorizing the private sale of certain tax-forfeited lands bordering public waters in Cook and St. Louis counties.	4/21/95	
78	544	520	Relating to courts; requiring the state court administrator to prepare a guide to informal probate.	4/21/95	
79	859	833	Relating to cities; authorizing cities to conduct private sales of unclaimed property through nonprofit organizations.	4/21/95	
80	823	726	Relating to hospitals; removing an exception for certain cities and counties from certain hospital financing activities.	4/21/95	
81	744	577	Relating to health; modifying provisions relating to nursing home administrators.	4/21/95	
82	765	299	Relating to vocational rehabilitation; changing references to visually disabled person; making changes of a technical and housekeeping nature.	4/21/95	
83	1441	1023	Relating to public lands; notice requirements for sales of tax-forfeited lands; leasing of tax-forfeited lands; roads used by counties on tax-forfeited lands.	4/21/95	
84	1255	644	Relating to state lands; modifying the provisions of a land sale to the city of Anoka.	4/24/95	
85	900	144	Relating to traffic regulations; limiting access to data on holders of disabled parking certificates; modifying provisions governing display and use of certificates.	4/24/95	
86	83	91	Relating to gambling; providing eligibility for participation as a provider in the state compulsive gambling program.	4/24/95	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
87	485	445	Relating to the environment; requiring the Pollution Control Agency to permit the operation of certain waste combustors.	4/24/95	
88	806	680	Relating to state lands; authorizing the Commissioner of Natural Resources to sell certain land in Scott County.	4/24/95	
89	1553	1209	Relating to Hennepin County; modifying certain provisions concerning the county medical examiners office.	4/24/95	
90	1063	858	Relating to the city of Duluth; making certain statutory provisions concerning public utilities applicable to the city of Duluth; authorizing a demonstration project to develop methods to prevent the infiltration and inflow of storm water into the city's sanitary sewer system.	4/25/95	
91	843	613	Relating to insurance; health; requiring coverage for hospitalization and anesthesia coverage for dental procedures; requiring coverage for general anesthesia and treatment for covered medical conditions rendered by a dentist.	4/25/95	
92	344	303	Relating to real property; providing for the form and record of certain assignments; revising the Common Interest Ownership Act; changing the application of curative and validating law for mortgage foreclosures.	4/25/95	
93	1457	1583	Relating to state lands; authorizing the commissioner of natural resources to sell certain acquired state lands located in Becker County.	4/26/95	
94	1378	1144	Relating to the city of Minneapolis; authorizing the Minneapolis City Council to delegate to the city engineer certain authority over traffic and parking.	4/26/95	
95	1332	839	Relating to agriculture; modifying pesticide posting requirements; changing certain pesticide dealer requirements; changing expiration of pesticide applicator certifications, etc.	4/26/95	
96	1130	893	Relating to insurance; the Comprehensive Health Association; changing benefits; changing the association's enrollment freeze date.	4/26/95	
97	377	390	Relating to driving while intoxicated; extending vehicle forfeiture penalties to include failure to appear at trial for designated driving while intoxicated offenses.		
98	1468	1268	Relating to the governor; providing that the governor may declare an inability to discharge duties of the office or may be declared unable to do so.		
99	464	341	Relating to motor vehicles; limiting license plate impoundment provisions to self-propelled motor vehicles.		
100	1645	1390	Relating to commerce; specifying kinds of wood for certain exterior construction applications.		
101	1153	1097	Relating to transportation; authorizing cities, counties, and transit commissions and authorities outside the metropolitan area to provide certain paratransit outside their service areas.		
102	838	713	Relating to Olmsted County; authorizing the county to create a nonprofit corporation to own and operate a hospital and medical center.		
103	702	522	Relating to traffic regulations; allowing school authorities to appoint non-pupil adults to school safety patrols.		
104	901	1129	Relating to drivers' licenses; requiring additional information in drivers' education programs, the driver's license examination, and the driver's manual regarding the legal and financial consequences of violating DWI-related laws.		
105	1641	1396	Relating to local government; requiring a local governmental unit to furnish copies of any ordinances adopted to the county law library.		
106	529	431	Relating to eminent domain proceedings.		
107	340	305	Relating to commerce; motor vehicle sales and distribution; regulating the establishment and relocation of dealerships.		
108	985	830	Relating to state lands; allowing the sale of certain state forest lands; requiring the commissioner of natural resources to convey certain land to the city of Akeley for public purposes; authorizing the sale of certain trust fund lands; authorizing the sale of tax-forfeited land in Todd County; authorizing the commissioner of transportation to acquire certain trust fund land.		
109	866	683	Relating to local government; authorizing home rule charter and statutory cities to make grants to non-profit community food shelves.		
110	533	420	Relating to Stearns County; authorizing the Paynesville Area Hospital District to annex the city of Eden Valley to the district; authorizing the city of Sauk Centre to determine the number of members of the Public Utilities Commission.		



Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
111	47	94	Relating to solid waste; merging two conflicting amendments to the solid waste generator assessment statute that were enacted in 1994.		
112	565	501	Relating to metropolitan area housing; authorizing the Metropolitan Council to operate a federal section 8 housing program within the metropolitan area pursuant to joint exercise of powers agreements.		
113	1060	810	Relating to local government; excluding certain fire and police department employees from civil service in the city of South St. Paul.		
114	813	974	Relating to human services; establishing a temporary payment rate for a recently purchased intermediate care facility for persons with mental retardation or related conditions.		
115	877	949	Relating to insurance; private passenger vehicle insurance; providing for a premium reduction for vehicles having antitheft alarms or devices.		
116	68	68	Relating to insurance; requiring insurers to offer alternative methods for the payment of group life policy proceeds.		
117	1485	1171	Relating to occupations and professions; permitting protective agents to perform certain traffic control duties.		
118	1011	1015	Relating to traffic regulations; prohibiting radar jammers.		
119	1320	1073	Relating to the environment; establishing a private cause of action for abandonment of hazardous waste.		
120	383	340	Relating to traffic regulations; clarifying conditions when covering motor vehicle head lamp, tail lamp, or reflector is unlawful, etc.		
121	1425	1250	Relating to tax-forfeited land; modifying the terms of payment for certain tax-forfeited timber.		
122	1626	1572	Relating to state government; prohibiting investment of public funds in certain assets.		
123	733	1547	Relating to employment; modifying provisions relating to high pressure piping installation; providing penalties.		
124	54	279	Relating to state government; directing the governor, attorney general, and other public officers to perform certain duties in regard to certain waters and public lands.		
125	354	807	Relating to utilities; allowing small gas utility franchises an exemption from rate regulation for incidental utility service.		
RES. 1	NONE	66	Memorializing Congress to continue its progress at reducing the federal deficit and provide to the state information on the impact that a balanced federal budget will have on the state of Minnesota.	1/20/95	
RES. 2	957	777	Memorializing the President and Congress to abandon the proposed sale of the Western Area Power Administration.	4/19/95	
RES. 3	821	700	Memorializing Congress to fund the Amtrack system to enable it to continue to service Minnesota.		

# Bill Introductions

HF1861-HF1883

## Friday, April 21

**HF1861—Johnson, A. (DFL)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1862—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1863—Munger (DFL)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Earth Day 25th anniversary commemorated.

## Monday, April 24

**HF1864—Rest (DFL)**  
**Ways & Means**  
Omnibus tax bill and money appropriated.

**HF1865—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1866—Rice (DFL)**  
**Ways & Means**  
Omnibus economic development, and housing appropriations bill.

**HF1867—Orenstein (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Public Service Department abolished and duties transferred.

**HF1868—Kelley (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Metropolitan Livable Communities Act adopted, advisory board and fund established, and Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission provisions modified.

## Tuesday, April 25

**HF1869—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1870—Kelso (DFL)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1871—Bakk (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Pistol permit requirement waived for weapons possessed or transported in a motor home or travel trailer.

## Wednesday, April 26

**HF1872—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Minneapolis and St. Paul residential contractor provisions expiration date modified.

**HF1873—Osskopp (IR)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Nuclear waste; integrated spent fuel management storage facility federal legislation supported.

## Thursday, April 27

**HF1874—Lourey (DFL)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1875—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Minneapolis and St. Paul residential contractor provisions expiration date modified.

**HF1876—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Minneapolis and St. Paul residential contractor provisions expiration date modified.

**HF1877—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Abortion informed consent required and money appropriated.

**HF1878—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Abortion informed consent required and money appropriated.

**HF1879—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Abortion prior consent procedures required.

**HF1880—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Abortion informed consent required and money appropriated.

**HF1881—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Abortion informed consent required.

**HF1882—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Abortion informed consent required.

**HF1883—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Woman's right to know act adopted.

Coming Up Next Week . . . May 1 - 5, 1995

# Committee Schedule

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

## MONDAY, May 1

8 a.m.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

**Agenda:** HF1093 (Lynch) Telecommunication  
Access for Communication-Impaired Persons  
Board (TACIP) eliminated, and duties trans-  
ferred to the Department of Public Service and  
Department of Human Services.  
HF1542 (Orenstein) State agency periodic re-  
port requirement eliminated.

9 a.m.

### WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

**Agenda:** HF398 (Carruthers) Elevator mechanic  
registration and regulation required, and money  
appropriated.

HF797 (Carruthers) License fee refund required  
by Department of Public Safety if drivers' li-  
censes, permits, or identification cards are not  
issued within six weeks from application.

HF1014 (Hausman) Wind energy conversion  
system siting regulated, and rulemaking autho-  
rized.

HF695 (Solberg) Higher education employee  
labor contracts ratified.

HF1280 (Milbert) Game and fish provisions  
modified, all-terrain vehicle definition modi-  
fied, game and fish license revocation provided,  
special permit issuance provisions modified,  
one-day fishing licenses provided, migratory  
game bird provisions modified.

HF1444 (Milbert) Game and fish license and  
permit form prescribed.

HF503 (Bishop) Water supply systems and  
wastewater treatment facilities classified and  
operators certified by Department of Health  
and Pollution Control Agency, and money  
appropriated.

HF598 (Greenfield) Vulnerable Adults Report-  
ing Act modified, and penalties provided.

HF1010 (Kalis) Water and Soil Resources Board  
project bond proceed financing report require-  
ments modified.

15 Minutes Before Session

**RULES &  
LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**  
118 State Capitol  
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers  
**Agenda:** Special Orders, as necessary.

\*Session time to be announced\*

7 p.m.

### Joint House/Senate EDUCATION

200 State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. Lyndon Carlson, Sen. LeRoy Stumpf,  
Sen. Larry Pogemiller

**Agenda:** University of Minnesota regent candi-  
date nominations.

## TUESDAY, May 2

9 a.m.

### WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

15 Minutes Before Session

**RULES &  
LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**  
118 State Capitol  
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers  
**Agenda:** Special Orders, as necessary.

\*Session time to be announced\*

## WEDNESDAY, May 3

8:30 a.m.

**RULES &  
LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**  
400N State Capitol  
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

9 a.m.

**WAYS & MEANS**  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

\*Session time to be announced\*

## THURSDAY, May 4

9 a.m.

**WAYS & MEANS**  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

15 Minutes Before Session

**RULES &  
LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**  
118 State Capitol  
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers  
**Agenda:** Special Orders, as necessary.

\*Session time to be announced\*

## FRIDAY, May 5

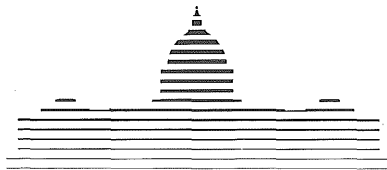
9 a.m.

**WAYS & MEANS**  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

15 Minutes Before Session

**RULES &  
LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**  
118 State Capitol  
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers  
**Agenda:** Special Orders, as necessary.

\*Session time to be announced\*



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

Speaker of the House: Irv Anderson  
Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Taxes in Minnesota

Dollars projected to be collected in sales tax, in billions, fiscal year 1995 .....	\$3.03
Additional amount raised if clothing were taxed, (based on current sales figures), in millions, FY1995 .....	\$272.4
Current statutory exemptions from the sales tax, for particular goods and services, (including caskets, used farm tires, large ships, and horses), as categorized by the Minnesota Department of Revenue .....	41
Current sales tax on alcoholic beverages, in percent .....	9
Revenues received from taxing beer, in millions, FY1994 .....	\$14.4
State cigarette tax, per pack, in cents, 1995 .....	48
Cigarette tax, per pack, in cents, when enacted in 1947 .....	3
Dollars projected to be collected, in millions, FY 1995 .....	\$167
in FY1994 .....	\$175.6
Amount available for refunds to Minnesotans under the Working Family Credit, (which equals 15 percent of the federal earned income credit), in millions, FY1995 .....	\$30
Current gross revenues tax on hospitals, other health care providers and wholesale drug distributors, (which is dedicated to the MinnesotaCare program), in percent .....	2
Dollars expected to be collected by the tax, in millions, FY1995 .....	\$140
Dollars collected in property taxes, in billions, taxes payable 1994 .....	\$4.1
Revenue collected by the property tax that goes to the state .....	0
Cents of each property tax dollar that went to school districts, 1994 .....	45
Cents that went to the county .....	28
Cents that went to the city .....	22
Cents that went to towns and other special taxing districts .....	5
Minnesotans filing for a "circuit breaker" property tax refund, 1993 .....	488,190
Dollars refunded, in millions .....	\$145.6
Average amount of each refund .....	\$298
Minnesota cities allowed to charge an extra 1 cent sales tax, (Duluth, Garrison) ....	2
Cities allowed to charge an extra 1/2 cent sales tax (Minneapolis, St. Paul, Rochester, Mankato) .....	4
Counties allowed to charge an extra 1/2 cent sales tax (Cook County) .....	1
State revenue received from the tax on pull-tabs, in millions, FY1994 .....	\$27.9

Sources: *Minnesota Data Book for Legislators, February 1995*, House Research Department;  
*Minnesota Tax Expenditure Budget, 1995*, Minnesota Department of Revenue.



### For more information . . .

For general information, call:  
**House Information Office**  
(612) 296-2146 or  
1-800-657-3550

To obtain a copy of a bill, call:  
**Chief Clerk's Office**  
(612) 296-2314

To find out about bill introductions or the status of a specific bill, call:  
**House Index Office**  
(612) 296-6646

For up-to-date recorded message giving committee meeting times and agendas, call:  
**House Calls (612) 296-9283**



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Telecommunications device for the deaf.  
To ask questions or leave messages, call:  
**TDD Line (612) 296-9896 or**  
**1-800-657-3550**



95, May 5

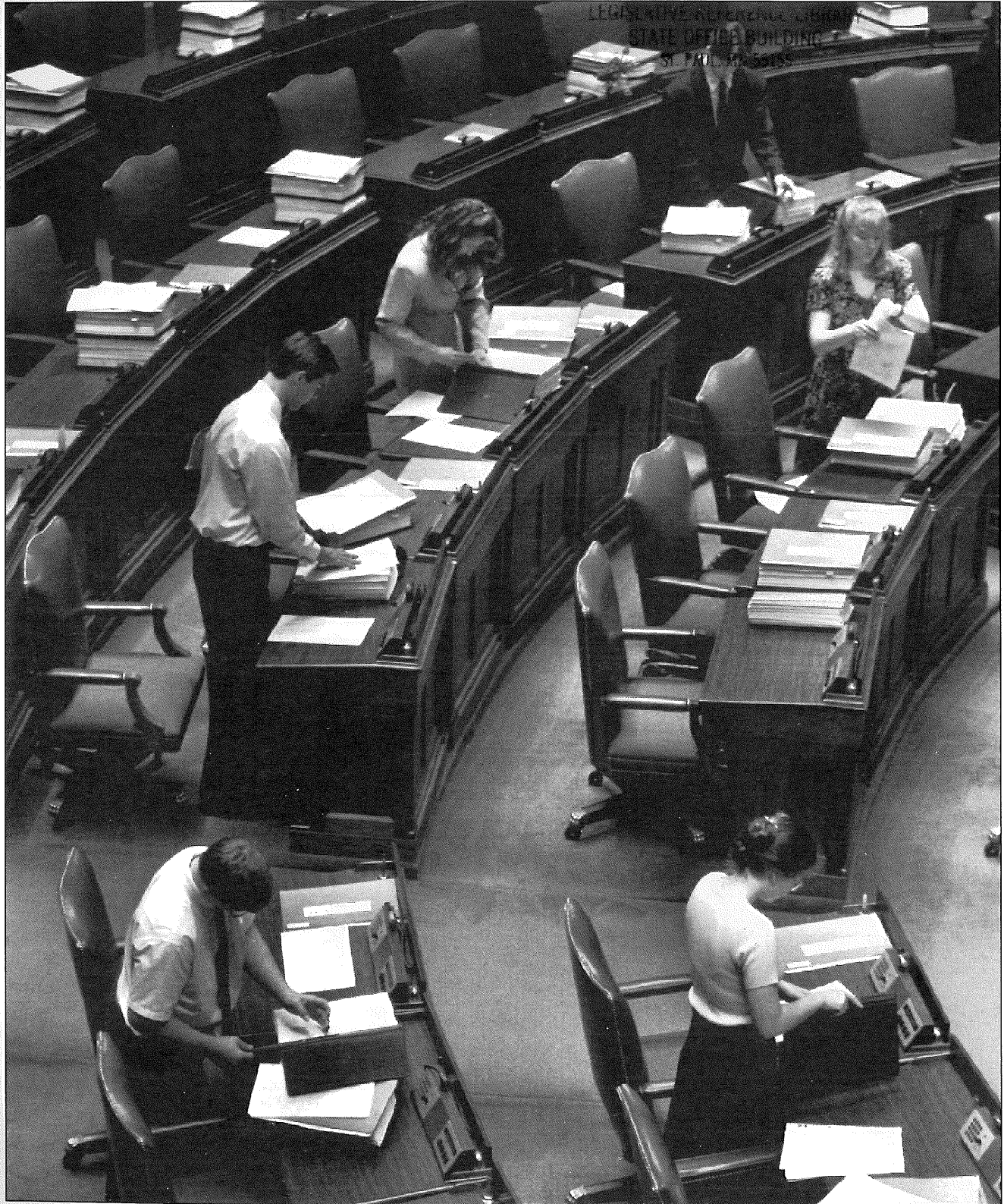
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# SESSION WEEKLY

A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ May 5, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 18

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**Session Weekly** is a non-partisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1995-96 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • May 5, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 18

## Happy Trails . . .

When I first came to the House five years ago, we did a lot of our work on a beautiful oak drafting table that is at least as old as the State Office Building itself.

A part of every Thursday night was spent huddled around the table proofing stories, labeling photos, and taking a little roller to the final pages to make sure they stuck to the "boards" so nothing got lost en route to the printer.

Well, I haven't seen the roller in years, the drafting table has been shuffled to another room, and I'm off to cyberspace. This is my 100th issue of *Session Weekly* — and my last.

I've taken a new job with West Publishing Co. in Eagan, Minn., to help develop The West Network, a new online current awareness service. I'm looking forward to the challenge, but will miss all the good people (lobbyists, too) at the Legislature.

The House puts on quite a rodeo and I've had a great seat the whole while.

Throughout the past five years our small staff has worked extremely hard to put out a magazine many consider to be among the best of its kind in the country. We've won a slew of awards, but the most rewarding moments are when somebody, after reading an issue, says, "I didn't know that."

That wouldn't have been possible without the wonderful people who work here. First, there's Peg Hamerston, who's a lot like author E.B. White's Stuart Little, who once said "a misspelled word is an abomination in the sight of everyone." She regularly saves us from ourselves and improves whatever she touches. She even drew that little quill and ink bottle alongside the stories about bills "signed by the governor." But here's the best part: she's six feet tall.

Then there's John Tschida, who was hired as a writer on the basis of a brilliant, two-line scold he wrote on the office coffee pot four years ago. No references, no writing test, no nothing. And it's the best decision I ever made. He's done an amazing job — despite being disabled since the age of 6 when Sister Gregory smashed his right pinky in the cloak room door. (It's still a mess.)

Then, there's Paul Battaglia — a photographer in his former life — but now our graphics and information systems guru. He does everything from designing databases to creating layouts; a rare blend of computer geek and artistic talent. Paul also has the nicest stride of any noon-time jogger in the 55155 ZIP code and makes the best cheesecakes.

I'd also like to thank writer K. Darcy Hanzlik (the "K" is for Kathleen and her mom gets mad if the initial gets dropped), office manager Matt Niewohner (who couldn't shake his German work ethic if he tried), and assistant Toinette Battle, who does our schedule and *always* maintains a polite demeanor despite a daily clubbing from a sometimes hostile public.

Lastly (this isn't the Academy Awards), I'd like to thank the many temporary writers who have given it their all during each of the last six legislative sessions, and our photographers, Tom Olmscheid and Laura Phillips. It's a testament to their creative spirits that two artists in a jar (the Capitol dome) could come up with such stunning photographs week after week.

The way we produce the *Session Weekly* has changed a lot in the last five years. But it's quality, like that oak drafting table, has remained constant. And there's been no secret to that; just a lot of hard work and even more heavy lifting.

—Grant Moos

## INSIDE

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On the cover: High school pages May 4 add bills to binders on House members' chamber desks. During this session, the House High School Page Program will have given 238 high school juniors the opportunity to spend a week learning about state government and working as pages in the House chamber. Those pictured *clockwise from upper right corner*, are: Phillip McNear, Amy Salmela, Rosemary Kapphahn, Jerney Buss, James Horsman, Chris Weiss.

— photo by Tom Olmscheid



# Highlights

Health care . . .

## MinnesotaCare bill defeated after eight-hour debate

After debating the MinnesotaCare bill for more than eight hours during a marathon session where 38 different amendments to the bill were considered — including two dealing with abortion — the House voted down a bill that would have made substantial changes to the state's subsidized insurance program, MinnesotaCare. The vote was 57-77.

The bill is now tabled, which means it may be reconsidered by House members at a future date. The Senate voted May 1 to also table the bill.

MinnesotaCare was originally approved by the 1992 Legislature and amended every year since then.

In introducing this year's bill to modify the program, bill sponsor Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island) said it had moved through a lengthy committee process, during which many members had a chance to offer and reject amendments to the bill (HF1077).

The process continued on the House floor. The following are among the major provisions in the bill:

### Elective abortions, rape

Early in the floor debate, House members voted to include an amendment sponsored by Rep. Ken Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie) that would restrict Minnesota health insurance companies from paying for elective abortions. The vote for his amendment was 83-49.

Otremba said such abortions are not "appropriate and necessary" health care. Currently, the state requires private insurance companies to cover basic procedures which are "appropriate and necessary" to a patient's health.

Elective abortions are defined as all abortions except those that are performed to save the life of the female, or in cases of rape or incest.

But women would have had to report a rape within 48 hours in order for her health insurance to pay for an abortion, under the amendment.

"That is simply unfair and frankly mean," said Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) who sponsored an unsuccessful amendment that would have done away with the provision.

"The intention of the 48 hours is so someone doesn't come in and say they were raped so they could get an abortion," Otremba said.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) said the Otremba amendment "tells every citizen in the state what they can and cannot do."

Another amendment, sponsored by Rep. Todd Van Dellen (IR-Plymouth), specifically stated that MinnesotaCare could not cover elective abortions. The vote for that amendment was 86-44.

### Insurance coverage

Minnesota health insurance companies could not fail to cover treatments which may extend a patient's life, under an amendment sponsored by Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby).

That amendment could, however, be interpreted in varied manners, some lawmakers said. It said insurance companies cannot deem a procedure "medically inappropriate on the basis of the patient's present or predicted age, disability, degree of need for future treatment, or quality of life . . ."

"So under this language, a 100-year-old woman would have to have a heart transplant if it would extend her life for six months," said Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls).

But Rep. Jim Rice (DFL-Mpls) said the amendment "says insurance companies cannot truncate life."

Without the language, Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) said her 90-year-old grandfather's health insurance would not be obligated to pay for his knee replacement surgery because he is too old. Her grandfather did have the replacement surgery this spring.

"And he climbs in and out of his fishing boat," McCollum said.

### For-profit HMOs

Another successful amendment which would have greatly changed the way health care services operate in Minnesota would have allowed health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to operate as for-profit corporations, said Greenfield. Under current law, HMOs must be non-profit organizations. Rep. Greg Davids (IR-Harmony) offered the amendment. The vote was 67-63.

"Some of you complain about the salaries of CEOs of major companies. But you haven't seen anything," Greenfield said, predicting large salary increases for those who head HMOs.



Senior Federation members, left to right, Olive Willis, Ethel Harden, Winifred Meyer, and Iola Smith, all from Minneapolis, waited on a bench outside the House chamber May 3 with their position papers and medicine containers in hand. They were there to talk to lawmakers about the high cost of prescription drugs.

## Expanding access

Many IR legislators protested the bill's plan to make more people eligible for MinnesotaCare. Under the bill, income eligibility requirements would rise so single adults and couples with no children could earn up to 150 percent of the federal poverty level. That would be up from the current 125 percent cap. So couples earning up to about \$14,760 and single people earning up to \$11,040 would then qualify for the health coverage.

The money to pay for such an expansion would come from the health care access fund, which finances MinnesotaCare. Money comes to that fund through a 2 percent tax on health care providers.

A successful amendment offered by Rep. Kevin Knight (IR-Bloomington) would exempt dentists from paying that 2 percent tax.

Health officials have yet determined the fund can successfully pay for the expansion, according to Van Dellen. House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon) agreed.

But MinnesotaCare exists only as long as the health care access fund shows a positive projected fund balance over the next two bienniums, Cooper said. That fund will have a positive balance through 1999, even with the expansion, he said.

Should that change, the commissioner of health can slow or end MinnesotaCare enrollment and eligibility, Cooper said.

Still, Sviggum said the increased eligibility created a major obstacle to the bill's passage.

Should the bill remain tabled, MinnesotaCare guidelines will not change from the provisions specified in current law.

The health coverage eligibility, for example, would not be expanded and MinnesotaCare would still include the regulated all-pay option (RAPO), which HF1077 proposed to do away with. RAPO allows the state to standardize insurance prices and ensure health insurance companies operate under uniform rules.

The bill also would have established a drug discount program for senior citizens. It also would have defined solvency requirements an integrated service network (ISN) would have had to meet before it could begin operating. Under current MinnesotaCare law, ISNs may begin operating in July 1996.

Also, the call for every Minnesotan to have health insurance by July 1, 1997, would remain. The bill proposed to strike that date and change the definition of universal coverage so it would be achieved when "every Minnesotan has access to a full range of health care services."

— Jean Thilmany



## BUSINESS

### Dueling phone companies

A bill to increase competition among Minnesota telephone companies and give Minnesotans more choices for basic telephone service, gained final passage in the House May 3. The vote was 122-8.

Currently, a telephone company applies to the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for the right to offer phone service within a certain geographical area. Under this "local exchange monopoly," the company is the only one that can provide local phone service to the area. Under the bill, this practice would end.

HF620/SF752\*, sponsored by Rep. Edgar Olson (DFL-Fosston), would permit many companies to enter the same calling area.

The change would give Minnesotans a real choice for basic telephone service. A Minne-

apolis resident, for example, could switch from US West to a cable television operator, a cellular telephone firm, or any company that receives PUC approval to offer local telephone service.

The change also would allow all 100 Minnesota telephone companies — including major players like US West and GTE — to venture into other market areas around the state, after gaining approval from the PUC.

(The PUC is a quasi-judicial body that regulates the rates and services of Minnesota telephone, natural gas and electric utilities.)

The nuts and bolts as to how this deregulation would take place would be laid out in rules established by the PUC.

The rule making process would be completed by Aug. 1, 1997. In the interim period, the PUC would be allowed to certify a company as a provider of local telephone service.

The PUC also would have to determine how a local telephone company would separate or "unbundle" its services so a competitor could connect to its customers to provide a service. This would make it possible, for example, to receive basic phone service from one company, and voice messaging from another.

Another section of the bill would create an "alternative regulation" framework for phone companies to choose. Under the proposed system, certain essential services, as defined by the bill — call tracing, call number-blocking, and 911-service, for example — would remain regulated by the PUC. But the price of other non-essential services, such as voice mail, would be determined by market competition, rather than requiring the PUC to certify any rate change by a telephone company.

If a telephone company opted for this more relaxed regulatory system, its rates for basic residential and business local service could not increase for three years.

A Department of Public Service study would determine what "essential telephone services" should be available to all state households. The study also would address how money from a Universal Service Fund (made up of contributions from all Minnesota telephone companies) would be spent. Specifically, it would examine "whether expenditures from the fund should be used to ensure citizen access to local government and other public access programming." The Department of Public Service would report its recommendations to the Legislature by Jan. 1, 1996.

The Senate accepted several House changes made to their version of the bill, so HF620/SF752\* now goes to the governor for his consideration.

### Electronic conference committee updates

People with access to the Internet can now easily obtain the latest changes in conference committee schedules — as well as the daily and weekly schedules of the Minnesota House.

The House Public Information Office, with technical help from the House computerization pilot project, has established a system that will automatically e-mail an updated schedule to anyone who asks for it.

The schedule will be updated several times each day for distribution to everyone who subscribes to the service.

Here's how to subscribe:

Address your e-mail message to majordomo@house.leg.state.mn.us. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type Subscribe daily-schedule. To stop receiving the schedules, send an e-mail message to the same address and in the body of the message type Unsubscribe daily-schedule.

The conference committee schedule will sometimes be listed at the bottom of the regular daily committee schedule.

The electronic conference committee schedule is only as good as the information we are able to ferret out the old-fashioned way: through endless phone calls and personal contacts.

And as many of you know, the legislative pace is very hectic this time of year and changes in meeting times and places occur regularly.

So call our office, (612) 296-2146, or the Senate Information Office, (612) 296-0504, with any further questions. Thanks.

— The Editors





## CRIME

### Judiciary finance bill

House members overwhelmingly rejected a proposal to resurrect the death penalty in Minnesota, but they did approve a number of alterations to a \$875.5 million proposal that would fund the state's prisons, courts, and crime prevention programs over the next two-year spending cycle.

Following five hours of debate on the House floor May 2, the omnibus judiciary finance bill, sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), was given final passage on a 133-0 vote. (See April 28, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6)

The bulk of the funding — about \$547 million — would go to the Department of Corrections. That's a 28 percent increase over corrections spending for the current biennium.

Nearly two-thirds of the corrections budget — almost \$360 million — would pay for Minnesota's juvenile and adult correctional institutions.

While the House bill would create 41 new juvenile prison beds at Red Wing and Sauk Centre, the Senate companion bill would close these facilities by 1997.

The House bill (HF1700) also would spend \$13 million more in taxpayer money than the Senate measure (SF1653). These and other differences between the two bills will have to be worked out in a House-Senate conference committee.

### Death penalty

Outlawed in Minnesota since 1911, an amendment by Rep. Hilda Bettermann (IR-Brandon) would have reinstated the death penalty for certain offenders convicted of first-degree murder. The amendment was defeated on a 38-95 vote.

A sentence of death by lethal injection could have been imposed if any of 14 "aggravating factors" were involved in a first-degree murder. These included a murder done for money, or cases where the murder was "especially heinous, atrocious, or cruel, manifesting exceptional depravity."

"We have come to a time when we have to look at the consequences of crime," said Bettermann, adding that some criminals might decide not to murder their victims if they knew that the state could impose a death sentence.

A number of lawmakers countered that the death penalty does not deter violent crime, that innocent people are sometimes con-

victed of murder, and the cost of the lengthy legal appeals required prior to an execution — as much as \$3 million according to Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) — would drain resources needed in other areas.

"It's not a wise idea to make such an important decision on the floor of the House," said Rep. Teresa Lynch (IR-Andover). She and other legislators suggested that experts should testify on the proposal in committee hearings.

The full House last rejected a death penalty amendment during debate on the 1992 omnibus crime bill. The vote was 25-108.

### Parental liability

A successful amendment offered by Rep. Ken Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie) deleted a provision that would have made a parent or legal guardian, who was "grossly negligent" in the care of a minor, guilty of a misdemeanor.

Otremba's amendment eliminated language in the bill that would have made parents found guilty of such behavior subject to a maximum of 90 days in jail and a \$700 fine.

The goal was to encourage parents to make their kids go to school.

Otremba said requiring that parents and guardians make a "good faith effort" to exercise "care, supervision, protection, and control" of their children would allow prosecutions of well-intentioned parents.

Under current law, parents can be fined up to \$50 and face up to 30 days in jail.

### Transmitting HIV

A person who has reason to believe that he or she is infected with HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, and engages in behavior that can transmit the virus to another person could be charged with a felony, under a successful amendment offered by Rep. Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon). The vote was 106-25.

A maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine could be imposed for such an intentional act.

The provision would apply to a person "knowingly infected with HIV" who engages in acts — such as sexual intercourse or sharing a syringe while injecting drugs — that "might result" in the transfer of the virus to another person.

Sviggum said the crime and punishment is warranted because of the deadly nature of AIDS.

Other lawmakers said that the measure would increase the incidence of AIDS by discouraging people from getting tested for HIV, because they might then be prosecuted under this proposed law.

A similar amendment was adopted during floor debate on the 1994 omnibus crime bill. The provision was deleted during conference committee negotiations.

### Tobacco's not 'cool'

An unsuccessful attempt to hike the fine for minors who possess, chew, smoke, or attempt to purchase tobacco was debated for more than an hour.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (IR-Lake City) wanted to raise the maximum fine to \$1,000 — up from the current maximum of \$200. He said the "extremely stiff fine" would send a message to teens that it's not "cool" to use tobacco.

At the suggestion of some lawmakers, the proposed fine was changed to "not less than \$100 or more than \$500 for repeat offenders."

The amendment was rejected on a 62-68 vote.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) tried (and failed) to increase the penalty for those who sell tobacco to minors. Her proposal would have made it a felony to sell tobacco to a minor, up from the current gross misdemeanor penalty.

"This raises the ante for those who are selling [tobacco]," said Kahn. The proposal failed on a 9-117 vote.

### Domestic abuse and minors

The original bill would have allowed a minor who is at least 15 years old to seek an order for protection on her or his own behalf, but a successful amendment eliminated that language. The vote was 92-41.

Under current law, a court order for protection can only be obtained by an adult on behalf of a minor child.

Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) offered an amendment to delete the provision that would have allowed a minor to seek her or his own protection order. Hasskamp argued that it would "crack away at parental rights and parental involvement."

Adolescents who are being sexually or otherwise abused can take their problems to a school counselor or some other adult, who could then obtain an order for protection for the minor.

Remaining new language in this section of the bill would make it easier for individuals to extend or receive an order for protection. A person would not have to show that "physical harm is imminent" in order to receive an order for protection, as is the case under current law.



## DWI

### Plate impoundment expanded

One-third of chronic DWI offenders continue to drive with little risk of detection because of a loophole in the state's DWI law.

A bill to close that loophole received final passage in the House May 3. The vote was 121-8.

Under current law, when a person's driver's license is suspended for a third DWI offense in five years (or a fourth within 15 years), his or her license plates also are impounded for as long as the offender's driver's license is suspended. For a third-time offender, that's a minimum of one year.

But chronic DWI offenders are smart, bill sponsor Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) has said. Once their plates are impounded, they often begin to drive their girlfriend's or spouse's car.

Should they get caught under the influence in someone else's car, those license plates are then impounded. But all the car owner must do is sign a statement that he or she was unaware of the DWI violation and new plates are issued — free of charge.

**HF416/SF308\*** still would give plates back to the car owner in such a situation, but they would be coded with specific letters, so that law enforcement officials would know the car had been involved in a prior DWI offense. The plates would remain on the car for a minimum of one year.

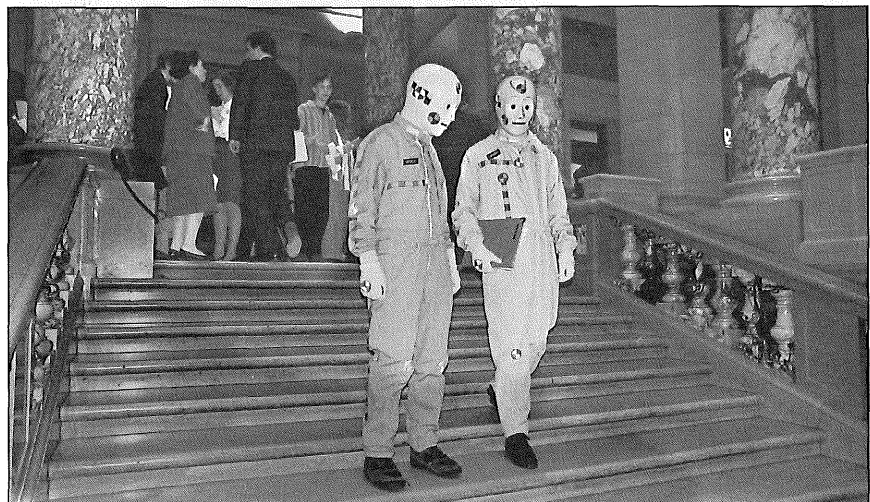
The coded plates would provide law enforcement officers with a "reasonable suspicion" to pull the car over should the driver not be the registered owner of the car. From the patrol vehicle, an officer can check the car's registration and the license status of the car owner, which contains a description of the owner. If the driver doesn't match the description, the officer would have cause to stop the car.

About 35 percent of repeat DWI offenders are driving a car in someone else's name, Steve Simon, a University of Minnesota law professor and recognized authority on DWI issues, has told members.

Those repeat offenders are most often male, in their late 20s, often divorced, and marginally employed, Simon said.

Minnesota's plate impoundment law, originally passed in 1990, was the first of its kind in the nation.

About 3,700 Minnesota drivers are eligible to have their plates impounded each year, according to Department of Public Safety records. About one-third of those offenders



Crash test dummies Vince and Larry cruised the State Capitol May 2 encouraging people to sign a pledge promising to use seat belts. The two were participants in a Plummer High School class project to promote seat belt use.

skirt the law because they aren't the car's registered owner.

Overall, DWI arrests are down about 27 percent since 1986 (28,310 incidents in 1994 compared to 38,717 in 1986). Offenders with three or more offenses, however, have risen steadily over the same time period.

The bill now goes to the governor for his consideration.

(See April 7, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 5)

### Seizing cars from drunks



A new law to clear up a glitch in the state's vehicle forfeiture law took effect April 29, 1995.

Under current law, certain repeat DWI offenders lose not only their driver's licenses but their vehicles as well. The cars are then sold or kept by local law enforcement agencies for official use. Profits from the sale of most vehicles must be used for DWI enforcement, training, and education activities.

But at times, the offenders don't show up for their day in court. As a result, their cars remain in impound lots.

The new law allows for the cars to be sold should a defendant fail to appear in court on such a DWI-related charge.

Drivers convicted of their fourth DWI-related offense within five years can have their vehicle seized by law enforcement officials, as can drivers convicted of their fifth DWI-related offense within 15 years.

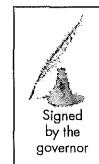
The measure was sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Richard Cohen (DFL-St. Paul).

(HF377\*/SF390/CH97)



## ENERGY

### Electrical competition



A 1990 pilot program that allows electric utilities to offer discount rates to large rural businesses is now permanent, under a law that became effective March 2, 1995.

Since 1974, rural companies using two megawatts or more of electricity have been allowed to buy electricity from any power producer they choose. They are not restricted to the electrical utility assigned to their locale.

A wholesale trade business, for example, can bypass the local electric utility and contract with the owner of a hydroelectric dam in a nearby county for power.

In order to keep their largest local customers — and avoid rate hikes to all customers in their service areas — electric utilities, since 1990, have been allowed to offer reduced rates to these large electric power users for one to five years under a competitive rate schedule approved by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Four electric utilities have used the 1990 law and offered competitive rates to some customers, according to a December 1994 report to the Legislature by the Department of Public Service (DPSv).

The report recommended extending the competitive rate program past its July 1, 1995, expiration date. The new law does just that.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Joel Jacobs (DFL-Coon Rapids), who resigned from the

House March 5 when he was appointed to the PUC by Gov. Arne Carlson.

Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Cook) sponsored the bill in the Senate:

(HF137\*/SF213/CH6)

## Energy discounts



Gas and electric utilities can continue to offer discounted rates to businesses in designated economic development zones, under a new state law.

A pilot program created in 1990 added discounted gas and electric rates to the arsenal of tax and financing incentives designed to lure manufacturers and other businesses to certain areas of the state.

The new law makes the program, which would have expired July 1, 1995, permanent.

Gas and electric utilities can offer new or expanding businesses concessions on rates for a limited time. Previously, this time period was from two to five years. The new law will allow the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to determine the length of time a discounted rate can be offered to a particular customer. No maximum length of time is specified.

Utilities can raise rates to other commercial customers in order to recover income lost under the discounted rate program, but they cannot raise rates for residential customers, under a new provision in the law. The PUC has to approve any rate increase proposed by a utility.

The law also adds the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, a rural development agency in northeastern Minne-

sota, to the list of local governments and agencies that can use discounted utility rates to supplement other development incentives.

The measure, which became effective March 11, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul).

(HF164\*/SF65/CH9)



## ENVIRONMENT

### Reprieve for a burner



A meat processing plant will be allowed to continue burning blood- and meat-contaminated packaging until the year 2005, under a new law, effective April 25, 1995.

In 1992, Huisken's Meats in Chandler, Minn., installed a gas-fired waste incinerator to burn the waxed cardboard boxes and cellulose used for shipping frozen meat.

The incinerator was approved by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), but the agency revised its air quality rules in June 1994 and banned such smaller incinerators, except those used by medical facilities, crematoria, and companies that recover precious metals from electronic circuit boards.

The small incinerators allowed to continue operating must meet new MPCA performance standards, and some will require an operating permit from the agency.

The new law is essentially a waiver from the 1994 MPCA small incinerator ban. It will allow the incinerator in Chandler to operate until the year 2005, which covers the useful life of the incinerator.

Without the waiver, the plant would have had to pay to dispose of its cardboard and cellulose refuse in a landfill.

The waste incinerator must be monitored by an automatic temperature control device, and must meet the emission standards in effect when it was installed.

"This is an economic enabler for that small town processing plant," explained Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), who sponsored the legislation.

The company employs 400 workers producing sausage sticks and beef jerky "sold all over the world," according to Winter.

Small, on-site incinerators used by various businesses, schools, and hospitals release large quantities of pollutants, according to the MPCA. The agency says that small incinerators generate 93 percent of the dioxin emissions from waste burned in Minnesota.

(A dioxin is a toxin that studies have shown can cause cancers, birth defects, and fetal deaths in animals. Scientists disagree on whether it contributes to cancer in humans.)

The measure was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Arlene Lesewski (IR-Marshall).

(HF485/SF445\*/CH87)



## GOVERNMENT

### Trimming state government

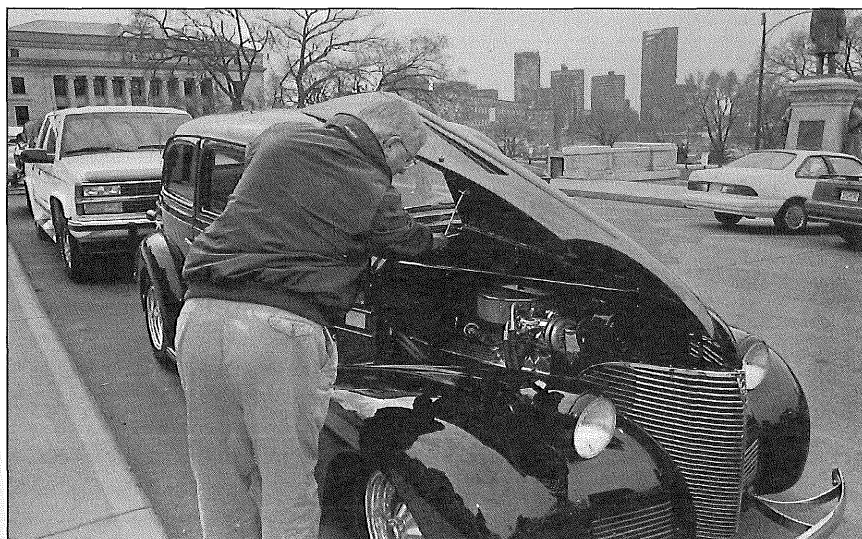
Although at least one state agency and several state boards would be abolished, the Department of Public Safety would be spared, under a bill approved May 4 by the House Governmental Operations Committee.

The bill (HF1542) would have eliminated the Department of Public Safety in addition to the Department of Public Service, Higher Education Coordinating Board, Minnesota Racing Commission, Gambling Control Board, and State Lottery Board.

An amendment by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) spared the Department of Public Safety, which includes such divisions as the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Traffic Safety, Driver and Vehicle Services, Capitol Security and the State Patrol. Those duties would have been transferred to other state departments.

Bill sponsor Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul) conceded that he didn't have the support necessary to successfully abolish the Department of Public Safety, which was created in 1970.

The bill, he said, "doesn't cut as much as I set out to cut, but you win some you lose some. . . . This is the bill that reduces government."



Jim Langer of Golden Valley showed off his 1939 Chevrolet outside the State Capitol May 3. He and other motorists came to discuss legislation that would exempt premium gasoline from the ethanol blending requirement.

Orenstein has said he has received a thick bundle of letters from public safety employees. The content of those letters indicates that "there continues to be management issues within the department."

This marks the second consecutive session that a bill has moved forward to eliminate the department.

The bill's remaining cuts include the nine-member Minnesota Racing Commission, the seven-member Gambling Control Board, and the seven-member State Lottery Board.

The advisory duties of the gambling boards would be transferred to the directors they used to serve.

Orenstein's bill also would eliminate the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) and some of its employees. The Higher Education Services Office (HESO) would be created to absorb its duties.

Finally, it would abolish the Department of Public Service which is responsible for protecting the public interest in the areas of energy, telecommunications, and weights and measures.

The bill would transfer the department's role as consumer watchdog in public utility rate cases before the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to the Office of the Attorney General.

(The PUC is a quasi-judicial body that regulates the rates and services of Minnesota telephone, natural gas, and electric utilities.)

The bill also lays the groundwork for the creation of an unnamed "public utilities agency." The new agency would serve as an umbrella organization housing the PUC and the remaining duties of the Department of Public Service.

By Oct. 15, 1995, the commissioner of the Department of Public Service and the chair of the PUC shall jointly submit to the Legislature a plan for unified regulatory and administrative structure.

The bill now moves to the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee. It is unclear just how much the cuts will save. Earlier estimates provided by the Department of Revenue, which included the elimination of the Department of Public Safety, ranged from \$5.2 million to \$23.6 million in savings over the next biennium.

(See April 7, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 3, and April 28, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 13)

## Seeking employee input

Lawmakers looking to streamline state government may ask those who know it best for their advice.

A bill that won final passage in the House May 4 would require a notice to be sent to all state employees requesting their ideas on how to make government run more smoothly. The bill passed on a 125-4 vote.

Bill sponsor Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) said it is only logical to consult state employees when looking for ways to make government more efficient.

"I think it'll make a big difference," she said.

**HF1524/SF1402\*** would require notice be sent to all state employees before July 1 inviting them to send in their ideas to improve effectiveness.

The employees, who would be allowed to remain anonymous, would be asked for suggestions on what changes could help individuals or entire agencies perform better.

## Incapacitated chief officer



A new law will clarify who would run the state if the governor is unable to carry out the duties of the office.

Current law stipulates the lieutenant governor would take over if the governor dies. But it says nothing about what would happen should the governor become too ill to run the state.

The change will clarify present law to say the governor who anticipates incapacity — such as a terminal or debilitating illness — would write to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House declaring the inability to discharge the duties of office. The lieutenant governor would then take over those duties.

In unanticipated cases, such as when the governor suddenly becomes too sick to perform the job, the lieutenant governor would take over when four of five officials declare in writing the governor cannot discharge the duties of office. Those officials are the chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, the lieutenant governor, the governor's chief of staff, the governor's personal physician, and a member of the governor's cabinet designated in advance by the governor.

The proposal, effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon) and Sen. William Belanger (IR-Bloomington).

(HF1468\*/SF1268/CH98)



## HEALTH

### Breast cancer treatment

A bill to require insurance companies to pay for bone marrow transplants for Minnesota residents with breast cancer won final passage in the House May 3. The vote was 120-8.

Some breast cancer patients whose doctors tell them their best chance of survival is a high-dose chemotherapy treatment accompanied by a bone marrow transplant have had to battle insurance companies that refuse to pay for the procedure. Most often the battle lands in the courts.

The bill (**HF1742**) sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) wouldn't give insurance companies the option. They'd have to pay. (See April 7, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10 and April 21, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 15)

Long said that in Minnesota, too many insurance companies are making medical decisions when they refuse to pay for the treatment. The decision, she said, should be in the hands of the woman and her physician.

"Time and time again when women go to court, they win," said Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) who supports the bill.

But not all lawmakers agreed.

"I think it is dangerous and premature... for us to mandate its coverage," said Rep. Fran Bradley (IR-Rochester). He noted that the medical community disagrees with the effectiveness of the marrow transplant treatment.

Rep. Tom Van Engen (IR-Spicer) said the high-dose chemotherapy treatment increases

## Corrections

The omnibus state government bill story on page 13 of the April 28, 1995 issue of *Session Weekly*, under Human Development Center, reported that the bill contained \$570,000 for a human development center in or near the Capitol area. While the bill does contain the language for the center, the \$570,000 would be the biennial budget of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board.

Also, on page 13 of the same issue, under Legislative Coordinating Commission, it states that the House Ways and Means Committee merged the Legislative Water Commission (originally slated for elimination) with the Legislative Commission on Waste Management. Not true. Though there was an amendment to that effect, it did not pass.



the chance of death for many patients and there is no solid proof it increases the chance at life.

Lawmakers have heard debate from several doctors, many of whom agree the treatment should be covered by insurance. But, some say only patients in a clinical study should be covered.

Patients, however, don't want to take the chance they'll be part of the group that doesn't receive the treatment. In a clinical study there is a 50 percent chance you'll be a part of the study that receives the treatment but an equal chance you'll be a part of a "control" group that doesn't receive the treatment.

Dr. Linda Burns, an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota, has called the treatment "investigational" and said she is working with breast cancer patients as part of a national clinical study.

"I ask you not to mislead the women of this state," Burns has said. "It is not known" whether the transplant treatment actually is effective.

Dr. John Schwerkoske, who has treated roughly 49 cancer patients (half of whom have breast cancer) with the transplant treatment, disagrees. Twenty-five percent are now in remission, he said, cautioning that it will be years before it is known if they are cured.

"I think it is a better treatment," he has said. "We have to leave the decision in patient's hands."

Supporters argue that regardless of the conflicting scientific opinions, the issue is a matter of choice for patients. If a doctor and a patient believe this is the best treatment, an insurance company shouldn't have the right to say no.

Besides, proponents say, many doctors and studies show that it is an effective treatment, albeit a costly one.

Mike Hatch, former head of the Department of Commerce, and now an attorney who has represented women whose insurance companies refused to pay for the procedure, has said costs can run about \$65,000 compared to traditional chemotherapy, administered in low doses over several months, which costs about \$45,000.

He said he has represented many women in recent years and cited court decisions that have required insurance companies to pay for the procedure. Courts have found the procedure can be effective and is not experimental.

The bill now goes to the Senate, which has already passed a similar measure.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### Four selected as 'U' regents

In a joint session of the Minnesota House and Minnesota Senate May 3, state lawmakers chose the newest members of the University of Minnesota's Board of Regents.

Warren Larson of Bagley, Minn., and Patricia Spence of Rice, Minn., were elected as at-large regents.

Jessica Phillips of Virginia, Minn., was elected to serve as the at-large student board member and Jean Keffeler of Minneapolis, was re-elected to represent the state's 5th Congressional District.

The university's governing board consists of 12 regents, one from each of the state's eight congressional districts and four at-large members, including one student. Regents are elected by the Legislature and serve six-year terms. They are not paid for their service.

A majority of the 201 members of the House and Senate must approve any nomination to the board.

The four individuals elected were among nine people nominated from a field of 92 applicants who were interviewed by the Regent Candidate Advisory Council (a citizen panel established by the Legislature).

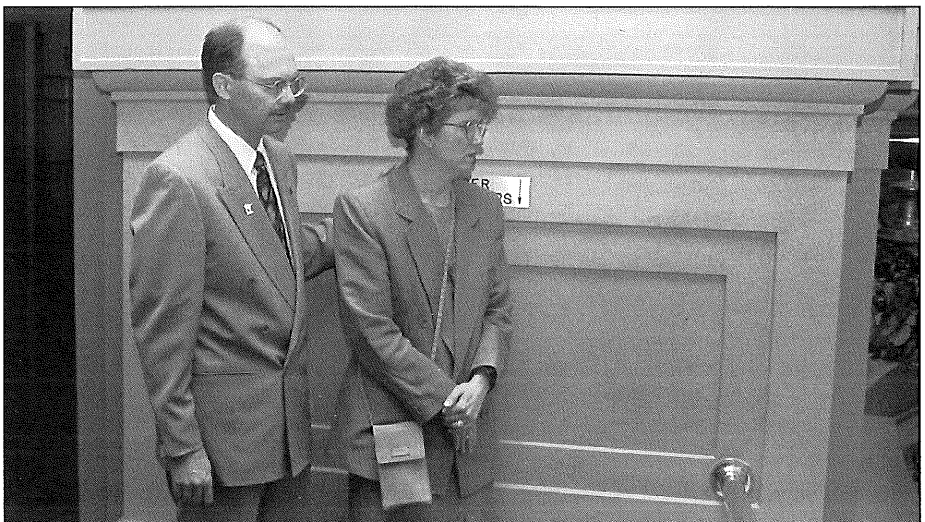
Keffeler, Phillips, Spence, and Richard "Pinky" McNamara were subsequently endorsed by a joint panel of the House and Senate Education Committees.

Larson, who edged out McNamara by two votes, attended Bemidji State University. He is a beef cattle farmer and a Clearwater County commissioner. Larson is also president of the Association of Minnesota Counties.

### Regent selection process

Here's the process by which members are selected to serve on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents:

- Candidates are first nominated to fill positions on the 12-member board, normally four in every odd-numbered year. Anyone can nominate a candidate, and people may nominate themselves.
- Candidates then agree to a review by a 24-member Regent Selection Advisory Council that was established in 1988. The council recommends two to four candidates for each seat on the board.
- Since eight board seats represent each of the state's congressional districts, a caucus of state legislators from each district endorses a candidate. The votes of each legislator are weighted depending on the number of their constituents living within that congressional district.
- A joint meeting of the House and Senate education committees then reviews the candidates, the advisory council recommendations, and the caucus endorsements. The joint committee then recommends candidates to the House and Senate as a single slate.
- House and Senate members then decide for whom they wish to vote, either for the entire recommended slate or for individual members.



Warren Larson and his wife, Laine, of Bagley, Minn., watched from the House gallery as a joint session of the House and Senate voted for candidates for four seats on the University of Minnesota's Board of Regents May 3. Larson won a seat on the board by two votes over endorsed candidate Richard "Pinky" McNamara.

Spence received a bachelor's degree in home economics education from the University of Minnesota. She was the mayor of Little Falls and has served on the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board. She is currently a homemaker.

Phillips is a student at the University of Minnesota-Morris majoring in speech communication and political science. She is current chair of student representatives to the Board of Regents, and a member of the university's Strategic Planning Advisory Board.

Keffeler received a bachelor's degree in French and master's degrees in public administration and social work, all from the University of Minnesota. She was first elected as a representative to the Board of Regents in 1989. She currently works as a management consultant, and previously held executive positions at U.S. West, Control Data, and Health One.

The Board of Regents oversees the entire University of Minnesota system, including the Twin Cities, Duluth, Morris, and Crookston campuses. It approves all budgets, adopts policies and plans, and promotes the educational mission of the university.



## HOUSING

### Affordable housing

A bill to help clean up polluted land in the Twin Cities metropolitan area to make room for new development, create more affordable housing, and offer tax breaks for people who move into blighted neighborhoods, is one step closer to the House floor.

The House Taxes Committee May 2 approved **HF1156** on a voice vote. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), now awaits consideration by the House Ways and Means Committee. (See March 31, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 12)

It contains several programs for the seven-county metropolitan area paid for from several different funding sources. A nine-member advisory board to the Metropolitan Council would be created to establish criteria for distributing money among cities.

The bill includes three major programs.

First, it would require a portion of the property taxes on high-value homes in metropolitan communities to be used to build more affordable housing and housing for targeted groups — such as young families, singles, and the elderly.

Under the bill, each seven-county metro area city would be required to negotiate

affordable housing goals with the Metropolitan Council. A city would keep the tax money generated from certain high-value homes if the city works toward its negotiated housing goals. But a city could lose some of its property tax dollars to a regional pool if it refused to work toward the housing goals.

Besides those dollars, the program is paid for with a one-time \$1 million appropriation from solid waste bond proceeds. And, beginning in 1998, \$1 million per year of the Metropolitan Council's general property tax levy.

Second, "livable communities" demonstration projects would be funded. The Metropolitan Council would provide city grants and loans for projects that relate development with transit needs in a community; relate affordable housing and employment growth; intensify land use, leading to more compact development; include development of mixed-income housing; or encourage the development of infrastructure to connect urban and suburban communities to attract new redevelopment.

To pay for the grants and loans, the bill authorizes the Metropolitan Council to levy a tax equal to half of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District's and provides an annual Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid (HACA) payment equal to 50 percent of what the mosquito control district receives. In all, that should amount to about \$6 million a year for the grants and loans.

To balance the books, the bill lowers the mosquito control district's taxing authority by 50 percent and cuts their HACA payment by 50 percent.

And finally, polluted lands in the metropolitan area would be cleaned up with financing from two existing funds. This would help revitalize the tax base in urban areas by providing more land for commercial and other development.

Some dollars would come from funds the Metropolitan Council sets aside to help local governments purchase rights-of-way necessary when building roads.

More dollars would come from a pool of money (the fiscal disparities fund) made up of a portion of each metropolitan city's commercial-industrial tax base. Specifically, the bill would tap into a portion of the pool that dates back to the construction of the Mall of America.

When the Mall of America was built the city of Bloomington sold bonds to pay for a series of highway improvements around the mall. For now, the fiscal disparities fund foots the bill for interest on the bonds. The pool is to stop paying off the interest in 1999.

The city of Bloomington must then repay the pool for the interest on those bonds, beginning in the year 2000.

Under Long's bill, Bloomington is still responsible for paying its debt. Money from the fiscal disparities pool, however, would continue to be tapped, this time set aside in a new account to finance the cleanup of polluted land. It is estimated that until 1999, while the pool pays off the remaining interest on the highway bonds, it would chip in about \$2 million a year to the new account. After 1999, it would pay about \$5 million a year.

A successful amendment offered in the Taxes Committee by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) would alter Bloomington's \$50 million in interest repayments. The amendment would extend the period of time for Bloomington to repay the interest from 10 years to 15, and start the repayments six years later. When looking at the repayments in terms of present discounted value the repayments would decline from \$23 million to \$14 million.

The bill also includes provisions originally found in a housing and economic development bill (**HF1627**) sponsored by Rep. H. Todd Van Dellen (IR-Plymouth).

One provision would exempt from the sales tax (or offer a refund of the sales tax) materials and supplies used to build or fix up affordable housing in a "developing metro area" as defined by the Metropolitan Council as long as at least some of the units being fixed are financed with public assistance.

Another would create an urban homestead exemption program that would provide tax breaks to people who move into homes in blighted metro neighborhoods.

The Metropolitan Council would designate one or more urban revitalization and stabilization zones by Sept. 1, 1995. Anyone buying and occupying a home within such an area would receive an income tax break for up to five years, provided they do not move out of the home, sell the house, fail to comply with building codes, or get convicted of a gross misdemeanor or a felony. An unsuccessful amendment offered by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) would have eliminated the criminal history check on applicants to weed out those with a felony or gross misdemeanor conviction.

The maximum exemptions would equal \$15,000 for a married couple filing jointly, \$10,000 for singles, and \$12,500 for unmarried people qualifying as heads of households.



## HUMAN SERVICES

### Health, human services funding

A \$5 billion bill that sets limits on in-home personal care services for the disabled but retains money to help parents with disabled children afford long-term medical care was approved by the House May 1. The vote was 106-27.

The House's Omnibus Health and Human Services bill (HF1588/SF1110\*) for 1996-1997 would spend about \$60 million less than Gov. Arne Carlson recommended and about \$650 million more than in the 1994-1995 two-year budgeting period. (See April 28, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 15)

The bill, which is on its way to a conference committee because the Senate and House versions differ, would appropriate money for programs in the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, and several other smaller agencies.

It would set aside more than \$3 billion for the state's medical plans such as Medical Assistance, \$269.5 million for Aid to Families with Dependent Children grants, \$94.5 million for General Assistance grants, and \$112 million in other public assistance and work and training grants.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), became wrapped in heated debate earlier this session when Carlson proposed cutting back two programs that help disabled people remain at home instead of in an institution.

Specifically, the governor proposed to cut a program that provides in-home personal care attendants for the disabled and another that allows the families of children with disabilities to buy into a state medical care plan. The program is known as TEFRA.

But after hours of public hearings and hundreds of people who testified — many of whom came in wheelchairs, with guide dogs, or on ventilators — lawmakers backed down from most of the cuts.

The omnibus bill, however, would tighten some eligibility requirements and limit some services for personal care attendants and the TEFRA program. An amendment by Rep. Eileen Tompkins (IR-Apple Valley) to increase funding for TEFRA was defeated.

The bill would reduce by 12.5 percent the maximum number of personal care service hours a recipient may receive. It also would eliminate personal care services for ventilator-dependent people in hospitals and prohibits legal guardians from being personal care service providers.

The bill further would expand the list of personal care services not eligible for Medical Assistance reimbursement. Only care prescribed by a doctor could be reimbursed. Currently, only a registered nurse, in conjunction with the personal care assistant, would need to authorize care.

It clarifies that personal care involving social activities, recreational activities, and educational services also are prohibited from reimbursement.

The bill also would tighten eligibility requirements for people seeking personal care services. To qualify for those services under the bill, individuals must be able to "identify their needs, direct and evaluate task accomplishment, and assure their health and safety."

Children receiving care under the state's Medical Assistance program (including those in the TEFRA program) would have to contribute more for the care. Under the bill, parents with an adjusted gross income of \$30,000 or more would have to pay a minimum \$25 fee or an amount depending on

their income. The bill changes the formula so more of a family's income is chargeable to the fee.

Currently, only the income above 200 percent of the federal poverty level is used to calculate the fee. The bill would lower that to 150 percent. For a family of four, that would mean that instead of income more than about \$29,600 being used to calculate the fee, income more than about \$22,200 would apply.



## INSURANCE

### Rental car coverage

Vehicle owners could rent cars, trucks, and vans by the month and still expect their private automobile insurance to extend coverage to those rental vehicles, under a bill the House approved May 1. The vote was 133-0.

Current law calls for private automobile insurance to cover vehicles rented on a weekly or daily basis. But bill sponsor Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) said those who rent cars are able to obtain better rates when renting by the month.

The bill (HF1308/SF973\*) calls for vehicles rented on a monthly basis to be accompanied by a statement which informs the renter that, under state law, personal automobile insurance policies issued in Minnesota must cover rental vehicles.

Currently, such statements must accompany vehicles rented by the day or week.

The bill includes language that would prevent long-term renters from leasing cars and having their auto insurance provide coverage for those cars, McCollum said.

The bill now moves to the governor for his consideration.



## LABOR

### Workers' compensation

A workers' compensation reform bill which aims to simplify the system and cut costs for businesses is on its way to the House floor.

HF642, sponsored by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), passed the House Ways and Means Committee May 4.

Under the bill, the state would assume a regulatory role to control workers' compensation costs. Any increase in workers' compensation insurance rates would require prior state approval.

The state had similar authority until a 1983 law created the current system of open competition.



Worshippers of various faiths came together at the State Capitol May 4 for the Annual National Day of Prayer. Participants prayed and listened to the music of the Apostolic Bible Church Youth Choir from Woodbury.



Critics of the current workers' compensation system claim high costs hurt Minnesota's ability to compete with neighboring states for new businesses and strain existing businesses in the state.

The bill seeks to reduce costs to small businesses by making it easier for them to form self-insurance groups, which Winter claims could save some businesses as much as 35 percent.

And the bill would mandate a 10 percent credit on premiums for small businesses that go for three years without having to pay out any benefits to an injured employee.

The bill emerged from a group of seven reform bills heard earlier this session by a House panel. Winter's bill does not include the cuts in benefits to injured workers called for in several other reform proposals.

**HF642** includes provisions designed to make the workers' compensation system simpler and to eliminate common starting points of dispute. The bill would change the form and duration for which certain benefits are paid to injured workers.

A worker, for example, could receive temporary total benefits — paid during the period of healing from a work-related injury — for no more than 100 weeks.

Currently, the benefits are paid until the worker reaches the point of "maximum medical improvement," after which no significant improvement can be expected.

The problem with the current system, critics say, is the standard for recovery is unclear and is often a cause for disputes between employees and management that can lead to litigation.

Winter's bill would not change the amount paid in temporary total benefits, which currently is 66 percent of wages up to a maximum of \$516 a week.

## TAXES

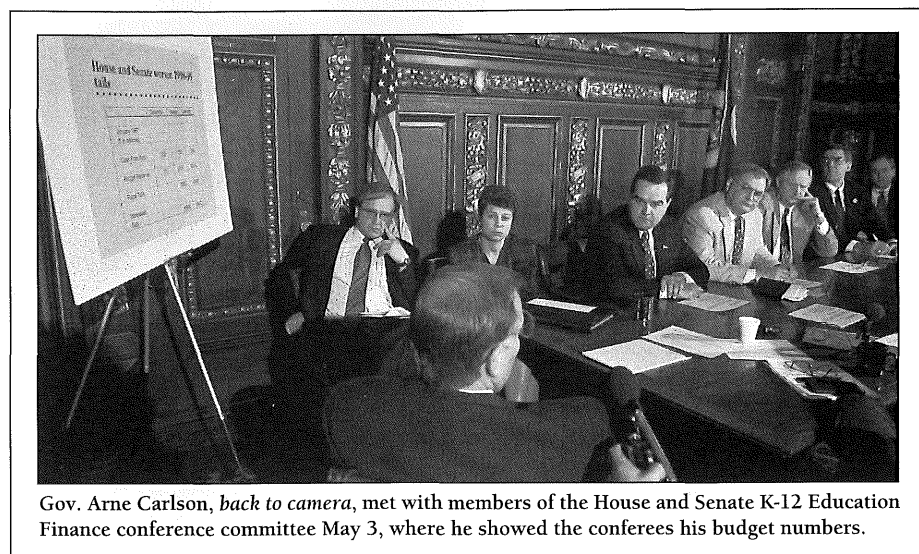
### Property taxes and education

A proposal to put a proposed constitutional amendment on the 1996 ballot that would end the use of property taxes to finance education has won the support of the House.

**HF1844**, sponsored by Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope), won final passage in the House May 2 on an 81-50 vote.

The bill proposes an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution that would require major changes in the way the state pays the cost to run public elementary and secondary schools.

If voters approve, the amendment would



eliminate property tax levies that now cover, on average, 39 percent of the cost of operating schools.

The local levies now provide about \$1.7 billion annually for schools. The proposed amendment would shift all school operating costs exclusively to the state.

The 1997 Legislature would have to decide how to replace the property tax funds.

Local levies for new buildings, renovations, and equipment costs would not be affected by the amendment.

Rest and other supporters of the amendment argue that local levies to fund education are unfair because the property taxes are not directly linked to income or ability to pay.

The Legislature could revamp the school funding system on its own, but the amendment would provide a mandate for action from Minnesotans, Rest said.

The proposed wording of the ballot question drew criticism from some lawmakers. The bill calls for this question to appear on ballots:

*"Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to require that operating funds for public schools come from sources other than local property taxes?"*

Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka), who expressed support for the idea of moving more education costs to the state, argued the ballot question could be misleading.

But Weaver's attempt to alter to ballot question to inform voters the amendment could result in increases in income or sales taxes failed on a 62-69 vote.

The future of Rest's bill remains unclear. No similar legislation is pending in the Senate.

The Senate has approved a property tax freeze for 1996, but House members opposed that plan on a 13-118 vote.

### From rich to poor

A bill that would shift a portion of the tax dollars from some wealthy suburbs to less fortunate inner-ring suburbs and the core cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul won final passage in the House May 4.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls), was approved on a 71-63 vote.

Orfield aims to achieve greater equity in basic public services provided in metropolitan area communities, ease competition for tax base, and make land-use planning more possible.

Initially, the bill would have affected the local property tax revenues generated on the value of homes greater than \$200,000.

Orfield amended the bill on the House floor to instead create a pool of funds for metro redistribution drawn from the growth in property tax revenue generated on the value of homes greater than \$200,000.

He estimates about \$20 million would be redistributed under the bill, which he describes as an extension of the 1971 fiscal disparities law. That law pools about \$270 million annually in commercial industrial property taxes to be shared by communities in the seven-county metro area.

If the bill becomes law, cities receiving funds from the redistribution program in its first year must use half the money for tax relief rather than on increased spending.

Many northern metro suburbs would be the biggest beneficiaries of the bill.

The bill promises to reduce property taxes in 85 percent of the metro area, but taxes would likely increase in the remaining 15 percent of the region.

"Real reform is sometimes tough," Orfield said. "There are sometimes winners and losers."



This is the third consecutive year Orfield has pushed legislation to give wealthier suburbs a greater role in sharing the social burden faced by central cities and aging suburbs.

His bills in each of the previous two years focused on housing in the metro area. Both were vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (IR-Lake City) said this year's bill best represents the "philosophical dividing line" between his party and the DFL.

The bill would lead to tax increases for those already paying some of the highest taxes in the metro area and would hurt poorer people living in cities that lose revenue, said Rep. H. Todd Van Dellen (IR-Plymouth).

"No other single piece of legislation is more inconsistent with the message the voters sent us in the last election," he added.



## TRANSPORTATION

### I-394 expanded?

Interstate 394 commuters could get relief from some traffic headaches, under a bill approved by a House panel.

**HF611** would permit a stretch of I-394 near the Penn Avenue interchange in Minneapolis to be widened to allow one additional lane of traffic in each direction.

Currently, the highway narrows near Penn from three to two lanes in each direction plus a high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane — or "sane lane" — for carpools and buses.

"It is a tremendous bottleneck, and it is dangerous," said bill sponsor Rep. Peggy Leppik (IR-Golden Valley).

The House Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee approved the bill May 2.

A provision in current law limits to six the total number of lanes in the Penn interchange area. Leppik's bill would allow an exception to that provision if the Metropolitan Council approves and if certain conditions are met.

Before construction of new lanes could take place, those conditions would require:

- the speed limit to be reduced to 45 miles per hour on the stretch of I-394 from the I-94 interchange downtown Minneapolis to the western city limits;
- the Department of Transportation to adopt as a goal the construction of a noise barrier along westbound I-394 from Penn to Theodore Wirth Parkway;
- the department and the Metropolitan Council to design and implement a program to increase the use of HOV lanes and to bring the average occupancy rate on I-394 to 1.6

people per vehicle by the year 2000. A 1990 study showed an average occupancy rate of 1.2 people per vehicle on Twin Cities highways; and

- a cooperative effort among the state and the cities of Minneapolis and Golden Valley to develop a policy for enforcement of speed and HOV lane restrictions on I-394.

The bill does not include an appropriation for construction of the new lanes, and it does not set a date for construction.

**HF611** now goes to the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.



**Do certain bills make good policy or just good sound bites?**

Suspecting that the latter is sometimes true, Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) authored a tongue-in-cheek proposal to deal with a "sound bite bill or amendment."

Sound bite legislation is "designed without substantive purpose [and] appeals to a theme that has been politically tested to elicit an emotional response."

The Orfield amendment, which appeared on the House floor during discussion of the judiciary finance bill May 2, goes on to explain that a sound bite bill "is likely to be discussed on talk radio, and requires a long debate with much posturing." (The amendment was never formally offered for consideration and was not voted on.)

There would be a "presumption" that a measure falls into the sound bite category if it "1) refers in any manner to student lockers, (as HF1700 does) 2) responds to a TV news

story that is repeated on three successive evenings, (the bill also tries to limit frivolous lawsuits by prison inmates, the subject of a multi-evening TV news investigation) 3) involves a simple punitive slogan, or 4) requires the repeated discussion of sexual acts."

A committee, appointed by the speaker, would consider sound bite bills. The Sound Bite Bill Committee — composed of House members judged "most likely to offer sound bite bills or amendments" — would convene in Room 181 of the State Office Building (the room often used for Capitol press conferences).

Finally, bills would only emerge from the committee after they are "amended to become substantive."

**At the close of the Tuesday** afternoon House floor session, Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) reminded female lawmakers about the "dress code" that would be in effect the following day.

What dress code?

When members of the House and Senate assembled in the House chamber at noon on May 3 to select regents for the University of Minnesota, almost all the female legislators were wearing pink.

Kahn said the color coordination was designed so the female members of the Legislature "would be visible, and also to point out that they are definitely a brighter element in the legislative scene."

The word "brighter" can be interpreted "anyway you want," Kahn added.

There are 32 women in the House, and 19 in the Senate — or about 25 percent of the 1995 Legislature.



Eunice Haugen, exhibits coordinator for the Minnesota Museum of American Art, hangs one of the works of art by Native American artist George Morrison, *Grand Portage*, in the North Wing of the State Capitol May 1. The museum recently acquired a selection of the artist's work which will be on display until May 12.

## Project 120 . . .

# Immersing students in the state's political process

**E**ach week for 11 weeks during the legislative session, a different group of three dozen high school students from around the state descends on the State Capitol to learn the ins and outs of the political process.

The program they are participating in is called Project 120. (The name refers to the number of days the Minnesota Constitution says the Legislature can meet in session each biennium.)

In no other state can high school students spend one week at the Capitol sitting in on committee hearings and meeting with the attorney general, the secretary of state, and other political officers as well as their personal representatives and senators, said Karyn Diehl, Project 120's director.

A new group of 36 students from varied high schools — no more than five students from each high school per group — meet each week as part of the program.

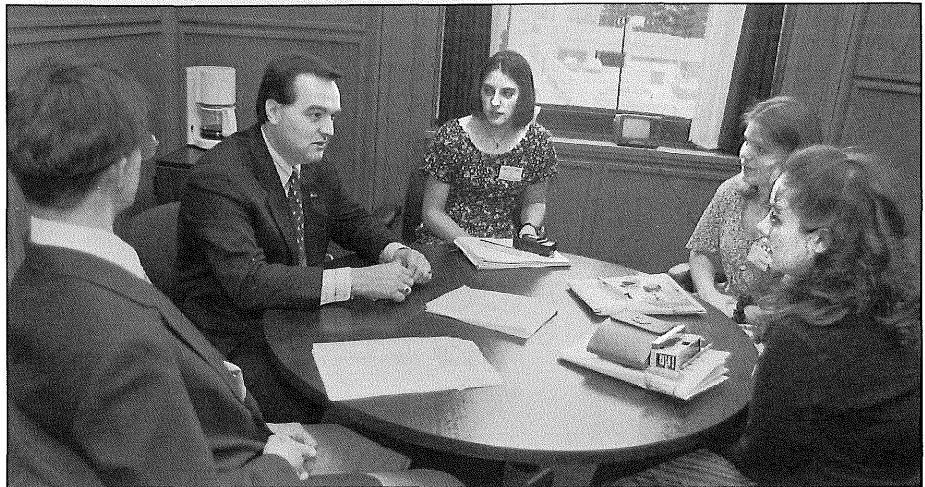
Project 120 began in 1976 in conjunction with the nation's bicentennial celebration and has kept growing, Diehl said. Funding for the non-profit organization comes from a legislative appropriation, various foundations and corporations, and the students, who pay \$225 if their families can afford it. No student is turned away because of inability to pay, Diehl said.

The student fee pays for a stay at the St. Paul Radisson and all meals.

Students learn about the program through their high schools, advertising, or their involvement in the Youth in Government program, sponsored by the YMCA.

They spend Monday through Thursday getting to know each other and taking part in activities, such as observing the House and Senate in session and holding a mock trial at Hamline Law School.

Many students are drawn to the program because they want to learn up close how state government works.



Project 120 students, left to right, Mark Kociemba of Rocori High School in Cold Spring near St. Cloud, Minn., and Jill Rademacher, Bethany Maus, and Heather Berens of Melrose High School met with Rep. Jeff Bertram May 3. Bertram, an ardent supporter of the program, is a former Project 120 student himself.

That's the main reason Victoria Cameron, 15, from Lakeville, Minn., took part in Project 120. Her group was the last to spend time at the Capitol. They came Sunday, April 30 and attended an orientation session. Monday through Thursday they toured the Capitol.

"Probably the best part was meeting the actual people," Cameron said. "I liked meeting the attorney general because I'm planning to run for that [office] in Youth in Government."

Cameron and her friend, Leslie Pomplun, who also attended the final Project 120 program of the 1995 session, took part in Youth in Government earlier this year. Under that program, students give speeches, craft legislation, and hold debates on the floor of the House.

Project 120 also helps students from varied Minnesota backgrounds meet and discuss their lifestyles, Pomplun said. About 2,000 students attend her high school, but during the week she met students whose high school classes are much smaller.

"You're meeting more people and it just makes their experiences more real. Being

here makes government more real, too," she said.

For her part, Cameron said she plans to pursue a career in politics, thanks, in part, to her Project 120 involvement.

Many state government employees and politicians have a Project 120 past, Diehl said. Rep. Jeff Bertram (DFL-Paynesville) for example, attended the program as a student.

"When I phone many offices at the Capitol to set up appointments with the students, the person at the other end of the phone will say, 'Oh yes, I was a Project 120 student,'" Diehl said.

Students are tested on their knowledge of state government both before and after they complete the program. Their test scores usually improve dramatically, Diehl said.

"We tell students we teach them the political process and the importance of being involved in government. We also teach them to respect diversity in each other," Diehl said.

— Jean Thilmany

# Bills Sent to the Governor

## Bills await the governor's signature — or veto

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
- do nothing, which results in the bill becoming law in the first year of the biennium.

The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is this: the governor has three days from the time of "presentation" to veto a bill. If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays aren't counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include

a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
1	45	87	Relating to taxation; making technical corrections and clarifications; making administrative changes.	2/14/95	
2	98	134	Relating to gambling; providing for an alternate member of the advisory council on gambling.	2/17/95	
3	29	42	Relating to traffic regulations; repealing sunset provision concerning recreational vehicle combinations.	2/22/95	
4	31	44	Relating to energy; extending the deadline for the initial report of the legislative electric energy task force.	2/22/95	
5	262	75	Relating to real property; clarifying requirements relating to filing of notices relating to mechanics' liens.	2/24/95	
6	137	213	Relating to utilities; abolishing sunset provision related to competitive rates for electric utilities.	3/1/95	
7	52	33	Relating to drivers' licenses; permitting certain licensees to wear headwear in driver's license and Minnesota identification card photographs.	3/1/95	
8	103	141	Relating to elections; providing for review of certain school board plans by the Secretary of State; changing allocation of certain election expenses; providing for retention of election materials.	3/2/95	
9	164	65	Relating to utilities; regulating area development rate plans.	3/10/95	
10	37	49	Relating to local government; allowing either the town of Glen or the town of Kimberly in Aitkin County to have an alternative annual meeting day.	3/17/95	
11	554	620	Relating to securities; regulating enforcement actions against licensees; modifying the definition of investment metal.	3/17/95	
12	74	64	Relating to corrections; requiring that the commissioner of corrections notify affected local governments before licensing certain foster care facilities for delinquent children.	3/20/95	
13	726	323	Relating to housing; clarifying provisions relating to retaliatory conduct and manufactured home parks.	3/20/95	
14	749	350	Relating to housing; modifying eligibility for transitional housing services.	3/22/95	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
15	362	266	Relating to local government; towns; authorizing the town board to set up a petty cash fund.	3/22/95	
16	125	197	Relating to corrections; prohibiting correctional inmates from applying for name changes more than once during an inmate's confinement.	3/27/95	
17	435	275	Relating to public utilities; authorizing performance-based gas purchasing regulation for gas utilities.	3/27/95	
18	231	95	Relating to occupations and professions; Board of Medical Practice; changing licensing requirements for foreign applicants; changing certain disciplinary procedures.	3/27/95	
19	6	50	Relating to highways; designating a bridge as the Betty Adkins Bridge.	3/27/95	
20	647	181	Relating to elections; allowing time off to vote in elections to fill a vacancy in the legislature.	3/27/95	
21	229	182	Relating to towns; clarifying the procedure to fill a vacancy in the office of town supervisor.	3/27/95	
22	887	764	Relating to public administration; providing St. Paul with additional authority in regard to the Teacher Training Institute.	3/27/95	
23	95	132	Relating to highways; prohibiting headwalls in highway rights-of-way; imposing a penalty.	3/27/95	
24	570	318	Relating to insurance; changing the date on which crop hail insurance rates must be filed with the commissioner.	3/27/95	
25	654	534	Relating to towns; clarifying authority of town board to alter or vacate town roads dedicated by plat.	3/29/95	
26	121	310	Relating to state trails; authorizing extension of the Blufflands Trail System in Winona County.	3/29/95	
27	305	265	Relating to local government; clarifying provisions for financial audits in certain circumstances.	3/29/95	
28	153	145	Relating to motor vehicles; providing time limit for refunding motor vehicle registration tax overpayment.	3/29/95	
29	129	229	Relating to government data practices; medical examiner data; allowing sharing of such data with a state or federal agency charged with investigating a death.	3/31/95	
30	735	214	Relating to crime prevention; providing an exception to the prohibition on concealing identity.	4/5/95	
31	367	293	Relating to debt; providing for prompt payment of subcontractors of municipal contractors; modifying certain provisions relating to liens and performance bonds.	4/5/95	
32	321	174	Relating to game and fish; continuing the authorization for residents under the age of 16 to take deer of either sex.	4/5/95	
33	337	739	Relating to agriculture; changing certain procedures for compensating crop owners for damage by elk.	4/5/95	
34	1148	1099	Relating to elections; permitting election judges to serve outside the county where they reside in certain cases.	4/10/95	
35	282	237	Relating to state government; permitting state employees to donate vacation leave for the benefit of a certain state employee.	4/12/95	
36	812	710	Relating to natural resources; broadening the uses permitted for emergency materials and equipment.	4/12/95	
37	564	748	Relating to notaries; providing licensed peace officers with the powers of a notary public for administering oaths upon information submitted to establish probable cause.	4/12/95	
38	567	983	Relating to data practices; providing for disclosure of certain hospital and health care provider tax data to the commissioner of human services and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.	4/12/95	



Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
39	1176	1043	Relating to agriculture; modifying provisions related to farmed cervidae.	4/12/95	
40	568	528	Relating to traffic regulations; requiring adult motorcycle rider to wear eye protection device.	4/19/95	
41	782	427	Relating to Western Lake Superior Sanitary District; providing for compliance with certain requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.	4/18/95	
42	150	220	Relating to liquor; term of temporary on-sale licenses.	4/18/95	
43	228	72	Relating to occupations and professions; Board of Medical Practice; reinstating certain advisory councils.	Approved without signature	
44	226	73	Relating to occupations and professions; requiring reporting of certain insurance settlements to Board of Medical Practice.	4/19/95	
45	715	453	Relating to towns; providing for damage award to affected property owner when town board adopts a recorded town road map.	4/18/95	
46	216	426	Relating to motor vehicles; changing definition of fleet for vehicle registration purposes.	4/18/95	
47	1065	859	Relating to St. Louis County; modifying certain accounting and expenditure requirements for road and bridge fund tax money derived from unorganized townships.	4/18/95	
48	355	335	Relating to the organization and operation of state government; providing supplemental appropriations for certain purposes.	4/18/95	
49	1463	77	Relating to civil actions; new motor vehicle warranties; clarifying the limitation on actions after informal dispute settlement mechanism decisions.	4/19/95	
50	175	194	Relating to highways; designating bridge as Bridge of Hope.	4/18/95	
51	1433	1176	Relating to utilities; providing that Sleepy Eye need not provide notice to the commissioner of trade and economic development before discontinuing steam heating operations.	4/18/95	
52	350	34	Relating to insurance; health; requiring plans issued to supplement Medicare to provide coverage for equipment and supplies for the management and treatment of diabetes.	4/19/95	
53	714	574	Relating to Indians; requiring the commissioner of natural resources to change certain names of geographic features of the state.	4/18/95	
54	1145	1060	Relating to employment; modifying provisions relating to re-employment insurance.	4/18/95	
55	110	320	Relating to criminal procedure; allowing warrantless probable cause arrests for certain offenses committed on school property.	4/18/95	
56	1390	264	Relating to drivers' licenses; abolishing separate review process for commercial drivers' license disqualification.	4/19/95	
57	139	204	Relating to state government; requiring reporting on and certain analysis of federal mandates imposed on state agencies.	4/18/95	
58	1338	1042	Relating to limited liability organizations; modifying name requirements; eliminating a filing requirement; clarifying when debts arise or accrue for limited liability partnerships.	4/19/95	
59	1747	838	Relating to barbers; exempting persons performing barbering services for charitable purposes from registration and other requirements.	4/18/95	
60	1039	856	Relating to Dakota County; assigning to the county administrator the duties of the clerk of the county board.	4/18/95	
61	1075	521	Relating to adoption; requiring the listing of all children freed for adoption on the state adoption exchange within 20 days.	4/19/95	
62	345	239	Relating to state lands; authorizing the sale of certain tax-forfeited land that borders public water in Kandiyohi County.	4/18/95	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
63	724	1055	Relating to occupations and professions; exempting certain social workers from requirement to obtain home care provider license; exempting some social workers employed in a hospital or nursing home from examination; modifying licensure requirements; requiring hospital and nursing home social workers to be licensed.	4/19/95	
64	1091	1337	Relating to commerce; regulating sales by transient merchants; prohibiting the sale of certain items by certain merchants; prescribing penalties.	4/19/95	
65	1307	867	Relating to game and fish; identification required on ice fishing shelters.	4/19/95	
66	1363	1336	Relating to health; modifying provisions relating to drug dispensing.	4/19/95	
67	670	none	Relating to Winona County; authorizing Winona County to negotiate and enter into a contract for deed with Winona County Developmental Achievement Center.	4/19/95	
68	457	469	Relating to commerce; real estate; regulating certain licensees and registrants and recovery fund actions.	4/20/95	
69	612	543	Relating to health; requiring equal treatment of prescription drug prescribers; clarifying the role of practice guidelines in prescribing legend drugs.	4/19/95	
70	145	1255	Relating to corrections; authorizing use of force in defense of assault in correctional facilities under the control of or licensed by the commissioner.	4/19/95	
71	831	348	Relating to motor vehicles; clarifying power to appoint motor vehicle deputy registrars.	4/19/95	
72	1134	687	Relating to traffic regulations; requiring minimum clearance when passing bicycle or individual on roadway or bikeway; requiring bicycle traffic laws to be included in driver's manual and driver's license tests.	4/20/95	
73	661	446	Relating to commerce; restraint of trade; repealing price markup provisions in the sales discrimination law.	4/19/95	
74	971	172	Relating to motor vehicles; providing for issuance of manufacturer test plates.	4/19/95	
75	687	474	Relating to insurance; Medicare-related coverage; regulating policy reinstatement.	4/21/95	
76	679	566	Relating to education; allowing the residential program operated by Independent School District No. 518 to remain open until 7/1/96 (Lakeview School).	4/21/95	
77	316	133	Relating to state lands; authorizing the private sale of certain tax-forfeited lands bordering public waters in Cook and St. Louis counties.	4/21/95	
78	544	520	Relating to courts; requiring the state court administrator to prepare a guide to informal probate.	4/21/95	
79	859	833	Relating to cities; authorizing cities to conduct private sales of unclaimed property through nonprofit organizations.	4/21/95	
80	823	726	Relating to hospitals; removing an exception for certain cities and counties from certain hospital financing activities.	4/21/95	
81	744	577	Relating to health; modifying provisions relating to nursing home administrators.	4/21/95	
82	765	299	Relating to vocational rehabilitation; changing references to visually disabled person; making changes of a technical and housekeeping nature.	4/21/95	
83	1441	1023	Relating to public lands; notice requirements for sales of tax-forfeited lands; leasing of tax-forfeited lands; roads used by counties on tax-forfeited lands.	4/21/95	
84	1255	644	Relating to state lands; modifying the provisions of a land sale to the city of Anoka.	4/24/95	
85	900	144	Relating to traffic regulations; limiting access to data on holders of disabled parking certificates; modifying provisions governing display and use of certificates.	4/24/95	
86	83	91	Relating to gambling; providing eligibility for participation as a provider in the state compulsive gambling program.	4/24/95	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
87	485	445	Relating to the environment; requiring the Pollution Control Agency to permit the operation of certain waste combustors.	4/24/95	
88	806	680	Relating to state lands; authorizing the commissioner of natural resources to sell certain land in Scott County.	4/24/95	
89	1553	1209	Relating to Hennepin County; modifying certain provisions concerning the county medical examiners office.	4/24/95	
90	1063	858	Relating to the city of Duluth; making certain statutory provisions concerning public utilities applicable to the city of Duluth; authorizing a demonstration project to develop methods to prevent the infiltration and inflow of storm water into the city's sanitary sewer system.	4/25/95	
91	843	613	Relating to insurance; health; requiring coverage for hospitalization and anesthesia coverage for dental procedures; requiring coverage for general anesthesia and treatment for covered medical conditions rendered by a dentist.	4/25/95	
92	344	303	Relating to real property; providing for the form and record of certain assignments; revising the Common Interest Ownership Act; changing the application of curative and validating law for mortgage foreclosures.	4/25/95	
93	1457	1583	Relating to state lands; authorizing the commissioner of natural resources to sell certain acquired state lands located in Becker County.	4/26/95	
94	1378	1144	Relating to the city of Minneapolis; authorizing the Minneapolis City Council to delegate to the city engineer certain authority over traffic and parking.	4/26/95	
95	1332	839	Relating to agriculture; modifying pesticide posting requirements; changing certain pesticide dealer requirements; changing expiration of pesticide applicator certifications, etc.	4/26/95	
96	1130	893	Relating to insurance; the Comprehensive Health Association; changing benefits; changing the association's enrollment freeze date.	4/26/95	
97	377	390	Relating to driving while intoxicated; extending vehicle forfeiture penalties to include failure to appear at trial for designated driving while intoxicated offenses.	4/28/95	
98	1468	1268	Relating to the governor; providing that the governor may declare an inability to discharge duties of the office or may be declared unable to do so.	4/28/95	
99	464	341	Relating to motor vehicles; limiting license plate impoundment provisions to self-propelled motor vehicles.	4/28/95	
100	1645	1390	Relating to commerce; specifying kinds of wood for certain exterior construction applications.	4/28/95	
101	1153	1097	Relating to transportation; authorizing cities, counties, and transit commissions and authorities outside the metropolitan area to provide certain paratransit outside their service areas.	4/28/95	
102	838	713	Relating to Olmsted County; authorizing the county to create a non-profit corporation to own and operate a hospital and medical center.	4/28/95	
103	702	522	Relating to traffic regulations; allowing school authorities to appoint non-pupil adults to school safety patrols.	5/1/95	
104	901	1129	Relating to drivers' licenses; requiring additional information in drivers' education programs, the driver's license examination, and the driver's manual regarding the legal and financial consequences of violating DWI-related laws.	5/1/95	
105	1641	1396	Relating to local government; requiring a local governmental unit to furnish copies of any ordinances adopted to the county law library.	5/1/95	
106	529	431	Relating to eminent domain proceedings.	5/1/95	
107	340	305	Relating to commerce; motor vehicle sales and distribution; regulating the establishment and relocation of dealerships.	5/1/95	
108	985	830	Relating to state lands; allowing the sale of certain state forest lands; requiring the commissioner of natural resources to convey certain land to the city of Akeley for public purposes; authorizing the sale of certain trust fund lands; authorizing the sale of tax-forfeited land in Todd County; authorizing the commissioner of transportation to acquire certain trust fund land.	5/1/95	
109	866	683	Relating to local government; authorizing home rule charter and statutory cities to make grants to non-profit community food shelves.	5/3/95	
110	533	420	Relating to Stearns County; authorizing the Paynesville Area Hospital District to annex the city of Eden Valley to the district; authorizing the city of Sauk Centre to determine the number of members of the Public Utilities Commission.	5/3/95	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
111	47	94	Relating to solid waste; merging two conflicting amendments to the solid waste generator assessment statute that were enacted in 1994.	5/3/95	
112	565	501	Relating to metropolitan area housing; authorizing the Metropolitan Council to operate a federal section 8 housing program within the metropolitan area pursuant to joint exercise of powers agreements.	5/3/95	
113	1060	810	Relating to local government; excluding certain fire and police department employees from civil service in the city of South St. Paul.	5/3/95	
114	813	974	Relating to human services; establishing a temporary payment rate for a recently purchased intermediate care facility for persons with mental retardation or related conditions.	5/3/95	
115	877	949	Relating to insurance; private passenger vehicle insurance; providing for a premium reduction for vehicles having antitheft alarms or devices.	5/3/95	
116	68	68	Relating to insurance; requiring insurers to offer alternative methods for the payment of group life policy proceeds.	5/3/95	
117	1485	1171	Relating to occupations and professions; permitting protective agents to perform certain traffic control duties.		5/4/95
118	1011	1015	Relating to traffic regulations; prohibiting radar jammers.	5/3/95	
119	1320	1073	Relating to the environment; establishing a private cause of action for abandonment of hazardous waste.		
120	383	340	Relating to traffic regulations; clarifying conditions when covering motor vehicle head lamp, tail lamp, or reflector is unlawful, etc.		
121	1425	1250	Relating to tax-forfeited land; modifying the terms of payment for certain tax-forfeited timber.		
122	1626	1572	Relating to state government; prohibiting investment of public funds in certain assets.		
123	733	1547	Relating to employment; modifying provisions relating to high pressure piping installation; providing penalties.		
124	54	279	Relating to state government; directing the governor, attorney general, and other public officers to perform certain duties in regard to certain waters and public lands.		
125	354	807	Relating to utilities; allowing small gas utility franchises an exemption from rate regulation for incidental utility service.		
126	1194	947	Relating to state government; allocating certain appropriations to regional arts council.		
127	1008	606	Relating to family law; authorizing courts to require parties to participate in orientation programs in proceedings involving children.		
128	399	559	Relating to business organizations; clarifying corporate authority with respect to rights to purchase; regulating filings and related matters; providing for service of process.		
129	32	29	Relating to marriage; authorizing retired court administrators to solemnize marriages.		
130	651	591	Relating to probate; clarifying and correcting provisions of the uniform probate code; expanding authority for safe deposit box searches, etc.		
131	244	306	Relating to employment; establishing the governor's workforce development council to replace certain other councils.		
132	273	455	Relating to motor vehicles; allowing license plates for collector vehicles to be transferred and reissued; imposing fees.		
133	266	180	Relating to peace officers; authorizing certain expenditures by a surviving spouse from a dependent child's share of peace officer's survivor benefits.		
134	1460	1374	Relating to government; modifying a budget report date for cities; modifying certain budget publication requirements.		



Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
135	1602	1420	Relating to health; establishing provisions for mobile health care providers.		
136	331	309	Relating to health; modifying provisions relating to access to patients and residents.		
137	586	553	Relating to motor vehicles; authorizing sale and disposal of unauthorized, abandoned, and junk vehicles by impound lots.		
138	624	493	Relating to public employees; providing a leave of absence for public employees who are candidates for elective office.		
139	694	608	Relating to human services; modifying child care programs and county contribution.		
140	1308	973	Relating to insurance; automobile; permitting users of rental vehicles to benefit from lower price rental periods without losing coverage.		
141	617	561	Relating to retirement; various public pension plans; providing for the suspension of forfeiture of certain survivor benefits in the event of certain felonious deaths; etc.		
142	927	864	Relating to domestic abuse; eliminating hearing requirements in certain cases; providing for notices.		
143	1048	846	Relating to commerce; regulating videotape distributions; requiring certain captioning for deaf or hard of hearing persons; providing penalties and remedies.		
144	1052	565	Relating to the federal lien registration act; imposing duties on filing officers; providing for filing of notices and of certificates of discharge; designating an official index; providing for the transmission of certain information.		
145	1402	1163	Relating to motor vehicles; authorizing issuance of original license plates 20 or more years old to a registered passenger automobile; authorizing registrar to charge a fee.		
146	1003	1075	Relating to health; modifying provisions relating to X-ray operators and inspections; establishing an advisory committee.		
147	1018	1067	Relating to the environment; conforming state regulation of chlorofluorocarbons to federal law.		
148	1371	1272	Relating to commerce; securities; regulating disclosure of payment received for directing order flow.		
149	1252	1051	Relating to emergency telephone services; requiring provider of cellular telephone services to include in its billings a notice regarding 911 calls.		
150	1082	1407	Relating to cooperatives; permitting certain optional voting systems for cooperatives that have other cooperatives as members.		
151	217	139	Relating to insurance; life; regulating living benefits settlements; adopting the NAIC viatical settlements model act; prescribing powers and duties; appropriating money.		
152	751	649	Relating to insurance; regulating trade practices; prohibiting certain insurance agent quotas.		
153	1709	1523	Relating to the city of Chanhassen; authorizing certain bid specifications for playground equipment on an experimental basis.		
154	1437	1152	Relating to employment; requiring disclosure to recruited employees in the food processing industry.		
155	1174	1091	Relating to transportation; expanding authority of commissioner of transportation to regulate providers of special transportation service; classifying data; providing for administrative fees and penalties.		
156	620	752	Relating to telecommunications; allowing for alternative regulation of telephone companies for a limited period; authorizing rulemaking to promote fair and reasonable competition for local exchange service.		
157	416	308	Relating to crime prevention; authorizing special registration plates for certain persons subject to an impoundment order.		

# Minnesota House of Representatives 1995-96

Unofficial list as of April 12, 1995

District/Member/Party			Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (612) 296-
		Room*				Room*	
45A	Abrams, Ron (IR)	209	9934	50B	Lynch, Teresa (IR)	295	5369
10A	Anderson, Bob (DFL)	437	4946	37B	Macklin, Bill (IR)	349	6926
19B	Anderson, Bruce (IR)	281	5063	40A	Mahon, Mark P. (DFL)	401	7158
3A	Anderson, Irv (DFL)	463	4936	55A	Mares, Harry (IR)	239	5363
6A	Bakk, Thomas (DFL)	429	2190	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	403	9714
14B	Bertram, Jeff (DFL)	571	4373	57B	Marko, Sharon (DFL)	507	3135
10B	Bettermann, Hilda (IR)	243	4317	55B	McCollum, Betty (DFL)	501	1188
30B	Bishop, Dave (IR)	343	0573	36B	McElroy, Dan (IR)	259	4212
25B	Boudreau, Lynda (IR)	327	8237	54A	McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	567	4342
30A	Bradley, Fran (IR)	241	9249	39B	Milbert, Bob (DFL)	579	4192
53B	Broecker, Sherry (IR)	321	7153	35A	Molnau, Carol (IR)	287	8872
13A	Brown, Chuck (DFL)	597	4929	21B	Mulder, Richard (IR)	387	4336
46B	Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	379	4255	7A	Munger, Willard (DFL)	479	4282
47B	Carruthers, Phil (DFL)	459	3709	8A	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	557	2676
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	503	0294	20A	Ness, Robert "Bob" (IR)	335	4344
38A	Commers, Tim (IR)	217	3533	2B	Olson, Edgar (DFL)	565	4265
15B	Cooper, Roger (DFL)	549	4346	19A	Olson, Mark (IR)	223	4237
11A	Daggett, Roxann (IR)	225	4293	20B	Onnen, Tony (IR)	273	1534
9B	Dauner, Marvin (DFL)	581	6829	16A	Opatz, Joe (DFL)	423	6612
31B	Davids, Gregory M. (IR)	371	9278	64B	Orenstein, Howard (DFL)	529	4199
65A	Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	409	5158	60B	Orfield, Myron (DFL)	521	9281
14A	Dehler, Steve (IR)	203	7808	29B	Osskopp, Mike (IR)	329	9236
51A	Delmont, Mike (DFL)	575	4226	66A	Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	585	4224
29A	Dempsey, Jerry (IR)	251	8635	24B	Ostrom, Don (DFL)	433	7065
24A	Dorn, John (DFL)	533	3248	11B	Otremba, Ken (DFL)	545	3201
64A	Entenza, Matt (DFL)	531	8799	37A	Ozment, Dennis (IR)	283	4306
42A	Erhardt, Ron (IR)	237	4363	42B	Paulsen, Erik (IR)	221	7449
67A	Farrell, Jim (DFL)	491	4277	38B	Pawlenty, Tim (IR)	231	4128
1B	Finseth, Tim (IR)	377	9918	52B	Pellow, Richard (IR)	233	0141
31A	Frerichs, Don L. (IR)	247	4378	32A	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	517	8637
63B	Garcia, Edwina (DFL)	411	5375	57A	Perit, Walter E. (DFL)	473	7807
21A	Girard, Jim (IR)	213	5374	13B	Peterson, Doug (DFL)	523	4228
9A	Goodno, Kevin (IR)	369	5515	39A	Pugh, Thomas (DFL)	583	6828
62A	Greenfield, Lee (DFL)	375	0173	46A	Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	443	4176
54B	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	553	5387	44B	Rhodes, Jim (IR)	309	9889
48A	Haas, Bill (IR)	201	5513	58A	Rice, James I. (DFL)	381	4262
50A	Hackbarth, Tom (IR)	313	2439	18A	Rostberg, Jim (IR)	323	5364
22B	Harder, Elaine (IR)	277	5373	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	471	0170
12A	Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)	451	4333	59A	Sarna, John J. (DFL)	563	4219
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	449	3824	17B	Schumacher, Leslie (DFL)	413	5377
56A	Holsten, Mark (IR)	345	3018	41A	Seagren, Alice (IR)	315	7803
26A	Hugoson, Gene (IR)	289	3240	52A	Simoneau, Wayne (DFL)	365	4331
6B	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	569	2228	62B	Skoglund, Wesley J. "Wes" (DFL)	477	4330
7B	Jaros, Mike (DFL)	559	4246	34A	Smith, Steve (IR)	353	9188
58B	Jefferson, Richard H. (DFL)	577	8659	3B	Solberg, Loren (DFL)	445	2365
18B	Jennings, Loren (DFL)	537	0518	33B	Stanek, Rich (IR)	351	5502
48B	Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)	539	5510	28B	Sviggum, Steven A. (IR)	267	2273
4A	Johnson, Bob (DFL)	551	5516	51B	Swenson, Doug (IR)	255	4124
32B	Johnson, Virgil J. (IR)	207	1069	23B	Swenson, Howard (IR)	331	8634
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	367	4257	43B	Sykora, Barbara (IR)	357	4315
26B	Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	543	4240	5B	Tomassoni, David (DFL)	593	0172
44A	Kelley, Steve (DFL)	417	3964	36A	Tompkins, Eileen (IR)	245	5506
35B	Kelso, Becky (DFL)	415	1072	67B	Trimble, Steve (DFL)	485	4201
4B	Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony" (DFL)	453	2451	25A	Tuma, John (IR)	301	4229
40B	Knight, Kevin (IR)	307	4218	1A	Tunheim, Jim (DFL)	509	9635
16B	Knobloch, Jim (IR)	215	6316	34B	Van Dellen, H. Todd (IR)	291	5511
17A	Koppendrayner, LeRoy (IR)	389	6746	15A	Van Engen, Tom (IR)	359	6206
27A	Kraus, Ron (IR)	279	8216	23A	Vickerman, Barb (IR)	211	9303
53A	Krinkie, Phil (IR)	303	2907	63A	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	439	4200
56B	Larsen, Peg (IR)	311	4244	49B	Warkentin, Eldon H. (IR)	253	4231
27B	Leighton, Robert (DFL)	527	4193	49A	Weaver, Charlie (IR)	261	1729
45B	Leppik, Peggy (IR)	393	7026	61B	Wejzman, Linda (DFL)	431	7152
2A	Lieder, Bernie (DFL)	515	5091	12B	Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	487	4247
33A	Lindner, Arlon (IR)	227	7806	22A	Winter, Ted (DFL)	407	5505
60A	Long, Dee (DFL)	591	0171	41B	Wolf, Ken (IR)	317	5185
8B	Lourey, Becky (DFL)	421	4308	28A	Worke, Gary D. (IR)	229	5368
47A	Luther, Darlene (DFL)	525	3751	43A	Workman, Tom (IR)	337	5066

Note: Room numbers are still subject to change.

\*All rooms are in the State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

In the Hopper . . . April 28 - May 4, 1995

# Bill Introductions

HF1884-HF1895

## Monday, May 1

HF1884—Rostberg (IR)  
Education

Independent School District No. 911, Cambridge, provided grant for year-round school pilot program, and money appropriated.

HF1885—Wenzel (DFL)  
Health and Human Services  
Woman's right to know act adopted.

HF1886—Wenzel (DFL)  
Health and Human Services  
Abortion informed consent required.

HF1887—Wenzel (DFL)  
Health and Human Services  
Abortion informed consent required and civil cause of action provided.

## Tuesday, May 2

HF1888—Hasskamp (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Firearms; right to keep and bear arms not abridged and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1889—Jefferson (DFL)  
Governmental Operations  
Juneteenth; June 19th designated a state holiday.

## Wednesday, May 3

HF1890—Ozment (IR)  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Great horned owl trapping by poultry farmers authorized.

## Thursday, May 4

HF1891—Bakk (DFL)  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Gray wolf management plan developed by natural resources department.

HF1892—Johnson, V. (IR)  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Hunting, trapping and angling lawful activity impedance or obstruction prohibited, and penalties provided.

HF1893—Peterson (DFL)  
Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs  
Premium gasoline sold or offered for use in recreational vehicles exempted from minimum oxygen content level requirement.

HF1894—Peterson (DFL)  
Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs  
Premium gasoline exempted from minimum oxygen content level requirement.

HF1895—Peterson (DFL)  
Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs  
Premium gasoline sold or offered for use in motorized watercraft exempted from minimum oxygen content level requirement.

Coming Up Next Week . . . May 8 - 12, 1995

# Committee Schedule

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

## MONDAY, May 8

\*Room and Time to be announced\*

**RULES &  
LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**  
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers  
**Agenda:** Rule 9.03 bills.

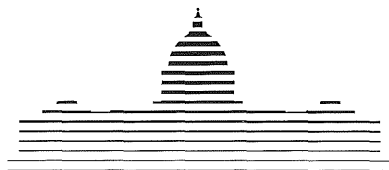
2 p.m.

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**  
224 State Capitol  
HF323 (Dawkins); SF249 (Johnson, J. B.)  
**Agenda:** Landlord deemed customer of record on utility accounts.

## TUESDAY, May 9

1 p.m.

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**  
224 State Capitol  
HF1132 (Jennings); SF936 (Solon)  
**Agenda:** Liquor provisions modifications.



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

Speaker of the House: Irv Anderson  
Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### MinnesotaCare and health insurance

Percent that health care spending in Twin Cities increased between 1991 and 1993 .....	20
Average for metropolitan areas nationwide .....	24
National rank of Minnesota in Northwest National Life's state health rankings, 1994 .....	2
Times in the last five years Minnesota has ranked first .....	3
Times West Virginia has ranked 50 .....	3
Approximate number of Minnesotans enrolled in MinnesotaCare, March 1995 .....	80,000
Average number of enrollees, per month, according to Department of Human Services estimates, in fiscal year 1995 .....	84,296
Current gross revenues tax on hospitals, other health care providers, and wholesale drug distributors, (which is dedicated to the MinnesotaCare program), in percent .....	2
Dollars expected to be collected by the tax, in millions, fiscal year 1995 .....	\$140
Estimated payments for medical services provided through MinnesotaCare, in millions, fiscal year 1995 .....	\$78.6
Number of Aid to Families with Dependent Children cases closed because of the availability of MinnesotaCare .....	2,400
Savings to the state, per year, in millions .....	\$8.4
Number of small employers buying into the new state health insurance purchasing pool created by the Legislature .....	225
Percent of those businesses that did not previously offer health insurance .....	75
Estimated number of Minnesotans uninsured on a given day .....	400,000
As a percentage of all Minnesotans .....	8.9
Increase in the number of uninsured Minnesotans since 1990 .....	0
Additional Minnesotans that would be uninsured had the state mirrored the national trend during the same time period .....	69,000
Percent of <i>uninsured</i> Minnesotans who were male, 1992 .....	63
Percent of <i>insured</i> Minnesotans who were male, 1992 .....	47
Deficit projected by the Department of Finance for MinnesotaCare funding, in millions, fiscal year 1997 .....	\$37.5

Sources: *The Basics of MinnesotaCare*, December 1994, House Research Department; *Preliminary Estimates of the Number of Uninsured Minnesotans*, Staff Report to the Minnesota Health Care Commission, October 1994; *MinnesotaCare Update*, March 1995, Minnesota Health Care Commission; *An Analysis of the Relative Healthiness of the Population of all Fifty States*, 1994, Northwest National Life.



### For more information . . .

For general information, call:  
**House Information Office**  
(612) 296-2146 or  
1-800-657-3550

To obtain a copy of a bill, call:  
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(612) 296-2314

To find out about bill introductions or  
the status of a specific bill, call:  
**House Index Office**  
(612) 296-6646

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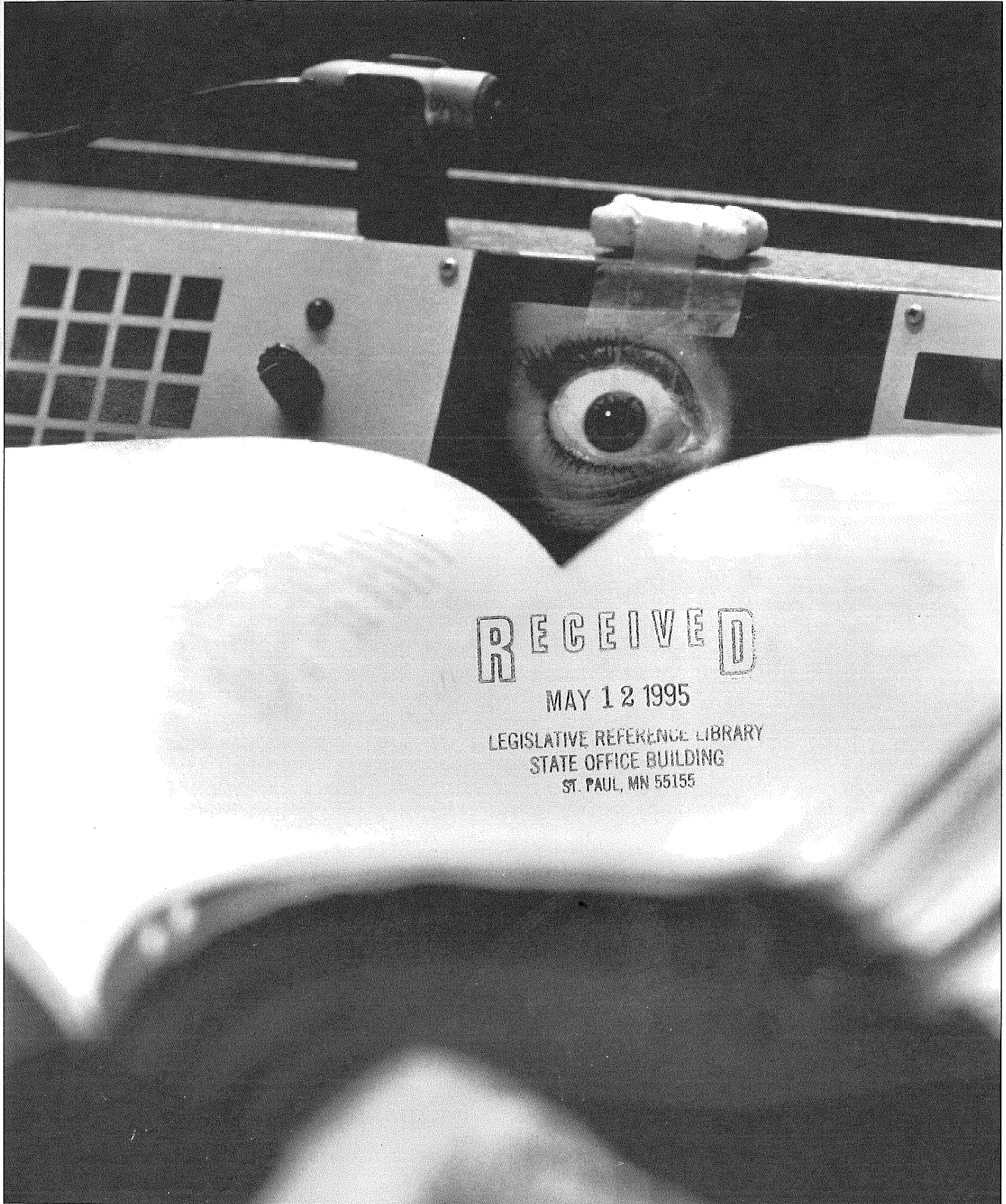


95. May 12

P615.

# SESSION WEEKLY

A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ May 12, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 19



**Session Weekly** is a non-partisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1995-96 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • May 12, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 19

## Week at a glance

**Bonding bill fails twice** — A bill to authorize the sale of \$25.4 million in state bonds to build schools and remodel the State Capitol failed twice in the House. .... Page 4

**Foster homes** — A new law, effective Aug. 1, 1995, mandates that the Department of Corrections notify local governments before licensing a foster care facility for delinquent children. .... Page 4

**Pay hikes** — The heads of state departments, boards and agencies would be eligible for a significant pay raise, under a bill approved by the House Ways and Means Committee. But whether they would get the raises is another matter. .... Page 6

**Welfare reform** — A welfare reform bill that would require some new Minnesota welfare recipients to take part in a tough new jobs program and mandates that teen-aged moms on welfare live at home is on its way to the governor. .... Page 7

**Terminally ill life insurance** — A new state law will provide protection for AIDS patients and other terminally ill people who sell the rights to their life insurance policies. The law will regulate what are called viatical settlements. Under the agreements, those who face certain death sell off their life insurance policy to receive some cash on their investment before they die. .... Page 8

**Elevator repairs** — Work performed on a passenger or freight elevator would have to be done by a state licensed elevator mechanic, under a bill that won final passage in the House. .... Page 9

**Abandoned waste** — A building owner now has a greater chance of successfully suing a renter who moves out leaving behind containers of hazardous waste, under a new state law. The law, effective May 6, 1995, applies to both residential and commercial space rental. It requires the property owner to request in writing that the former renter "remove and properly dispose of the abandoned waste." .... Page 10

**MCTO bus safety** — A total of \$354,000 would be spent to improve safety for bus drivers and passengers, under a bill approved by the House Ways and Means Committee. The money would pay for Plexiglas shields to protect drivers and surveillance cameras on 59 buses that travel six "high-risk routes" in the Twin Cities. .... Page 11

## INSIDE

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Bills Incorporated Into Other Bills .....	14
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Bill Introductions (HF1896 - HF1910) .....	27

On the cover: A picture of an attentive-looking eye was spotted May 11 on the House chamber desk of Rep. Phil Krinkie (IR-Shoreview). The eye is to remind Krinkie to keep careful watch over the mounting pile of paperwork he will see before the end of the 1995 session. The Legislature must adjourn by midnight May 22.

—photo by Tom Olmscheid



# Highlights

Reforming the system . . .

## Proposal aims to cut workers' compensation costs

A bill that promises to reform Minnesota's \$1 billion workers' compensation system won final approval from the House May 9. The vote was 85-47.

Supporters of the measure say it will cut workers' compensation insurance premiums for businesses by 11.4 percent.

Most of the savings would be accomplished by three main changes.

First, the automatic cost-of-living increases in the benefits paid to injured workers would be cut. The annual hikes would be trimmed from the current 4 percent to 2 percent. However, the 2 percent limit could be exceeded with the consent of Workers' Compensation Advisory Council, which is comprised of labor and business representatives. (A 1992 workers' compensation reform bill cut the automatic increase from up to 6 percent to the current 4 percent.)

Second, the bill would make it more difficult to qualify for permanent total disability benefits. These are benefits paid to injured workers who are found to be unable to work. The stricter standards for permanent total benefits would cut in half the number of people receiving them, supporters said. This would be accomplished by altering the current complex formula to determine one's disability classification. This change alone, according to the Department of Labor and Industry, would give businesses an estimated 5 percent savings in their workers' compensation insurance premiums.

Third, the workers' compensation insurance industry would face limited regulation. Insurance companies would have to receive approval from the Department of Commerce for any premium increase or decrease exceeding 25 percent, under the bill. (Currently, insurance companies are only required to notify the state of rate increases before they are implemented.)

Any workers injured before Oct. 1, 1995, would not see their benefits cut, but all would see their annual cost of living adjustment capped at the proposed 2 percent rate, under the bill.

Supporters say the reforms would bring under control escalating costs to employers and help Minnesota compete with neighbor-

ing states to attract businesses while still providing protection for workers.

"It's good for the injured workers of this state. It's good for the employers of this state," said Rep. Hilda Bettermann (IR-Brandon).

But critics said the bill fails to address all the factors that drive workers' compensation costs and is too focused on reducing benefits to injured workers as a way of controlling costs.

"There are a lot of benefit cuts in here that are so bad it boggles my mind," said Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia).

Although the proposal is sponsored by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), the measure differs significantly from Winter's original proposal.

The bill Winter brought to the floor sought to control costs through insurance reform. It would have required state approval for any proposed rate increases. It also would have expanded opportunities for small businesses to self insure and simplified the system of paying out benefits.

But a group of lawmakers dubbed the Bipartisan Workers' Compensation Caucus found the necessary support to attach sweeping amendments to the bill, essentially replacing Winter's proposal.

Amendments offered by Rep. Becky Kelso

(DFL-Shakopee) and Rep. Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley) now make up the core of the reform bill.

The final vote had 21 DFLers and 64 IRs voting for the bill.

The insurance regulation provisions now in the bill drew criticism from Rep. Jim Rice (DFL-Mpls). "That is not regulation," he said. "It's a fraud. It's a sham."

Rice said the "mean, ugly, vicious bill" would do nothing to provide savings to businesses and shows no regard for injured workers.

But Rep. Jeff Bertram (DFL-Paynesville) said the bill would correct a troubled system that has employers "paying through the nose" and would still protect workers who have a legitimate need for help.

Supporters also noted the bill would increase the amount paid to some workers receiving benefits for a temporary total disability — boosting the maximum benefit for a temporary total disability from the current \$516.66 a week to \$615.

Kelso used an endorsement from Minnesota Teamsters Joint Council 32 to refute claims the proposed benefit cuts would be punitive to workers.

Although major changes to the workers' compensation system were enacted by the legislature as recently as 1992, it is such a



Susan Smith, Maple Grove, talked with her husband, Steven, outside the House chamber May 9 as lawmakers debated a workers' compensation reform bill that would cut benefits to some injured workers. In 1993 Smith, a nurse, had her foot crushed in an accident at work. The injury developed into Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy which later affected her legs, right arm, eyes and left her in a wheelchair.

divisive issue that is more frequently talked about than actually acted upon.

In 1992, lawmakers put a temporary freeze on workers' compensation rate increases and created a managed care system of medical providers in an attempt to control costs. These and other changes helped to stem the rise of employers' insurance premiums, but critics said the 1992 law did not provide the "institutional reform" that proponents are now promising should **HF642** become law.

"The quintessential case of orchestrated gridlock" has stalled year-after-year efforts to reform the workers' compensation system, said Kelso. "My hope is that today will be the end of this gridlock."

The bill now goes to the Senate.

—Nick Healy



## BONDING

### Bonding bill fails twice

A bill to authorize the sale of \$25.4 million in state bonds to build schools and remodel the State Capitol failed twice in the House May 11.

On the first vote, the measure failed 66-67. The bill was tabled and then reconsidered about two hours later. The second vote was 79-54 in favor of the bill — two votes shy of the 81 votes needed for a bonding bill to pass.

(The Minnesota Constitution requires that 60 percent of both the House and Senate must approve a bill to sell state bonds.)

The bill is now tabled, which means it may be reconsidered at a future date.

The proposal (**HF1010**) would authorize the sale of \$25.4 million of bonds in this non-bonding year. Last year, the governor signed a \$621 million bonding bill into law, the largest in state history. (Bonding bills are typically assembled in the second year of the state's two-year spending cycle.)

**HF1010** would authorize \$23.7 million in bonds for maximum effort school loans to three school districts.

Such loans are granted to districts which, due to low property tax values, cannot raise sufficient funds through property taxes to make much needed capital improvements. Districts must show they meet a number of tax capacity qualifications to be eligible for the loans, which allow them to take advantage of the state's low-interest loan rates. (The loans are repaid according to a schedule based on a district's property tax values.)

Under the bill, the Kelliher School District would receive \$6.9 million to help construct a new school, the Littlefork-Big Falls School

District would have received \$7 million for building expansion and to make the schools handicapped accessible, and the Big Lake School District would receive \$9.7 million to help repay a short-term loan used to build a new school.

The Big Lake proposal has been approved by the House each of the past three years but removed from the bonding bill during conference committee negotiations, said bill sponsor Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters).

Also under the bill, the Department of Administration would receive nearly \$1.7 million in bonds to make design and renovation improvements to the State Capitol building. Of the amount, \$184,000 would come from the general fund.

The money is intended to resolve the turf battle over Capitol office space. Earlier this session, the Legislature went to Ramsey County District Court and won an injunction to stop the governor from moving into office space lawmakers said was theirs.

The bill also would allow Normandale Community College to construct a parking ramp for its students. The bill would authorize the community college system to sell revenue bonds for the project, though the total amount borrowed for the project could not exceed \$4.2 million.

The money would be paid back through the fees paid by people parking at the ramp.

The bill also limits — to one-half of total project costs — the amount of general fund dollars used to pay for building or repairing parking ramps and lots at community colleges. Also, the community college system would have to develop a plan by January 1996 to finance all future parking lot construction and repair expenses with parking fees rather than state appropriations.

The Senate passed a \$37.8 million bonding bill May 3.



## CHILDREN

### Foster homes



A new law, effective Aug. 1, 1995, requires that the Department of Corrections notify local governments before licensing a foster care facility for delinquent children.

Under current law, all such facilities are reviewed by the department at least once every two years. But the department doesn't have to notify the town or city that such a license is being issued.

The new law requires the department to give a 30-day written notice to any city or town

before issuing a license to a foster home for delinquent children that would be located within its boundaries.

The requirement applies to a home's initial license. Notification, however, must be made annually should the local government request such a notification in writing.

The notice is not required if the foster home will hold six or fewer children.

Any state funds funneled to the licensed foster care home cannot be made until the notification requirements are met.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) and Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley).

**HF74/SF64\*/CH12**



## CRIME

### Protecting police horses

A bill that would make it a crime to assault a police horse is on its way to the governor.

After a conference committee worked out the differences between the House and Senate proposals, both chambers unanimously passed the measure (**HF1399\*/SF1274**). The House passed the bill May 10. The vote was 128-0. The Senate passed the bill May 11 by a vote of 60-0.

Minneapolis launched its mounted patrol program Nov. 3, 1994. Four horses patrol mainly downtown Minneapolis along Hennepin and Nicollet avenues. (See March 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 5; March 31, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 5)

But no laws are in place to punish those who may punch, pull the tail, or heave full pop bottles at a police horse — all of which have already occurred.

If such an assault results in "demonstrable bodily harm," the maximum penalty would be a year and a day in prison and a \$3,000 fine. Lesser assaults on a horse could result in a misdemeanor offense.

The bill calls for a maximum penalty of two years in prison and a \$4,000 fine for killing a police horse.

The measure also carries a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for killing a police officer, or any other person, as a result of an assault on a police horse. (This charge would be in addition to other offenses that would apply in such a case.)

Under current law, police dogs are similarly protected and have been since 1987.

The bill is sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth).



## Powers of arrest



A new state law allows a police officer to arrest someone whom the officer has reason to believe committed a misdemeanor offense within a school zone even when the officer didn't witness the alleged offense.

A school zone is defined as any school property and the area within one city block of a school. It also includes a school bus while it is transporting students.

The change allows an officer to arrest someone without a warrant. The arrest can be made anywhere, as long as the criminal behavior takes place within a school zone and within four hours of the arrest. Such crimes include a fifth-degree assault or a disorderly conduct offense.

Under current law, an officer normally can't arrest someone for a misdemeanor offense that the officer did not witness.

The law, which becomes effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato).

HF110/SF320\*/CH55



## ENVIRONMENT

### Natural disaster relief



Effective Aug. 1, 1995, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be allowed to lend equipment to cities and counties facing a natural disaster, under a new law signed by the governor.

Under current law, the DNR is authorized to lend its equipment only for "wildfire prevention or suppression."

The new law replaces that reference with "natural disaster relief," which includes "wildfire prevention or suppression, hazardous material discharge control or clean-up, and flood or windstorm relief."

The DNR provided gloves, shovels, pumps, and large earth-moving equipment during the 1993 Minnesota floods, even though it did not have specific legal authorization to do so, said Olin Phillips, a manager in the DNR's Forestry Division.

DNR finance officials suggested the state law be changed to cover this practice.

The DNR and the U.S. Forest Service jointly maintain fire fighting equipment in Grand Rapids, Minn.

Phillips explained that the new law, signed April 12, 1995, allows the DNR to provide



Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun was touched by the warm response he received from legislators, judges, and friends after his keynote address during the Minnesota Judicial Center's dedication ceremony May 11.

municipalities and counties with "multi-use equipment," such as shovels and bulldozers, needed for natural disaster relief.

Local governments will reimburse the state for the cost of the equipment used, and the money will revert to the DNR's emergency fire fighting fund.

"This is a small piece of legislation that's going to have a lot of value," Phillips said.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment (IR-Rosemount), and Sen. Dennis Frederickson (IR-New Ulm).

HF812\*/SF710/CH36



## ETHICS

### Promoting congeniality

A legislator could meet with a lobbyist and accept up to \$25 worth of food, beverages, and tickets to cultural or sporting events, under a bill that would modify the 1994 ethics law that banned most gifts to lawmakers.

The bill was approved by the House Ways and Means Committee May 10.

HF856, sponsored by Rep. David Bishop (IR-Rochester), would have limited lawmakers to accepting only "food or a non-alcoholic beverage" from a lobbyist that did not exceed \$5 in total cost.

A successful amendment offered by Rep. Don Frerichs (IR-Rochester) alters the bill to allow legislators to accept \$25 worth of tickets, food, and beverages at events away from the Capitol.

Lobbyists who provide dinner or refreshments to lawmakers would have to itemize the expenditures in a quarterly report to the Ethical Practices Board. Under current law, lobbyists file such reports three times a year.

Legislators also would have to disclose the dollar amount, the nature of the gift, the name and address of the gift giver, and the date it was given, in a quarterly report to the Ethical Practices Board.

Frerichs said that a \$25 limit on food, drinks and tickets would promote "congeniality" between business representatives and lawmakers.

"Why would I spend my money and my time going someplace to listen to [a lobbyist's] story?" Frerichs said after the committee hearing. He said that not allowing lobbyists to provide a meal for legislators blocks the "net-working process that is absolutely vital" to the legislative process.

"People back home know me and they know that I can't be bought for \$5 or \$25. I think we went much too far last year and it's time to correct it," Frerichs said.

Although Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) sponsored an ethics bill (HF802) that would have exempted coffee and refreshments under \$3 from the 1994 ban, she spoke against the \$25 limit proposed by Frerichs.

She said that "a bill that has meals, tickets, and would allow trips to Hawaii is going to outrage the public, if they become aware of the situation and we aren't able to correct it on the House floor."

The reference to Hawaii concerns a provision in the bill that would allow legislators to receive reimbursement for reasonable travel and lodging expenses "necessary for participation" in an event where they give a speech or answer questions. Under current law, lawmakers can't be reimbursed for travel expenses in such cases.

The law flatly prohibits lawmakers from accepting any food or beverage purchased by a lobbyist, unless the lawmaker is giving a speech or answering questions at an organization-sponsored meeting. (See March 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9 and March 31, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8)

The Senate passed a companion bill May 9 that sets a \$5 limit on food and non-alcoholic beverage for legislators.

HF856 is expected to be taken up on the House floor next week. If it passes, differences between the House and Senate proposals would likely have to be worked out in a conference committee.



## FAMILY

### Children of divorce



Divorce is never easy, but it often hits children the hardest.

A new law could require parents who are separating to attend a special workshop.

After Aug. 1, 1995, in a proceeding involving child custody, child support, or visitation of children, the court may require the parents to attend an orientation and education program which addresses the impact of such proceedings on children.

Parents could be required to pay a fee to cover the costs of the program. (Any fees would be waived for those who are unable to pay.)

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Fran Bradley (IR-Rochester) and Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (IR-Rochester).

**HF1008\*/SF606/CH127**



## GOVERNMENT

### Top government salaries

The heads of state departments, boards and agencies would be eligible for a significant pay raise, under a bill approved by the House Ways and Means Committee May 8. But whether they would get the raises is another matter.

The bill, following a successful amendment offered by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), would scrap the current three-tiered system of paying top-level state employees and replace it with a two-tiered system.

The bill would divide state agency heads into two salary ranges, each of which is tied to the governor's salary, currently at \$114,506. In the first range, commissioner salaries could not exceed 85 percent of the governor's salary (\$97,330); the second range would be capped at 75 percent (\$85,880).

The first range is nearly \$20,000 more than the highest cap under current law and the second nearly \$8,000 higher.

Gov. Arne Carlson has argued that salary increases are needed to attract top candidates for high-level state jobs. Although state department and agency heads last received a salary increase in 1990, the caps have not been changed since 1987.

Under current law, the salaries of top-level state officials are divided into three ranges, depending on the size of the agency. The ranges are capped at \$78,000, \$67,500 and

\$60,000, respectively. (See April 7, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9 and April 21, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 13)

Some lawmakers argued that the proposed changes could result in pay increases that would simply be too great.

The commissioner of the Department of Veteran Affairs, one of the lowest paid commissioners, for example, would be eligible for a \$38,860 pay raise — a 66 percent increase, under the bill.

Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) questioned the equity of putting a member of the Transportation Regulation Board and the executive director of the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) in the same salary range, because the PERA director has greater responsibilities. (PERA has 140,000 county, city and school district employees as members. It manages a \$5 billion retirement fund, and pays benefits to 40,000 retirees.)

Bruce Johnson, Department of Employee Relations commissioner, responded that the two-tier system "increases [salary] ranges and does not increase anyone's pay."

The bill would also allow "equity adjustments for individual commissioners" based on the number of employees, budget and performance of their departments, Johnson explained. "It is not a foregone conclusion that everyone is going to get an increase," he said.

**HF1710**, sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (IR-Preston), would require that any salary increases recommended by the governor would have to be "approved, rejected, or modified" by the Legislative Commission on Employee Relations and the Legislature.

The bill also calls for the heads of departments and other state agencies to receive automatic annual cost of living raises equal to the lowest amount of pay increases in collective bargaining agreements with state employees.

Elected officials, including legislators, constitutional officers and judges, would receive raises in 1997 and 1998 of 3 percent, or the average pay increase in contract agreements with state employees, whichever is less.

Another section of the bill sets the salary of a Metropolitan Council member at \$20,000 per year, which it is under current law. (The full House voted March 23 to trim the salaries to \$6,000 per year.)

A similar bill (**SF1406**) in the Senate failed to pass on a 22-44 vote May 10.

**HF1710** now goes to the House floor.

## Better metro planning

A bill to coordinate planning and development across the Twin Cities metropolitan region has passed the Legislature and is on its way to the governor.

The House passed the bill May 11 by a vote of 72-59. The Senate passed the bill May 8, 62-1.

Under **HF833**, cities, counties, and towns within the seven-county metropolitan area must review and update their comprehensive plans by December 1998. Each would then have to repeat the process every 10 years. (The final plans are then submitted to the Metropolitan Council.)

A comprehensive plan serves as a development and planning blueprint for a local government. Plans include a section stating how the government's planned land use and its urban services, such as sewer service, would affect adjoining communities.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), would not allow local governments to adopt zoning ordinances which conflict with their comprehensive plans.

The zoning guide laid out in the plans, however, can be amended by a two-third majority vote of the cities' council.

Currently, if a government's zoning ordinance differs from its comprehensive plan, the zoning ordinance supersedes the plan.



## HEALTH

### Licensing acupuncturists

A bill that would require Minnesota acupuncturists to be licensed by the state is on its way to the governor's office.

The House May 11 passed the bill 119-10; the Senate passed the bill 57-4 May 9.

Acupuncture involves the ancient Chinese practice of puncturing the skin with needles at specific points to relieve pain and cure diseases.

Currently, the state requires neither training nor licensing for acupuncturists. Bill sponsor Rep. Peggy Leppik (IR-Golden Valley) has told House members that's precisely the problem. There are 50,000 acupuncture treatments performed each year in Minnesota and consumers have no assurance that their practitioner is trained in either acupuncture or clean needle techniques.

The measure (**HF446**) would prohibit a person from practicing acupuncture after June 30, 1997, unless certified by the National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncturists or unless "grandfathered" in under the bill.

During a two-year transition period beginning July 1, 1995, a current acupuncturist may qualify for a state license without national certification if they have practiced in the field for at least three years between July 1, 1991, and June 30, 1995. During those years, they must have had at least 500 patient visits annually with at least 100 different patients.

Last year, an acupuncture certification provision appeared in the omnibus health and human services bill, but Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed the entire bill. Members of the profession have unsuccessfully sought state licensure for several years.

The bill, sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples), also requests that acupuncturists be regulated by the same board that regulates doctors: the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice. (See Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8, March 31, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11)

## Alcohol and drug counselors

A bill to license chemical dependency counselors and change their title to "alcohol and drug counselors" is on its way to the governor for consideration.

It is unclear how many non-licensed chemical dependency counselors there are in the state but estimates range from 3,000 to 5,000.

The House passed the bill, sponsored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), 93-30 on May 8. The Senate passed it 61-0 on April 26.

Alcohol and drug counselors are currently regulated by the Office of Mental Health Practice within the Department of Health.

Under the bill (HF1442), the Department of Health — with the help of an advisory council — would establish licensure requirements including an exam, educational requirements from an accredited school, and actual counseling experience.

The department says it could have rules written and be issuing licenses within a year, said Jon Hall, administrative rules writer with the Health Occupations Program in the Department of Health. Licenses would be renewed each year, but the department hopes to change that to every two years in the future.

Minnesota has had a law on the books regarding licensure for chemical dependency counselors since 1992 but complications have resulted in delays.

The 1992 licensure law made the Department of Human Services responsible for licensing the counselors but no money was appropriated to do the job, Hall said.

Later, the Department of Health was given the responsibility for licensing chemical dependency counselors. The current bill gives the Department of Health the authority it needs to create the license requirements and to hold counselors accountable.

Current law allows for a two-year transition period to grandfather in some current counselors and makes it a misdemeanor to practice without a license. It also exempts from the law some drug and alcohol counselors working with some American Indian groups.

The health department could also discipline drug and alcohol counselors for not abiding by its regulations. Such violations, under the bill, would include habitual over-indulgence or dependence on alcohol; sexual contact with a client; careless disregard for the health, welfare, or safety of a client; or being "unable to provide alcohol and drug counseling services with reasonable safety to clients."

The department could deny, revoke, or suspend a license, and impose a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 for each separate violation. It could also impose community service.

Also under the bill, hospitals, clinics, and other establishments hiring counselors would have to report to the Department of Health any action the workplace takes against an alcohol or drug counselor.

Insurance companies also would have to report to the department information about malpractice settlements and awards against alcohol and drug counselors.



## HUMAN SERVICES

### Welfare reform

A welfare reform bill that would require some new Minnesota welfare recipients to take part in a tough new jobs program and mandates that teen-aged moms on welfare live at home, is on its way to the governor.

The bill (HF5\*/SF1) was fashioned by a conference committee whose members spent the past few weeks working out the differences between the House and Senate versions of their welfare reform proposals.

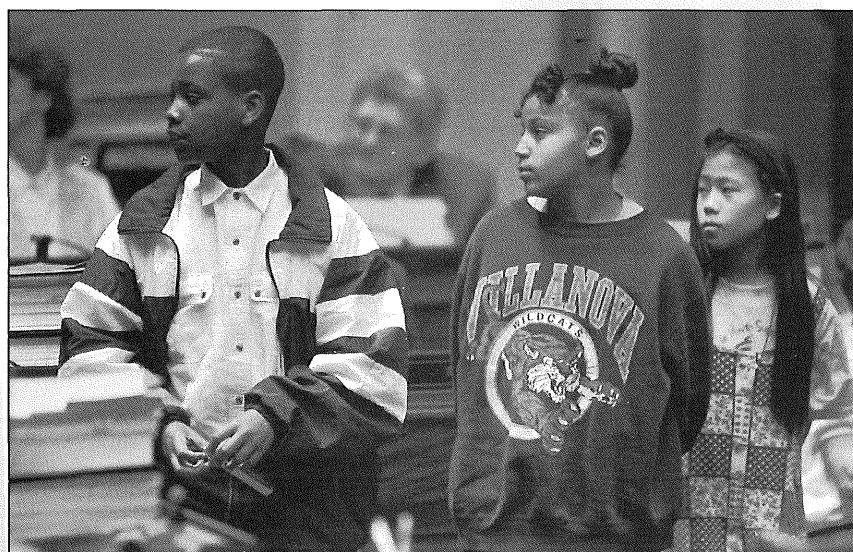
The House passed the bill May 10 on a vote of 132-0. The Senate passed it May 11 by a vote of 62-0.

The bill no longer contains House provisions that would have cut off Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) benefits after two years or that would have required welfare applicants without children to live in the state for 60 days before they could receive General Assistance benefits.

The bill also originally contained \$18 million to subsidize child care costs for low- and moderate-income families, thus removing a barrier to their returning to work. That money, however, now sits in the omnibus Health and Human Services bill (HF1588/SF1110\*).

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Bob Anderson (DFL-Ottertail) and Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), would authorize \$29 million in spending during the 1996-1997 biennium for a variety of programs.

But despite the price tag, supporters of the welfare reform measure say it will actually



Minneapolis fourth graders, left to right, Gerald Burrell, Domonique Tanner, and Dori Vu and their classmates from Lucy Craft Laney Elementary School, Minneapolis, were introduced to House members by Rep. Ann Rest on the floor May 5. Domonique and Dori won a reading contest and were among a group of students invited to have lunch at the governor's residence. The students brought with them a book they wrote entitled "The Nifty Book of Fifty States" which was autographed by many House members.



save \$7 million over the next two years. Some of the savings stem from cuts in some public assistance benefits such as AFDC.

The bill would appropriate \$1.7 million for AFDC grants, \$500,000 for welfare fraud prevention efforts, and beginning July 1, 1996, it would spend more than \$1 million for an intensive six-month language program for some non-English speaking welfare recipients who participate in work training programs.

"We've begun welfare reform. This is obviously not the end," said Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon), who supported the bill because it stresses that work pays and that welfare recipients need to become self-sufficient.

Majority Leader Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) agreed and congratulated members on a bipartisan effort.

A major component of the bill would replace the state's Work Readiness assistance program for single able-bodied adults with a one-month per year payment of \$203. The Work Readiness program offers cash assistance and job services to employable people who qualify for General Assistance.

The bill would repeal Work Readiness and require families on General Assistance to participate in a food stamp employment and training program.

The Work Readiness program name would change to the Temporary County Assistance Program and the bill would spend \$6.25 million on it. New participants would have to wait one month after applying before receiving their payment. This is to discourage people from other states from coming to Minnesota for better welfare benefits.

Another provision in the bill would appropriate more than \$1 million to help some counties design their own employment program for first-time public assistance recipients or participate in a Work First pilot program.

The Work First program would include tough penalties, such as losing benefits, if participants don't stick to a contract to search for a job and accept work. The bill does not specify which counties could operate the program. Under Work First, participants would not receive a check, but see their AFDC or other public assistance grant money first go toward vendor payments for rent and utilities for up to six months. They also would receive food stamps, medical assistance, child care assistance, and a job search allowance.

The bill also would require most teen-aged moms, beginning Oct. 1, 1995, to live at home or with a supervising adult except in

special circumstances, such as in a case where there has been abuse at home. A waiver of federal rules would be required before this could be implemented.

The proposal also seeks exemptions from federal rules that some argue discourage welfare recipients from finding work. One waiver would allow welfare recipients to spend more for an automobile, giving them more reliable transportation to and from work. The bill asks that the limit be raised to \$4,500 — up from the current \$1,500 limit. Another would allow individuals receiving AFDC to work more than 99 hours per month and remain eligible for public assistance.

In addition the bill would:

- prohibit Medical Assistance from paying for fertility drugs;
- prohibit General Assistance Medical Care from paying for sex-change operations;
- require the Department of Human Services

## Electronic conference committee updates

People with access to the Internet can now easily obtain the latest changes in conference committee schedules — as well as the daily and weekly schedules of the Minnesota House.

The House Public Information Office, with technical help from the House computerization pilot project, has established a system that will automatically e-mail an updated schedule to anyone who asks for it.

The schedule will be updated several times each day for distribution to everyone who subscribes to the service.

Here's how to subscribe:

Address your e-mail message to [majordomo@house.leg.state.mn.us](mailto:majordomo@house.leg.state.mn.us). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type **Subscribe daily-schedule**. To stop receiving the schedules, send an e-mail message to the same address and in the body of the message type **Unsubscribe daily-schedule**.

The conference committee schedule will sometimes be listed at the bottom of the regular daily committee schedule.

The electronic conference committee schedule is only as good as the information we are able to ferret out the old-fashioned way: through endless phone calls and personal contacts.

And as many of you know, the legislative pace is very hectic this time of year and changes in meeting times and places occur regularly.

So call our office, (612) 296-2146, or the Senate Information Office, (612) 296-0504, with any further questions. Thanks.

— The Editors

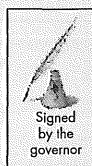
to develop a grant pilot program to enable AFDC caretakers to become child care workers; and

- expand the Minnesota Family Investment Plan (MFIP) welfare program to Ramsey County at a cost of \$6.6 million in grants. The program is currently a five-year pilot project in seven counties. It allows families to accept lower paying jobs while receiving some public assistance. This helps them gain work experience. The bill would further tighten the MFIP program and specifies that participants must seek and accept full-time employment (30 or more hours per week). After three months of searching for a job, participants would be required to take any suitable job. Those who quit, lose their job, or fail to meet with their case manager, would be subject to sanctions. (See Jan. 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; Jan. 20, 1995, *Session Weekly*, pages 6-7; Feb. 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10; and Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, pages 8-9; Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9)



## INSURANCE

### Terminal illness, insurance



A new state law will provide protection for AIDS patients and other terminally ill people who sell the rights to their life insurance policies and sometimes end up on the short end of the deal.

The law, effective Jan. 1, 1996, will regulate what are called viatical settlements. Under the agreements, those who face certain death sell off their life insurance policy to receive some cash on their investment before they die.

Those who buy the insurance policies do so as an investment. They receive the value of the policy when the person dies.

The problem is that in some cases profiteers have purchased policies for as little as 25 percent of the amount that will be received in death benefits.

The law, signed by Gov. Arne Carlson May 10, will require companies or individuals who provide viatical settlements to be licensed by the state and to be subject to state oversight.

Under the measure, buyers will be required to pay a minimum percentage of the face value of the policy dependent on the seller's life expectancy.

For example, the buyer would have to give the ill person at least 80 percent of the value of the policy if the seller has less than six months to live or 70 percent if the seller has between six months and a year to live. The



law sets an absolute minimum of 50 percent of the policy value to be paid to sellers with a life expectancy of two years or more.

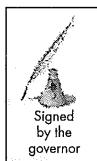
Policy buyers will be required to receive a physician's statement showing the seller is of sound mind. They'll need to obtain a signed and witnessed statement from the seller demonstrating he or she understands the consequences of the contract and consents to it.

The law also will require policy buyers to inform sellers of alternatives to viatical settlements, including the fact that some insurance companies are willing to offer them early payments on their policy benefits.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley) and Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth).

**HF217\*/SF139/CH151**

### Rental car coverage



Vehicle owners will be able to rent cars, trucks, and vans by the month and still expect their private automobile insurance to extend coverage to those rental vehicles, under a new state law.

Current law calls for private automobile insurance to cover vehicles rented on a weekly or daily basis. But House sponsor Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) said those who rent cars are able to obtain better rates when renting by the month.

The law calls for vehicles rented on a

monthly basis to be accompanied by a statement which informs the renter that, under state law, personal automobile insurance policies issued in Minnesota must cover rental vehicles.

Currently, such statements must accompany vehicles rented by the day or week.

The measure includes language that would prevent long-term renters from leasing cars and having their auto insurance provide coverage for those cars, McCollum said.

The proposal, which becomes effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. James Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul).

**HF1308/SF973\*/CH140**



### LABOR

### Elevator repairs

Work performed on a passenger or freight elevator would have to be done by a state licensed elevator mechanic, under a bill that won final passage in the House May 8. The vote was 89-38.

The bill (**HF398/SF255\***), sponsored in the House by Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), requires that a licensed person or company obtain a state permit before installing, altering, repairing, or removing an elevator.

Current law requires only that a person apply for a permit before work is started.

A person must complete the National Elevator Industry Education Program and must have an elevator constructor license issued by the state Board of Electricity before receiving state licensure. A licensed elevator mechanic could supervise up to five helpers, under the bill.

Requirements of the bill would not apply to demolition work or minor repairs.

Carruthers said the bill addresses important public safety concerns. He said that a similar measure passed out of committee last year but no action was ever taken on the House floor.

The bill has been sent to a conference committee to work out differences between the House and Senate versions.



### LAW

### Tracing phone calls

A bill to ensure the safety of anyone calling 911 from a business which routes its phone calls to several locations won final passage from the House May 8. The vote was 69-58.

Currently, when most callers make an emergency 911 call, their address is displayed on the dispatcher's computer screen.

But some large businesses (or other buildings such as dormitories) use a "private branch exchange," through which all outgoing and incoming phone calls are routed. So when callers from such a business make emergency phone calls, only the location of the central exchange appears on the dispatcher's computer screen.

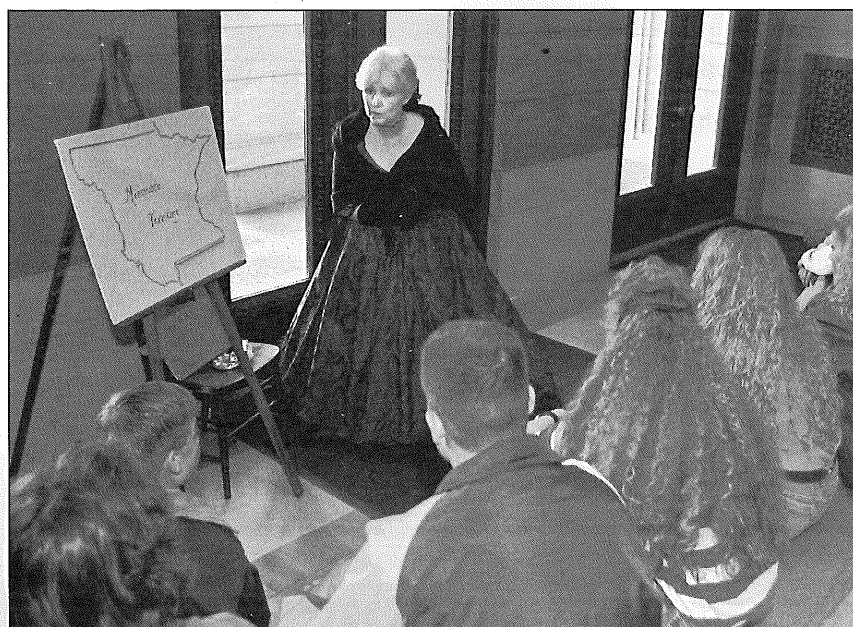
In some cases, the company's "phone center" may be miles away from the emergency being reported.

For example, a Norwest Bank employee once called police to report a robbery in progress at a branch location. The responding officers arrived not at the bank where the robbery was occurring, but at the downtown Norwest computer center where the company's telephone center is located, said bill sponsor Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington).

Also, calls from 80 individual Minneapolis School District schools and district sites all switch through the central district office location, so any emergency call made from one of the 80 sites would appear to have come from that central office, said Delmont.

The school district and the bank are now correcting the problem, as are the University of Minnesota and "other schools and administrative bodies," said Delmont.

His bill (**HF1290/SF734\***) would ensure that businesses and buildings with private



Becker High School students were treated to a lesson in state history May 10 from Minnesota Historical Society employee Rhea Nyquist (a.k.a. "Mrs. Phelps," the wife of an 1857 constitutional delegate from Mower County). The first-person interpretive performances ran in conjunction with the regular guided Capitol tours during the week of May 8 to celebrate the anniversary of Minnesota's statehood. Minnesota became the 32nd state on May 11, 1858.

switch telephone service include "station number identification," which means dispatchers could identify the location of each call that is placed.

The average cost to a business or unit of government to include the technology is estimated to be a \$15,000 one-time cost, Delmont said.

"Any company with a private branch exchange has a substantial investment in a phone system and so we figure this is a small price for them to pay," he said.

School districts would have until Jan. 1, 1998, to make the change because many don't have adequate funds, Delmont said. Also, hospitals and nursing homes are exempted from the bill.

The Department of Administration would have until Dec. 31, 1996, to adopt standards that businesses with private branch exchanges would have to meet, under the bill.

## Elevator safety

The Department of Administration would be charged with ensuring elevators in Minnesota buildings operate safely, under a bill given final approval by the House May 8. The vote was 126-1.

The bill would place in Minnesota law a measure the governor put into effect by executive order in 1993. At that time, the governor moved state responsibility for elevator safety from the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration to the state Department of Administration.

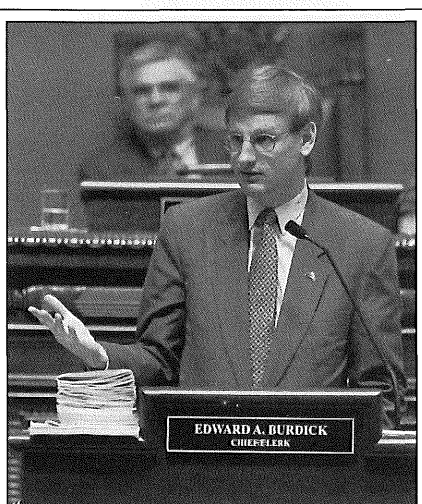
The department has carried out that function since the order, said Rep. Fran Bradley (IR-Rochester), who sponsored the bill.

Also under the bill, (HF1469/SF870\*) non-metropolitan counties which have adopted the state building code prior to 1977 could not change requirements pertaining to elevator safety.

Current law says those municipalities can determine by a majority vote of residents that no part of the state building code, except those pertaining to access for the handicapped, applies within the county.

The bill would specify that counties couldn't vote to not abide by the state's building code when it comes to elevator safety—essentially adding elevator safety to the list of exemptions alongside laws relating to handicapped access.

Also, cities and towns under 2,500, which can now declare the state building code—apart from the handicapped access requirements—does not apply to them, would have



Former Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt addressed House members May 10, as Speaker Irv Anderson, background, listened.

to abide by elevator safety standards regardless of whether they adhere to the building code.

The bill now moves to the governor for his consideration.

## Icehouse identification



In the land of Olsons, Petersons, and Johnsons, where the winter religion is ice fishing, how can you tell one ice house from another?

It's not easy—particularly when the only identifiable landmark on a windswept lake may be a frozen walleye or a block of ice.

But a new law will allow anglers the option of painting their drivers' license number on the shack's outside wall.

Currently, icehouse residents must identify their home-away-from-home by painting their name and home address in letters at least three inches high.

But problems ensue when more than one—or even more than two or three—Johnsons or Olsons share the same lake, said House sponsor Rep. Don Ostrom (DFL-St. Peter).

The painted names serve to identify fish house owners to the Department of Natural Resources, which issues licenses for, and regulates fish houses.

The measure, effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato).

HF1307\*/SF867/CH65

## Abandoned waste



A building owner now has a greater chance of successfully suing a renter who moves out leaving behind containers of hazardous waste, under a new state law.

The law, effective May 6, 1995, applies to both residential and commercial space rental. It requires the property owner to request in writing that the former renter "remove and properly dispose of the abandoned waste."

Cleaning solvents or other flammable or corrosive liquids are examples of such waste. By law, they must be properly disposed of at an authorized waste facility.

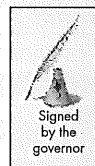
If the renter does not remove all the waste within 20 days, the property owner can then remove the waste which entitles him or her to twice the cleanup and disposal costs. The owner also is entitled to "losses that result from court costs and attorney fees."

Under current law, a property owner's only financial recourse is to withhold a tenant's damage deposit.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Robert Leighton (DFL-Austin) and Sen. Kevin Chandler (DFL-White Bear Lake).

HF1320\*/SF1073/CH119

## Radar jamming



On Aug. 1, 1995, speeders will lose a leg up on police, under a new state law.

The measure will make it illegal to sell, use, or possess a radar jammer. Violators could face a \$200 fine.

The law targets devices that send out radio waves from a car or truck to block the effectiveness of radar guns police use to catch speeding drivers.

House sponsor Rep. Dan McElroy (IR-Burnsville) has said radar jammers are more dangerous than their less-sophisticated brethren, radar detectors or fuzz busters.

Why?

Because a screeching radar detector likely will cause a driver to slow down, McElroy said, but a driver using a jamming device can travel at illegal speeds relatively free from the risk of being caught.

The Senate companion was sponsored by Sen. Tom Neuville (IR-Northfield).

HF1011\*/SF1015/CH118

## Probate guide



The state court administrator will prepare a guide to informal probate proceedings, under a new state law.

Such court proceedings are necessary to validate a will or administer an estate following a death.

But the paperwork involved in such probate proceedings is complex and often baffling, House sponsor Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) has said.

In addition, the "legalese" can be confounding. In the lingo of probate, houses become "domiciles" and the subject of a will is termed a "decedent." Standards of "reasonable diligence" apply, and applicants for such an informal proceeding must state whether they are aware of any "unrevoked testamentary instrument relating to property having a situs in this state."

The probate guide to be prepared by the state court administrator promises to use plain English to interpret the law and application process for those who encounter the system.

The measure, which became effective April 21, 1995, was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township).

**HF544\*/SF520/CH78**

## Notary cops



Beginning Aug. 1, 1995, all licensed peace officers will have the authority to notarize certain witness statements, under a new state law.

Currently, such authority rests only with state-licensed notaries public — people authorized by the state to administer oaths and authenticate signatures. Such a license, purchased from the Department of Commerce, costs \$40.

The law will grant peace officers some of the authority of a notary, which means no license or fee is required of them.

The need for the law stems from a 1991 U.S. Supreme Court decision which required that all witness statements submitted to the court to establish probable cause be notarized.

Police officers administer an oath to a person providing information for such a purpose.

Since the court ruling, police departments have had to pay to have a certain number of their officers become notaries public. The city of Bloomington — at a cost of \$800 — has 20 officers that are state certified.

The law will not extend to police officers the other statutory powers given to notaries public: "to take and certify all acknowledgments of deeds, mortgages, liens, powers of attorney, and other instruments in writing; and to receive, make out, and record notarial protests." Any officer wishing to perform any of these duties must apply to the Department of Commerce for the proper notary license.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington) and Sen. Phil Riveness (DFL-Bloomington).

**HF564\*/SF748/CH37**



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Paying the bills



Minnesota towns may not have the hustle and bustle of big cities, but they've got to pay the bills just the same.

A new law, effective Aug. 1, 1995, will allow towns in Minnesota to have petty cash funds to help pay some of the bills. Previously, only cities and counties had the authority.

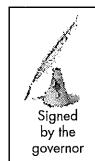
In the past, when town officials wanted to pay the phone bill, electric bill, or other monthly normal operating expense, they had to wait until the regular meeting of the town board to seek approval.

The new law will help speed up the process and make it more practical, said David Fricke, executive director of the Minnesota Association of Townships. It does not specify how much money can be in a petty cash fund. The law does state that the town board at its regular meetings must receive an itemized list of what bills the petty cash fund is paying off.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Jeff Bertram (DFL-Paynesville) and Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), prohibits using the petty cash fund to pay the salary and personnel expenses of a town officer or employee.

**HF362\*/SF266/CH15**

### Random audits



Minnesota cities and towns with annual revenues of \$100,000 or less and combined clerk and treasurer offices will be audited once every five years, and then for only one of those years, under a new law.

The measure clarifies a 1994 law that allowed for an audit once every five years for some smaller cities and towns. That law, however, did not specify whether each of the

years in the five-year period, or only one year chosen at random, had to be audited.

The new law, effective March 30, 1995, clarifies that auditors or accountants will audit only one year, chosen at random, for each five-year period.

Prior to the 1994 law change, towns and cities — regardless of size — had to be audited by the state auditor or a public accountant every year.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples).

**HF305\*/SF265/CH27**



## TRANSPORTATION

### Bus safety initiative

A total of \$354,000 would be spent to improve safety for bus drivers and passengers, under a bill approved by the House Ways and Means Committee May 8.

The money to improve bus safety was offered as a successful amendment to **HF1342/SF979\***, a bill which makes technical changes to a 1994 law concerning the transportation of hazardous waste.

Amendment sponsor Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) explained that the money would pay for Plexiglas shields to protect drivers and surveillance cameras on 59 buses that travel six "high-risk routes" in the Twin Cities. Combined with the planned purchase this year of similarly equipped buses, there would be cameras and shields on 150 of the approximately 1,000 buses in the Metropolitan Council Transit Operation (MCTO) fleet.

The shields would protect drivers from blind attacks from the rear or side, and the cameras would record the behavior of passengers.

The bus safety provision was originally introduced as a bill (**HF848**), sponsored by Luther, which stalled in the committee process.

Luther has said the idea for the proposal came from one of her neighbors, a bus driver who was assaulted on the job twice within an eight-month span in 1993. Luther stated that the growing violence on MCTO buses demands action. (See March 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 14)

Concerns about passenger safety on MCTO buses were heightened by a recent attack on a 20-year-old passenger in Minneapolis.

Latell Chaney, who is deaf, lost his sight in one eye and suffered damage to the other in a Feb. 26 attack by a group of men whom police believe mistook his sign language for

gang signs or obscene gestures. One of the men broke a bottle over Chaney's head and then gouged his eyes with it.

In January, the MCTO began a 90-day test of video surveillance on select buses, and officials said its preliminary results are promising. Videotapes will improve chances to identify and apprehend people who commit crimes on buses, according to Tom Sather, general manager for MCTO.

**HF1342/SF979\*** now goes to the House floor.

## High-risk bus routes

- Route 5 — Begins in Brooklyn Park, goes to Brookdale, and along Penn Avenue and Fremont Avenue to downtown Minneapolis; then south along Chicago Avenue through Richfield and Bloomington to the Mall of America.
- Route 9 — Travels east from Golden Valley along Glenwood Avenue to downtown Minneapolis; then south along Third Avenue and Fourth Avenue to 48th Street.
- Route 16 — Travels through Minneapolis and St. Paul along University Avenue.
- Route 18 — From Apache Plaza through Columbia Heights to downtown Minneapolis; then south along Nicollet Avenue through Richfield and Bloomington to Southdale.
- Route 21 — Runs along Lake Street in Minneapolis, and Marshall Avenue and Selby Avenue in St. Paul.
- Route 22 — Begins in Brooklyn Center then goes down Lyndale Avenue to downtown Minneapolis; and south along E. 24th Street, Cedar Avenue, and 34th Avenue to Highway 62 (Crosstown).

Source: Bob Gibbons, director of public relations, Metropolitan Council Transit Operation.

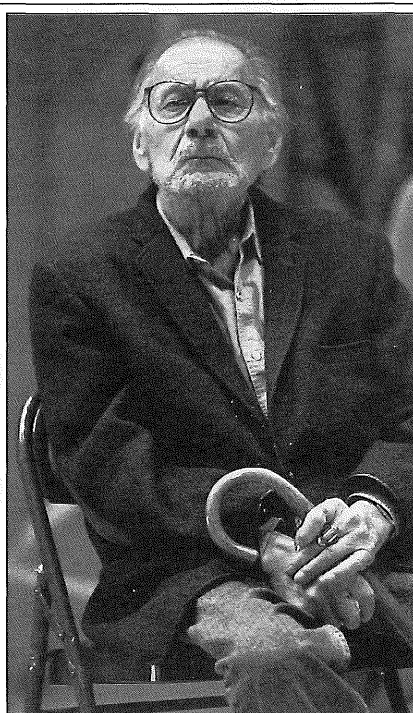
## Selling junked cars



Effective Aug. 1, 1995, junked vehicles which have been towed to private or public impound lots could be immediately sold, under a new state law.

Junked vehicles — vehicles with little value that don't run — frequently sit at impound lots with little or no chance that their rightful owners will claim them.

The public impound lot usually ends up



Minnesota Native American artist, George Morrison, was honored May 5 at a reception in the Capitol rotunda. A selection of his art work has been acquired by the Minnesota Museum of American Art and was recently displayed in the Capitol.

losing money whenever such a vehicle is towed, said House sponsor Rep. Jeff Bertram (DFL-Paynesville).

The measure would allow junk vehicles to immediately be sold at public auctions or sold as scrap. Present law says the vehicle may be sold 15 days after the owner receives notice that the impound lot has the car.

A "junk vehicle" is defined as one that is at least three or more years old, extensively damaged, apparently inoperable, not registered, and has value only as scrap.

The law also will allow the towing of "unauthorized" vehicles — those left unattended on public property more than 24 hours after being tagged for unauthorized parking.

Currently, local governments can tow only "abandoned" vehicles — vehicles which have sat for long periods of time on public or private property. (Vehicles also can be towed immediately for specific reasons outlined in Minnesota law, such as if a car is parked in a location that creates a traffic hazard.)

Such vehicles could be sold at a public auction 45 days after notice is given to the vehicle's owner of the proposed sale.

The law also will allow impound lot owners to notify a vehicle owner of the proposed public sale of their car. Under present law, only units of local government can give such notice.

The measure was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville).

**HF586\*/SF553/CH137**

## Title transfer

Car buyers who fail to promptly transfer the title on the vehicle would face new penalties, under a bill that won final passage in the House May 4. The vote was 129-0.

Rep. Ron Erhardt (IR-Edina), who is the sponsor of **HF575/SF1199\***, said the bill could solve a potential problem for car sellers.

Sometimes buyers, who may want to avoid paying for insurance or may not have a driver's license, do not transfer the vehicle title in their name, he said.

The problem is, the person who sold the car may be held liable if the buyer gets in an accident or other problems arise.

Currently, it is a misdemeanor for a buyer to fail to apply for a title transfer of a vehicle within 14 days. The bill would give buyers just 10 days to apply for a title transfer and pay the necessary fees.

The Department of Public Safety would suspend the license plates on the vehicle if the buyer does not transfer the title within 10 days of the sale, under the bill.

If the plates are suspended, the buyer would have to pay an additional \$5 reinstatement fee along with normal title transfer charges.

If after 14 days, the buyer still has not transferred the title, he or she will face another \$2 charge.

## Vintage license plates



Vintage car owners will be able to display license plates from the year their car was made, under a new state law.

Currently, those who own restored or vintage automobiles can display special "collector license plates" that bear the year a car was built, but the plates don't look like the original license plates issued for that year.

Cars with collector plates can be used only to drive to and from collector car shows. Owners of such plates need not renew them on an annual basis. However, they may drive only 2,000 miles per year in the cars.

Under the new law, collector car owners will be allowed to use the original plates for cars that are at least 20 years old. The license plate number, however, cannot have been previously issued.

Owners of such plates will need to renew



them each year. To preserve the aesthetic integrity of the original plates, owners will not have to display the month and year renewal stickers on the plate's lower corners, but they will have to carry the vehicle license registration in the car with them at all times.

The measure, effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Alice Seagren (IR-Bloomington) and Sen. Bill Belanger (IR-Bloomington).

**HF1402\*/SF1163/CH145**

## Educating drivers



Minnesotans learning to drive will now be taught how they could be affected by the state's DWI laws.

Under the new law, all schools and private companies teaching drivers' training must instruct their students on the hazards of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Also, students will hear what the criminal penalties and financial consequences are should they get caught driving under the influence.

Training courses also must teach students

how drinking and using drugs can affect a person's ability to drive.

Also under the law, the written test given by the Department of Public Safety must include information on the penalties one could face for driving drunk or after using drugs. Such information must also be contained in future editions of the state driver's manual issued by the department.

Future manuals also will warn teens that, should they drive after consuming any amount of alcohol, they could face a driver's license suspension — whether they are legally drunk or not.

(The 1993 Legislature enacted the so-called "not a drop law," which calls for a mandatory 30-day drivers' license suspension for anyone under the age of 21 who is caught drinking and driving.)

The measure, effective July 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Doug Swenson (IR-Forest Lake) and Sen. Linda Runbeck (IR-Circle Pines).

**HF901\*/SF1129/CH104**

## Rescuing rail travel



A resolution asking Congress to continue funding the Amtrak passenger rail service has been signed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

Congress is discussing major cuts to the federally subsidized Amtrak budget. House sponsor Rep. Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington) said the nation's only passenger rail service would not be viable without federal funding.

"No passenger rail service in the world makes money," he said.

Last year, Amtrak received a \$952 million subsidy from the federal government. One Amtrak route passes through St. Paul on a line running between Seattle and Chicago.

About 160,000 people take the train each year in Minnesota. About 130,000 of them arrive in or depart from St. Paul, according to Mahon. Amtrak employs 74 Minnesotans, who make a combined \$3 million annually, he said. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 13)

The measure was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing). The law was signed April 28, 1995.

**HF821\*/SF700/Res. 3**



**Q: When is the best time to plan a visit to the Capitol to see legislators at work?**

**A:** The weekdays when the House is in session are often the best days to see lawmakers at work, unless you are interested in a particular issue. Then, it would be best to visit the committee that is debating the issue on the day of the debate.

The convening time for daily House

floor sessions is set by the House rules. In the past, the daily convening time has been 2:30 p.m., unless otherwise ordered. During the early weeks of a session the full House usually does not meet each day. Members often meet Mondays and Thursdays. During the last few weeks of the session, the full House often meets daily and the beginning times change frequently.

To find out when lawmakers will meet during the week or when a particular issue will be debated in a committee, call the House Public Information Office at (612) 296-2146.

Seating is available to the public in both the House chamber and in House committee hearing rooms. The House chamber offers a public gallery overlooking the

House floor which can be accessed on the third floor of the Capitol. Most House committee hearings are held in the State Office Building, across the street from the Capitol.

Public parking in the Capitol area is available. There are meters in the State Office Building parking lot, accessible from Rice Street, across from Sears Roebuck and Co. department store. There also are meters in State Parking Lot Q, at the corner of Sherburne and Cedar. For more information about public parking, contact the House Sergeant at Arms Office at (612) 296-4860.

A partial listing . . .

## 1995 House files incorporated into other bills

Editor's note: This is an unofficial listing of House files that have been incorporated into other bills so far. Other bill listings will appear in the next issue of *Session Weekly*.

Ongoing conference committee action may well alter the makeup of these bills before they reach the end of the legislative process. In many cases, the language found in the major bills may not be exactly as it appears in the original House files.

The list was compiled by the House Public Information Office from a variety of sources, including committee administrators, committee legislative assistants, researchers, and fiscal analysts.

An asterisk after a House or Senate file number indicates the version of the bill under consideration.

If you're interested in following conference committee action (and have access to the Internet), you can subscribe to a service that will automatically e-mail an updated schedule of meetings to anyone who asks for it.

To subscribe, you simply address your e-mail message to: majordomo@house.leg.state.mn.us. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, enter Subscribe daily-schedule.

If you have questions, call our office, (612) 296-2146, or the Senate Information Office, (612) 296-0504.

### Bonding

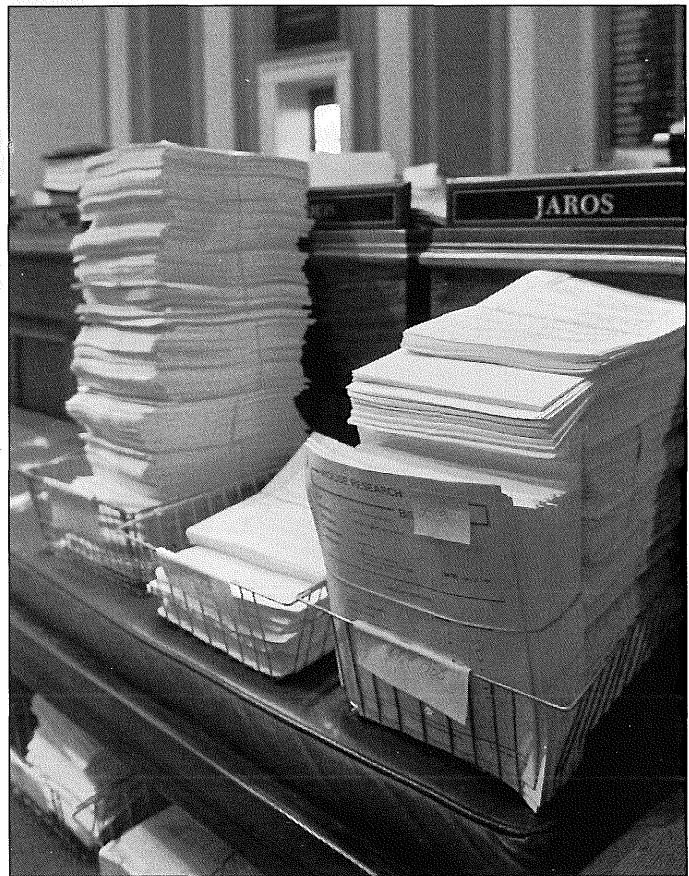
#### HF1010/SFnone (Kalis) Omnibus bonding bill

- HF63 (Schumacher) Independent School District No. 727, Big Lake, provided capital loan and bond issuance
- HF221 (Anderson, I.) Independent School District No. 362 Littlefork-Big Falls, capital loan approved, bonds issued, and money appropriated
- HF505 (Olson, E.) Independent School District No. 36, Kelliher, capital loan approved, money appropriated and bonds issued
- HF766 (Ness) Public facilities authority maximum bonding amount changed
- HF1066 (Knoblach) Department of Finance commissioner to establish listing of state bonds and certificates of indebtedness
- HF1432 (Winter) Prairieland Expo facility appropriated money for land acquisition
- HF1507 (Murphy) Fond du Lac Community College appropriated money for residential facility planning, and bonds issued (parts of bill incorporated)
- HF1705 (Knoblach) Public bond issuance seven-year authority limit provided
- HF1841 (Johnson, V.) Environmental learning center matching money provisions modified (amendment)

### Government

#### HF1542/SF1246\* (Orenstein) State government reorganization

- HF1695 (Delmont) Legislative Commission to Review Rules; Children, Youth, and Families; Water; Economic Status of Women; Child Protection; Health Care Access; Long Term Health Care; Waste; and Tax Study commissions abolished, and LCMR duties transferred



More than 1,900 bills have been introduced in the House since the beginning of the 1995 Legislative Session. If they don't pass out by the May 22 end-of-session deadline, they remain alive for 1996 session, the second year of the biennium.

- HF138 (Kahn) Gambling department created; Racing Commission, Gambling Control Board, and State Lottery Board abolished and duties transferred
- HF788 (Marko) State government efficiency and openness provided, state agency efficiency required and mission statements provided, and public participation encouraged
- HF867 (Orenstein) Customer service office created to provide assistance to state government service users
- HF307 (Pelowski) Higher Education Coordinating Board abolished, and higher education services office and higher education administrators council established

#### As of 5/10/95 Omnibus gambling bill HF265/SF619 (Dorn)

- HF542 (Pellow) Lawful purpose expenditures by or to tax exempt organizations regulated
- HF1281 (Pugh) Pull-tab and tipboard tax modified, lawful purpose expenditure definition modified, bingo occasion increase authorized, and bingo prize determination provision clarified (parts of bill included)

## Health

As of 5/2/95

### HF1588/SF1110\* (Greenfield)

#### Omnibus health and human services appropriations bill

##### Article 1

- HF506 (Clark) Lead abatement recodification (\$ in rider only)
- HF511 (Lourey) Money for senior nutrition program (as rider)
- HF517 (Rest) MN ENABL (\$ in rider only)
- HF1517 (Lourey) Money for Family Services Center
- HF1610 (Clark) Indian child welfare defense corp. (as rider)

##### Article 2

- HF940 (Macklin) Welfare fraud provisions modified
- HF1035 (Wecjman) DHS foster care, licensing changes
- HF1719 (Onnen) McLeod County offices relocated

##### Article 3

- HF842 (Jennings) Day training and habilitation vendor appeals
- HF1005 (Onnen) Mental health and developmental disability provisions modified
- HF1729 (Tuma) Prader-Willi syndrome treatment facility certification required

##### Article 4

- HF1129 (Van Engen) DHS children's services provisions
- HF1583 (Lourey) Contract foster care and DOC payments
- HF1655 (Wecjman) Transitional housing
- HF1685 (Lourey) Ombudsman for kinship caregivers

##### Article 5

- HF1686 (Wecjman) Group residential housing moratorium exception

##### Article 6

- HF161 (Leppik) Long-term hospital inpatient rates
- HF510 (Clark) Pesticide poisoning covered by EGAMC
- HF525 (Jennings) MA prior authorization modifications
- HF1005 (Onnen) Mental health and developmental disability provisions modified
- HF1203 (Greenfield) Alternative care and MA waived services
- HF1286 (Onnen) DHS Health Care Admin. changes
- HF1361 (Greenfield) Eliminate hospital peer grouping
- HF1453 (Onnen) DHS Home Care changes, incl. PCA service
- HF1491 (Greenfield) Expanding MA coverage for TB services
- HF1555 (Van Engen) Nursing home placement level of care established
- HF1603 (Greenfield) Hospital, nursing home use CPI-U for inflation
- HF1713 (Greenfield) Surcharge, DPA, IG xfr modifications

##### Article 7

- HF320 (Dorn) Adjustment to nursing home's rental per diem
- HF466 (Pugh) Nursing home moratorium exception
- HF490 (Greenfield) Nursing home moratorium exceptions process
- HF513 (Cooper) Nursing home moratorium exception
- HF519 (Greenfield) Subacute care defined and rule waivers
- HF743 (Solberg) Nursing home swing beds
- HF1251 (Davids) Nursing home swing beds modified
- HF1301 (Rhodes) Nursing home moratorium exception
- HF1384 (Greenfield) DHS LTC facilities provisions
- HF1603 (Greenfield) Hospital, nursing home use CPI-U for inflation
- HF1664 (Onnen) Nursing home moratorium exception

##### Article 8

- HF1031 (Van Engen) RTC fund use designated
- HF1081 (Boudreau) Developmental disability services in Faribault RTC catchment

HF1662 (Jennings) Cambridge cachement ISN for DD

HF1738 (Greenfield) Children's mental health collaboratives

## Article 9

- HF347 (Cooper) Emergency medical services board established
- HF481 (Marko) Osteoporosis program established
- HF668 (Tuma) Psychologist licensure modification
- HF950 (Wecjman) US Army aerial spraying report
- HF1210 (Greenfield) Elderly housing with services
- HF1357 (Lourey) Expanding MDH home health visiting

## Various articles

- HF1183 (Boudreau) DHS federal mandates and technicals
- HF1208 (Tompkins) DHS various provisions

As of 5/10/95

### HF1077\*/SF822 (Lourey)

#### MinnesotaCare

- HF818 (Haas) MinnesotaCare; private sector administration evaluated by Department of Administration commissioner
- HF516 (Lourey) Managed care health plans required to provide certain enrollees with expanded geographic access to primary care physician services

## Law

As of 4/5/95

### HF1473/SF1279\* (McGuire)

#### Omnibus data practices bill

- HF376 (Van Engen) Classifying certain data of the economic security department
- HF393 (Leighton) Relating to employment; modifying provisions relating to access to occupational safety and health investigation data
- HF538 (McGuire) Relating to state government; secretary of state; authorizing access to social security numbers of individuals in certain circumstances
- HF546 (McGuire) Relating to privacy; limiting the release of copies of videotapes of child abuse victims; authorizing the requirement of a stipulation and order in certain cases
- HF584 (Goodno) Relating to the Department of Human Rights; specifying the scope of an inquiry by the commissioner; changing the classification of certain data in an open file
- HF731 (Bakk) Confidentiality of mineral resources data
- HF768 (Delmont) Relating to evidentiary privileges; providing a privilege for public safety peer counseling debriefing that makes any information or opinion stated at the debriefing confidential; providing for recovery of damages in case of breach of the peer counseling privilege . . .
- HF772 (Farrell) Classifying name changes of protected witnesses as private data; expanding the crime of witness tampering
- HF784 (Weaver) Clarifying application of mandatory minimum penalties for controlled substance offenses; authorizing use of drivers' license photos to investigate or prosecute misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor-level thefts; precluding the expungement of criminal records in diversion cases; authorizing sentencing . . .
- HF900 (Broecker) Allowing certain holders of disabled parking certificates to make their address or name and address private
- HF992 (Pugh) Data practices; eliminating a sunset on computer matching agreement requirements
- HF1067 (Van Engen) Health; modifying provisions relating to access to certain data

HF1095 (Rest) Data practices; law enforcement data; modifying the test for public access to the identities of certain crime victims and witnesses

HF1326 (Skoglund) Data practices; providing for the classification and release of booking photographs

HF1473 (McGuire) Providing for the classification of and access to government data . . . (vehicle bill)

HF1644 (McGuire) Data practices; authorizing use of audio recording of calls placed to 911 for certain training purposes

HF1659 (Skoglund) Drivers' licenses; requiring that drivers' records pertaining to alcohol-related offenses be retained permanently

HF1676 (Pugh) Recodifying and clarifying portions of the assault in the fifth degree statute which concern domestic assault

HF1696 (McGuire) Providing for the protection of state agency intellectual property

As of 3/31/95

#### **HF1309/SF1088\* (Pugh)**

##### **Omnibus civil law bill**

HF57 (Onnen) Relating to local government; providing that maintenance of abandoned or neglected cemeteries by non-profit organizations does not create employment relationship or liability for local governments

HF170 (Rhodes) Relating to civil actions; providing for recovery of damages and injunctive relief for victims of bias offenses; imposing parental liability

HF184 (Simoneau) Relating to civil actions; regulating punitive damages

HF261 (Bishop) Relating to civil actions; including occupational therapists in the limitation period for bringing suit against health care professionals

HF535 (Haas) Civil actions; barring perpetrators of crimes from recovering for injuries sustained during criminal conduct

HF779 (Orfield) Conservation easement assessment benefit determination, zoning and planning, and metropolitan agricultural preserves provisions clarified (part of bill included)

HF795 (Pugh) Relating to trusts; limiting liability for hazardous waste to the extent of trust assets; providing for payment of trustee compensation

HF835 (Trimble) Relating to claims against governmental units; increasing liability limits; providing for inflation adjustment; exempting medical expenses

HF1309 (Pugh) Courts; civil actions; modifying the requirements for an application to proceed in forma pauperis; allowing the court to dismiss an action for false allegations of poverty or if it is frivolous or malicious; providing for a hearing; providing for the payment of fees and costs by inmates; . . . (vehicle bill)

As of 3/22/95

#### **HF966\*/SF8217 (Entenza)**

##### **Omnibus family law bill**

HF117 (Smith) Marriage dissolution; providing that interference with or denial of visitation is grounds for modification of a custody order

HF348 (Kinkel) Family law; child support enforcement; modifying the accrual of interest on child support arrearages

HF421 (Smith) Providing for care of children by non-custodial parents in certain cases

HF845 (Swenson, D.) Child support obligation and enforcement

HF935 (Farrell) Changing child support provisions

HF966 (Entenza) Family law; providing for enforcement of child support obligations (vehicle bill)

HF1076 (Rhodes) Human services; changing absent parent's liability for child support; adding provisions relating to: recognition of parentage, administrative proceedings, and child support collection

As of 5/10/95

#### **HF980\*/SF1564 (Skoglund)**

##### **Miscellaneous crime provisions**

HF772 (Farrell) Protected witness name changes classified as private data (parts of bill included)

HF784 (Weaver) Controlled substance offense penalty application clarified, drivers' license photograph use authorized in theft investigations, criminal record expungement precluded in diversion cases, victim restitution provided, and fine imposed (parts of bill included)

HF785 (Weaver) Expanding the scope of first degree burglary

HF786 (Weaver) Expanding the definition of "value" in the theft statute

HF826 (Pugh) Authorizing peace officers to detain probationers based on an order from the chief executive officer of a community corrections agency

HF980 (Skoglund) Amending the definition of manslaughter in the first degree (vehicle bill)

HF981 (Skoglund) Clarifying the reasonable person standard for manslaughter in the first degree; clarifying certain acts that constitute murder in the first degree

HF1137 (Wagenius) Public nuisance; modifying the grounds and procedure for proving a nuisance; providing for a meeting to attempt resolution of the issue

HF1168 (Weaver) Increased penalties for fleeing a police officer in a motor vehicle; expanding the obstructing legal process offense to include fleeing a police officer by means other than a motor vehicle

HF1241 (Luther) Limiting who can benefit from profits derived from prostitution

As of 4/21/95

#### **HF1700\*/HF1653 (Murphy)**

##### **Omnibus judiciary finance and criminal justice appropriations bill**

##### **Article 1**

HF3 (Skoglund) Electronic alcohol monitoring (rider)

HF159 (Murphy) DARE (rider)

HF179 (Skoglund) STS graffiti removal (rider)

HF263 (Skoglund) Crime information reward fund (rider)

HF264 (Skoglund) Witness and victim fund (rider)

HF445 (Skoglund) Cap improvements (rider)

HF522 (Swenson, D.) Bomb squad (\$)

HF559 (Carruthers) NW law enforcement project (rider)

HF610 (Farrell) Safe schools (\$)

HF840 (Kelley) Grant Hussey II (\$)

HF847 (Murphy) Interview training (rider)

HF1247 (Pugh) Five new judges (\$)

HF1339 (Skoglund) Interstate compact (rider)

HF1438 (McGuire) Battered women's shelters (\$)

HF1476 (Murphy) Out-of-home placement (rider)

HF1496 (Orenstein) POST board (\$)

HF1544 (Skoglund) Nonfelony Enforcement Advisory Committee

HF1558 (McGuire) Violence prevention councils (rider)

HF1643 (McGuire) Sexual assault grants (rider)

HF1700 (Murphy) Productive day (rider)

HF1761 (Murphy) Juvenile offender bill (\$)

HF1783 (Schumacher) Fireworks operators (\$)

HF1784 (Kinkel) Ah Gwah Ching (rider)



## Article 2

- HF34 (Pawlenty) Limiting stays
- HF177 (Skoglund) Sex offenders
  - HF176 (Skoglund) Lengthening statute of limitations for criminal sexual conduct
  - HF178 (Skoglund) Expanding scope of sex offender registration law
  - HF272 (Lynch) Expanding the interference with privacy crime
  - HF633 (Skoglund) Increased penalties for indecent exposure
  - HF911 (Skoglund) Tolling the statute of limitations while physical evidence relating to a crime is undergoing DNA analysis
- HF881 (Pugh) Various crime provisions
- HF1195 (Carruthers) Surcharges

## Article 3

- HF610 (Farrell) Safe schools
- HF1428 (Murphy) Youth crime prevention
- HF1761 (Murphy) Juvenile offender bill

## Article 4

- HF72 (Greiling) Background checks
- HF181 (Bishop) Community notification
- HF406 (Luther) Undercover buy/witness fund
- HF522 (D. Swenson) Bomb squad
- HF969 (Murphy) Background check fee
- HF840 (Kelley) Grant Hussey II
- HF1360 (Skoglund) POST Board
- HF1496 (Orenstein) POST board
- HF1783 (Schumacher) Fireworks operators

## Article 5

- HF454 (Wejcman) Inmate wages
- HF455 (Wejcman) Inmate wages
- HF1034 (Brown) State agencies purchase from DOC

## Article 6

- HF1189 (Leppik) Guardian ad litem
- HF1247 (Pugh) Five new judges
- HF1544 (Skoglund) Nonfelony Enforcement Advisory Committee

## Article 7

- HF771 (Farrell) Witness and victim fund
- HF840 (Kelley) Grant Hussey II
- HF881 (Pugh) Various crime provisions
- HF1026 (Entenza) Expiration date; advisory council
- HF1253 (Seagren) Crime victim ombudsman
- HF1438 (McGuire) Battered women's shelters

## Taxes

As of 4/25/95

### HF1864\*/SFnone (Rest) Omnibus tax bill

#### Article 1

- HF1380 (Rest) Modifies the exemption for MN state bond interest (new language) (Secs. 1 and 3-4)
- HF854 (Milbert) Conforms to federal tax law changes for the GATT and (new language) IRC amendments through April 15, 1995 (Secs. 2 and 5)

#### Article 2

- HF635 (Rhodes) Clarifies that for purposes of calculating the motor vehicle license tax, the "base value" means the manufacturer's suggested retail price plus the destination charge using information published by the manufacturer (Sec. 1)

- HF635 (Van Dellen) Amendment allows citizens to match the duration of motor vehicle registration for their leased vehicles with the terms of their leases (Secs. 2-3)
- HF1295 (Ostrom) Replaces alternative fuel permits with an equivalent rate system (Secs. 4-20 and 41(a))
- HF1422 (Winter) Exempts racehorses and feed and bedding for all horses from sales tax (Secs. 21 and 26)
- HF1811 (Wagenius) Clarifies the scope and application of the sales tax on mixed municipal solid waste management services (formerly "SCORE"); requires the Department of Revenue to evaluate the accuracy of past collections and report (Secs. 21-22, 25, 30, and 38)
- HF602 (Winter) (DOR) Provides a partial exemption from sales tax for purchasers of "park model" trailers and provides and appropriation for refunds (Secs. 23 and 33) (See Article 3 for additional provisions)
- HF571 (Wolf) Exempts rental of cargo vans from automobile rental tax (Sec. 24)
- HF59 (Bertram) Extends for one year the used farm equipment exemption (Sec. 27)
- HF1206 (Jaros) Exempts building materials and supplies for construction of a Duluth Convention Center (Sec. 28)
- HF1744 (Milbert) Exempts building materials and supplies for construction of qualifying indoor ice youth sports facilities. (Sec. 29)
- HF8 (Onnen) Imposes a tax of \$90 in lieu of the normal sales tax on motor vehicles for fire trucks that are classified as collector vehicles (Secs. 31-32)
- HF173 (Pelowski) Authorizes Winona, after it has retired the debt on its steamboat center, to use 50 percent of the proceeds from its lodging tax to promote certain tourism activities not authorized by general law (Sec. 34)
- HF1222 (Long) Exempts Minneapolis Women's Club for the obligation to collect the Minneapolis sales and lodging taxes and the Downtown Minneapolis special district restaurant food and on-sale alcohol taxes (Sec. 35)
- HF1495 (Ness) Authorizes City of Hutchinson, subject to referendum, to impose a one-half cent sales tax and a \$20 motor vehicle tax for five years; and a liquor and food sales surtax, subject to reverse referendum (Secs. 36-37)
- HF577 (Bertram) Exempts building materials and supplies for construction of agricultural processing facilities that meet specific criteria (Sec. 39)
- HF1825 (Rest) Creates a 17-member advisory council to study the sales tax system and tax policy, and report to the Legislature (Sec. 40)
- HF287 (Abrams) Repeals the sales tax on 1-900, 1-960 and 1-976 calls (Sec. 41(b))

#### Article 3

- HF1000 (Johnson, A.) Adjusts time line on school levy certification and truth-in-taxation (Secs. 1-2 and 11-12)
- HF602 (Winter) (DOR) Taxes park trailers the same as manufactured homes, not as vehicles (Secs. 3, 19-22, and 41)
- HF1398 (Winter) Authorizes wind energy property tax pass through to rate payers (Sec. 4)
- HF777 (Winter) Establishes property tax levels on wind energy conversion systems (Secs. 5, 10, and 13-14)
- HF1173 (Wagenius) Establishes lower C/I class rate in "transit zones" (Secs. 7 and 24)
- HF127 (Kalis) Reduces class rate on certain apartment property (Secs. 8-9)
- HF1029 (Milbert) Extends through pay 1997 taxes the reduction of the class rate for manufactured home park property from 2.3 percent to 2.0 percent (Sec. 8)

- HF357 (Smith) Exempts probate estates from property tax penalties and delinquency under certain circumstances (Sec. 17)
- HF1673 (Wejcmán) Authorizes county boards to delegate administration of tax forfeited land to county auditor (Secs. 18 and 23)
- HF1566 (Long) Establishes a special service district in Minneapolis (Sec. 25)
- HF1237 (Jaros) Modifies boundary of special service district in Duluth (Sec. 26)
- HF606 (Solberg) Modifies the time limitation for filing local approval of the Nashwauk area ambulance district by certain cities and towns (Sec. 27)
- HF1182 (Dawkins) Authorizes St. Paul to continue rental tax equity pilot project for one additional year using only funds previously appropriated (new language) (Sec. 28)
- HF1792 (Rest) Reduces Hennepin County HACA to offset state cost of court employees (Sec. 29)
- HF1824 (Milbert) Adjusts aid payment for Dakota County public defender costs (Sec. 30)
- HF1770 (Kelley) Provides exception to time requirements for property tax exempt status (Sec. 31)
- HF186 (Kelley) Establishes a special service district in St. Louis Park (Sec. 32)
- HF1327 (Garcia) Authorizes Richfield to create non-profit housing corporations (Sec. 33)
- HF712 (Luther) Establishes one-year rental tax equity project in Brooklyn Park; compensates renters for reduction in property tax refunds as a result of property tax reductions under the project (new language) (Secs. 34-35 and 39)
- HF1182 (Dawkins) Amendment limits St. Paul rental tax equity pilot project to necessary repairs and requires reinspection following repairs; compensates renters for reductions in property tax refunds as a result of property tax reductions under the St. Paul rental tax equity pilot project (Sec. 36)
- HF712 (Dawkins) Amendment requires the commissioner of revenue to study and report to the House and Senate Committees on Taxes regarding alternative proposals for using reductions in property taxes on apartments as an incentive for owners to repair their apartment buildings (Sec. 37)
- HF162 (Bertram) Requires Stearns County to refund to Melrose a portion of the amount paid by the city for the purchase of certain property in 1994 (Sec. 38)

#### Article 4

- HF461 (Wagenius) Provides property tax deferment for seniors

#### Article 5

- HF1831 (Rest) Provides that property tax refunds will be itemized on tax statements

#### Article 6

- HF1682 (Bakk) Extends property tax refund to seasonal recreational property

#### Article 7

- HF1830 (Rest) Imposes requirements for exempting a municipality from the state aid offset or extending the duration of a district. Technical amendments, including clarification re: computing state aid offset where ethanol project exceeds exemption ceiling (Sec. 1-4, 25, 30, and 32)
- HF131 (Peterson) Increases ceiling for LGA/HACA offset exemption from \$1.0 M to \$1.5 M and eliminates "cliff" effect for ethanol plants (Sec. 3)
- HF147 (Ozment) Modifies many aspects of TIF law (Sec. 6-8, 12-16, 18-21, 27-29, and 31)

#### Article 8

- Sets amount of budget reserve and cash flow account at \$350 million (Sec. 1)

#### Article 9

- HF1494 (Dawkins) Establishes local government efficiency and effectiveness panel to review applications from certain metro-area units of government for release of 5 percent of each unit's state aid; the application requires each metro-area county, city or town with a population greater than 5,000 to demonstrate that it has considered certain issues re: efficiency and inter-unit cooperation (new language) (Secs. 1 and 20)
- HF1755 (Onnen) Authorizes the Attorney General to investigate alleged misconduct re: revenue recapture and to suspend the revenue recapture authority of any offending unit of government. Establishes a procedure for a unit of government to challenge suspension by the Attorney General. Extends the jurisdiction of the taxpayer's rights advocate to include revenue recapture (Secs. 2-4, 7-10, and 12-13)
- HF755 (Johnson, B.) Increases the premium tax on certain lines of insurance issued by certain kinds of insurance companies to increase funding for fire fighter and police pensions and other purposes (Sec. 5-6)
- HF1653 (Dawkins) Requires units of government using revenue recapture to provide written notice to the debtor advising the debtor of her right to contest the validity of the unit's claim at a hearing (Sec. 11)
- HF1820 (Bakk) Extends the sunset of the allocation of taconite taxes to the taconite economic development fund from the end of 1996 to the end of 1997 at the present allocation rate of 15.4 cents per ton (Sec. 14)
- HF1569 (Mulder) Authorizes Rock County to impose a tax on gravel (Sec. 15)
- HF1470 (Garcia) Increases amount that a charitable organization may deduct for the premises used for lawful gambling other than bingo from \$15,000 to \$35,000 (Sec. 16)
- HF149 (Olson, E.) Repeals the limit on the amount of funds counties may appropriate or accumulate for societies or organizations involved in economic or agricultural resource development (Sec. 17)
- HF1840 (Wenzel) Permanently increases annual LGA for Pillager by \$40,000 (Secs. 18 and 25)
- HF916 (Murphy) Permanently increases annual HACA for Hermantown (Sec. 21)
- HF449 (Mulder) Authorizes Pipestone County to issue \$598,000 of GO bonds to pay for repair and renovation of its county courthouse. (Sec. 22)
- HF183 (Peterson) Authorizes Swift County to create a rural development finance authority that has the powers of a city's economic development authority, other than the power to issue GO bonds, as well as the powers of a rural development finance authority; exempts Swift County from some of the restrictions that are imposed on cities when forming economic development authorities (Sec. 23)
- HF955 (Dehler) Authorizes Morrison County to issue GO bonds in an amount not to exceed \$1.2 million for improvements to its county fairground (Sec. 24)

# Bills Sent to the Governor

## Bills await the governor's signature — or veto

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
- do nothing, which results in the bill becoming law in the first year of the biennium.

The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is this: the governor has three days from the time of "presentation" to veto a bill. If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays aren't counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include

a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
1	45	87	Relating to taxation; making technical corrections and clarifications; making administrative changes.	2/14/95	
2	98	134	Relating to gambling; providing for an alternate member of the advisory council on gambling.	2/17/95	
3	29	42	Relating to traffic regulations; repealing sunset provision concerning recreational vehicle combinations.	2/22/95	
4	31	44	Relating to energy; extending the deadline for the initial report of the legislative electric energy task force.	2/22/95	
5	262	75	Relating to real property; clarifying requirements relating to filing of notices relating to mechanics' liens.	2/24/95	
6	137	213	Relating to utilities; abolishing sunset provision related to competitive rates for electric utilities.	3/1/95	
7	52	33	Relating to drivers' licenses; permitting certain licensees to wear headwear in driver's license and Minnesota identification card photographs.	3/1/95	
8	103	141	Relating to elections; providing for review of certain school board plans by the Secretary of State; changing allocation of certain election expenses; providing for retention of election materials.	3/2/95	
9	164	65	Relating to utilities; regulating area development rate plans.	3/10/95	
10	37	49	Relating to local government; allowing either the town of Glen or the town of Kimberly in Aitkin County to have an alternative annual meeting day.	3/17/95	
11	554	620	Relating to securities; regulating enforcement actions against licensees; modifying the definition of investment metal.	3/17/95	
12	74	64	Relating to corrections; requiring that the commissioner of corrections notify affected local governments before licensing certain foster care facilities for delinquent children.	3/20/95	
13	726	323	Relating to housing; clarifying provisions relating to retaliatory conduct and manufactured home parks.	3/20/95	
14	749	350	Relating to housing; modifying eligibility for transitional housing services.	3/22/95	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
15	362	266	Relating to local government; towns; authorizing the town board to set up a petty cash fund.	3/22/95	
16	125	197	Relating to corrections; prohibiting correctional inmates from applying for name changes more than once during an inmate's confinement.	3/27/95	
17	435	275	Relating to public utilities; authorizing performance-based gas purchasing regulation for gas utilities.	3/27/95	
18	231	95	Relating to occupations and professions; Board of Medical Practice; changing licensing requirements for foreign applicants; changing certain disciplinary procedures.	3/27/95	
19	6	50	Relating to highways; designating a bridge as the Betty Adkins Bridge.	3/27/95	
20	647	181	Relating to elections; allowing time off to vote in elections to fill a vacancy in the Legislature.	3/27/95	
21	229	182	Relating to towns; clarifying the procedure to fill a vacancy in the office of town supervisor.	3/27/95	
22	887	764	Relating to public administration; providing St. Paul with additional authority in regard to the Teacher Training Institute.	3/27/95	
23	95	132	Relating to highways; prohibiting headwalls in highway rights-of-way; imposing a penalty.	3/27/95	
24	570	318	Relating to insurance; changing the date on which crop hail insurance rates must be filed with the commissioner.	3/27/95	
25	654	534	Relating to towns; clarifying authority of town board to alter or vacate town roads dedicated by plat.	3/29/95	
26	121	310	Relating to state trails; authorizing extension of the Blufflands Trail System in Winona County.	3/29/95	
27	305	265	Relating to local government; clarifying provisions for financial audits in certain circumstances.	3/29/95	
28	153	145	Relating to motor vehicles; providing time limit for refunding motor vehicle registration tax overpayment.	3/29/95	
29	129	229	Relating to government data practices; medical examiner data; allowing sharing of such data with a state or federal agency charged with investigating a death.	3/31/95	
30	735	214	Relating to crime prevention; providing an exception to the prohibition on concealing identity.	4/5/95	
31	367	293	Relating to debt; providing for prompt payment of subcontractors of municipal contractors; modifying certain provisions relating to liens and performance bonds.	4/5/95	
32	321	174	Relating to game and fish; continuing the authorization for residents under the age of 16 to take deer of either sex.	4/5/95	
33	337	739	Relating to agriculture; changing certain procedures for compensating crop owners for damage by elk.	4/5/95	
34	1148	1099	Relating to elections; permitting election judges to serve outside the county where they reside in certain cases.	4/10/95	
35	282	237	Relating to state government; permitting state employees to donate vacation leave for the benefit of a certain state employee.	4/12/95	
36	812	710	Relating to natural resources; broadening the uses permitted for emergency materials and equipment.	4/12/95	
37	564	748	Relating to notaries; providing licensed peace officers with the powers of a notary public for administering oaths upon information submitted to establish probable cause.	4/12/95	
38	567	983	Relating to data practices; providing for disclosure of certain hospital and health care provider tax data to the commissioner of human services and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.	4/12/95	



Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
39	1176	1043	Relating to agriculture; modifying provisions related to farmed cervidae.	4/12/95	
40	568	528	Relating to traffic regulations; requiring adult motorcycle rider to wear eye protection device.	4/19/95	
41	782	427	Relating to Western Lake Superior Sanitary District; providing for compliance with certain requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.	4/18/95	
42	150	220	Relating to liquor; term of temporary on-sale licenses.	4/18/95	
43	228	72	Relating to occupations and professions; Board of Medical Practice; reinstating certain advisory councils.	Approved without signature	
44	226	73	Relating to occupations and professions; requiring reporting of certain insurance settlements to Board of Medical Practice.	4/19/95	
45	715	453	Relating to towns; providing for damage award to affected property owner when town board adopts a recorded town road map.	4/18/95	
46	216	426	Relating to motor vehicles; changing definition of fleet for vehicle registration purposes.	4/18/95	
47	1065	859	Relating to St. Louis County; modifying certain accounting and expenditure requirements for road and bridge fund tax money derived from unorganized townships.	4/18/95	
48	355	335	Relating to the organization and operation of state government; providing supplemental appropriations for certain purposes.	4/18/95	
49	1463	77	Relating to civil actions; new motor vehicle warranties; clarifying the limitation on actions after informal dispute settlement mechanism decisions.	4/19/95	
50	175	194	Relating to highways; designating bridge as Bridge of Hope.	4/18/95	
51	1433	1176	Relating to utilities; providing that Sleepy Eye need not provide notice to the commissioner of trade and economic development before discontinuing steam heating operations.	4/18/95	
52	350	34	Relating to insurance; health; requiring plans issued to supplement Medicare to provide coverage for equipment and supplies for the management and treatment of diabetes.	4/19/95	
53	714	574	Relating to Indians; requiring the commissioner of natural resources to change certain names of geographic features of the state.	4/18/95	
54	1145	1060	Relating to employment; modifying provisions relating to re-employment insurance.	4/18/95	
55	110	320	Relating to criminal procedure; allowing warrantless probable cause arrests for certain offenses committed on school property.	4/18/95	
56	1390	264	Relating to drivers' licenses; abolishing separate review process for commercial drivers' license disqualification.	4/19/95	
57	139	204	Relating to state government; requiring reporting on and certain analysis of federal mandates imposed on state agencies.	4/18/95	
58	1338	1042	Relating to limited liability organizations; modifying name requirements; eliminating a filing requirement; clarifying when debts arise or accrue for limited liability partnerships.	4/19/95	
59	1747	838	Relating to barbers; exempting persons performing barbering services for charitable purposes from registration and other requirements.	4/18/95	
60	1039	856	Relating to Dakota County; assigning to the county administrator the duties of the clerk of the county board.	4/18/95	
61	1075	521	Relating to adoption; requiring the listing of all children freed for adoption on the state adoption exchange within 20 days.	4/19/95	
62	345	239	Relating to state lands; authorizing the sale of certain tax-forfeited land that borders public water in Kandiyohi County.	4/18/95	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
63	724	1055	Relating to occupations and professions; exempting certain social workers from requirement to obtain home care provider license; exempting some social workers employed in a hospital or nursing home from examination; modifying licensure requirements; requiring hospital and nursing home social workers to be licensed.	4/19/95	
64	1091	1337	Relating to commerce; regulating sales by transient merchants; prohibiting the sale of certain items by certain merchants; prescribing penalties.	4/19/95	
65	1307	867	Relating to game and fish; identification required on ice fishing shelters.	4/19/95	
66	1363	1336	Relating to health; modifying provisions relating to drug dispensing.	4/19/95	
67	670	none	Relating to Winona County; authorizing Winona County to negotiate and enter into a contract for deed with Winona County Developmental Achievement Center.	4/19/95	
68	457	469	Relating to commerce; real estate; regulating certain licensees and registrants and recovery fund actions.	4/20/95	
69	612	543	Relating to health; requiring equal treatment of prescription drug prescribers; clarifying the role of practice guidelines in prescribing legend drugs.	4/19/95	
70	145	1255	Relating to corrections; authorizing use of force in defense of assault in correctional facilities under the control of or licensed by the commissioner.	4/19/95	
71	831	348	Relating to motor vehicles; clarifying power to appoint motor vehicle deputy registrars.	4/19/95	
72	1134	687	Relating to traffic regulations; requiring minimum clearance when passing bicycle or individual on roadway or bikeway; requiring bicycle traffic laws to be included in driver's manual and driver's license tests.	4/20/95	
73	661	446	Relating to commerce; restraint of trade; repealing price markup provisions in the sales discrimination law.	4/19/95	
74	971	172	Relating to motor vehicles; providing for issuance of manufacturer test plates.	4/19/95	
75	687	474	Relating to insurance; Medicare-related coverage; regulating policy reinstatement.	4/21/95	
76	679	566	Relating to education; allowing the residential program operated by Independent School District No. 518 to remain open until 7/1/96 (Lakeview School).	4/21/95	
77	316	133	Relating to state lands; authorizing the private sale of certain tax-forfeited lands bordering public waters in Cook and St. Louis counties.	4/21/95	
78	544	520	Relating to courts; requiring the state court administrator to prepare a guide to informal probate.	4/21/95	
79	859	833	Relating to cities; authorizing cities to conduct private sales of unclaimed property through nonprofit organizations.	4/21/95	
80	823	726	Relating to hospitals; removing an exception for certain cities and counties from certain hospital financing activities.	4/21/95	
81	744	577	Relating to health; modifying provisions relating to nursing home administrators.	4/21/95	
82	765	299	Relating to vocational rehabilitation; changing references to visually disabled person; making changes of a technical and housekeeping nature.	4/21/95	
83	1441	1023	Relating to public lands; notice requirements for sales of tax-forfeited lands; leasing of tax-forfeited lands; roads used by counties on tax-forfeited lands.	4/21/95	
84	1255	644	Relating to state lands; modifying the provisions of a land sale to the city of Anoka.	4/24/95	
85	900	144	Relating to traffic regulations; limiting access to data on holders of disabled parking certificates; modifying provisions governing display and use of certificates.	4/24/95	
86	83	91	Relating to gambling; providing eligibility for participation as a provider in the state compulsive gambling program.	4/24/95	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
87	485	445	Relating to the environment; requiring the Pollution Control Agency to permit the operation of certain waste combustors.	4/24/95	
88	806	680	Relating to state lands; authorizing the commissioner of natural resources to sell certain land in Scott County.	4/24/95	
89	1553	1209	Relating to Hennepin County; modifying certain provisions concerning the county medical examiners office.	4/24/95	
90	1063	858	Relating to the city of Duluth; making certain statutory provisions concerning public utilities applicable to the city of Duluth; authorizing a demonstration project to develop methods to prevent the infiltration and inflow of storm water into the city's sanitary sewer system.	4/25/95	
91	843	613	Relating to insurance; health; requiring coverage for hospitalization and anesthesia coverage for dental procedures; requiring coverage for general anesthesia and treatment for covered medical conditions rendered by a dentist.	4/25/95	
92	344	303	Relating to real property; providing for the form and record of certain assignments; revising the Common Interest Ownership Act; changing the application of curative and validating law for mortgage foreclosures.	4/25/95	
93	1457	1583	Relating to state lands; authorizing the commissioner of natural resources to sell certain acquired state lands located in Becker County.	4/26/95	
94	1378	1144	Relating to the city of Minneapolis; authorizing the Minneapolis City Council to delegate to the city engineer certain authority over traffic and parking.	4/26/95	
95	1332	839	Relating to agriculture; modifying pesticide posting requirements; changing certain pesticide dealer requirements; changing expiration of pesticide applicator certifications, etc.	4/26/95	
96	1130	893	Relating to insurance; the Comprehensive Health Association; changing benefits; changing the association's enrollment freeze date.	4/26/95	
97	377	390	Relating to driving while intoxicated; extending vehicle forfeiture penalties to include failure to appear at trial for designated driving while intoxicated offenses.	4/28/95	
98	1468	1268	Relating to the governor; providing that the governor may declare an inability to discharge duties of the office or may be declared unable to do so.	4/28/95	
99	464	341	Relating to motor vehicles; limiting license plate impoundment provisions to self-propelled motor vehicles.	4/28/95	
100	1645	1390	Relating to commerce; specifying kinds of wood for certain exterior construction applications.	4/28/95	
101	1153	1097	Relating to transportation; authorizing cities, counties, and transit commissions and authorities outside the metropolitan area to provide certain paratransit outside their service areas.	4/28/95	
102	838	713	Relating to Olmsted County; authorizing the county to create a non-profit corporation to own and operate a hospital and medical center.	4/28/95	
103	702	522	Relating to traffic regulations; allowing school authorities to appoint non-pupil adults to school safety patrols.	5/1/95	
104	901	1129	Relating to drivers' licenses; requiring additional information in drivers' education programs, the driver's license examination, and the driver's manual regarding the legal and financial consequences of violating DWI-related laws.	5/1/95	
105	1641	1396	Relating to local government; requiring a local governmental unit to furnish copies of any ordinances adopted to the county law library.	5/1/95	
106	529	431	Relating to eminent domain proceedings.	5/1/95	
107	340	305	Relating to commerce; motor vehicle sales and distribution; regulating the establishment and relocation of dealerships.	5/1/95	
108	985	830	Relating to state lands; allowing the sale of certain state forest lands; requiring the commissioner of natural resources to convey certain land to the city of Akeley for public purposes; authorizing the sale of certain trust fund lands; authorizing the sale of tax-forfeited land in Todd County; authorizing the commissioner of transportation to acquire certain trust fund land.	5/1/95	
109	866	683	Relating to local government; authorizing home rule charter and statutory cities to make grants to non-profit community food shelves.	5/3/95	
110	533	420	Relating to Stearns County; authorizing the Paynesville Area Hospital District to annex the city of Eden Valley to the district; authorizing the city of Sauk Centre to determine the number of members of the Public Utilities Commission.	5/3/95	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
111	47	94	Relating to solid waste; merging two conflicting amendments to the solid waste generator assessment statute that were enacted in 1994.	5/3/95	
112	565	501	Relating to metropolitan area housing; authorizing the Metropolitan Council to operate a federal section 8 housing program within the metropolitan area pursuant to joint exercise of powers agreements.	5/3/95	
113	1060	810	Relating to local government; excluding certain fire and police department employees from civil service in the city of South St. Paul.	5/3/95	
114	813	974	Relating to human services; establishing a temporary payment rate for a recently purchased intermediate care facility for persons with mental retardation or related conditions.	5/3/95	
115	877	949	Relating to insurance; private passenger vehicle insurance; providing for a premium reduction for vehicles having anti-theft alarms or devices.	5/3/95	
116	68	68	Relating to insurance; requiring insurers to offer alternative methods for the payment of group life policy proceeds.	5/3/95	
117	1485	1171	Relating to occupations and professions; permitting protective agents to perform certain traffic control duties.		5/4/95
118	1011	1015	Relating to traffic regulations; prohibiting radar jammers.	5/3/95	
119	1320	1073	Relating to the environment; establishing a private cause of action for abandonment of hazardous waste.	5/5/95	
120	383	340	Relating to traffic regulations; clarifying conditions when covering motor vehicle head lamp, tail lamp, or reflector is unlawful, etc.	5/5/95	
121	1425	1250	Relating to tax-forfeited land; modifying the terms of payment for certain tax-forfeited timber.	5/5/95	
122	1626	1572	Relating to state government; prohibiting investment of public funds in certain assets.	5/5/95	
123	733	1547	Relating to employment; modifying provisions relating to high pressure piping installation; providing penalties.	5/5/95	
124	54	279	Relating to state government; directing the governor, attorney general, and other public officers to perform certain duties in regard to certain waters and public lands.		
125	354	807	Relating to utilities; allowing small gas utility franchises an exemption from rate regulation for incidental utility service.	5/5/95	
126	1194	947	Relating to state government; allocating certain appropriations to regional arts council.	5/5/95	
127	1008	606	Relating to family law; authorizing courts to require parties to participate in orientation programs in proceedings involving children.	5/5/95	
128	399	559	Relating to business organizations; clarifying corporate authority with respect to rights to purchase; regulating filings and related matters; providing for service of process.	5/5/95	
129	32	29	Relating to marriage; authorizing retired court administrators to solemnize marriages.	5/5/95	
130	651	~591	Relating to probate; clarifying and correcting provisions of the uniform probate code; expanding authority for safe deposit box searches, etc.	5/5/95	
131	244	306	Relating to employment; establishing the governor's workforce development council to replace certain other councils.	5/5/95	
132	273	455	Relating to motor vehicles; allowing license plates for collector vehicles to be transferred and reissued; imposing fees.	5/8/95	
133	266	180	Relating to peace officers; authorizing certain expenditures by a surviving spouse from a dependent child's share of peace officer's survivor benefits.		
134	1460	1374	Relating to government; modifying a budget report date for cities; modifying certain budget publication requirements.	5/8/95	



Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
135	1602	1420	Relating to health; establishing provisions for mobile health care providers.	5/8/95	
136	331	309	Relating to health; modifying provisions relating to access to patients and residents.	5/8/95	
137	586	553	Relating to motor vehicles; authorizing sale and disposal of unauthorized, abandoned, and junk vehicles by impound lots.	5/8/95	
138	624	493	Relating to public employees; providing a leave of absence for public employees who are candidates for elective office.		5/9/95
139	694	608	Relating to human services; modifying child care programs and county contribution.	5/8/95	
140	1308	973	Relating to insurance; automobile; permitting users of rental vehicles to benefit from lower price rental periods without losing coverage.	5/8/95	
141	617	561	Relating to retirement; various public pension plans; providing for the suspension of forfeiture of certain survivor benefits in the event of certain felonious deaths; etc.	5/10/95	
142	927	864	Relating to domestic abuse; eliminating hearing requirements in certain cases; providing for notices.	5/10/95	
143	1048	846	Relating to commerce; regulating videotape distributions; requiring certain captioning for deaf or hard of hearing persons; providing penalties and remedies.	5/10/95	
144	1052	565	Relating to the federal lien registration act; imposing duties on filing officers; providing for filing of notices and of certificates of discharge; designating an official index; providing for the transmission of certain information.	5/10/95	
145	1402	1163	Relating to motor vehicles; authorizing issuance of original license plates 20 or more years old to a registered passenger automobile; authorizing registrar to charge a fee.	5/10/95	
146	1003	1075	Relating to health; modifying provisions relating to X-ray operators and inspections; establishing an advisory committee.	5/10/95	
147	1018	1067	Relating to the environment; conforming state regulation of chlorofluorocarbons to federal law.	5/10/95	
148	1371	1272	Relating to commerce; securities; regulating disclosure of payment received for directing order flow.	5/10/95	
149	1252	1051	Relating to emergency telephone services; requiring provider of cellular telephone services to include in its billings a notice regarding 911 calls.	5/11/95	
150	1082	1407	Relating to cooperatives; permitting certain optional voting systems for cooperatives that have other cooperatives as members.	5/10/95	
151	217	139	Relating to insurance; life; regulating living benefits settlements; adopting the NAIC viatical settlements model act; prescribing powers and duties; appropriating money.	5/10/95	
152	751	649	Relating to insurance; regulating trade practices; prohibiting certain insurance agent quotas.	5/10/95	
153	1709	1523	Relating to the city of Chanhassen; authorizing certain bid specifications for playground equipment on an experimental basis.	5/10/95	
154	1437	1152	Relating to employment; requiring disclosure to recruited employees in the food processing industry.	5/10/95	
155	1174	1091	Relating to transportation; expanding authority of commissioner of transportation to regulate providers of special transportation service; classifying data; providing for administrative fees and penalties.	5/10/95	
156	620	752	Relating to telecommunications; allowing for alternative regulation of telephone companies for a limited period; authorizing rulemaking to promote fair and reasonable competition for local exchange service.	5/10/95	
157	416	308	Relating to crime prevention; authorizing special registration plates for certain persons subject to an impoundment order.		5/10
158	1246	532	Relating to child care; requiring child care for school age children not operated by a school to be licensed; changing the definition of toddler and preschooler for family day care programs serving siblings.	5/11/95	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
159	474	243	Relating to state lands; authorizing the sale of certain tax-forfeited lands bordering public waters in Dakota county to the city of Eagan.	5/11/95	
160	1524	1402	Relating to state government; asking state employees to submit suggestions to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state government.		
161	1256	890	Relating to energy; adopting energy standards for air conditioners, certain gas-burning equipment, lamps, motors, showerheads, and faucets.	5/11/95	
162	1678	1472	Relating to drainage; allowing an outlet fee to be charged for use of an established drainage system in Red Lake County as an outlet for drainage originating in Polk County.	5/11/95	
163	1617	1404	Relating to insurance; regulating reinsurance intermediaries; providing for the investment of funds held by reinsurance intermediaries.		
164	1442	1417	Relating to health; occupations and professions; modifying provisions relating to the office of mental health practice; licensing of chemical dependency counselors and hearing instrument dispensers.		
165	1037	425	Relating to health; providing rulemaking authority; modifying enforcement and fee provisions; modifying the hearing instrument dispenser trainee period.		
166	1469	870	Relating to elevator safety; changing responsibility for certain administrative and enforcement activities; changing certain exemptions; imposing penalties.		
167	1808	1543	Relating to public finance; changing procedures for allocating bonding authority; changing provisions relating to housing programs and plans.		
168	1479	1314	Relating to the environment; establishing an environmental improvement pilot program to promote voluntary compliance with environmental requirements; modifying provisions relating to the voluntary investigation and cleanup program.		
169	536	1263	Relating to commerce; residential building contractors; regulating licensees; providing a clarification.		
170	1159	1056	Relating to real property; authorizing municipalities to establish trust or escrow accounts for proceeds from losses arising from fire or explosion of certain insured real property; authorizing municipalities to utilize escrowed funds to secure, repair, or demolish damaged or destroyed structures.		
171	1573	1469	Relating to financial institutions; regulating savings banks; modifying and clarifying statutory provisions relating to the structure and functions of savings banks.		
172	493	803	Relating to retirement; various local public employee pension plan; providing for various benefit modifications and related changes that require local governing body approval.		
173	248	375	Relating to energy; directing the electric energy task force to consider new preferred alternative energy sources; providing for incentive payments to closed system pumped hydropower facilities.		
174	1434	965	Relating to transportation; authorizing issuance of permits for 12-foot wide loads of baled straw; changing classification and endorsement requirements to operate a vehicle carrying liquid fertilizer.		
175	1291	1112	Relating to local government; authorizing Sherburne County to convey certain county ditches to the city of Elk River under certain conditions; granting certain powers to the town of Embarrass.		
Res. 1	NONE	66	Memorializing Congress to continue its progress at reducing the federal deficit and provide to the state information on the impact that a balanced federal budget will have on the state of Minnesota.	1/20/95	
Res. 2	957	777	Memorializing the President and Congress to abandon the proposed sale of the Western Area Power Administration.	4/19/95	
Res. 3	821	700	Memorializing Congress to fund the Amtrack system to enable it to continue to service Minnesota.	4/28/95	

# Bill Introductions

HF1896 - HF1910

## Friday, May 5

**HF1896—Lourey (DFL)**  
**Education**

School district levies reduced, transportation and general education state aid increased, and individual income tax rates modified.

**HF1897—Munger (DFL)**  
**Environment and Natural Resources**  
White Pine Restoration Act adopted.

**HF1898—Kahn (DFL)**  
**International Trade & Economic Development**  
National Hockey League franchise controlling interest purchase by state provided, and money appropriated.

## Monday, May 8

**HF1899—Finseth (IR)**  
**Environment and Natural Resources**  
Hunting, trapping, and angling lawful activity impedence or obstruction prohibited, and penalties provided.

**HF1900—Tomassoni (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Video lottery terminal operation authorized, pull-tab and tipboard taxation method modified, amateur sports commission renamed, and penalties prescribed.

## Tuesday, May 9

**HF1901—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance**  
St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center addition construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1902—Smith (IR)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Public employee number limit imposed and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1903—Smith (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Appropriations not to exceed consumer price index rate increases, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1904—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Legislature permitted to call itself into special session and constitutional amendment proposed.

## Wednesday, May 10

**HF1905—Perl (DFL)**  
**Environment and Natural Resources**  
Toxics in products prohibition exemption provided for certain transportation safety materials.

**HF1906—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Joint and several liability apportionment regulated.

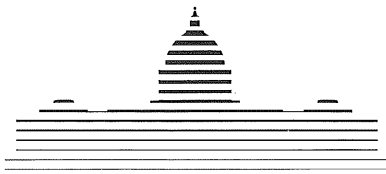
**HF1907—Mares (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Education data directory information designation and release limited.

**HF1908—Jefferson (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Minneapolis Fire Department Relief Association retirement administration provisions recodified.

**HF1909—Garcia (DFL)**  
**Transportation and Transit**  
Bus definition expanded to include special transportation service vehicles.

## Thursday, May 11

**HF1910—Olson, E. (DFL)**  
**Ways and Means**  
Corrections and veterans affairs departments appropriated money for payment of claims against the state.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
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Speaker of the House: Irv Anderson  
Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Workers' compensation in Minnesota

Annual workers' compensation costs to Minnesota employers, in billions, 1993 .....	\$1.22
Cost to employers, in millions, 1980 .....	\$471
Cost per day, in millions, 1993 .....	\$3.3
Cost to employers per \$100 of payroll, 1993 .....	\$2.46
Number of Minnesota workers injured on the job or who become ill from job-related causes, each day, 1993 .....	435
Number of workers' compensation claims, 1993 .....	159,600
in 1980 .....	149,600
Cases where the worker received a cash benefit to compensate for "lost wages, functional impairment, or death, 1993 .....	38,900
Cases where only medical or rehabilitation costs were paid, 1993 .....	120,700
Minnesotans killed on the job, 1993 .....	113
in 1991 .....	89
Rate of Minnesota men fatally injured on the job compared to women .....	8:1
Nationwide, deaths on the job, 1993 .....	6,271
Rank of the construction industry, in number of claims filed as a percentage of workers .....	1
Rank of the services industry in number of claims filed .....	1
Injured workers who are between 30 and 39 years of age .....	1 in 3
Ratio of injured men to injured women .....	2 to 1
Claims resulting in a cash workers' compensation claim resulting from a back injury .....	1 in 3
Maximum grant award a business could receive from the Department of Labor and Industry for "projects designed to reduce the risk of injury and illness to their employees" .....	\$10,000
Amount given out by the department, October-December 1994 .....	\$129,000
Calls to the department's workers' compensation hotline, per year .....	80,000
Number of different languages posters on work safety and other labor standards are published in .....	6
Employees in the department's Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit .....	7
Investigations completed by the unit, January 1993 - May 11, 1995 .....	101
Number of independent contractors, insurance agents, employers, and claimants charged with workers' compensation-related crimes .....	43
Number of those convicted .....	19
Cases pending .....	14

Source: *Minnesota Workplace Safety Report: Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in Minnesota, 1993*, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, Research and Education Unit.



### For more information . . .

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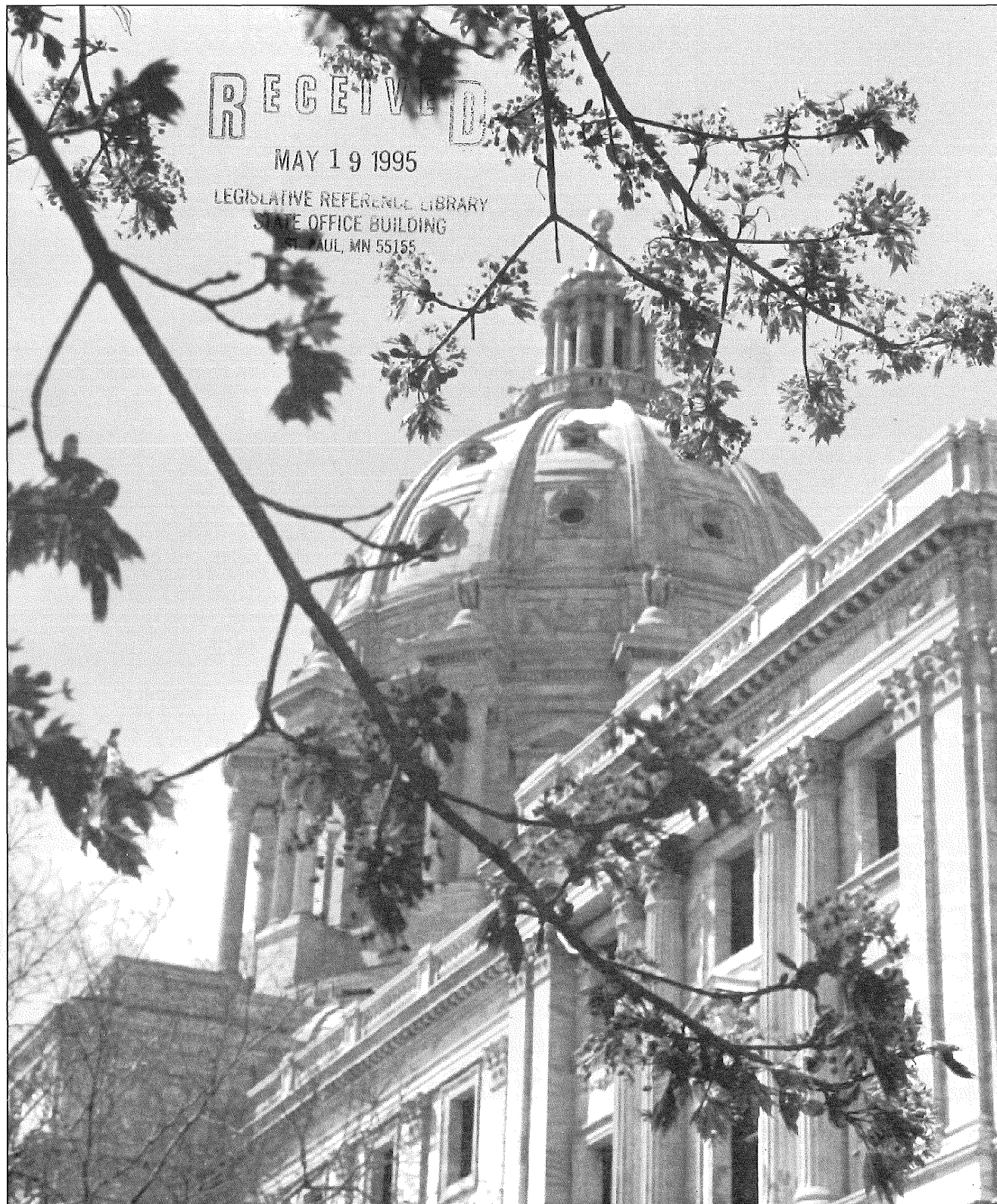


95, May 19

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# SESSION WEEKLY

A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ May 19, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 20



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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • May 19, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 20

## Week at a glance

**Strike three for bonding** — A bill to authorize the sale of \$25.4 million in state bonds to build schools and remodel the State Capitol has struck out a third time. ... Page 4

**Snowmobiling, boating, DWIs** — Some repeat DWI offenders who get caught driving their boats or snowmobiles while under the influence could forfeit their pleasure craft or vehicles to the state, under a bill given final passage by the House. .... Page 6

**Petrofund changes** — A bill to encourage petroleum tank owners to check whether their storage tanks are leaking won final approval in the House. Under the bill, those who pay to have their property tested to see if there has been soil contamination from a leaking tank could get their money back for that assessment. (A typical assessment costs between \$2,000 and \$3,000.) ..... Page 7

**Less government** — A bill to abolish several state boards and cut back on the number of regulations surrounding some agencies is one step closer to passage. The House approved the bill May 15. .... Page 11

**Driver's license refund** — A bill that would give Minnesotans a refund on their \$18.50 fee for a new or renewed driver's license if they wait more than six weeks to receive it is on its way to the governor. .... Page 12

**Higher ed funding** — For the first time, a small portion of the state appropriation to Minnesota's higher education institutions would be granted only if those schools meet specific goals spelled out by the Legislature. .... Page 13

**Welfare reform line-item vetoed** — Although Gov. Arne Carlson signed most of the 1995 welfare reform bill May 18, he line-item vetoed a food stamp outreach program and a cash assistance program for single adults totaling nearly \$6.6 million. .... Page 18

**Jets hockey franchise?** — A bill to provide state aid to help move the Winnipeg Jets National Hockey League franchise to Minnesota remains in limbo. .... Page 20

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On the cover: Spring tree blossoms garnish the State Capitol as the 1995 Legislative Session draws to a close.

— photo by Andrew Von Bank



# Highlights

Minnesota-Canada border battle . . .

## Limits eased for Minnesotans fishing in Canada

**M**innesotans who fish in Ontario would be allowed to return to the state with their fish filleted — at least for the next year, under an agreement reached by legislative leaders, Gov. Arne Carlson, and the Department of Natural Resources.

A bill negotiated by House-Senate conferees on economic development spending (SF1670) contains provisions that would repeal a 1994 law that limited Minnesotans fishing in Ontario to bringing back just one trophy fish of each species.

The bill would permit anglers to bring back their full limit of game fish allowed under Ontario law.

The measure also would give the governor the authority after May 1, 1996, to require that all anglers fishing in Ontario return to Minnesota with fish unfilleted, or "in-the-round."

The one-year reprieve from fish transportation restrictions is designed to allow time for the governments of the two countries to get together to resolve the long-running dispute over fishing and tourism. (See related story, page 4)

According to committee testimony, the "in-the-round" provision is significant because anglers staying at Canadian resorts typically have their walleye catch filleted and frozen by staff there, so anglers return home with ready-to-eat packages of fillets.

Having to bring back whole, unfilleted fish makes Canadian fishing expeditions less attractive, so that fewer anglers will patronize Ontario resorts. Fish spoil more quickly when "in-the-round" and consequently don't taste as good.

Ontario has placed stricter fish limits on anglers who lodge in Minnesota than on those who stay in Ontario resorts, including a ban on keeping any walleyes that Minnesota-based anglers have caught on the Ontario side of Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake.

SF1670 also would allow anglers fishing north of Big Island in Lake of the Woods to possess both a Minnesota and Ontario fish limit if they have valid licenses and tags. That's six walleye from Minnesota waters and

an additional two from Ontario waters.

Currently, anglers can only bring back the Minnesota limit of six walleye, according to Roger Holmes, director of the DNR's Fish and Wildlife Division.

DNR Commissioner Rod Sando has said the provision would encourage anglers to stay at resorts on the Minnesota side of the lake.

The expanded limit would not apply on the Manitoba side of Lake of the Woods or on other border waters.

(The Minnesota-Canada border runs through Lake of the Woods in Minnesota's Northwest Angle. The western portion of the lake is in Manitoba, eastern portions of the lake are in Ontario.)

The bill also would allocate \$100,000 to the Department of Trade and Economic Development to examine ways to legally or diplomatically challenge Ontario's current fishing regulations.

Two other bills moving through the Legislature also repeal portions of existing law dealing with fishing in Ontario. The House-Senate environment and natural resources

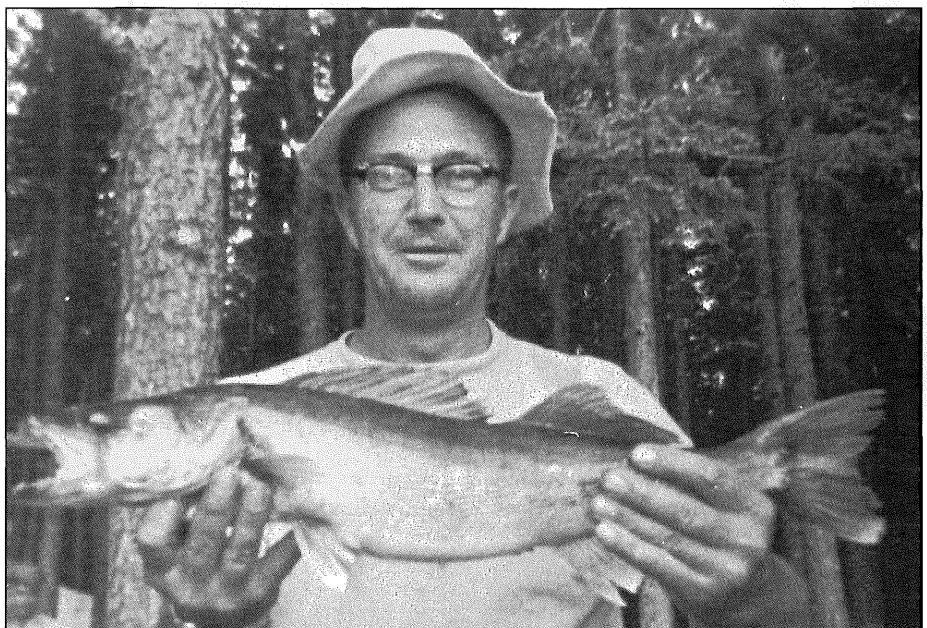
finance bill (HF1857/SF106\*) would repeal all the 1993 and 1994 laws restricting how and how many fish can be returned from Canada.

The 1993 Legislature approved a law that required fish to be transported into the state unfilleted, which was changed in 1994 to allow only one trophy fish of each species. (See March 31, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9)

This year, the Legislature had considered resurrecting portions of the 1993 law — but the proposal had strong opposition in the Senate and from some House members.

The omnibus game and fish bill (HF683/SF621\*), given final approval by the House May 17, also includes a section that would repeal the law restricting Minnesota anglers to returning from Ontario with only one trophy fish of each species.

— Mordecai Spektor



A bill negotiated by House and Senate conferees (SF1670) would permit Minnesota anglers to bring back their full limit of game fish allowed under Ontario law. It would repeal a 1994 law that limited Minnesotans fishing in Ontario to bringing back just one trophy fish of each species.

## Fishing for feds

The federal government would be formally asked to intervene in the long-running fishing and tourism dispute between Minnesota and Ontario, under a resolution the House approved May 17 on a 128-0 vote.

**HF1806**, sponsored by Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), calls on the federal government to refer the controversial issue to the International Joint Commission, a body created by the 1909 Root-Bryce Treaty to resolve U.S.-Canadian border disputes.

Minnesota and Ontario have battled for several years over an Ontario restriction that limits the number of walleyes that anglers who stay on the Minnesota side of Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake can keep. Both lakes lie on the U.S.-Canadian border.

In response, Minnesota has enacted laws in both 1993 and 1994 that are designed to discourage tourists from entering Ontario to fish. (See related story, page 3)

The Root-Bryce Treaty was created to resolve and prevent disputes regarding the use of waters along the U.S.-Canadian border. The International Joint Commission was created under the treaty to facilitate the resolution of future disputes.

Bakk said the current conflict is more than a state issue and that the federal government should play a role in finding a solution. The dispute is detrimental to tourists from throughout both countries as well as the residents of Minnesota and Ontario, he added.

of Agriculture's Rural Finance Authority which lends money to farmers through seven different programs.

Supporters of wind energy say encouraging development of small cooperatives will make it more likely for farmers to share in the wealth of the growing wind energy movement.

A law approved in 1994 requires Northern States Power Co. to provide a total of 425 megawatts of wind power by the year 2002, which has intensified the interest in wind energy.

Under the bill, at least 51 percent of shareholders in a cooperative must reside in a county or contiguous county to the location of the wind energy production facility. The facility must be located on agricultural land owned by the cooperative.

A separate provision in the bill tries to protect farmers from certain state agency rules. It calls for any state agency proposing a rule change that would affect farming operations in Minnesota to notify the Department of Agriculture of the proposed new rule.

The state agency would have to provide a copy of the proposed rule change to the department at least 60 days before the proposed rule is published in the *State Register*. (See April 28, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 5)

(The *State Register* is a legal publication that lists proposed rule changes and other information; it was created to increase public participation in the rule-making process.)

The rule-making language in the bill mirrors language in **HF1478**, sponsored by Rep. Ken Ottemba (DFL-Long Prairie).

A conference committee is now meeting to work out a compromise between the House and Senate versions of the wind energy bill.

a \$621 million bonding bill into law, the largest in state history. (Bonding bills are typically assembled in the second year of the state's two-year spending cycle.)

**HF1010** would authorize \$23.7 million in bonds for maximum effort school loans to three school districts.

Such loans are granted to districts which, due to low property tax values, cannot raise sufficient funds through property taxes to make much needed capital improvements. Districts must show they meet a number of tax capacity qualifications to be eligible for the loans, which allow them to take advantage of the state's low-interest loan rates. (The loans are repaid according to a schedule based on a district's property tax values.)

Under the bill, the Kelliher School District would receive \$6.9 million to help construct a new school, the Littlefork-Big Falls School District would have received \$7 million for building expansion and to make the schools handicap accessible, and the Big Lake School District would receive \$9.7 million to help repay a short-term loan used to build a new school.

The Big Lake proposal has been approved by the House each of the past three years and removed from the bonding bill during conference committee negotiations, said bill sponsor Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters).

Also under the bill, the Department of Administration would receive nearly \$1.7 million in bonds to make improvements to the State Capitol building. Of the amount \$184,000 would come from the general fund.

The dollars would resolve the turf battle over Capitol office space. Earlier this session, the Legislature went to Ramsey County District Court and won an injunction to stop the governor from moving into office space lawmakers said was theirs.

The bill also would allow Normandale Community College to construct a parking ramp for its students. The bill would authorize the community college system to sell revenue bonds for the project, though the total amount borrowed for the project could not exceed \$4.2 million.

The money would be paid back through the fees paid by people parking at the ramp.

The bill also limits — to one-half of total project costs — the amount of general fund dollars used to pay for building or repairing parking ramps and lots at community colleges. Also, the community college system would have to develop a plan by January 1996 to finance all future parking lot construction and repair expenses with parking fees rather than state appropriations.

The Senate passed a \$37.8 million bonding bill May 3.



## AGRICULTURE

### Wind energy

A bill that would help farmers form cooperatives to harness wind energy won House approval May 12. The vote was 128-1.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), would allow farmers to receive low-interest loans to erect wind energy turbines that could generate up to one megawatt of electricity (enough to provide power for about 600 homes).

The measure (**HF1669/SF1551\***) also would allow farmers to apply for affordable loans so they could buy stock in cooperatives formed to harness wind power in rural Minnesota. The bill does not specify the particulars of the loan program. (See April 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 4)

Both provisions would expand existing programs operated by the state Department



## BONDING

### Strike three for bonding

A bill to authorize the sale of \$25.4 million in state bonds to build schools and remodel the State Capitol has struck out a third time.

The House took up the bonding bill again May 15 (it had already died twice May 11) only to have it fail 77-55 — three votes shy of the 81 votes needed for a bonding bill to pass.

(The Minnesota Constitution mandates that 60 percent of the members of both bodies must approve a bill to sell state bonds.)

The bill is now tabled, which means it may be reconsidered at a future date.

The proposal (**HF1010**) would authorize the sale of \$25.4 million of bonds in this non-bonding year. Last year, the governor signed



## Mighty Ducks hockey

School boards and city councils could more easily raise revenue to build new ice arenas, under a bill that won final passage in the House May 15.

The bill would allow city councils and school boards to jointly issue revenue bonds for ice arenas without having to win the approval of voters.

An outside fiscal analyst, however, would have to certify that user fees from a proposed arena would generate enough to pay off any bonds, under the bill.

The arena provisions are part of **HF1614/SF1393\***, sponsored by Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope). The bill, which passed 88-45, largely consists of noncontroversial, technical changes in local government bonding authority.

But the referendum exemption for ice arenas drew criticism from Rep. Phil Krinkie (IR-Shoreview), who said the bill sets a "very serious precedent" by leaving voters out of the loop.

Taxpayers could be left to pay the bill if the arenas fail to generate enough revenue to pay off the bonds, Krinkie said.

But Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) said the likelihood is "very, very low" that local taxpayers would be stuck with the bill for a new arena. Arena-user fees would be used to pay off the bonds issued for construction of the facilities.

Separate legislation, already approved by the House this session, includes \$3.2 million to match local funds to build more ice arenas in Minnesota.

The state government spending bill would allow the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission to distribute grants of up to \$250,000 each to local communities. A conference committee now is working to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate versions of that bill.

The effort to provide state money to help build ice arenas throughout Minnesota was originally included in the so-called 'Mighty Ducks' bill (**HF1620**), sponsored by Milbert.

The measure, originally introduced in 1994, is named after a Walt Disney movie about a group of misfit youth hockey players.



## BUSINESS

### Wheelchair warranties

Equipment such as wheelchairs or Braille printers that aid people with disabilities would have to come with at least a one-year warranty, under a bill on its way to the governor.

Bill sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said the Department of Administration asked him to carry the bill to help curb a specific problem with malfunctioning wheelchairs.

"There are a small number of devices that continue to break down. It's a problem in the handicapped community," Entenza has said.

If manufacturers of "assistive devices" don't provide a warranty with the equipment, the bill would call for a one-year warranty to exist as if the manufacturer had issued one.

Under either warranty, the equipment owner could have it repaired by the manufacturer or an authorized dealer if it breaks within one year. The bill also ensures that the owner would get a refund if the device is not repaired within a reasonable amount of time.

The measure contains no penalty if a manufacturer decides not to honor the government-imposed warranty. A consumer or the attorney general, however, could take the manufacturer to court to recover damages if the bill becomes law.

Under the measure, the court "shall" award a consumer who wins in court, twice the amount of the monetary loss, attorneys fees and costs, and any "equitable relief the court may determine is appropriate."

**HF990** passed both bodies May 15. The vote was 128-0 in the House and 60-4 in the Senate.



## CONSUMERS

### Regulating charities

A bill that would shed more light on how much top officials of Minnesota charities are paid won final passage in the House May 11. The vote was 103-23.

Under current law, a charitable organization must disclose the compensation paid to its top five officials who receive more than \$50,000 per year; the disclosure is to be included in its annual report filed with the Office of the Attorney General.

But subsidiary businesses controlled by the charity don't have to reveal how much they are paying to top officials who also work for the charitable organization.

**HF809/SF579\*** would change that to provide a more complete picture of wages, bonuses, and fringe benefits paid to those working for charitable non-profits and their for-profit subsidiaries.

During floor debate on the proposal, members pointed to Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) as a reason why the bill should be passed. MPR's parent company, Minnesota Communications Group, has a for-profit subsidiary, Greenspring Co., that sells tapes, sweatshirts, and other items through a series of direct mail catalogs. Greenspring's gross revenue was \$135 million in 1994.

Top officials at MPR are also compensated by Greenspring, although only the MPR compensation is reported to the attorney general's office each year.

MPR opposes the provision calling for the additional disclosure.

Ginger Sisco, MPR's vice president for marketing and community relations, said MPR provides a "sufficient amount of information" in an IRS form submitted annually to the attorney general's office.

Greenspring spokesperson Yolanda Scharton doesn't think that it, as a private company, should be "encumbered" by a mandate to reveal its executives' compensation.

But the attorney general's office disagrees.

Requiring the disclosure of executive compensation from both a charity and its subsidiaries will enable the public to have a better picture of the way an organization operates, explained Sheila Fishman, an assistant attorney general in the office's Charities Division.

The bill would expand the "right-to-know disclosure law, which has been on the books for years," she said.

Similar legislation passed the Senate May 5, but that bill requires only the disclosure of compensation from a charity's profit-making subsidiaries when the charity spends more on the subsidiary than it receives from it.

The bill also would give the Office of the Attorney General \$150,000 over the next two-year budget period to enforce state laws regulating professional fund raisers.

Fishman said that the appropriation would be completely recouped from registration fees paid by charities and professional fund raisers.

Bill sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said the money would help shut down unscrupulous fund raisers who claim to be collecting money for charity, when in fact the dollars just "line their pockets."

The bill now moves to conference committee.



## DWI

### Snowmobiling, boating, DWIs

Some repeat DWI offenders who get caught driving their boats or snowmobiles while under the influence could forfeit their pleasure craft or vehicles to the state, under a bill given final passage by the House May 17. The vote was 108-20.

**HF423/SF399\***, sponsored in the House by Rep. Tom Van Engen (IR-Spicer), also would apply to all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).

Under current law, those convicted of a fourth DWI offense within five years or a fifth DWI offense within 15 years lose their vehicles.

Under the bill, if that fourth or fifth conviction happens in a boat, snowmobile, or ATV, the recreational craft or vehicle also would be taken — for good.

Only the vehicle used to commit the drunken driving offense would be seized. The vehicle would not be subject to forfeiture if the person convicted of a DWI was not the vehicle's owner.

Local law enforcement agencies could keep the vehicles for official use or sell them. The profits would be used for anti-DWI efforts. If the arresting officer works for the state, such as a DNR conservation officer, the proceeds would be forwarded to the snowmobile trails and enforcement account or the all-terrain vehicle account, depending on the type of vehicle involved.

"We don't really want the vehicles, we just want [drunk] people to stop driving them," Van Engen has said.

The bill would generate only a small amount of money — \$11,000 — for the state over the next two years. A fiscal note prepared for the bill indicates that counties could gain \$55,000 each year through the sale of boats, snowmobiles, and ATVs.

Added to the bill on the House floor were new penalties for car buyers who fail to promptly transfer the title on the vehicle. (Similar penalties are included in **HF575/SF1199\***, which passed the House May 4 on a 129-0 vote.)

Currently, it is a misdemeanor for a buyer to fail to apply for a title transfer of a vehicle within 14 days. The bill would give buyers just 10 days to apply for a title transfer and pay the necessary fees.

The Department of Public Safety would suspend the license plates on the vehicle if the buyer does not transfer the title within 10 days of the sale, under the bill.

If the plates are suspended, the buyer would have to pay an additional \$5 reinstatement



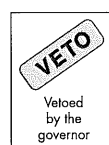
Like the Pied Piper, Dennis Skrade, bagpipe player and librarian for the State Law Library, led a group of children from the Capitol Child Care Center on a walk around the State Capitol grounds as part of National Employee Health and Fitness Day. The May 17 event was designed to promote health and fitness for state, county, and city employees.

ment fee along with normal title transfer charges.

If, after 14 days, the buyer still has not transferred the title, he or she will face another \$2 charge.

**HF423/SF399\*** is now in conference committee to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill.

### Plate impoundment



A bill designed to keep more chronic DWI offenders off the roads was vetoed by the governor, who called the proposal an "unfunded mandate to the Department of Public Safety."

Under current law, when a person's driver's license is suspended for a third DWI offense in five years (or a fourth within 15 years), his or her license plates also are impounded for as long as the offender's driver's license is suspended. For a third-time offender, that's a minimum of one year.

But chronic DWI offenders are smart, House sponsor Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) has said. Once their plates are impounded, they often begin to drive their girlfriend's or their spouse's car.

Should they get caught under the influence in someone else's car, those license plates are then impounded. But all the car owner has to do is sign a statement that he or she was unaware of the DWI violation and new plates are issued — free of charge.

The vetoed bill still would have given the plates back to the car owner (if the car was reported missing), but the plates would have been coded with specific letters, so that law enforcement officials would know the car had been involved in a prior DWI offense. The plates would have remained on the car for a minimum of one year.

The coded plates would have provided law enforcement officers with a "reasonable suspicion" to pull the car over should the driver not be the registered owner of the car. From the patrol vehicle, an officer can check the car's registration and the license status of the car owner, which contains a description of the owner. If the driver doesn't match the description, the officer would have cause to stop the car.

Gov. Arne Carlson said the goals of the bill were laudable, but the cost to the Department of Public Safety would have been \$124,000 per year. The department estimated the bill would have called for three new employees to process 10,000 plates per year.

Carlson said it was "unfortunate" the bill did not provide the necessary funding.

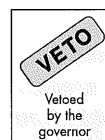
Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

**HF416/SF308\*/CH157**



## ELECTIONS

### Running for office



A bill that would have allowed any public employee to stay on the job while running for political office was vetoed by the governor.

Under current law, state employees have such a right, but county employees don't.

At least 18 counties require their employees to take a leave of absence after filing to run for an elective office. House sponsor Rep. Don Ostrom (DFL-Mankato) has said that is unfair.

During committee testimony, witnesses explained that such a policy discourages many from running for elective office.

Brad Peterson, the current sheriff of Blue Earth County, successfully ran for office despite being forced to take an unpaid leave from his former county job. It cost him

\$7,000 in lost wages and an additional \$1,500 to keep his health insurance active.

The bill also would have provided job security for those public employees who chose to take a leave of absence to run for office. It would have given all public employees the right to an unpaid leave of absence upon becoming a candidate for any elected political office.

Such rights are now granted to state employees.

Gov. Arne Carlson called the bill "unacceptable." By giving all public employees the benefit of a leave of absence it provides a "significant advantage over private employees when running for elective office," he said.

Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the proposal in the Senate.

**HF624\*/SF493/CH138**



## EMPLOYMENT

### Pension benefit modifications

Communities receiving more than enough aid to pay police and salaried firefighter pensions would see that money redistributed to other such community pension funds, under an omnibus pension bill approved May 16 by the House. The vote was 108-21.

Those employee pensions are partially funded through a 2 percent tax on automobile insurance. But because automobile insurance rates have increased in past years, the tax is now raising more money than needed for the pension funds in some municipalities. Under current law, excess funds are deposited in the state's general fund.

Under the House bill (**HF1040**), sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), the money would be distributed to municipalities that do not have excess aid.

That redistribution would begin in October 1997 under the bill.

Among the bill's other highlights:

- The city of Minneapolis would, in future years, pay to the Minneapolis teachers' pension fund money it would have otherwise deposited in a Minneapolis city employee pension fund.

The Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund (MERF) has been closed to new members since 1978. Since that date, new employees have been covered by a state pension plan.

Because individuals enrolled in the fund are now retiring, the city of Minneapolis' MERF contribution will decrease through the years. That will permit revenue to be redirected to the Minneapolis Teachers Retirement Fund Association.

**HF1040** calls for the city in the future to pay to the teachers pension fund the difference between the city's 1995 contribution to MERF and that particular year's MERF contribution.

- Retired Duluth teachers would see an increase in post-retirement adjustments because the bill eliminates the current system and replaces it with a 2 percent yearly increase, plus an investment-based increase.

The teachers also would receive higher benefits at the time of retirement.

Currently, Duluth teachers retiring at the standard age of 65 receive 1.5 percent of their average highest five years of salary (generally the salary received closest to retirement) for each year of service. Under the bill, the same individual will receive 1.66 percent of the "high-five" years of service.

- The bill also calls for a reduction in penalties for police officers and salaried firefighters who retire early and are members of the Public Employees Retirement Association Police and Fire (PERAP&F) plan, or a PERAP&F consolidation account.

Under the bill, the early-retirement reduction penalty would be 2.4 percent per year for each year the person is under age 55. Current early-retirement penalties are more substantial.

- Also under the bill, teachers with at least 20 years of service who are currently working part-time under the part-time teaching provision (which allows them to work part time while receiving full-time pension benefits) will negotiate with the school district on sharing the cost of the pension contribution.

Due to a 1994 law change, the employer must now make full-time payments to pension funds for those part-time teachers.

Formerly, either the teacher or the school district had to pay the state retirement fund the difference between what the district contributed on behalf of the part-time employee and what the share would have been if the teacher had worked full time.

The teacher and the board worked out the proportion each contributed. For instance, a school board could have agreed to pick up half the difference with the teacher picking up the other half.

The 1995 bill proposes a return for districts to create such cost-sharing formulas.

It would allow teachers whose districts no longer wish to take part in the program to return to full-time teaching.

The Senate will now hear its version of the bill (**SF806**), which is different from the House version.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Petrofund changes

A bill to encourage petroleum tank owners to check to see if their storage tanks are leaking won final approval in the House May 11. The vote was 130-0.

Under the bill, those who pay to have their property tested to see if there has been soil contamination from a leaking tank could get their money back for that assessment. (A typical assessment costs between \$2,000 and \$3,000.) Should the assessment show that the tanks are leaking, they must be removed or repaired, and any contaminated soil properly disposed of or treated.

Any tank that has not been used for a year must be removed, whether it is leaking or not.

Many of these tanks are underground and found at sites such as abandoned gas stations. Contamination is found at "about 75 to 80 percent" of the sites with old underground storage tanks, bill sponsor Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island) has said.

The change is one of several the bill (**HF488/SF507\***) makes to the state's Petrofund program, which was established by the 1987 Legislature to help the owners of storage tanks recover some of the costs of a site's cleanup.

The Petrofund program is financed by a two-cent per gallon fee paid by petroleum distributors.

The bill also would place a cap on clean-up costs if the leaking tank is on residential property.

An individual would be responsible for paying no more than \$7,500 for cleaning up a residential site, under this provision. Current law requires an owner to pay an open-ended 10 percent of all cleanup costs.

The following provisions are included in the bill:

- All above-ground storage tanks would need to be labeled to indicate their contents. Multiple tank sites would have to post a permanent sign with a diagram showing the location, contents and capacity of each tank, and the location of piping, valves, storm sewers and other information needed for an emergency response.

According to Michael Kanner, manager of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Tanks and Spills Section, accidents have occurred where petroleum products have

been poured into the wrong tanks. In one case, fuel was poured directly into the ground through a monitoring well.

Owners of above-ground storage tanks would have to install gauges showing the amount of fuel in a tank, and an "audible or visual alarm" to alert a person delivering fuel that the tank is within 100 gallons of capacity.

- Two contaminated petroleum bulk storage sites — one owned by the city of Minneapolis, and one in St. Paul owned by a company going through financial reorganization — would receive reimbursement for cleanup through the Petrofund program. (While the Petrofund was not intended to pay for cleaning up leaking storage tanks of more than 1 million gallons, current law does include an exception for such facilities owned by mining companies.)
- Contractors who register with the Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Board, commonly called the "Petro board," would have to obtain \$1 million in liability coverage, and agree to make all field and financial records available for audits by the board.

Additionally, in order to receive reimbursement for cleanup work, contractors would have to retain their work records for seven years. Under current law, records detailing corrective actions must be kept for five years.

The bill is now in a conference committee where a select group of lawmakers is working out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill.

## Emission omissions

Metropolitan area residents driving newer cars would be spared the inconvenience of an annual emissions test, under a bill on its way to the governor for his consideration.

The bill (HF2) would exempt vehicles up to five years old from the \$8 test currently required to obtain annual license plate tabs in the Twin Cities area.

The House gave the bill final passage May 17 on a 123-4 vote.

Sponsored by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), the proposal would take effect Aug. 1, 1995. At that time, cars from the 1991 model year or later would not have to be tested.

Because so few newer cars fail the test, the procedure is unnecessarily costly and time consuming, Johnson said. A recent Minnesota Pollution Control Agency study showed that less than 1 percent of cars from the 1991 model year or newer failed the test during a one-year period.

The 1988 Legislature enacted the vehicle emissions testing program, which took effect in mid-1991, because the state was in violation of federal clean air requirements.

If the state falls below standards set forth in the 1990 Clean Air Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency may withhold federal highway funds from the state.

(See April 21, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8; March 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9; Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; and Jan. 27, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7)

## State ownership of waters



A new law asserts the state's ownership of waters inside federal nature areas in northern Minnesota.

House sponsor Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) said the law will make it clear the state has never given up jurisdiction over surface waters and lake beds inside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA) and Voyageurs National Park.

The law says that the state has not ceded control over "roughly 100,000 acres of state-owned" land within the BWCA portion of the Superior National Forest in the northeastern part of the state.

The law also asserts state control over parts of Rainy Lake and other lakes within the 35,000 acres donated by the state in 1971 for Voyageurs National Park, which is just east of International Falls.

Minnesota's governor and other constitu-

tional officers are instructed to "vigorously assert and defend" the state's ownership of "these waters and their beds and related natural resources," and to protect the rights of Minnesota citizens to free navigation on border waters in accordance with two treaties between the U.S. and Canada.

House Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), a co-author of the law, said, "This legislation will help bring greater state and local input to management decisions regarding Voyageurs and the BWCA."

Bakk and other supporters of the law would like to see fewer restrictions on the use of the waters. In particular, Bakk expressed opposition to newer restrictions banning fishing contests and forbidding snowmobiling on specific lake bays in Voyageurs.

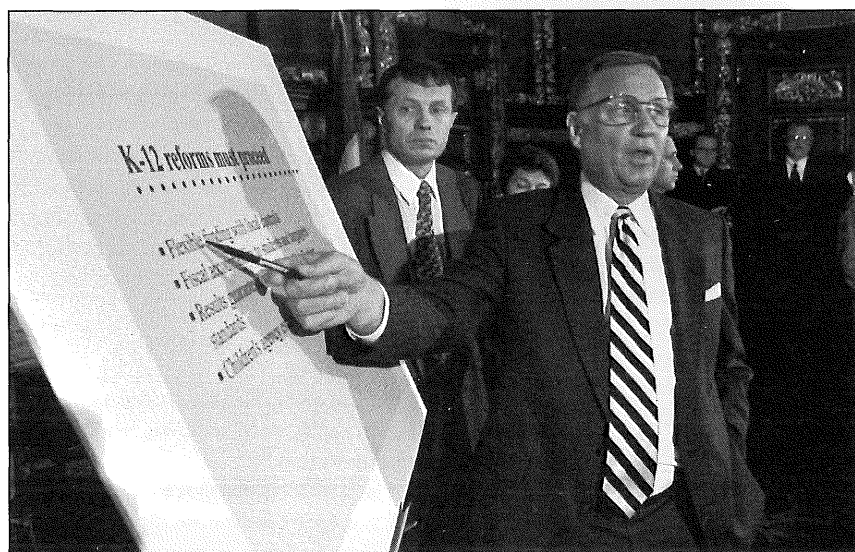
"It seems to be moving more and more away from being a multi-use park, and that's what we were promised [when it was created]," Bakk has said.

The law puts the state on record about where it stands on ownership of the waters, said Bakk.

Minnesota, along with property owners and a snowmobilers group, has already challenged federal restrictions on motorboat and snowmobile use in the BWCA.

In 1981, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit ruled that the federal government had the right to regulate motorized vehicles within the northern wilderness area — even though the state still owns the land and water.

The court noted that testimony before Congress on the 1978 Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act established that the



Gov. Arne Carlson used a chart to point out provisions he would like included in the K-12 education finance bill during a press conference May 17. Joining Carlson are House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum, left, Lt. Gov. Joanne Benson, center, and Senate Minority Leader Dean Johnson, directly behind the governor.



"sight, smell, and sound of motorized vehicles seriously marred the wilderness experience of canoeists, hikers, and skiers and threatened to destroy the integrity of the wilderness."

The appeals court also rejected arguments from Minnesota that federal restrictions violated two U.S.-Canadian treaties — the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842 and the Root-Bryce Treaty of 1909.

The proposal, which became effective May 11, 1995, was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Cook). (See April 21, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8)

HF54\*/SF279/CH1242



## FAMILY

### Improving child support

A \$3.3 million comprehensive proposal to help collect delinquent child support payments — which includes provisions to suspend drivers and occupational licenses — won final approval from the House May 16. The vote was 122-9.

As of July 1994, Minnesota kids were owed \$551 million in delinquent support payments, according to the Office of the Attorney General.

Supporters say the bill should be considered welfare reform, as well.

There are currently 91,600 Minnesota child support cases involving families on public assistance.

The bill would suspend the drivers' and occupational licenses of certain deadbeat parents who refuse to pay up. It also would establish a program to make custody and visitation proceedings less confrontational.

The bill now moves to conference committee to reconcile differences with the Senate version.

Sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), the major provisions of HF966/SF217\* include:

#### Linking support, visitation

A successful amendment added to the bill on the House floor orders judges to consider a parent's refusal to comply with a visitation agreement in determining child support payments.

The amendment says a judge *shall* consider "any unlawful refusal" on the part of a custodial parent "to cooperate with visitation and other parental rights" of the non-custodial parent should that parent refuse or fail to make child support payments.

The provision is seen as a victory for non-custodial parents.

But opponents say the two issues — support and visitation — should remain as the courts have historically treated them: separate issues.

Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey III issued a statement saying "nonpayment of child support is not a valid reason to deny visitation, any more than denial of visitation is a valid excuse for denying child support."

Another amendment would link the amount of a child support payment with the amount of time children spend with the non-custodial parent in a given month.

During any month when a custody or visitation order provides for children under a support order to remain with the non-custodial parent for 14 consecutive days, the child support payment for the month would be cut by 25 percent. The payment would be cut in half if the non-custodial parent kept the kids for 28 days out of a month.

#### Pay it or park it

Parents who are at least three months behind in their child support payments could lose their driver's license.

The "pay it or park it" provision would notify those at least three months behind in their child support that they have 90 days to work out a payment plan with the county or the court. Failure to do so would result in a suspended driver's license. (The debtor may request a hearing on the matter.)

The provision is modeled after a current Maine law which has generated \$21 million in collections since its 1992 inception. It cost the state \$70,000 to implement the program. Only 39 drivers' licenses have been suspended.

Bill sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) called the Maine program a successful deterrent. He said the goal is to collect money, and that few license suspensions are expected.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) would get \$50,000 to administer the program. By fiscal year 1999, when the program would be fully operational, DHS conservatively estimates the program will account for the collection of an additional \$30 million in child support.

#### Occupational license suspension

Those who are at least three months behind in their child support payments also could lose a state-issued occupational license. Current law doesn't specify a minimum amount before a license can be suspended.

The state issues occupational licenses including those for barbers, doctors, contractors, and other professions. Without a license they could not legally practice.

Parents would be warned 30 days in advance that such a license suspension will be sought, and would have a right to a hearing on the matter.

The Department of Human Services would get \$10,000 to implement the program.

#### Curbing teen sex

To curb the trend of teens becoming pregnant at younger and younger ages, the state would authorize a grant program for communities that develop programs to target 12- to 14-year-old boys and girls.

The bill includes \$548,000 to start the program.

Originally sponsored by Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope) as HF517, the ENABL (Education Now And Babies Later) program would be created, modeled after a similar program in California.

School districts, churches, YMCAs, and other groups would qualify for grants as long as they could come up with 25 percent of the cost of the program.

The program would focus on convincing 12- to 14-year-olds to postpone sex by using an existing curriculum that doesn't include birth control information.

Part of the program would include a statewide media campaign that would encourage parents to talk with their children about postponing sex. Older teens also would talk to their younger peers on abstaining from sex.

The state would distribute grants to community organizations across the state to implement the ENABL program.

The need to reduce teen pregnancy is a taxpayer issue, according to proponents. In 1993, Minnesota spent \$20 million on Aid to Families with Dependent Children welfare grants to families that began with a teen birth.

There are about 7,100 parents on AFDC who are either minors now or were under 18 when their oldest child was born. That accounts for about 14,000 children.

#### Support or service

A "support or service" pilot project would be established to make able-bodied debtors without jobs perform community service work. They could be made to work up to 32 hours per week for six weeks. Entenza has said a similar Wisconsin program has proven to be an incentive for debtors to find work and has resulted in improved child support compliance.

The Department of Human Services would get \$119,000 to implement the program.

### Work reporting system

A centralized employment database at the DHS would be created by Jan. 1, 1996. Business owners must report all new hires to the department within 15 days or face up to a \$500 fine, per employee, for repeatedly (and intentionally) failing to report. Its purpose is to track those who drift from job to job to avoid having wages garnished to pay child support.

When the state or any other governmental unit hires a contractor, it, too, will be reported to the DHS.

The Department of Human Services would get \$350,000 to implement the program.

### Publishing names of deadbeat parents

The names of those delinquent in their support payments would not be published in local papers again until Jan. 1, 1997.

When the program resumes, those who are on public assistance, have filed for bankruptcy, or have a pending court case concerning what they owe in delinquent support would not see their names in print. The changes follow the recent erroneous publication of the names of several people in newspapers statewide.

The DHS would also need to publish "a printed retraction and apology" acknowledging those whose names are published in error.

The Department of Human Services would get \$275,000 to implement the program.

### Motor vehicle liens

The state (or person owed child support) would be a "secured party" listed on the motor vehicle title of someone at least three months delinquent in child support payments. When such a vehicle, valued at more than \$4,500 is sold, the seller would keep \$4,500 and the state or the person owed child support would get the rest.

The Department of Human Services would get \$24,000 to implement the program.

### Cooperation for kids

A "cooperation for the kids" pilot project would be created to address issues of custody and visitation in a mediation setting without judges or attorneys. It would be implemented by the DHS, the Office of Administrative Hearings, and the Office of the Attorney General.

The program would be implemented in select counties and participants would be charged on a sliding-fee scale. All couples would be screened to identify a domestic abuse situation.

The Department of Human Services would get \$100,000 to implement the program.

### Support payment center

A centralized state child support collections unit would be established within the DHS in 1997. All payments made to local agencies would be forwarded to the DHS.

The Department of Human Services would get \$120,000 to implement the program.

### Freezing interest

The accrual of interest on back child support owed if the parent makes timely payments for 36 consecutive months would be frozen. This is designed to aid parents who at one time owed a lot in back child support but were unable to pay. By freezing the interest on that large unpaid balance, it is hoped that parents who resume paying can catch up and pay off the debt's principal. This provision was previously contained in HF348, sponsored by Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids), which was incorporated into HF966.

The Department of Human Services would get \$19,000 to implement the change.



## GOVERNMENT

### Claims bill approved

The state would pay the remaining medical expenses from a 1988 crash of a Department of Corrections van, and also pay war veteran bonuses that are decades overdue, under a bill given final passage by the House May 17. The vote was 121-7.

The 250 appropriations listed in the 1995 claims bill (HF1910) total about \$164,000.

The Claims Committee, a joint panel composed of House and Senate members, considers claims made against the state each year. The panel serves as a court of last resort for those who feel the state is responsible for a financial loss. A person can pay a \$5 filing fee and plead their case for reimbursement.

This year's House bill contains claims that range from \$10 to over \$74,000.

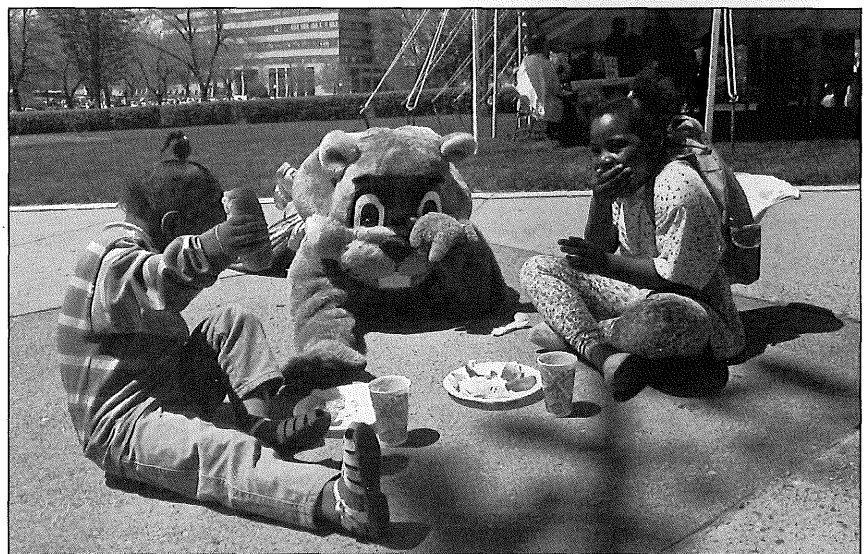
The highest claim would pay remaining medical expenses from the Oct. 27, 1988, crash of a state-owned van transporting residents of the Sauk Centre juvenile correctional facility. Three teenagers and a staff member on a movie outing were killed when the van skidded off Interstate 94 near Alexandria, crossed the median and was struck by a semi-truck. Eleven others were injured in the accident.

The lowest claim would pay a World War II veteran who is eligible for a military service bonus.

Most of the claims contained in the bill, 241 this year, would go to the Department of Veteran Affairs to compensate Minnesota veterans for state-authorized bonuses based on their length of military service during wartime. Each veteran must apply for the bonus. The bill appropriates \$43,315 for the bonuses.

Bill sponsor Rep. Edgar Olson (DFL-Fosston), chair of the Claims Committee, said this will be the last series of veterans bonus payments for anyone who served in World War I, World War II, the Korean conflict, and Vietnam.

The bill also would pay five Minnesota



Latasha, left, and Dristeen Watson, St. Paul, shared their lunch with Goldie the Gopher (Tom Lord of Minneapolis) on the State Capitol mall May 18. Goldie, along with Crunch, the Timberwolves mascot, and other B-Boppers, celebrated B-Bop to Work Day. The event is organized by the Minnesota Department of Transportation to encourage the public to bike, bus, or carpool to work.

prison inmates for injuries sustained while performing assigned work. Those claims total about \$23,600. Another \$9,000 would go to two people injured while performing court-ordered community work.

In response to a question on the House floor, Olson said that a \$5 filing fee for initiating a claim, which the Legislature approved last year, "seems to be helping" to reduce the number of frivolous claims coming before the committee.

The Senate passed **HF1910** May 18 but amended it. It now goes back to the House for concurrence.

## Less government

A bill to abolish several state boards and cut back on the number of regulations surrounding some agencies is one step closer to becoming a new law. The House approved the bill May 15. The vote was 70-58.

The Senate has approved a different version and now members from both bodies are working together in conference committee to reach a compromise.

Under **HF1542/SF1246\***, sponsored by Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul), the state Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB), Minnesota Racing Commission, State Lottery Board and Gambling Control Board would be abolished.

The Public Service Department and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) would be — in effect — merged into a single agency to reduce administrative costs.

And three state agencies would be involved in pilot projects that would be designed to reduce what some consider cumbersome bureaucratic requirements.

The bill drew criticism from Rep. Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon), who said it does not cut enough from state government.

But House members rejected an amendment offered on the House floor to trim the number of state employees by 5 percent over the next two years.

Orenstein acknowledged the bill does not include all of the cuts he aimed to make. "This bill does not go nearly as far as I would have liked to have gone, but it goes much further than we have in the past," he said.

Orenstein considers "the heart" of the bill to be provisions calling for pilot projects to reduce state bureaucracy.

The two-year projects would free one state agency from some purchasing requirements and a second agency from many personnel requirements. The governor would be allowed to decide which agencies would take part in the projects.

The first project would allow an agency freedom to do more comparison shopping. According to Orenstein, many items such as office supplies and cleaning supplies often can be purchased from retailers at lower prices than if bought from the state's central store.

The second project would allow an agency to cut through much of the red tape involved with hiring and other personnel procedures. However, the agency would not be exempted from affirmative action requirements.

A third pilot project would test a "gainsharing" program in the Department of Employee Relations.

The program would provide financial rewards for any employee who comes up with an idea that makes significant reductions in costs or improvements in efficiency.

Orenstein said the pilot projects should help lawmakers identify where changes can be made. "If they are successful, we could eliminate whole books of rules and regulations and substantially cut down on bureaucracy," he said.

Other key provisions of the bill would:

- Eliminate the nine-member Minnesota Racing Commission, the seven-member Gambling Control Board and the seven-member State Lottery Board. The duties of the boards would be transferred to the directors of the agencies they currently serve.
- Abolish the HECB and eliminate potentially about 27 of its employees. The new Higher Education Services Office would absorb some of its duties. The higher education omnibus funding bill already approved by the House also includes a provision to cut the HECB.
- Eliminate the Department of Public Service, which is responsible for protecting the public interest in the areas of energy, telecommunications, and weights and measures.

The bill also lays the groundwork for a new agency to house the PUC and to handle some of the duties of the Department of Public Service. (The PUC is a quasi-judicial body that regulates the rates and services of Minnesota telephone, natural gas, and electric utilities.)

- Require state agencies to make improvements in the service provided to citizens. Under the bill, state agencies would have 45 days to act on an application for a license or permit or it would be automatically granted to the applicant. Exceptions would be made in some cases, such as those requiring a public hearing.

The bill also aims to reduce the hassle for citizens needing the help of more than one

agency. In such cases, a "lead agency" would be required to coordinate services from other agencies instead of sending the citizen from one office to another.

- Establish a process to eliminate many of the hundreds of agency reports required of state agencies. The bill would require standing committees of the Legislature to make recommendations by January 1996 on which reports to eliminate.

## Cutting state government

The House gave final approval to a bill May 17 to trim nearly \$10.7 million budgeted to be spent on state government this fiscal year. The vote was 129-0.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), would return to state coffers unspent funds appropriated to the Legislature and state agencies for the current fiscal year.

The idea of cutting 1995 funding for state government was proposed by DFL leaders this session and was included in Gov. Arne Carlson's supplemental budget proposal released in February.

(Carlson, by executive order, has already trimmed \$10 million from the budgets of executive branch agencies.)

Under **HF1837**, a total of \$500,000 would be cut from the combined budgets of the House, Senate and legislative commissions. The Legislative Coordinating Commission would decide where to make the reductions.

The cuts in state agency funding would be as large as \$2.5 million from the Department of Corrections and as small as \$50,000 from the Office of Environmental Assistance.

The Department of Human Services would have \$2 million taken from its budget and the Department of Natural Resources would lose \$800,000, under the bill.

The bill Solberg brought to the floor also included a \$100,000 reduction in the budget for the governor's office. But that provision was removed in an amendment offered by Solberg, who said the governor opposed the cut.

The bill now moves to the Senate.

## Guaranteed government services

The State of Minnesota is bolstering its customer service efforts, under a bill given final approval by the House May 15. The vote was 124-6.

Under the bill (**HF796/SF538\***), any individual or small business applying to a state agency for a license would get a refund, upon

request, if they don't receive it within six weeks.

The money-back guarantee also would apply to permits, variances, orders, or other documents. It would not apply to drivers' licenses. (A separate proposal, **HF797/SF537\***, would give refunds for drivers' licenses that take too long to reach Minnesotans.)

There are certain exceptions to the six-week deadline, including those documents requiring public hearings or environmental impact statements.

A second provision in the bill would require state agencies to help applicants who must travel to multiple agencies to obtain a license.

The agency with the most significant license requirement for the particular license would be the designated "customer service coordinator." An employee of the lead agency, upon request, would have to draft a contract for the applicant. It would specify each department or agency the applicant would need to contact, and provide the names of state staffers who would serve the customer in each agency. A timetable for the completion of the process also would be included.

The contract between the state and the applicant would then be signed, starting the clock moving on the six-week refund period.

Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) said his bill is intended to help citizens who need to apply to state agencies for licenses and who may become overwhelmed with paperwork and with waiting for the license to be granted.

In addition to the money-back guarantee, if action on the license or permit is not taken by all necessary agencies within 45 days after the applicant signs the contract, the license or permit automatically would be granted. The bill makes limited exceptions in cases where it would be impossible to meet the 45-day deadline.

The bill now moves to conference committee.

## Driver's license refund

A bill that would give Minnesotans a refund on their \$18.50 fee for a new or renewed driver's license if they wait more than six weeks for it, is on its way to the governor.

The House passed the bill (**HF797/SF537\***) May 15 on a vote of 135-2. The Senate passed it May 16, 57-5.

The bill is a response to the 1994 driver's license debacle at the Driver and Vehicle Services Division of the Department of Public Safety, which issues driver's licenses. (See

March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9)

Many consumers waited months to receive their new driver's license — equipped with a new design and tamperproof security feature — in the mail.

Katherine Burke Moore, who heads the Driver and Vehicle Services Division, has said the problem arose after the department found a new vendor to create the licenses. That company, Deluxe Corp. of Shoreview, Minn., did not have enough time to work the considerable kinks out of its system before it began distributing new licenses, she said.

The bill's refund provision also applies to driver's instruction permits — which Minnesotans use as special licenses while learning to drive — and identification cards, which do not function as driver's license but serve as official identification cards because they display the holder's photograph.

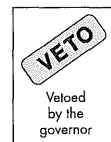
The bill, sponsored by Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), makes an exception for receiving the refund if the delay was due to a work stoppage, a requirement of a federal law, or a court order imposed after July 1, 1995.

The bill would take effect July 1, 1995, and would not be retroactive. So, people who waited months to receive new licenses in the past could not receive a refund.

The bill also includes a provision asking the Legislative Audit Commission to evaluate the new driver's license program and look for what caused the delays in issuing licenses.

The provision is not meant to lay blame on the Department of Public Safety, merely to evaluate what happened to cause the delays and ensure that it does not happen again, Carruthers has said.

## State employee suggestions



A bill that would have included a note with the paycheck of each state employee requesting suggestions on how to improve state government was vetoed by the governor.

Under the bill, any suggestions would have been forwarded to the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Governmental Operations and Veterans Committee.

House sponsor Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) has said the suggestion program would have been an easy way to identify greater efficiencies in government.

"Let's ask employees, 'What do we ask you to do that really doesn't matter?'"

The governor disagreed.

"This picayune bill is entirely unnecessary," Gov. Arne Carlson said. "Bills of this

nature, mandating the exact steps as to how an employee makes a suggestion on how to improve service, are senseless.

"It has been a policy of my administration to actively solicit employee input and involve them in the operation of their agencies. However, this legislation would require that suggestions go directly to legislative oversight committees, not the people responsible for responding and acting upon the suggestion in a timely fashion."

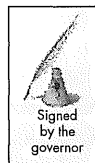
Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

**HF1524/SF1402\*/CH160**



## HEALTH

### Breast cancer treatment



A bill to require insurance companies to pay for bone marrow transplants for Minnesota residents with breast cancer was signed by the governor May 18.

Some breast cancer patients whose doctors tell them their best chance of survival is a high-dose chemotherapy treatment accompanied by a bone marrow transplant have had to battle insurance companies that refuse to pay for the procedure. Most often the battle lands in the courts.

The bill sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) wouldn't give insurance companies the option. They'd have to pay. (See April 7, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10, April 21, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 15, and May 5, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8)

The House passed the bill May 12, 117-9. The Senate passed the bill May 10, 60-0. Sen. Pat Piper (DFL-Austin) carried the bill in the Senate.

The measure also would prohibit insurance companies from charging co-payments and deductibles greater than those that apply to other portions of the policy.

Long said that in Minnesota, too many insurance companies are making medical decisions by refusing to pay for the treatment. The decision, she said, should be in the hands of the woman and her physician.

Lawmakers have heard debate from several doctors, many of whom agree the treatment should be covered by insurance. But some say only patients in a clinical study should be covered.

Patients, however, don't want to take the chance they'll be part of the group that doesn't receive the treatment. In a clinical study there is a 50 percent chance you'll be a part of the study that receives the treatment but an equal



chance you'll be a part of a "control" group that doesn't receive the treatment.

Mike Hatch, former head of the Department of Commerce, and now an attorney who has represented women whose insurance companies refused to pay for the procedure, has said costs can run about \$65,000 compared to traditional chemotherapy, administered in low doses over several months, which costs about \$45,000.

He said he has represented many women in recent years and cited court decisions that have required insurance companies to pay for the procedure. Courts have found the procedure can be effective.

HF1742\*/SF1590/CH183

## Vulnerable adults protected

Employees of hospitals, nursing homes, and home care services would have to undergo criminal background checks, under a bill given final approval by the House May 16. The vote was 128-1.

The bill (HF598/SF512\*), sponsored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), would strengthen the 15-year-old law which protects adults vulnerable to abuse because they suffer from a physical or mental disability or are dependent on caregivers.

The bill would increase — to a gross misdemeanor from a misdemeanor — the criminal penalty for assaulting a vulnerable adult.

But Greenfield's effort to increase criminal penalties for doctors and other health care workers convicted of willfully neglecting a vulnerable adult was deleted from the bill through a successful amendment offered by Rep. Tim Pawlenty (IR-Eagan).

Currently, such a conviction — which can be made for intentionally withholding food or water or in other ways not providing vulnerable patients with necessary care — is prosecuted as a gross misdemeanor, which can draw a prison term of up to one year in jail and up to a \$3,000 fine.

Greenfield's bill called for such willful neglect to be a felony, punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine. But Pawlenty successfully argued for keeping current law.

Under Greenfield's proposal, Pawlenty said, "Doctors could act without an intent to harm and still be guilty of a felony."

A doctor might, for example, decide not to move a patient from a nursing home to a hospital, figuring the move would cause health trauma. But if the patient dies in the nursing home, the doctor could be accused of willful neglect, Pawlenty said.

"If you hover a 10-year penalty above the

heads of doctors, medical costs will go way up," he added.

But Greenfield said an increased penalty would "help vulnerable adults enjoy the dignity the rest of us take for granted."

The bill also would streamline the current mandated reporting system. Under current law, health care workers and other professionals who suspect a vulnerable adult is being abused are legally required to report the suspected abuse to the state.

The bill would create a single point at the county level for those people to make reports. Currently, the reports are made to, and investigated by, more than one agency, causing confusion and needless duplication, Greenfield has said.

The House also deleted a provision in Greenfield's bill which would have specified that sexual contact between a vulnerable adult and his or her domestic partner does not constitute sexual abuse. The bill already says such sexual contact between married people is not sexual abuse.

Rep. Arlon Lindner (IR-Corcoran) — who sponsored the amendment deleting the domestic partner provision — said such language would "sanction sexual relationships outside marriage whether it was for homosexuals or other individuals."

But Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) said many elderly people live together and don't marry to avoid paying higher taxes or losing Social Security benefits. The state should not get involved in legislating sexual contact for those people, he said.

The bill is now before a House-Senate conference committee.



## HIGHER EDUCATION

### Higher ed funding

For the first time, a small portion of the state appropriation to Minnesota's higher education institutions would be granted only if those schools meet specific goals spelled out by the Legislature.

The measure comes as part of a \$2.14 billion higher education spending package agreed to by a House-Senate conference committee and approved May 17 by the House. The vote was 128-2.

The Senate approved the compromise May 18, 67-0, so the bill now heads to the governor, who has said he intends to sign it into law.

It marks the first time the granting of state money is tied to the performance of the institution or agency receiving the money. (HF1856\*/SF1234)

Of that \$2.14 billion appropriation, a total of \$10 million — or about one-half of 1 percent of the total — is tied to the making of improvements at the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system.

Of the proposed \$969 million in state money intended for the University of Minnesota, \$5 million would be tied to the university making increases in the following five areas:

- The percentage of freshmen who ranked in the top 25 percent of their high school class.
- The rate of retention of entering freshmen.
- The number of minority freshmen and the number of women and minority faculty.
- The five-year graduation rate measured between August 1994 and August 1996.
- The number of credits issued through televised classes between fiscal year 1995 and fiscal year 1996.

Each time the school would meet one of those goals, it would receive \$1 million in state money.

Money for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system — which will represent all Minnesota higher education institutions except for University of Minnesota schools — also would be tied to performance. Specifically, \$5 million of the MnSCU's \$937 million appropriation. The system would receive \$1 million of the \$5 million each time it made increases in the following areas:

- The portion of the budget devoted to instruction.
- The number of courses offered on television.
- Student retention rate by 2 percent each year.
- The graduate rate by 2 percent each year.
- The number of students who complete two-year degrees and transfer to four-year programs.

The idea behind tying state aid to specific "performance measures" originally came from Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins), who included such a provision in the original House bill, though it pertained only to the University of Minnesota.

His language called for University of Minnesota schools to meet goals administrators already had set for those institutions, such as increasing minority enrollment. Under Kelley's plan, \$1.25 million of the \$5 million appropriation would have been released each time the schools met a goal.

"But this goes beyond what we originally intended," Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) said of the conference committee bill.

Other government operations could, in the future, tie the release of state funds to the meeting of set goals in much the same way, he suggested. Kinkel served on the conference committee and chaired the House Higher Education Finance Division where the House bill originated.

The House-Senate bill calls for the planned merger of the state's university, technical college and community colleges in July. Those schools will combine to form the MnSCU system.

House language, adopted April 25 during floor debate on the original House bill, would have called off the merger. The House voted in 1991 to place those three systems under the administrative control of one board in 1995. The House then voted in 1992 and 1993 to stop the merger.

But this year's conference committee again took out the House provision calling off the merger. The bill now includes a number of technical and administrative provisions necessary to enact merger legislation.

In terms of financing, the House-Senate bill would allocate \$937 million to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities — the merged system — over the next two years, and \$969 million to the University of Minnesota.

The House bill originally called for the merged system to receive \$935.6 million over the next biennium and the University of Minnesota to receive \$970.6 million.

Kinkel said the funding is "woefully short" but the best the state can do in an extremely tight budgeting year.

The governor had originally called for a higher education spending bill which would not increase tuition at state schools by more than 3 percent each year of the biennium. But Kinkel said he expects tuition to increase by more than that amount simply because the bill does not provide the full funding amount needed by state colleges and universities.

University of Minnesota officials, for example, have said they may need to raise tuition by 7.5 percent each year during the next two years.

Under the bill, the Mayo Medical School would get \$1.8 million over the two-year spending cycle. Of that amount, \$120,000 is intended to help fund a program to train medical residents at the St. Cloud Hospital.

Doctors at the hospital had originally asked for a \$120,000 state appropriation in 1997 with a stepped-up appropriation in following bienniums. But the conference committee bill stipulates money for the program is one-time only. The hospital will have to ask for renewed funding in upcoming years.



For the first time, a portion of the state appropriation to Minnesota's higher education institutions would be granted only if those schools meet specific goals spelled out by the Legislature. The measure comes as part of a \$2.14 billion higher education spending package agreed to by a House-Senate conference committee headed by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf, left, and Rep. Tony Kinkel, right. The bill is on its way to the governor for consideration.

Also, the Higher Education Services Office — a newly created office — would receive \$236 million for the two-year state spending cycle to administer financial aid to Minnesota residents attending public higher education institutions. The agency would replace the Higher Education Coordinating Board, which would be abolished by the proposal.

The bill also includes the following key provisions:

#### **Semester system**

Classes at Minnesota's state universities, community colleges, and technical colleges would last one semester rather than one quarter of the academic year.

Those universities and colleges would have until fall 1998 to begin a semester school year. (See March 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 13)

Kinkel has said the move would save money because students would have to register only twice during the academic year instead of three times, and financial aid would be distributed only twice.

Also, 80 percent of colleges and universities nationwide use a semester school year, he said.

Also under this section of the bill, schools in the soon-to-be-combined state university, technical, and community college system would begin classes on the same fall date.

If all system classes start at the same time, students could more easily transfer between schools, Kinkel said. The University of Minnesota would be exempted from this provision because the Legislature has no authority to mandate changes at that school.

This portion of the bill was originally included in **HF899**, which Kinkel sponsored.

#### **Financial aid limited**

The bill also calls for the state to stop subsidizing tuition costs after a student has earned 48 more credits than are needed for a degree in his or her major.

This would apply to students at any public college or university in Minnesota.

Currently, the state pays 60 percent of a Minnesota student's education costs for up to 180 credit hours. Student tuition pays the remaining 40 percent.

After the excess 48-credit limit is reached, students would be responsible for the true cost of a course. That would mean an otherwise \$280 four-credit course at the U of M would cost about \$467.

Also, the state university campus in Akita, Japan, would have two years to bring state funding of its Minnesota students in line with state funding of students on Minnesota public campuses.

Currently, the state pays about \$17,000 to subsidize the education of each Minnesota student in Akita. For students studying in Minnesota, the subsidy amount is about \$3,500.

This portion of the bill was originally included in **HF899**, which Kinkel sponsored.



## HOUSING

### Affordable housing

A bill to help clean up polluted land in the Twin Cities metropolitan area to make room for new development, create more affordable housing, and offer tax breaks for people who move into blighted neighborhoods, won final approval from the House May 16. The vote was 95-37.

The bill (**HF1156/SF1019\***) now sits in a conference committee while a select group of House and Senate members work out a compromise. (See March 31, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 12 and May 5, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10)

The House version contains several programs for the seven-county metropolitan area paid for by several different funding sources. An advisory board to the Metropolitan Council would be created to establish criteria for distributing money among cities. An amendment to eliminate the advisory board was defeated.

The bill, sponsored in the House by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), includes three major programs.

#### Local housing

First, the Local Housing Incentives Account program would require a portion of the property taxes on high-value homes in metropolitan communities be used to build more affordable housing and housing for targeted groups — such as young families, singles, and the elderly.

Under the program, each seven-county metro area city would voluntarily negotiate affordable housing goals with the Metropolitan Council. A city would keep the tax money generated from certain high-value homes if the city works toward its negotiated housing goals. But a city could lose some of its property tax dollars to a regional pool if it refused to work toward the housing goals it negotiated.

Besides those dollars, the program is paid for with a \$1 million appropriation from solid waste bond proceeds. And, beginning in 1998, \$1 million per year of the Metropolitan Council's general property tax levy, would help fund the program.

Under a successful amendment added by Long, a city could choose not to participate in the housing program, but then the city would be disqualified from applying for state grants to help clean up contaminated sites.

If the city wants to apply for the grants, it must show it has spent money on affordable housing as if it had been a participant in the

program. Or, it must spend the money (cumulative for all the years it did not participate) on those housing programs. The city could also agree to deposit its share into the regional pool for affordable housing. The Metropolitan Council would have the option to waive a portion of the cumulative amount owned.

#### 'Livable communities'

A second program under the bill would fund "livable communities" demonstration projects. The Metropolitan Council would provide grants and loans to cities for projects that relate development with transit needs in a community; relate affordable housing and employment growth; intensify land use, leading to more compact development; include development of mixed-income housing; or encourage the development of infrastructure to connect urban and suburban communities to attract new redevelopment.

To pay for the grants and loans, the bill authorizes the Metropolitan Council to levy a tax equal to 25 percent of the current Metropolitan Mosquito Control District's levy and provides an annual Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid (HACA) payment equal to 25 percent of what the mosquito control district receives. In all, that should amount to about \$2.3 million a year for the grants and loans.

To balance the books, the bill lowers the mosquito control district's taxing authority by 25 percent and cuts their HACA payment by 25 percent.

At the start of the floor debate, the bill set aside 50 percent of the mosquito control district's levy limit and 50 percent of its HACA payment to pay for the grants and loans. A successful amendment by Rep. Tim Pawlenty (IR-Eagan) changed those figures to 25 percent, leaving the mosquito control district with more money.

#### Contaminated land clean-up

And finally, the bill would help clean up polluted lands in the metropolitan area. This program would help revitalize the tax base in urban areas by providing more land for commercial and industrial development.

A successful amendment by Pawlenty eliminated money that would have come from funds the Metropolitan Council sets aside to help local governments purchase rights-of-way necessary when building roads.

Dollars for the cleanup program would come from a pool of money (the fiscal disparities fund) made up of a portion of each metropolitan city's commercial-industrial tax base. Specifically, the bill would tap into a

portion of the pool that dates back to the construction of the Mall of America.

When the Mall of America was built, the city of Bloomington sold bonds to pay for a series of highway improvements around the mall. For now, the fiscal disparities fund foots the bill for interest on the bonds. The pool is to stop paying off the interest in 1999. The city of Bloomington must then repay the pool for the interest on those bonds, beginning in the year 2000.

Under Long's bill, Bloomington is still responsible for paying its debt. Money from the fiscal disparities pool, however, would continue to be tapped, this time set aside in a new account to finance the cleanup of polluted land. It is estimated that until 1999, while the pool pays off the remaining interest on the highway bonds, it would chip in about \$2 million a year to the new account. After 1999, it would pay about \$5 million a year.

The bill, as it went to the House floor May 16, would have altered Bloomington's \$50 million in interest repayments. It would have extended the period of time for Bloomington to repay the interest from 10 years to 15, and started the repayments six years later. When looking at the repayments in terms of present value the repayments would decline from \$23 million to \$14 million.

A successful amendment by Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka) requires Bloomington to live up to its original deal. The city would have 10 years to repay the interest beginning in the year 2000.

The bill also includes a provision originally found in a housing and economic development bill (**HF1627**) sponsored by Rep. H. Todd Van Dellen (IR-Plymouth).

It would create an urban homestead exemption program that would provide tax breaks to people who move into homes in blighted metro neighborhoods.

The Metropolitan Council would designate one or more urban revitalization and stabilization zones by Sept. 1, 1995. Anyone buying and occupying a home within such an area would receive an income tax break for up to five years, provided they do not move out of the home, sell the house, fail to comply with building codes, or get convicted of a gross misdemeanor or a felony.

The maximum exemptions would equal \$15,000 for a married couple filing jointly, \$10,000 for singles, and \$12,500 for unmarried people qualifying as heads of households.

## Joint utility bills

Landlords who own multi-unit apartment buildings and measure tenants' utility use with a single meter would be required to pay the utility bills, under a measure on its way to the governor's desk.

Beginning with leases signed after Aug. 1, 1995, landlords would either have to install separate utility meters for each apartment or become the utility company's customer of record, pay the bill, divide it up among the tenants, and figure it into the rent.

The House May 12 adopted a compromise version of the House and Senate bills (**HF323**), 124-5. The Senate voted May 15 to adopt the compromise on a 61-3 vote.

In some buildings with only one meter, tenants are now required to pay the electric and other utility bills for all tenants. Later, they must seek out the other tenants to get them to pay their share.

Some tenants also are now being charged to light and heat the common areas of a building, such as lights in the hallways and parking lots.

The problem, bill sponsor Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) has said, is that the tenant who pays the utility bill has no recourse if the other tenants refuse to pay their share. The utility company will seek reimbursement from the individual whose name appears on the bill. A landlord, on the other hand, can pay the bill and then figure it into each tenant's rent. (See Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9, and March 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 13)



## HUMAN SERVICES

### Health, human services funding

A \$5.1 billion bill that spends money on child care, sets limits on in-home personal care services for the disabled, and requires some individuals to obtain a foster care license to care for a child to whom they are related, is on its way to the governor.

The House and Senate both approved the bill May 17. It is the result of a conference committee made up of lawmakers working out the differences between the House and Senate versions. The House passed the compromise 98-31. The Senate passed it 56-11.

The Omnibus Health and Human Services bill (**HF1588/SF1110\***) for 1996-1997 would spend about \$58 million less than Gov. Arne Carlson recommended and roughly \$650 million more than in the 1994-1995 two-year budgeting period. (See April 28,

1995, *Session Weekly*, page 15 and May 5, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11)

The bill appropriates money for programs in the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, and several other smaller agencies.

The bill sets aside \$16.2 million to subsidize child care costs for low- and moderate-income families, thus removing a barrier to their returning to work. It also sets aside more than \$3.4 billion for the state's medical plans such as Medical Assistance, \$290.3 million for Aid to Families with Dependent Children grants, \$90.7 million for General Assistance grants, and more than \$175 million in other public assistance and work and training grants.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), became wrapped in heated debate earlier this session when Carlson proposed cutting back two programs that help disabled people remain at home instead of in an institution.

Specifically, the governor proposed to cut a program that provides in-home personal care attendants for the disabled and another that allows the families of children with disabilities to buy into a state medical care plan. The program is known as TEFRA.

But after hours of public hearings and hundreds of people who testified — many of whom came in wheelchairs, with guide dogs, or with a ventilator — lawmakers backed down from some of the cuts.

If the two programs had been left alone, they would have received \$116.6 million (combined) during the 1996-1997 budget period. The omnibus bill cuts the two by \$10.3 million altogether.

Although the governor's supplemental budget recommendations showed cuts of about \$11.5 million for the two programs, Carlson was anticipating federal waivers to transfer people into other programs. Those waivers were never guaranteed.

The omnibus bill does tighten some eligibility requirements and limits some services for personal care attendants and the TEFRA program.

The bill reduces by 12.5 percent the maximum number of personal care service hours a recipient may receive. It also eliminates personal care services for ventilator-dependent people in hospitals and prohibits legal guardians from being personal care service providers.

The bill further expands the list of personal care services not eligible for Medical Assistance reimbursement. Only care prescribed by a doctor could be reimbursed. Currently,

only a registered nurse, in conjunction with the personal care assistant, needs to authorize care.

The bill also tightens eligibility requirements for people seeking personal care services. To qualify for those services under the bill, individuals must be able to "identify their needs, direct and evaluate task accomplishment, and assure their health and safety."

Children receiving care under the state's Medical Assistance program (including those in the TEFRA program) would have to contribute more for their care. Under the bill, parents with an adjusted gross income of \$30,000 or more would have to pay a \$25 minimum fee or a greater amount depending on their income. The bill changes the formula so more of a family's income is chargeable to the fee.

Currently, only the income above 200 percent of the federal poverty level is used to calculate the fee. The bill would lower that to 150 percent. For a family of four that would mean that instead of income more than about \$29,600 being used to calculate the fee, income more than about \$22,200 would apply.

Some of the bill's highlights include the following provisions.

### Electronic welfare

The bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety to issue cards to welfare recipients across the state so they can access their food stamp and other public assistance benefits electronically. Ramsey County piloted the program.

Under the system, people receiving public assistance use a "cash card" to withdraw their benefits — both monetary and food stamp — from either machines stationed at grocery store checkout lanes or a typical "cash machine."

Although costly to set up, the electronic system reduces the potential for theft and fraud and eliminates mailing costs.

### Foster care by relatives

An individual who wishes to provide foster care to a child that he or she is related to must have a foster care license, under the bill. This provision would take effect the day following final enactment.

"Relative" is defined to include members of the child's extended family as well as important friends with whom the child has had significant contact. The measure does include a federal waiver request to exempt grandparents from the foster care license requirement.

The bill does make room for an emergency



license that allows a county to place a child in foster care with an unlicensed relative so long as the county inspects the home, requires the relative to apply for a regular foster care license, and obtains background information on the relative.

If an emergency license is granted, it stays in effect until a regular license is obtained, but for no longer than 90 days. If the request for an emergency license is denied, the child is taken out of the home. The relative does have the option to appeal the decision to the commissioner of human services.

### **Cultural child care centers**

The bill requires child care providers at licensed child care facilities — as part of their on-going training — to be trained in “cultural dynamics.” The training would include understanding the importance of the cultural differences and similarities in working with children. It also would include learning skills to help children develop unbiased attitudes about cultural differences.

### **Laura Baker School**

The Department of Human Services would be required to inspect and certify the expansion of a Northfield, Minn., health care facility to a 44-bed crisis facility for persons with Prader-Willi Syndrome, a genetic obesity disease. The hospital would be eligible for Medical Assistance funding, under the bill. Currently, there are two other facilities in the state to care for people with this disease, but both have lengthy waiting lists for services.

### **Home visits**

The bill sets aside \$82,000 to expand the current public health nurse and family aide home visiting program. The money would be used to fund additional projects to help prevent child abuse and neglect and reduce juvenile delinquency. The projects, through a public health nurse or other trained individual, would contact adolescent parents and families with a history of violence or drug abuse at the birth of a child.

The nurse or other staff member would offer to visit, answer parenting questions, provide information on breast-feeding and other infant health issues, and make referrals to other appropriate state or county services. Staff would also screen the family to determine if families need additional support or are at risk for child abuse and neglect.

### **Children's Mental Health Act**

A county board could provide services under the Children's Mental Health Act to an individual who is no longer a minor. The bill

allows services to individuals between the ages of 18 and 21. The act requires counties to make available a range of mental health services, both inpatient and outpatient, for all county residents. If state aid or private insurance is unavailable to pick up the tab, the county charges fees based on income.

This provision is designed not to abruptly switch a child's mental health care simply because he or she reaches age 18. It would allow a county board to continue mental health services to individuals older than 18 but younger than 21 if the individual is enrolled in special education lessons through the local school district or it is in the best interest of the person to continue their current treatment. The language matches the age range of persons served through the social service system with that used in the education system, because special education may be provided to persons up to age 21.

### **Homeless youth**

The bill requires the Department of Human Services to solicit proposals to create safe houses and transitional housing for homeless youth. The department must request the proposals from groups knowledgeable about the homeless youth problem. The bill sets aside \$1.2 million.

Safe houses would provide emergency housing for homeless youth ages 13 to 22. Transitional housing would provide housing for homeless youth ages 16 to 22 who are preparing to live independently on their own. The bill says the housing should resemble a family atmosphere in a neighborhood or community and, if possible, provide separate homes for males and females.

The homes would also provide counseling services, employment services, health care, and education services.

### **Child care slots**

The measure would help some families on public assistance — specifically Aid to Families with Dependent Children — more easily find child care.

Currently, AFDC recipients who are enrolled in STRIDE (the federally mandated employee and training program for AFDC participants) are entitled to full payment of child care costs. But there is a lengthy waiting list for STRIDE.

The bill would allow those on the waiting list to obtain a slot in a separate child care program for AFDC participants who are in a self-initiated employment and training program independent of STRIDE. The bill reallocates the child care slots from counties that have vacancies to counties that have waiting lists.

### **Home care for some**

Pending federal approval, an individual who is mentally retarded or otherwise developmentally disabled may receive state Medical Assistance benefits for care in their own home, even if that home is not licensed, under the bill.

The home, however, would have to be inspected and care provided by qualified professionals. The provision is designed to provide care at home instead of at an institution.

### **Nursing home restrictions**

Effective July 1, 1996 — pending federal approval — people considered “high functioning” could no longer be admitted to nursing homes where their care is paid for by state medical assistance programs, under the bill.

High functioning people are defined, in part, as being “independent in orientation and self-preservation.” Instead of nursing home care, they would have the option of receiving personal care services and home health aide services; residing in group residential housing; or receiving a service allowance to arrange for their own care.

This provision would exempt nursing home residents admitted before July 1, 1996, and provides an appeals process for those denied admission into a nursing home.

### **Estates subject to MA claims**

The bill would allow a claim against the estate of a person who is over 55 and who receives state Medical Assistance. Currently, the age is 65.

### **Osteoporosis prevention**

Gone from the bill is a \$300,000 proposal for a statewide osteoporosis prevention and treatment program.

Instead, the bill requires the Department of Health to report on the need for an osteoporosis prevention and treatment program and authorizes the department to apply for grants and gifts to establish a program.

Osteoporosis is characterized by a decrease in bone mass leading to fragile bones that can fracture easily.

### **U.S. Army spraying examined**

The bill requires the Department of Health to review the National Academy of Science's report on the past and future adverse effects, if any, on public health and the environment from the U.S. Army's spraying of zinc cadmium sulfide and other chemicals in Minnesota in the 1950s and 1960s.

Some residents in Minneapolis and around

the state maintain they have health problems due to the spraying.

It further requires the Office of the Attorney General to determine whether any state or federal laws or constitutional provisions were broken and what legal action is available to recover damages and prevent any future spraying.

### Child support changes

The bill creates an employee remedy against an employer who engages in reprisals because the employee has child support withheld from his or her check. It allows the employee to recover twice the amount of any lost wages and would impose a \$500 fine on those employers who violate the ban.

The bill also imposes a maximum \$250 fine on an employer found guilty of contempt for not withholding child support ordered by the court.

### Welfare reform



A welfare reform bill that requires some new Minnesota welfare recipients to take part in a tough new jobs program and mandates that teen-aged moms on welfare live at home, was signed into law May 18.

But the governor line-item vetoed a food stamp outreach program and a cash assistance program for single adults totaling nearly \$6.6 million. (See related story below)

The new law authorizes \$22.4 million in spending during the 1996-1997 biennium for a variety of programs.

But despite that price tag, supporters of the welfare reform measure say it will actually save millions over the next two years — primarily through cuts in some public assistance benefits such as AFDC.

The law appropriates \$1.7 million for AFDC grants, \$500,000 for welfare fraud prevention efforts, and beginning July 1, 1996, it spends more than \$1 million for an intensive six-month language program for some non-English speaking welfare recipients who participate in work training programs.

A major provision in the new law appropriates more than \$1 million to help some counties design their own employment program for first-time public assistance recipients or participate in a Work First pilot program.

The Work First program includes tough penalties, such as losing benefits, if participants don't stick to a contract to search for a job and accept work. The new law does not specify which counties could operate the program.



Gov. Arne Carlson, *background*, listened as Lisa Halverson, St. Paul, a single mother of two young children, became emotional when she spoke of how the Minnesota Family Investment Plan (MFIP) found her a job at a time when she was unemployed with only \$10 to her name. Her comments came during the signing of the welfare reform bill into law at the Maplewood Jobs and Training Center May 18. The new law expands the MFIP assistance program to Ramsey County. The program is currently a five-year pilot project in seven counties. It allows families to accept lower paying jobs while receiving some public assistance. This is designed to help people like Halverson gain work experience.

Under Work First, participants will not receive a check, but see their AFDC or other public assistance grant money first go toward vendor payments for rent and utilities for up to six months. They also will receive food stamps, medical assistance, child care assistance, and a job search allowance.

The new law also will require most teen-aged moms, beginning Oct. 1, 1995, to live at home or with a supervising adult except in special circumstances, such as in a case where there has been abuse at home. A waiver of federal rules would be required before this could be implemented.

The law also seeks exemptions from federal rules that some argue discourage welfare recipients from finding work. One waiver would allow welfare recipients to spend more for an automobile, giving them more reliable transportation to and from work. The new law asks that the limit be raised to \$4,500 — up from the current \$1,500 limit. Another would allow individuals receiving AFDC to work more than 99 hours per month and remain eligible for public assistance.

In addition, the new law:

- prohibits Medical Assistance from paying for fertility drugs;
- prohibits General Assistance Medical Care from paying for sex-change operations;

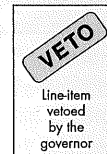
- requires the Department of Human Services to develop a grant pilot program to enable AFDC caretakers to become child care workers; and
- expands the Minnesota Family Investment Plan (MFIP) welfare program to Ramsey County at a cost of \$6.6 million in grants. The program is currently a five-year pilot project in seven counties. It allows families to accept lower paying jobs while receiving some public assistance. This helps them gain work experience. The bill would further tighten the MFIP program and specifies that participants must seek and accept full-time employment (30 or more hours per week). After three months of searching for a job, participants would be required to take any suitable job. Those who quit, lose their job, or fail to meet with their case manager, would be subject to sanctions.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Bob Anderson (DFL-Ottertail) and Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd).

(See Jan. 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; Jan. 20, 1995, *Session Weekly*, pages 6-7; Feb. 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10; and Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, pages 8-9; Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9; and May 12, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7)

HF5\*/SF1/CH178

### Welfare line-item vetoed



Although Gov. Arne Carlson signed most of the 1995 welfare reform bill May 18, he line-item vetoed a food stamp outreach program and a cash assistance program for single adults totaling nearly \$6.6 million.

The governor cut a \$6.42 million component of the bill that would have replaced the state's Work Readiness program for single, able-bodied adults with a one-month per year payment to individuals of \$203. The replacement program, which Carlson called an "ineffective use of taxpayer dollars," was to have been called the Temporary County Assistance Program. (Art. 6, Sec. 16, Subd. 2)

The new law does repeal Work Readiness, which offered cash assistance and job services to employable people who qualify for General Assistance.

Carlson, an opponent of Work Readiness, wrote in his veto message: "This new program seems to be a revamped version of the Work Readiness program which I eliminated in my budget recommendations to the Legislature. As I have stated consistently since the beginning of the 1995 Legislative Session, we

must eliminate welfare for able bodied adults without children. We cannot afford to carry those who should carry their own weight."

The governor also vetoed a \$150,000 appropriation for a food stamp outreach program that would have informed people about filing for food stamps. (Art. 2, Sec. 48, Subd. 2)

"Outreach programs of this type have been implemented with very little additional effect in the past, and I do not feel that it is appropriate to use taxpayer dollars with the sole intent of expanding enrollment in welfare entitlement programs," said Carlson in his veto message.

Overall, the new welfare reform law requires some new Minnesota welfare recipients to take part in a tough new jobs program and mandates that some teen-aged moms on welfare live at home beginning Oct. 1, 1995. (See related story page 18)

(See also Jan. 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; Jan. 20, 1995, *Session Weekly*, pages 6-7; Feb. 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10; and Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, pages 8-9; Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9; and May 12, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7)

HF5\*/SF1/CH178



## LAW

### Common sense paternity

A man who had been ordered to continue paying child support — even though he was clearly not the biological father — would get an opportunity to legally clear up his paternity case, under a bill given final approval by the House May 17. The vote was 129-0.

Under current law, a man has three years after legally naming himself the child's father to challenge that determination of paternity. But a recent court case spotlighted that Minnesota law.

On March 7, the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled a Ramsey County man must continue paying child support for a 5-year-old child, even though blood tests prove he is not the father.

The ruling came because the man signed a declaration of paternity in August 1989, began paying child support, but didn't challenge the paternity finding until after the three-year limit had expired.

He took a blood test in January 1993 because the child's mother told him he was not the father, and the test proved her right.

Nevertheless, the court ruled the man is still liable for child support because he did not take the blood test in time.

HF1105, sponsored by Rep. Robert

Leighton (DFL-Austin), would eliminate that three-year window and replace it with a new standard.

Under Leighton's bill, a man would have six months from the time he obtains blood or genetic testing results that indicate he is not the father to challenge the paternity finding. Currently, the three-year limitation begins when a man signs a declaration of paternity.

The measure also would create a window to give people who wish to challenge an existing paternity finding — but were prevented from doing so by the three-year limitation — until February 1996 to do so.

Also, a woman's husband would not automatically be legally presumed her child's father under the bill.

Current parentage recognition law says only an unmarried woman can sign a recognition legally citing a man as her child's father. A married woman's husband is legally presumed the father of her child.

HF1105 says a married woman could sign the recognition if the woman's husband also signs, agreeing another man is the father. That man must also sign the legal statement, saying he is the biological father of the child.

Leighton said the provision would come into play if the woman is separated from her husband. The law would presume her husband is the father and must pay child support, although the couple may have been long separated.

"There's no way now for parties to recognize paternity in this manner," Leighton said.

Now, even if the child is born 280 days after a legal separation, divorce, or death of the husband, the husband is still legally considered the father.

The bill, passed by the Senate May 18 on a 52-3 vote, now moves to the governor for consideration.

### Tracing phone calls

A bill to ensure the safety of anyone calling 911 from a business that routes its phone calls to several locations won final passage from the House May 18. The vote was 77-50.

Currently, when most callers make an emergency 911 call, their address is displayed on the dispatcher's computer screen.

But some large businesses (or other buildings such as dormitories) use a "private branch exchange," through which all outgoing and incoming phone calls are routed. So when callers from such a business make emergency phone calls, only the location of the central exchange appears on the dispatcher's computer screen.

In some cases, the company's "phone cen-

ter" may be miles away from the emergency being reported.

For example, a Norwest Bank employee once called police to report a robbery in progress at a branch location. The responding officers arrived not at the bank where the robbery was occurring, but at the downtown Norwest computer center where the company's telephone center is located, said bill sponsor Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington).

Also, calls from 80 individual Minneapolis School District schools and district sites all switch through the central district office location, so any emergency call made from one of the 80 sites would appear to have come from that central office, said Delmont.

The school district and the bank are now correcting the problem, as are the University of Minnesota and "other schools and administrative bodies," said Delmont.

His bill (HF1290/SF734\*) would ensure that businesses and buildings with private switch telephone service include "station number identification," which means dispatchers could identify the location of each call that is placed.

The average cost to a business or unit of government to include the technology is estimated to be a \$15,000 one-time cost, Delmont said.

"Any company with a private branch exchange has a substantial investment in a phone system and so we figure this is a small price for them to pay," he said.

School districts would have until Jan. 1, 1998, to make the change because many don't have adequate funds, Delmont said. Also, hospitals and nursing homes are exempted from the bill.

The Department of Administration would have until Dec. 31, 1996, to adopt standards that businesses with private branch exchanges would have to meet, under the bill.

The bill now moves to the governor for consideration.



## METRO AFFAIRS

### Public safety radio system

All Metropolitan-area public safety personnel, along with private ambulance services, eventually could be linked by a \$30 million digital radio communications system, under a bill on its way to the governor.

The bill (HF597/SF467\*), sponsored by Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins), would create a metropolitan radio board under the Metropolitan Council. The board would apply to the Federal Communications Com-

mission (FCC) to use 100 radio channels in the 800 megahertz range, Kelley said.

The channels would then be connected, so that police, ambulance, and fire personnel could talk simultaneously across a number of channels.

The House passed the bill May 15. The vote was 105-27. The Senate passed it May 16, 63-1.

Currently, individual police departments, for example, communicate on separate radio bands, which sometimes creates problems when different departments need to talk with one another.

Such a problem occurred last summer during a massive search — involving several law enforcement departments — for the man who fatally shot two St. Paul police officers.

Kelley told lawmakers that action must be taken now to reserve the block of channels in the 800 megahertz band, or the FCC will allocate the channels to others. He said costs for building the "backbone" of the radio network — radio towers and computer system necessary to link the public safety communications systems of local governments — will go up in the future. The cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and Hennepin and Ramsey counties could save \$21 million by building a shared regional radio system, rather than each building their own separate system, Kelley said.

The bill would allow the Metropolitan Council to issue up to \$10 million in bonds. These dollars would pay for building the first phase of the communications system. Should the radio board vote to do so, the dollars could also pay to upgrade region-wide emergency medical communications systems as well.

The bonds would be repaid with dollars generated by up to a four-cent increase in the monthly 911-emergency surcharge that each Minnesota telephone customer now pays.

The 911 surcharge is now 14 cents, according to Jim Beutelspacher of the Department of Administration Intertechnologies Group. He said the department would have to approve any surcharge increase. (Current law allows the surcharge to go as high as 30 cents.)

Kelley said that another \$5 million for building the radio system would come from two agencies run by the Metropolitan Council — the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) and the Metropolitan Council Transit Operation (MCTO). Both agencies have police forces that would use the new radio system.

The MAC's \$2 million contribution would come from airport user fees, while the \$3

million from the MCTO would be paid by property taxes levied by the Metropolitan Council.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation will request the 1996 Legislature to issue \$15 million in state bonds to build the radio towers and computer system necessary to link the public safety communications systems of local governments. Each local government could then determine whether they would use the new radio channels or rely on their current method of radio communication.

A \$194,000 appropriation in the bill would pay for the FCC application process to obtain the 100 radio channels needed in the system.



## SPORTS

### Jets hockey franchise?

A bill to provide state aid to help move the Winnipeg Jets National Hockey League franchise to Minnesota was heard May 15 at a joint meeting of the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs and the Ways and Means committees.

But because time is running out in the 1995 Legislative Session and, as of May 18, the city of Winnipeg and the Canadian province of Manitoba had voted to spend a total of \$74 million to build a new arena for the Jets, the prospects for an infusion of cash from the state of Minnesota remains in limbo.

With time running out in the 1995 Legislative Session, the bill (HF1917) sponsored by Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) must be acted upon soon to help broker a deal.

The proposal would authorize the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission to negotiate a deal with Richard Burke, a Medina, Minn., investor and former health care executive, or any buyer, who wishes to buy the hockey team and bring it to the Target Center. The bill would allow the commission to sign a deal even after the Legislature adjourns. The deadline for adjournment is midnight May 22.

The bill also authorizes the Metropolitan Council to issue bonds (the amount of which the bill does not specify) to the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission to attract an NHL team with a long-term commitment to play at the Target Center in downtown Minneapolis.

The amount in bonds, however, would be limited to the amount that could be paid off with an annual state appropriation equal to the new state income taxes generated by the team (roughly estimated at \$1.8 million per year). Part of this money would go to pay for youth ice arenas in Minnesota.

Under the bill, the state would appropriate the money annually from the general fund to the Metropolitan Council to help pay off the bonds.

No vote was taken on the proposal May 15 and no further meetings have been scheduled. Lawmakers appear divided on the bill. Some think an NHL team is needed in Minnesota. Some don't want any public funds used for the team purchase. And still others don't like that the bill is coming up so late in the session, leaving lawmakers with little time to debate the ramifications of the legislation.

Gov. Arne Carlson has stated he is not



Richard Burke, a Medina investor and prospective buyer of the Winnipeg Jets NHL hockey franchise, read the sports section as he waited to meet with legislators at the Capitol May 16.



willing to have the state spend more than \$15 million to help purchase the team.

The bill also authorizes the Metropolitan Council to impose an unspecified admissions tax or surcharge, or both, on hockey tickets and NHL-sponsored events. Those dollars also would help pay off any bonds.

Furthermore, the bill requires that before bonds are sold, there must be a guarantee from the NHL team that they will play their home games in the Target Center for the term of the bonds. As of yet, the bill does not specify the term of the bonds.



## TAXES

### Metro tax shift

The fate of Rep. Myron Orfield's controversial metropolitan area tax-sharing proposal is in the hands of Gov. Arne Carlson.

**HF431\*/SF277** has passed the Legislature and now awaits either the governor's signature or his veto. Most likely the latter, according to the bill's opponents.

"The governor will veto this bill," said Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth). "He has made it clear and unequivocal."

House members May 16 accepted Senate changes and passed the bill on a 70-62 vote. After first defeating the bill, the Senate passed it May 10, 36-30.

The bill would shift a portion of the tax dollars from some wealthy suburbs to less fortunate inner-ring suburbs and the core cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

It would create a pool of funds for metropolitan redistribution drawn from the growth in property tax revenue generated on the value of homes greater than \$200,000.

A Senate amendment on the bill prohibits cities that exclude most commercial/industrial development — for reasons other than preserving farms — from receiving money from the pool.

Orfield (DFL-Mpls) aims to achieve greater equity in basic public services provided in metropolitan area communities, ease competition for tax base, and make land-use planning more possible.

He said about \$12 million would be redistributed under the bill, which he describes as an extension of the 1971 fiscal disparities law. That law pools about \$270 million annually in commercial/industrial property taxes to be shared by communities in the seven-county metro area.

Cities receiving funds from the redistribution program in its first year would have to use half the money for tax relief rather than on increased spending.

Many northern metro suburbs would be the biggest beneficiaries of the bill. The bill promises to reduce property taxes in 85 percent of the metro area, but taxes would likely increase in the remaining 15 percent of the region.

This is the third consecutive year Orfield has pushed legislation to give wealthier suburbs a greater role in sharing the social burdens faced by central cities and aging suburbs.

His bills in each of the previous two years focused on housing in the metro area. Both were vetoed by Carlson.



## TRANSPORTATION

### Transportation funding

A \$2.5 billion omnibus transportation bill providing funding for the state's roads, bridges, and aviation projects won final House approval May 17. The vote was 86-45.

The spending closely mirrors the governor's recommendations for transportation funding.

Voted down on April 27 after lengthy debate of nearly 30 amendments, the bill (**HF1793/SF1536\***) was resurrected on a procedural move and passed.

Most of the money in the bill — about \$2.2 billion — would go to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

The bill also would appropriate \$84.4 million to the Metropolitan Council for the next two-year spending cycle. The council is responsible for coordinating the metropolitan area public transportation system. Of that money, \$30.6 million would go to Metro Mobility, which provides rides to approximately 24,000 people with disabilities around the metropolitan area — a \$1.3 million increase (4.2 percent) over funding for the current biennium. (See April 21, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 16)

Also, \$625,000 would go to the Metropolitan Council to study operating buses between suburbs, and from downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis to the suburbs. Few such routes exist now, officials say.

The bill calls for \$20.2 million to go to the Driver and Vehicle Services Division within the Department of Public Safety over the next biennium. Also, \$20.4 million would go to the Department of Public Safety for its pipeline safety and traffic safety departments.

It also sets out a schedule for MnDOT to follow when constructing the Wakota Bridge between St. Paul and Newport.

The present bridge is in such poor repair a new one is needed by the year 2000, said Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport), who sponsored the provision in the bill.

The Legislature needs to ensure MnDOT

will include the project on its construction schedule, said Marko. Although the state provides MnDOT with the money for road repairs, the department is free to schedule road construction and repair projects as it sees fit. (There is no mention of the Wabasha Street Bridge in the bill.)

Under a series of amendments added on the House floor April 27, the bill now calls upon MnDOT to reconstruct portions of the following highways:

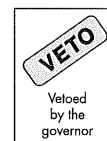
- Highway 12 from Delano to Willmar;
- Highway 65 from Cambridge to its intersection with Highway 2;
- Highway 52 between St. Paul and the Iowa state border;
- Highway 212 between Interstate 494 and Cologne; and
- Highway 14 from Rochester to Walnut Grove.

The first three projects must be completed by January 2006, under the bill. The last two must be done by January 2004.

Also, MnDOT would have to install traffic lights on Highway 244 and Highway 61 — one traffic light on each highway — in White Bear Lake, under the bill.

The measure now goes to a joint House-Senate conference committee to reach a compromise between the two different transportation funding proposals.

### Private traffic escorts



A bill to allow private escort services to perform traffic control duties for oversized loads on Minnesota roads has been vetoed by the governor.

Such duties can now be performed only by police officers or members of the Minnesota State Patrol.

House sponsor Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) has said that private security employees have been controlling traffic for years, and cited funeral processions as an example.

But Carlson said it was a safety issue.

"This bill will endanger public safety," Gov. Arne Carlson wrote in his veto message. He noted state troopers and local police are trained to direct traffic, have medical training, and can issue tickets to those who disobey their traffic instructions.

The proposal was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy).

**HF1485\*/SF1171/CH117**

More bill listings . . .

## 1995 House files incorporated into other bills

Editor's note: This is the second installment of an unofficial listing of House files that have been incorporated into other bills.

Ongoing conference committee action may well have altered the makeup of these bills before they reached the end of the legislative process. And in many cases, the language found in the major bills may not be exactly as it appeared in the original House files.

The list was compiled by the House Public Information Office from a variety of sources, including committee administrators, committee legislative assistants, researchers, fiscal analysts, and commission staff.

An asterisk after a House or Senate file number indicates the version of the bill that was under consideration.

### Commerce

#### HF1132\*/SF0936 (Jennings) Omnibus liquor bill

- HF792 (Dauner) Restaurant seating capacity liquor license requirements modified
- HF984 (Wejcman) Mpls authorized to issue an on-sale intoxicating liquor license to the local branch of AAUW
- HF1283 (Wagenius) Mpls authorized to issue an on-sale wine and 3.2 malt liquor license to a restaurant
- HF1472 (Bakk) St. Louis County authorized to issue an on-sale intoxicating malt liquor license

### Development

#### HF1866/SF1670\* (Rice) Omnibus community development appropriations bill

##### Appropriations section:

- HF336 (Pugh) Grants to youth intervention program
- HF361 (Farrell) Contamination cleanup
- HF380 (Dawkins) Metropolitan area homestead program established; contract for deed home purchase assistance provided; construction community impact statements required; rental tax equity pilot project established; money appropriated
- HF386 (Frerichs) Affirmative Enterprise, grants under 116J.982. Small Cities Federal match, Advantage, MN, WomenVenture, Metropolitan Economic Development Association, JSPA, expanded tour marketing, Pathfinder. Matching grants from private sector to Tourism, Minnesota Film Board, Minnesota Technology Inc., Minnesota Inventors Congress, NRRI, Minnesota Council for Quality, Minnesota Technology Corridor Corp., and Cold Weather Research Institute.
- HF441 (Jennings) Electronic licensing database
- HF504 (McCollum) DNR grants
- HF509 (Clark) Establishing an affordable home ownership funding program
- HF638 (Jennings) Cogeneration power plant
- HF767 (Clark) Family homeless prevention and assistance program age limitations changed, rental housing program modified, and municipal housing plan reporting requirement references corrected
- HF1160 (Trimble) Contamination cleanup grants
- HF1187 (Clark) Low cost housing
- HF1223 (Long) Community organization provided funding to provide business opportunities
- HF1229 (Osthoff) Job Skills Partnership Board



More than 1,900 bills have been introduced in the House since the beginning of the 1995 Legislative Session. If they don't pass out by the May 22 end-of-session deadline, they remain alive for 1996 session, the second year of the biennium.

- HF1347 (Frerichs) Displaced homemaker grant
- HF1447 (Jennings) Northwest Company Fur Post Interpretive Center appropriated money
- HF1475 (McElroy) Affordable neighborhood housing design and development initiative established, and money appropriated
- HF1514 (Mariani) Community resources program appropriated money
- HF1533 (Murphy) Residential facility for American Indian students at Fond du Lac Community College, planning money appropriated
- HF1589 (Munger) Peat harvesting study
- HF1633 (Lourey) Employment support services for people with mental illness
- HF1638 (Kalis) Kee Theatre in Kiester restoration grant
- HF1639 (Kalis) Farmamerica grant
- HF1651 (Anderson, I.) Border fish dispute

##### Non-appropriations section:

- HF885 (Lourey) Microenterprise support program established
- HF1565 (Hausman) Department of Trade and Economic Development to study civic and convention centers

## Education

### HF1000\*/SF944 (Johnson, A.) Omnibus K-12 education finance bill

#### Article 1

- HF274 (Pelowski) Capital expenditure and staff development funding for teacher training in computers (Sec. 26)
- HF436 (Ostrom) Provide levy adjustment for District 2397 (Sec. 30)
- HF507 (Koppendrayner) K-12; providing for general education revenue, etc. (Sec. 1-8, 11, 12, 16, 17-20, 24-25)
- HF545 (Hasskamp) Create minimum aid guarantee for school districts (modification) (Sec. 27)
- HF1221 (Rest) Public employment labor relations provisions modified (Sec. 15)
- HF1334 (Bertram) Modify use of class-size reduction revenue (Secs. 21-22)

#### Article 2

- HF507 (Koppendrayner) K-12; providing for general education revenue, etc. (Sec. 6, 7, 8-10, 12, 15, 37)
- HF849 (Seagren) Administration bill (Sec. 1, 7)
- HF892 (Tomassoni) Modify provisions relating to school bus safety (Secs. 2-5, 13, 16-36)
- HF1000 (Johnson, A.) Clarify certain provisions, amend Minnesota Statutes 94 (Sec. 38)

#### Article 3

- HF453 (Weaver) Safe Schools Package (Secs. 1, 32-33, 41)
- HF507 (Koppendrayner) K-12; providing for general education revenue, etc. (Secs. 11, 34)
- HF849 (Seagren) Administration bill (Secs. 6-7, 30, 31)
- HF868 (Johnson, A.) Provide report on child assessment and case management used by education and human services
- HF1032 (Tuma) Establish pilot program for children with specific learning disabilities (Secs. 5, 40)
- HF1053 (Kelso) Provide specific reference to federal special education requirements (certain parts) (Sec. 2)
- HF1220 (Carlson) Expand payment of special education aid (Sec. 12, 21, 28)
- HF1296 (Ness) Provide funding for assurance of mastery program (Sec. 42, subd. 18)
- HF1299 (Huntley) Fully fund the secondary vocational aid formula (Sec. 42, subd. 17)
- HF1312 (Mariani) Provide programs to meet the educational and culturally related academic needs of Mexican people (Sec. 36)
- HF1345 (Lynch) Appropriate money for school interpreters (Sec. 42, subd. 20)
- HF1608 (Entenza) Provide for interagency services for children with disabilities (Sec. 4)
- HF1743 (Carlson) State-of-the-art Vocational High School Planning (Sec. 38)
- HF1789 (Johnson, A.) Provide full state funding for special education services (Secs. 13-20, 22-27, 35)

#### Article 4

- HF507 (Koppendrayner) K-12; providing for general education revenue, etc. (Sec. 13)
- HF849 (Seagren) Administration bill (Sec. 23)
- HF989 (Murphy) Establish grant program for student-operated business (Sec. 25, 27)
- HF1346 (Entenza) Provide funds for adult graduation aid (Sec. 26, subd. 4)
- HF1375 (Tunheim) Fund adult basic education and adult graduation aid (not fully funded) (Sec. 26, subd. 4)

- HF1668 (Dawkins) Modify the youth works grant program (Secs. 1-12, 16-22, 24, 28)

#### Article 5

- HF268 (Seagren) Authorize the use of a portion of capital expenditure facilities revenue for equipment (Sec. 4)
- HF459 (Lourey) Debt service levy to remain at the rate used at the time of a district consolidation (Sec. 15)
- HF507 (Koppendrayner) K-12; providing for general education revenue, etc. (Sec. 3, 5-6, 9, 12-14)
- HF540 (Davids) Provide a debt equalization determination for District 233 (Sec. 19)
- HF543 (Ness) Authorize districts to lease a building or land for administrative purposes (Sec. 17)
- HF991 (Sviggum) Extend maximum number of years that a district may levy for funds to remove architectural barriers (Sec. 10)
- HF1217 (Otremba) Provide for alternative debt service plan for district nos. 789 and 790 (Sec. 16)
- HF1601 (Kalis) Modify eligibility for debt service equalization (Sec. 11)
- HF1605 (Larsen) Funding for joint elementary facility (Sec. 18)
- HF1693 (Harder) Extend availability of a planning grant (Sec. 21, subd. 6)

#### Article 6

- HF507 (Koppendrayner) K-12; providing for general education revenue, etc. (Secs. 8-11)
- HF849 (Seagren) Administration bill (Secs. 1-2)
- HF914 (Peterson) Provide grant for District 128, Milan (Sec. 13)
- HF996 (Solberg) Provide for employment of education employees terminated by a dissolved cooperative (Secs. 5-7)
- HF1000 (Johnson, A.) Clarify certain provisions, amend Minnesota Statutes 94 (Sec. 12)
- HF1711 (Lourey) Plans for reorganizing districts to determine allocation of homestead and agricultural credit aid (Secs. 3-4, 14)

#### Article 7

- HF849 (Seagren) Administration bill (part) (Sec. 1)
- HF1007 (Ness) Provide funding for AP and IB (Sec. 5, subd. 6)
- HF1079 (Ostrom) Commissioner to conduct needs assessment program for junior and senior high students (Sec. 5, subd. 5)
- HF1762 (Carlson) Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation (Sec. 5, subd. 5)
- HF1791 (Carlson) Provide a grant for restructuring schools through systemic site decision making (Sec. 5, subd. 7)

#### Article 8

- HF28 (Dauner) District 548, Pelican Rapids, to transfer from general fund to capital expenditure (Sec. 16, subd. 2)
- HF200 (Swenson, H.) District 422 to transfer from debt redemption to capital expenditure fund (Sec. 16, subd. 24)
- HF207 (Lieder) Transfer funds from school district 526 and 523 to Twin Valley and Gary successor school district (Sec. 16, subd. 19, 20)
- HF209 (Lieder) Use capital health and safety revenue to purchase portable classrooms by District 600 (Sec. 16, subd. 21)
- HF378 (Solberg) ITV grant for Independent School District No. 698, Floodwood (Sec. 17, subd. 14)
- HF507 (Koppendrayner) K-12; providing for general education revenue, etc. (Secs. 2-3, 6, 15)
- HF569 (Opatz) Authorize District 742, St. Cloud, to transfer from general to capital expenditure fund (Sec. 16, subd. 5)
- HF738 (Peterson) Authorize District 129, Montevideo, to levy for unreimbursed costs of farm management program (modified) (Sec. 16, subd. 17)

HF740 (Luther) District 279, Osseo, levy for At-Risk/Low Income concentration grant program (Sec. 17, subd. 19)  
 HF849 (Seagren) Administration bill (Secs. 8-10)  
 HF861 (Mulder) Provide District 583, Pipestone, to transfer from debt redemption to capital expenditure fund (Sec. 16, subd. 25)  
 HF876 (Dorn) Provide funding for the Mankato area Model School for Truants (Sec. 17, subd. 17)  
 HF920 (Mariani) Modify staff development and curriculum to include American Indian history (Sec. 7, 11)  
 HF962 (Hugoson) Allow District 2536, Granada-Huntley-East Chain, to make fund transfer (Sec. 15, subd. 10)  
 HF965 (Finseth) Authorize District 595, East Grand Forks, to use capital expenditure revenue for buildings (Sec. 16, subd. 13)  
 HF986 (Wenzel) Provide for a fund transfer for District 482, Little Falls (Sec. 16, subd. 6)  
 HF1046 (Kinkel) Establish a task force on alternative measures for teaching licensure (Sec. 12)  
 HF1163 (Lieder) Allow District No. 604 to make a fund transfer (Sec. 16, subd. 9)  
 HF1250 (Entenza) School breakfast and lunch program (Sec. 17, subd. 5, 7)  
 HF734 (Entenza) Funding for breakfast program (Sec. 17, subd. 8)  
 HF1285 (Lourey) ITV grant for District No. 95 (Sec. 17, subd. 15)  
 HF1325 (Tomassoni) Extend levy authorization for retired employee health benefits costs (parts included) (Sec. 4)  
 HF1374 (Kinkel) Permit District No. 2174, Pine River Backus, to transfer funds (Sec. 16, subd. 3)  
 HF1410 (Tunheim) Provide a grant to District 690, Warroad, to operate Angle Inlet School (Sec. 17, subd. 1410)  
 HF1471 (Sviggum) Fund transfer for Byron (Sec. 16, subd. 14)  
 HF1480 (Sviggum) Fund transfer for Medford Land transfer (Sec. 16, subd. 12)  
 HF1481 (Wenzel) Fund transfer for Swanville Bus purchase (Sec. 16, subd. 15)  
 HF1487 (Dehler) Alter calculation of maximum effort tax rate for districts receiving debt service equalization aid (Sec. 14)  
 HF1503 (Finseth) Authorize capital health and safety revenue to purchase portable classrooms for District No. 561 (Sec. 16, subd. 22)  
 HF1576 (Anderson, I.) Provide for post-secondary enrollment options replacement aid (Sec. 1)  
 HF1600 (Jennings) Fund transfer for Rush City (Sec. 16, subd. 8)  
 HF1748 (Davids) Fund transfer for Chatfield (Sec. 16, subd. 11)  
 HF1752 (Erhardt) Fund transfer for Edina (Sec. 16, subd. 18)  
 HF1782 (Daggett) Provide for a fund transfer for Detroit Lakes (Sec. 16, subd. 4)

#### Article 9

HF294 (Cooper) Teacher licenses continuous (Sec. 24)  
 HF507 (Koppendrayner) K-12; providing for general education revenue, etc. (Sec. 1)  
 HF1220 (Carlson) Expand payment of special education aid (Sec. 18)  
 HF1692 (Schumacher) Establish service cooperatives to replace educational cooperative service units (Secs. 6-17, 20, 23, 25)

#### Article 10

HF849 (Seagren) Administration bill (Sec. 1, 3)  
 HF977 (Kelley) A bill relating to libraries (most of bill) (Sec. 4)

#### Article 11

HF849 (Seagren) Administration bill (Secs. 3-15, 22-23)  
 HF1000 (Johnson, A.) Clarify certain provisions, amend Minnesota Statutes 94 (Sec. 16)  
 HF1741 (Boudreau) Authorize the conveyance of state land in Rice County (Sec. 17)

HF1778 (Ness) Provide report on projected school district capital expenditures (Sec. 18)

#### Article 12

HF409 (Tunheim) Increases ITV revenue for combined districts who entered into ITV leases before combination (Sec. 2)  
 HF539 (Garcia) Provide technology support aid for school districts (Sec. 1)  
 HF977 (Kelley) A bill relating to libraries (most of bill) (Sec. 1, 3-7)

#### Article 13

#### Article 14

HF626 (Hausman) Environmental education council established; state plan for environmental education development required

#### Miscellaneous (not pertaining to one article)

HF25 (Johnson, A.) Repeal the appropriation caps for pre-kindergarten through grade 12 (parts included in bill)  
 HF157 (Lindner) Authorize use of a portion of capital expenditure facilities revenue for equipment uses  
 HF251 (Kelso) Additional access to the capital levy for interactive T.V.  
 HF253 (Boudreau) Clarify law governing St. Academy for the deaf and blind  
 HF267 (Tunheim) Provide levy for school districts to create Internet connections  
 HF702 (Lieder) Allow school authorities to appoint non-pupil adults to school safety patrols  
 HF711 (Carruthers) Modify the state aid for school district tax abatements (modified version)  
 HF1599 (Swenson, H.) Increase the general education formula allowance (increased from \$3,150 to \$3,240 in 1996 and \$3,220 in 1997)

#### HF1856\*/SF1234 (Kelso)

#### Omnibus higher education appropriations bill

HF156 (Finseth) Wheat and barley scab research  
 HF307 (Pelowski) Abolishing HECB  
 HF363 (Winter) Farmer-lender mediation  
 HF444 (Van Dellen) Free speech  
 HF678 (Clark) Translator/interpreter program  
 HF899 (Kinkel) Student count/semesters/admin./Akita  
 HF1028 (Opatz) St. Cloud Hospital/Mayo residency  
 HF1107 (Ness) Career placement  
 HF1151 (Opatz) HEB modifications/recodification (in original bill - removed on floor as part of amendment to repeal merger)  
 HF1379 (Murphy) Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College  
 HF1446 (Dawkins) Post-service funding encumbered  
 HF1515 (Bettermann) Faculty transfers between bargaining units (in original bill - removed on floor as part of amendment to repeal merger)

## Environment & Natural Resources

#### HF1857/SF106\* (Brown)

#### Omnibus environment and natural resources appropriations bill

HF201 (Peterson) Ethanol producer payments modified, ethanol blender credits phased out  
 HF202 (Peterson) Ethanol producer payments modified  
 HF213 (Kahn) LCMRs recommended projects  
 HF321 (Jennings) Reauthorize under 16 deer hunting (Sec. 70)  
 HF368 (Munger) Stable funding for Soil and Water Conservation Districts



HF456 (Hasskamp) Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area  
 HF486 (Peterson) Livestock processing  
 HF581 (Johnson, V.) Timber harvesting Generic Environmental Impact Statement recommendations (Secs. 55, 57)  
 HF614 (Cooper) Passing on the farm  
 HF643 (Bishop) Groundwater act amendments-  
 HF723 (Bakk) Youth deer license (Secs. 68-71)  
 HF783 (Bakk) Northern counties grants  
 HF819 (Otremba) Agriculture improvement loans  
 HF917 (Hugoson) Foodhandler licensing  
 HF1087 (Leighton) Oil and oil filter collection (Sec. 84)  
 HF1128 (Johnson, V.) PCA water quality initiative (Secs. 18-23)  
 HF1191 (Carlson, L.) Fish stamps  
 HF1236 (Schumacher) Sand Dunes State Forest shooting area (Sec. 56)  
 HF1276 (Trimble) Aquatic plant harvest  
 HF1279 (Rest) State park handicapped trails (Sec. 48)  
 HF1511 (Lourey) Milk marketing legal challenge  
 HF1527 (Hausman) Sustainable, EQB (\$)  
 HF1618 (Johnson, V.) Nonpoint source water pollution control  
 HF1620 (Trimble) Native vegetation planting (Secs. 17, 30, 45)

## Insurance

### HF677/SF440\* (Tomassoni)

#### Omnibus insurance bill

HF422 (Osskopp) Comprehensive health insurance association life-time benefit limit increased  
 HF1742 (Long) Breast cancer insurance coverage provided

## Energy

### HF358\*/SF792 (Wolf)

#### PUC housekeeping bill

HF382 (Wolf) Small electric utility franchise rate regulation exemption provided  
 HF389 (Wolf) Public Utilities Commission rate suspension period provisions clarified

## Transportation

### HF1793/SF1536\* (Lieder)

#### Omnibus transportation appropriations bill

HF205 (Luther) Brooklyn Park right-of-way acquisition metropolitan council loan  
 HF210 (Carlson) Minnesota identification card fee changed  
 HF342 (Garcia) High-speed bus service pilot project established by Met Council in metro area  
 HF395 (Marko) Road powered electric vehicle demonstration project  
 HF729 (Frerichs) High speed rail corridor through Minn., Wis., and Ill. feasibility studied  
 HF898 (Carruthers) Soft body armor peace officer reimbursement provisions modified  
 HF1009 (McElroy) Drivers' license reinstatement fee waived in certain cases  
 HF1123 (Skoglund) Criminal justice information system fingerprinting and diversion data provisions modified  
 HF1689 (Marko) Wakota Bridge-Trunk Highway No. 16 construction in Newport required

### HF1342/SF979\* (Wagenius)

#### Hazardous material transporters regulated

HF848 (Luther) Metropolitan Council transit vehicle security measure appropriation provided

## Government

### HF1001\*/SF1678 (Rukavina)

#### Omnibus state government finance bill

HF123 (Opatz) Contracting  
 HF473 (Trimble) Human Development Center (language only)  
 HF625 (Orenstein) Minnesota Collection Enterprise  
 HF1001 (Rukavina) Women's Veteran's Memorial (vehicle bill)  
 HF1015 (Hausman) Environmental review process; EQB  
 HF1045 (Marko) Veterans; money appropriated in making certain claims  
 HF1116 (Lynch) Requires LCC to hire an interpreter  
 HF1120 (Pelowski) Legislative television  
 HF1219 (Holsten) Rehabilitation funds for the statue of Leif Erikson  
 HF1260 (Milbert) Building ice arenas (passed as amended; partially incorporated)  
 HF1328 (Dehler) Gambling Control Board account  
 HF1467 (Delmont) Building code and zoning law

### HF185/SF381\* (McCollum)

#### Veterans subcommittee bill

HF185 (Osthoff) Armory building commission member appointment flexibility provided; armory construction fund use authorized; armory site provision by municipalities clarified; site disposal provisions modified; and tax levy authority granted  
 HF698 (McCollum) Veterans Homes Board duties modified, and Silver Bay Veterans Home Dementia Unit expansion provided  
 HF171 (Rostberg) Veterans homes resources account fund use authority clarified

### HF493\*/SF803 (Jefferson)

#### Omnibus pension bill for local plans

## Article 1

HF116 (Rukavina) Provides \$100 per month post retirement adjustment; Requires full amortization contribution for continued additional payments (Eveleth Police and Fire) (Sec. 1)  
 HF189 (Jaros) Allows former Duluth Technical College teacher to participate in special 1994 early retirement incentive (Duluth Teachers) (Sec. 2)  
 HF223 (Skoglund) Authorize second-chance opportunity to elect actuarial equivalent bounceback joint and survivor optional annuity (MERF) (Sec. 3)  
 HF689 (Pugh) Authorize surviving spouse of deceased West St. Paul police chief survivor benefit under PERA-P&F law despite the fact that death preceded effective date of consolidation (West St. Paul Police consolidation Account) (Sec. 4)  
 HF1604 (Paulsen) Provides reduced service pension with as little as five years service; provides unreduced pension with ten years of service; permits deferred annuity increase for deferred annuitants selecting monthly benefits and who have at least 15 years service (Eden Prairie Volunteer Fire) (Sec. 5)

## Article 2

- HF829 (Carlson) Authorizes consolidation of Crystal Volunteer firefighters Relief Association and New Hope Volunteer Firefighters Relief Association into single relief association if fire departments merge (Vol. Fire) (Sec. 1)
- HF829 (Carlson) Provides for incorporation of consolidated relief association by existing relief association members. Provides for relief association governing board of nine persons, with six firefighters elected by the membership, the joint fire department fire chief, and one representative of each city (Vol. Fire) (Sec. 2)
- HF829 (Carlson) Requires the consolidation to be completed within 30 days of the establishment of the consolidated relief association; requires the transfer of administration, records, and special fund assets and liabilities; requires the dissolution of the general funds of the prior relief associations (Vol. Fire) (Sec. 3)
- HF829 (Carlson) Continues the retirement benefits of existing retirees unless the retiree agrees to a lump sum alternative payment or a substitute insurance company annuity contract. Authorizes similar conversions for deferred retirees. Requires new active members after consolidation to be covered by a defined contribution plan. Authorizes current active members to convert the current defined benefit coverage to defined contribution coverage at a conversion rate of at least \$3,000 per full year of service credit (Vol. Fire) (Sec. 4)
- HF829 (Carlson) Requires actuarial valuations of the consolidated relief association if any person retains a right to receive a monthly service pension (Vol. Fire) (Sec. 5)
- HF829 (Carlson) Requires the deposit of fire state aid for both Crystal and New Hope in the consolidated relief association. Specifies the calculation of the municipal contributions to the defined contribution plan, which is the amount needed to bring the amount of fire state aid up to \$1,811 per active firefighter, and if any retiree, deferred retiree, or current active member retains defined benefit plan rights, the amount of the funding requirements of that coverage. Requires the payment of relief association administrative expenses from the individual member accounts, with the allocation of the expenses in a manner provided for in the bylaws (Vol. Fire) (Sec. 6)
- HF829 (Carlson) Validates certain prior actions and benefit provisions inconsistent with applicable special and other laws (Vol. Fire) (Sec. 7)
- HF829 (Carlson) Repeals prior special laws applicable to the Crystal and New Hope volunteer firefighter relief associations (Vol. Fire) (Sec. 8)
- HF829 (Carlson) Provides for local approval of the special legislation by both the cities of New Hope and Crystal (Vol. Fire) (Sec. 9)

## Article 3

- HF1042 (Dawkins) Provides a thirteenth check with option to annuitize, without an investment return threshold; provides an additional investment based post-retirement adjustment based on a form of five year averaging of excess investment returns (StPTRFA) (Sec. 1)
- HF1042 (Dawkins) Laws governing earlier StPTRFA postretirement adjustments are repealed (StPTRFA) (Sec. 2)
- HF1042 (Dawkins) Sections 1 and 2 require local approval by the St. Paul school board (StPTRFA) (Sec. 3)

## HF617\*/SF561 (Johnson, R.)

### Omnibus pension bill for administrative changes

#### Article 1: Suspension or forfeiture of certain survivor benefits in the event of certain felonious deaths

- HF669 (Pugh) Provides for the suspension of survivor benefits of survivor feloniously causing death of pension plan member upon being charged, and forfeiture upon being convicted (All plans) (Sec. 1)
- HF669 (Pugh) Effective on final enactment; applicable to pending charges (All plans) (Sec. 2)

#### Article 2: Individual and small group pension accommodations

- HF152 (Mares) Allows late purchase of sabbatical leave service credit with full actuarial value payment (TRA) (Sec. 1)
- HF465 (Pugh) Ratifies inclusion of former West St. Paul City Attorney in 1993 early retirement incentive despite subsequent independent contractor service (PERA) (Sec. 2)
- HF1424 (Dorn) Allows late purchase of extended leave of absence with full actuarial value payment, including mandatory employer payment (TRA) (Sec. 3)
- HF99 (Brown) Allows purchase of service credit by a Swift County employee at full actuarial value (PERA) (Sec. 4)

#### Article 3: Pension plan administrative provisions

- SF767 (Stumpf) Modifies interest calculation on certain death refunds (MSRS) (Sec. 1)
- SF767 (Stumpf) Includes deceased former MSRS members in death-while-eligible-to- retire survivor benefit coverage (MSRS) (Sec. 2)
- SF767 (Stumpf) Includes deceased former MSRS members in term certain survivor annuity election provision (MSRS) (Sec. 3)
- SF767 (Stumpf) Modifies interest calculation on certain death refunds (MSRS) (Sec. 4)
- SF767 (Stumpf) Provides disability benefit coverage to age 65 (State Patrol) (Sec. 5)
- HF617 (Johnson, R.) Redefines exception to member definition to include person electing non-TRA coverage (TRA) (Sec. 6)
- HF617 (Johnson, R.) Modifies definition of "salary" to exclude employer contributions to Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plan (TRA) (Sec. 7)
- HF617 (Johnson, R.) Allows application and other filings on due date rather than before due date (TRA) (Sec. 8)
- HF617 (Johnson, R.) Changes headnote to conform with provision (TRA) (Sec. 9)
- HF617 (Johnson, R.) Requires 85 day post break-in-service for benefit increase eligibility (TRA) (Sec. 10)
- HF617 (Johnson, R.) Requires employers to report member birth dates (TRA) (Sec. 11)
- HF1042 (Dawkins) Requires StPTRFA to fully disclose the supplemental administrative expense to its active and retired membership, and procedures for assessing the charge to the various membership groups (StPTRFA) (Sec. 12)
- HF617 (Johnson, R.) Requires 85 day post break-in-service service for benefit increase eligibility (First Class City Teachers) (Sec. 13)
- HF1403 (Jefferson) Implements new salary increase assumptions as adopted by the LCPR (TRA, PERA General, MSRS General) (Sec. 14)
- HF1403 (Jefferson) Specifies five percent payroll growth assumption for MSRS General and TRA, 6 percent payroll growth assumption for PERA (TRA, PERA General, MSRS General) (Sec. 15)

SF751 (Riveness) Requires employer to comply with all federal laws governing 403(b) tax-sheltered annuity plans (various plans) (Sec. 16)

HF617 (Johnson, R.) Mandates bylaw change to implement 85 day post break-in-service service eligibility requirement (First Class City Teachers) (Sec. 19)

HF617 (Johnson, R.) Revisor instruction related to "association" and "fund" references (TRA) (Sec. 20)

#### **Article 4: IRAP recodification and modifications**

HF1092 (Kahn) State Board of Investment law; revises Supplemental Plan cross-references (IRAP, Supplemental Plan) (Sec. 1)

HF1092 (Kahn) MSRS Unclassified; eliminates Unclassified Plan coverage for newly hired higher education board personnel with access to IRAP coverage (IRAP) (Sec. 2)

HF1092 (Kahn) Teachers Retirement Association law; revises cross-references to IRAP; clarifies references to IRAP membership groups (IRAP) (Sec. 3)

HF1092 (Kahn) Excludes from the city teacher plan teaching service incidental to regular employment and part-time teaching less than 300 hours per fiscal year (IRAP) (Sec. 4)

HF1092 (Kahn) Social Security law; revises cross-references to IRAP (IRAP) (Sec. 5)

HF1092 (Kahn) Supplemental plan restrictions; revises cross-references to IRAP (IRAP) (Sec. 6)

HF1092 (Kahn) Provides definitions for 18 special terms and phrases used in the recodification; includes community college and technical college presidents in IRAP (IRAP) (Sec. 7)

HF1092 (Kahn) Specifies the coverage of the IRAP plan including unclassified community college positions; requires coverage elections in 90 days and provided for default coverage if no timely election is made; clarifies coverage for acting employees; allows for payments for prior uncovered service; eliminates references to MSRS Unclassified Plan membership option; continues first class city teacher plan coverage unless individual changing employment elects IRAP; retains TRA or first class city teacher retirement plan coverage for former technical college faculty reclassified as non-faculty after higher education system merger; eliminates lump-sum option for prior service credit purchase (IRAP) (Sec. 8)

HF1092 (Kahn) Provides Social Security coverage for IRAP members; makes pension coverage a condition of employment (Sec. 9)

HF1092 (Kahn) Specifies the member and employer contribution rates and methods; authorizes payments for omitted member deductions; allows for the transfer of certain prior TRA member contributions for transferring members; shifts omitted contribution liability to the employer after 60 days (IRAP) (Sec. 10)

HF1092 (Kahn) Authorizes continuation of IRAP coverage during sabbatical leaves (IRAP) (Sec. 11)

HF1092 (Kahn) Provides that the general governance of the plan is by the higher education board, either directly or by contract, with the State Board of Investment responsible for selecting the financial institutions providing investment options for the plan; specifies that investment options include mutual funds (IRAP) (Sec. 12)

HF1092 (Kahn) Transferred TRA members; clarifies that former TRA members who transferred to IRAP have deferred annuity right to TRA benefit (IRAP) (Sec. 13)

HF1092 (Kahn) IRAP Investments; clarifies that loans and pre-termination distributions are not allowed (IRAP) (Sec. 14)

HF1092 (Kahn) Supplemental retirement plan is continued under the higher education board (IRAP, TRA, Supplemental Plan) (Sec. 15)

HF1092 (Kahn) Specifies the coverage of the Supplemental Plan based on collective bargaining units; eligibility for plan survives break in service (IRAP, TRA, Supplemental Plan) (Sec. 16)

HF1092 (Kahn) Specifies Supplemental Plan member and employer contribution rate and methods; authorizes payments for omitted member deductions; provides for payment of administrative expenses; shifts omitted contributions liability to employer after 60 days (IRAP, TRA, Supplemental Plan) (Sec. 17)

HF1092 (Kahn) Requires the higher education board to administer the Supplemental Plan (IRAP, TRA, Supplemental Plan) (Sec. 18)

HF1092 (Kahn) Provides for the investment of Supplemental Plan assets and contributions (IRAP, TRA, Supplemental Plan) (Sec. 19)

HF1092 (Kahn) Provides for Supplemental Plan redemption of Minnesota Supplemental Investment Fund shares and non-Minnesota Supplemental Investment Fund investments (IRAP, TRA, Supplemental Plan) (Sec. 20)

HF1092 (Kahn) Provides for the payment of Supplemental Plan benefits upon death or employment termination (IRAP, TRA, Supplemental Plan) (Sec. 21)

HF1092 (Kahn) Clarifies that loans and pre-termination distributions are not permitted from Supplemental Plan investments (IRAP, TRA, Supplemental Plan) (Sec. 22)

HF1092 (Kahn) Authorizes tax-sheltered retirement savings programs (IRAP, TRA, Supplemental Plan) (Sec. 23)

HF1092 (Kahn) Authorizes the higher education board to issue rules for the plan (IRAP, TRA, Supplemental Plan) (Sec. 24)

HF1092 (Kahn) Specifies that the recodification must not be construed to effect any accrued pension rights in IRAP (IRAP) (Sec. 25)

HF1092 (Kahn) Specifies that the recodification must not be construed to effect any accrued pension rights in the Supplemental Plan (IRAP) (Sec. 26)

HF1092 (Kahn) Specifies that the MSRS Unclassified Plan coverage changes do not apply to current higher education board employees with coverage under that plan (IRAP) (Sec. 27)

HF1092 (Kahn) Instructs revisor to correct any cross-references based on current law or future pending higher education legislation (IRAP) (Sec. 28)

HF1092 (Kahn) Requires revisor to recode current Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 354C, as Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 354D (IRAP) (Sec. 29)

HF1092 (Kahn) Repeals current IRAP general laws, various IRAP special laws, and current supplemental retirement plan (IRAP, TRA, Supplemental Plan) (Sec. 30)

HF1092 (Kahn) Sections 1 through 30 are effective July 1, 1995 (IRAP) (Sec. 31)

#### **HF1040\*/SF806 (Kahn)**

#### **Omnibus pension bill for benefit modifications**

#### **Article 1: Statewide general employee pension plan benefits and relate modifications**

HF119 (Greiling) Part-time teaching participants must be allowed to return to full time teaching positions if the employer will not make full employer contributions (Teacher Plans) (Sec. 1)

HF1040 (Kahn) Permits unclassified administrators to receive paid healthcare under postretirement higher education return to employment provision (TRA) (Sec. 2)

HF1403 (Jefferson) Revises salary definition to exclude employer contributions to deferred compensation and tax-sheltered annuity plans, and benevolent vacation and sick leave donation programs (MSRS) (Sec. 3)

HF1040 (Kahn) Permits unclassified administrators access to higher education postretirement return to employment provision which waives reemployed annuitant reductions on \$35,000 in salary (TRA) (Sec. 4)

HF119 (Greiling) Eliminates mandatory employer contribution payment for qualified part-time teaching participants with 20 years of service (TRA) (Sec. 5)

HF119 (Greiling) Eliminates mandatory employer contribution provision for qualified part-time teaching participants with 20 years of service (First Class City Teacher Plans) (Sec. 6)

HF1040 (Kahn) Changes reference to higher education board rather than state university and community college boards in purchase of annuity contract provision (IRAP) (Sec. 7)

HF1040 (Kahn) Corrects reference to Higher Education Board in selection of financial institution provision (IRAP) (Sec. 8)

HF1040 (Kahn) Eligibility for the Supplemental Plan survives a break in service (Supplemental Plan) (Sec. 9)

HF1040 (Kahn) Corrects reference in redemption provision to higher education system (Supplemental Plan) (Sec. 10)

HF1040 (Kahn) Corrects reference in administration provision to higher education system (Supplemental Plan) (Sec. 11)

HF617 (Johnson, R.) Permits TRA basic members to receive 2.63 percent service accrual rate rather than 2.50 percent under the combined service annuity provision (TRA) (Sec. 12)

HF1403 (Jefferson) Permits members of major plans to repay partial refunds (Various plans) (Sec. 13)

HF1403 (Jefferson) Establishes federal limits on contributions and benefit payments (Various plans) (Sec. 14)

HF119 (Greiling) Provides authority for certain part-time teachers not participating in qualified part-time teaching program on account of 1994 law changes to make additional contributions (Teacher Plans) (Sec. 15)

SF1145 (Kroening) Authorizes early retirement incentive to certain employees of Metropolitan Council, Metropolitan Parks and Open Spaces Commission, Metropolitan Airports Commission, Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission and the Historical Society (Sec. 16)

SF1145 (Kroening) To be eligible for early retirement incentives authorized by Section 16, the individual must have at least 25 years of total or combined service, be at least age 55 and eligible for an annuity, and retire after May 23, 1995, and before Jan. 31, 1996 (Sec. 17)

SF1145 (Kroening) Employees under Sections 16 and 17 offered increase in formula annuity or paid healthcare to age 65 (Sec. 18)

SF1145 (Kroening) Rehiring individuals who retire under the early retirement incentive is prohibited (Sec. 19)

SF1145 (Kroening) Individuals under the early retirement incentive are assumed to retire upon termination and application for retirement benefits (Sec. 20)

SF1145 (Kroening) Individuals under the early retirement incentive are eligible for a continuation of the employer insurance coverage and health benefits they had prior to termination (Sec. 21)

SF1145 (Kroening) Positions covered by the early retirement incentives are only those subject to downsizing and restructuring (Sec. 22)

SF1145 (Kroening) Employer must pay the full additional actuarial cost of the increased formula annuities to the retirement plan before July 1, 1997, with 8.5 percent interest (Sec. 23)

SF1145 (Kroening) The early retirement incentives are not an unfair labor practice under Chapter 179A (Sec. 24)

HF1403 (Jefferson) Provision permitting a legislator elected in special election to receive service credit for entire session is repealed; provision permitting continued MSRS General coverage when

person moves to position normally covered by TRA is repealed (Legislator's Plan, MSRS General, TRA) (Sec. 25)

Effective Date: Sections 1, 5, 6, 9, and 14 effective July 1, 1995; Sections 3 and 15 through 24 are effective the day following final enactment; Section 12 is effective May 16, 1994; Section 25 is effective July 1, 1995 and is not intended to reduce the service credit of any legislator with service rendered prior to July 1, 1995 (Sec. 26)

## Article 2: Local general employee pension plan benefit and related modifications

HF1427 (Jefferson) Authorizes Minneapolis to levy for the supplemental contributions described in section 4 below (MTRFA) (Sec. 1)

HF1142 (Jaros) Employee contribution rate increased from 4.5 to 5.5 percent of pay (DTRFA) (Sec. 2)

HF1427 (Jefferson) Authorizes city of Minneapolis additional levy authority to cover additional contribution to MTRFA (Sec. 3)

HF1427 (Jefferson) Each year Minneapolis must contribute to MTRFA an additional contribution equal to (1) the difference between the 1995 city contribution to MERF and that contribution as required in the most recent valuation; and (2) the difference between the additional proportionate employer contribution on \$3.9 million on behalf of school district employees covered by MERF in the 1995 valuation, and the corresponding amount in the most recent valuation (MTRFA) (Sec. 4)

HF1427 (Jefferson) An additional state contribution to MTRFA is required, equal to the difference between \$11,005,000 and the required state contribution to MERF in the current year (MTRFA) (Sec. 5)

HF1427 (Jefferson) The new aids to MTRFA by the city in Section 4 and the state in Section 5 terminate when the MTRFA funding ratio matches TRA's ratio (MTRFA) (Sec. 6)

HF1016 (Jaros) Removes authority to pay 13th check (DTRFA) (Sec. 7)

HF1016 (Jaros) Annuity payments increased 2 percent annually to those who have received benefits at least one year (DTRFA) (Sec. 8)

HF1016 (Jaros) Provides investment based postretirement adjustment based on five-year annualized return above 8.5 percent, with adjustment for the contribution deficiency and the funding ratio (DTRFA) (Sec. 9)

HF1427 (Jefferson) The MTRFA investment based post-retirement adjustment must be reduced by multiplying by the funding ratio to determine the increase payable (Sec. 10)

HF1142 (Jaros) Increases accrual rates used in computing annuities by .16 percent (DTRFA) (Sec. 11)

HF493 (Jefferson) Permits MERF to deduct health insurance premiums from annuitant checks and pay to insurer (MERF) (Sec. 12)

HF493 (Jefferson) Authorizes labor union officials to be MERF members although they may not be representing primarily MERF employees (MERF) (Sec. 13)

HF1427 (Jefferson) Minneapolis shall levy an amount equal to the 1995 city contribution MERF requirement. Any amounts above that needed in the current year to cover MERF funding requirements will be deposited in MTRFA (MTRFA; MERF) (Sec. 14)

HF1016 (Jaros) Establishes base for transitioning from 13th check to investment based percentage increase (DTRFA) (Sec. 15)

HF1142 (Jaros) Authorizes DTRFA Old Law Plan to use 1.41 percent service accrual rate (DTRFA) (Sec. 16)

HF1016 (Jaros) Authorizes DTRFA to amend its bylaws consistent with changes provided in this article (DTRFA) (Sec. 17)



HF1016 (Jaros) Repeals Section 354A.27, Subdivisions 2, 3, and 4, relating to the 13th check (DTRFA) (Sec. 18)  
Effective Date: Sections 1 and 3 to 6, 10, 12, and 13 are effective the day following enactment; Section 2 is effective July 1, 1995; Sections 7, 8, 9, 15, 17, and 19 are effective November 1, 1995; Sections 11 and 16 are effective May 15, 1995 (Various) (Sec. 19)

### Article 3: Public safety employee plan benefit and related modifications

HF463 (Johnson, R.) Increases member contribution rate by 0.42 percent of pay (State Patrol) (Sec. 1)  
HF463 (Johnson, R.) Increases benefit accrual rate from 2.5 percent to 2.65 percent (State Patrol) (Sec. 2)  
HF463 (Johnson, R.) Increases minimum duty disability benefit from 50 percent to 53 percent (State Patrol) (Sec. 3)  
HF970 (Bertram) Replaces PERA-P&F actuarial reductions for early retirement with 2.4% per year reduction (PERA-P&F) (Sec. 4)  
HF463 (Johnson, R.) HF 617 (Johnson, R.) Increases the maximum benefit accrual rates for the Combined Service Annuity to 2.65 percent of final average salary for the State Patrol Retirement Fund (State Patrol) (Sec. 5)  
Blended Amendment. Extends time limit for approval of local law which would provide PERA-P&F coverage to Hennepin County paramedics (PERA-P&F) (Sec. 6)  
Effective Date: Section 6 is effective the day following final enactment; remaining sections effective July 1, 1995 (Sec. 7)

### Article 4: Additional police and fire amortization aid

HF995 (Johnson, R.) On Oct. 1, 1996, excess police aid in the excess contribution holding account collected during fiscal year 1996 must be allocated among police and paid fire relief associations and consolidated accounts (if the 1993 PERA-P&F accrual rate increase is approved) based on the relative unfunded liability as of Dec. 31, 1993, for relief associations, and June 30, 1994, for consolidation accounts (Paid police and fire relief associations, consolidation accounts that approve 1993 PERA-P&F accrual rate increase) (Sec. 1)  
Effective Date: Section 1 is effective the day following final enactment (Sec. 2)

### Article 5: Higher education system insurance premium initiative

HF1505 (Kahn) Employer funded healthcare provided to certain individuals in state universities, community colleges, and technical colleges where downsizing is occurring. Benefit ceases if health coverage is received from a subsequent employer (Sec. 1)  
HF1505 (Kahn) Employee receiving benefit under section 1 must notify system of healthcare coverage supplied by a subsequent employer (Sec. 2)  
HF1505 (Kahn) Effective Date: Section 1 is effective the day following final enactment (Sec. 3)

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## Frequently called numbers

Secretary of the Senate  
231 Capitol ..... 296-2344  
Voice mail/order bills ..... 296-2343  
Chief Clerk of the House  
211 Capitol ..... 296-2314  
Index, Senate  
110 Capitol ..... 296-2887  
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175 State Office Building ..... 296-2146  
Committee Hotline, Senate ..... 296-8088

Committee Hotline, House ..... 296-9283  
Sergeant at Arms, Senate  
Senate Chamber ..... 296-7159  
Sergeant at Arms, House  
45 State Office Building ..... 296-4860  
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G-17 Capitol ..... 296-4791  
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600 State Office Building ..... 296-6753  
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130 Capitol ..... 296-3391  
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102 Capitol ..... 296-6196  
Secretary of State's Office  
180 State Office Building ..... 296-3266  
Capitol Security  
B-4 Capitol ..... 296-6741  
Emergency ..... 296-2100  
TDD\* Senate ..... 296-0250  
TDD\* House ..... 296-9896 or 1-800-657-3550

\*Telecommunication Device for the Deaf

# Bills Sent to the Governor

## Bills await the governor's signature — or veto

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
- do nothing, which results in the bill becoming law in the first year of the biennium.

The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is this: the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays aren't counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include

a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
111*	47	94	Relating to solid waste; merging two conflicting amendments to the solid waste generator assessment statute that were enacted in 1994.	5/3/95	
112	565	501	Relating to metropolitan area housing; authorizing the Metropolitan Council to operate a federal section 8 housing program within the metropolitan area pursuant to joint exercise of powers agreements.	5/3/95	
113	1060	810	Relating to local government; excluding certain fire and police department employees from civil service in the city of South St. Paul.	5/3/95	
114	813	974	Relating to human services; establishing a temporary payment rate for a recently purchased intermediate care facility for persons with mental retardation or related conditions.	5/3/95	
115	877	949	Relating to insurance; private passenger vehicle insurance; providing for a premium reduction for vehicles having antitheft alarms or devices.	5/3/95	
116	68	68	Relating to insurance; requiring insurers to offer alternative methods for the payment of group life policy proceeds.	5/3/95	
117	1485	1171	Relating to occupations and professions; permitting protective agents to perform certain traffic control duties.		5/4/95
118	1011	1015	Relating to traffic regulations; prohibiting radar jammers.	5/3/95	
119	1320	1073	Relating to the environment; establishing a private cause of action for abandonment of hazardous waste.	5/5/95	
120	383	340	Relating to traffic regulations; clarifying conditions when covering motor vehicle head lamp, tail lamp, or reflector is unlawful, etc.	5/5/95	
121	1425	1250	Relating to tax-forfeited land; modifying the terms of payment for certain tax-forfeited timber.	5/5/95	
122	1626	1572	Relating to state government; prohibiting investment of public funds in certain assets.	5/5/95	
123	733	1547	Relating to employment; modifying provisions relating to high pressure piping installation; providing penalties.	5/5/95	
124	54	279	Relating to state government; directing the governor, attorney general, and other public officers to perform certain duties in regard to certain waters and public lands.	Approved without signature	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
125	354	807	Relating to utilities; allowing small gas utility franchises an exemption from rate regulation for incidental utility service.	5/5/95	
126	1194	947	Relating to state government; allocating certain appropriations to regional arts council.	5/5/95	
127	1008	606	Relating to family law; authorizing courts to require parties to participate in orientation programs in proceedings involving children.	5/5/95	
128	399	559	Relating to business organizations; clarifying corporate authority with respect to rights to purchase; regulating filings and related matters; providing for service of process.	5/5/95	
129	32	29	Relating to marriage; authorizing retired court administrators to solemnize marriages.	5/5/95	
130	651	591	Relating to probate; clarifying and correcting provisions of the uniform probate code; expanding authority for safe deposit box searches, etc.	5/5/95	
131	244	306	Relating to employment; establishing the governor's workforce development council to replace certain other councils.	5/5/95	
132	273	455	Relating to motor vehicles; allowing license plates for collector vehicles to be transferred and reissued; imposing fees.	5/8/95	
133	266	180	Relating to peace officers; authorizing certain expenditures by a surviving spouse from a dependent child's share of peace officer's survivor benefits.	Approved without signature	
134	1460	1374	Relating to government; modifying a budget report date for cities; modifying certain budget publication requirements.	5/8/95	
135	1602	1420	Relating to health; establishing provisions for mobile health care providers.	5/8/95	
136	331	309	Relating to health; modifying provisions relating to access to patients and residents.	5/8/95	
137	586	553	Relating to motor vehicles; authorizing sale and disposal of unauthorized, abandoned, and junk vehicles by impound lots.	5/8/95	
138	624	493	Relating to public employees; providing a leave of absence for public employees who are candidates for elective office.		5/9/95
139	694	608	Relating to human services; modifying child care programs and county contribution.	5/8/95	
140	1308	973	Relating to insurance; automobile; permitting users of rental vehicles to benefit from lower price rental periods without losing coverage.	5/8/95	
141	617	561	Relating to retirement; various public pension plans; providing for the suspension of forfeiture of certain survivor benefits in the event of certain felonious deaths; etc.	5/10/95	
142	927	864	Relating to domestic abuse; eliminating hearing requirements in certain cases; providing for notices.	5/10/95	
143	1048	846	Relating to commerce; regulating videotape distributions; requiring certain captioning for deaf or hard of hearing persons; providing penalties and remedies.	5/10/95	
144	1052	565	Relating to the federal lien registration act; imposing duties on filing officers; providing for filing of notices and of certificates of discharge; designating an official index; providing for the transmission of certain information.	5/10/95	
145	1402	1163	Relating to motor vehicles; authorizing issuance of original license plates 20 or more years old to a registered passenger automobile; authorizing registrar to charge a fee.	5/10/95	
146	1003	1075	Relating to health; modifying provisions relating to X-ray operators and inspections; establishing an advisory committee.	5/10/95	
147	1018	1067	Relating to the environment; conforming state regulation of chlorofluorocarbons to federal law.	5/10/95	
148	1371	1272	Relating to commerce; securities; regulating disclosure of payment received for directing order flow.	5/10/95	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
149	1252	1051	Relating to emergency telephone services; requiring provider of cellular telephone services to include in its billings a notice regarding 911 calls.	5/11/95	
150	1082	1407	Relating to cooperatives; permitting certain optional voting systems for cooperatives that have other cooperatives as members.	5/10/95	
151	217	139	Relating to insurance; life; regulating living benefits settlements; adopting the NAIC viatical settlements model act; prescribing powers and duties; appropriating money.	5/10/95	
152	751	649	Relating to insurance; regulating trade practices; prohibiting certain insurance agent quotas.	5/10/95	
153	1709	1523	Relating to the city of Chanhassen; authorizing certain bid specifications for playground equipment on an experimental basis.	5/10/95	
154	1437	1152	Relating to employment; requiring disclosure to recruited employees in the food processing industry.	5/10/95	
155	1174	1091	Relating to transportation; expanding authority of commissioner of transportation to regulate providers of special transportation service; classifying data; providing for administrative fees and penalties.	5/10/95	
156	620	752	Relating to telecommunications; allowing for alternative regulation of telephone companies for a limited period; authorizing rulemaking to promote fair and reasonable competition for local exchange service.	5/10/95	
157	416	308	Relating to crime prevention; authorizing special registration plates for certain persons subject to an impoundment order.		5/10/95
158	1246	532	Relating to child care; requiring child care for school age children not operated by a school to be licensed; changing the definition of toddler and preschooler for family day care programs serving siblings.	5/11/95	
159	474	243	Relating to state lands; authorizing the sale of certain tax-forfeited lands bordering public waters in Dakota county to the city of Eagan.	5/11/95	
160	1524	1402	Relating to state government; asking state employees to submit suggestions to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state government.		5/12/95
161	1256	890	Relating to energy; adopting energy standards for air conditioners, certain gas-burning equipment, lamps, motors, showerheads, and faucets.	5/11/95	
162	1678	1472	Relating to drainage; allowing an outlet fee to be charged for use of an established drainage system in Red Lake County as an outlet for drainage originating in Polk County.	5/11/95	
163	1617	1404	Relating to insurance; regulating reinsurance intermediaries; providing for the investment of funds held by reinsurance intermediaries.		
164	1442	1417	Relating to health; occupations and professions; modifying provisions relating to the office of mental health practice; licensing of chemical dependency counselors and hearing instrument dispensers.		
165	1037	425	Relating to health; providing rulemaking authority; modifying enforcement and fee provisions; modifying the hearing instrument dispenser trainee period.		
166	1469	870	Relating to elevator safety; changing responsibility for certain administrative and enforcement activities; changing certain exemptions; imposing penalties.		
167	1808	1543	Relating to public finance; changing procedures for allocating bonding authority; changing provisions relating to housing programs and plans.		
168	1479	1314	Relating to the environment; establishing an environmental improvement pilot program to promote voluntary compliance with environmental requirements; modifying provisions relating to the voluntary investigation and cleanup program.		
169	536	1263	Relating to commerce; residential building contractors; regulating licensees; providing a clarification.		
170	1159	1056	Relating to real property; authorizing municipalities to establish trust or escrow accounts for proceeds from losses arising from fire or explosion of certain insured real property; authorizing municipalities to utilize escrowed funds to secure, repair, or demolish damaged or destroyed structures.		
171	1573	1469	Relating to financial institutions; regulating savings banks; modifying and clarifying statutory provisions relating to the structure and functions of savings banks.		
172	493	803	Relating to retirement; various local public employee pension plan; providing for various benefit modifications and related changes that require local governing body approval.		



Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
173	248	375	Relating to energy; directing the electric energy task force to consider new preferred alternative energy sources; providing for incentive payments to closed system pumped hydropower facilities.		
174	1434	965	Relating to transportation; authorizing issuance of permits for 12-foot wide loads of baled straw; changing classification and endorsement requirements to operate a vehicle carrying liquid fertilizer.		
175	1291	1112	Relating to local government; authorizing Sherburne County to convey certain county ditches to the city of Elk River under certain conditions; granting certain powers to the town of Embarrass.		
176	833	841	Relating to local government; modifying certain provisions relating to comprehensive municipal planning in the metropolitan area.	5/17/95	
177	446	307	Relating to occupations and professions; establishing licensure for acupuncture practitioners by the Board of Medical Practice.	5/17/95	
178	005	001	Relating to health and human services; authorizing welfare reform; childhood immunization, social service programs, etc. (Welfare Reform Bill)	5/18/95	Line item
179	1399	1274	Relating to crime; imposing penalties for assaulting a police horse while it is being used for law enforcement purposes.	5/17/95	
180	503	273	Relating to water; providing for the classification of water supply systems and wastewater treatment facilities and certification of operators by the department of health and the pollution control agency.	5/18/95	
181	606	526	Relating to local government; modifying the local requirements for the Nashwauk area ambulance district law; providing an alternative appointment method for the St. Paul charter commission; etc.		
182	1377	1270	Relating to agriculture; clarifying certain procedures for agricultural chemical response reimbursement.	5/18/95	
183	1742	1590	Relating to health; insurance; providing for certain breast cancer coverage.	5/18/95	
184	1238	897	Relating to waters; planning, development, review, reporting, and coordination of surface and groundwater management in the metropolitan area.		
185	113	74	Relating to legislative enactments; providing for the correction of miscellaneous oversights, inconsistencies, ambiguities, unintended results, and technical errors of a noncontroversial nature.	5/18/95	
186	1556	1118	Relating to Minnesota Statutes; correcting erroneous, ambiguous, and omitted text and obsolete references; eliminating certain redundant, conflicting, and superseded provisions; making miscellaneous technical corrections to statutes and other laws.	5/18/95	
187	432	342	Relating to children; modifying liability provisions for child abuse investigations; providing for attorney fees in certain actions; providing for the establishment of protocols for investigations, etc.	5/18/95	
188	120	155	Relating to wild animals; authorizing poultry farmers to trap great horned owls.		
189	33	16	Relating to health; modifying provisions relating to the administration and prescription of neuroleptic medications; changing the name of a court in certain circumstances.		
190	1093	910	Relating to telecommunications; eliminating the telecommunication access for communication-impaired persons board; creating telecommunication access duties for the departments of public service and human services, etc.		
191	1356	1173	Relating to telecommunications; regulating the sale of local exchange service territory.		
192	323	249	Relating to housing; making the landlord the bill payer and customer of record on utility accounts in single-metered multi-unit residential buildings.		
193	990	1479	Relating to consumer protection; providing warranties for new assistive devices; providing enforcement procedures.		
194	1185	732	Relating to commerce; enacting the revised article 8 of the uniform commercial code proposed by the national conference of commissioners on uniform state laws.		
195	597	467	Relating to metropolitan government; providing for coordination and consolidation of public safety radio communications, systems, etc.		
196	797	537	Relating to drivers' licenses; providing conditions for validity of state contracts; requiring refund of license fee if a qualified applicant does not receive a license, duplicate license, permit, or ID card within six weeks of application, etc.		

# Bill Introductions

HF1911-HF1938

## Friday, May 12

HF1911—Dawkins (DFL)

### Judiciary

Fetal alcohol exposure screening required for children under juvenile court jurisdiction.

## Monday, May 15

HF1912—Bishop (IR)

### Education

Polytechnic institute development plan requested for Rochester Community College campus.

HF1913—Tunheim (DFL)

### Rules & Legislative Administration

Root-Bryce Treaty; President and Congress memorialized to resolve the game fishing border dispute between Minnesota and Ontario by investigating Minnesotans' rights under the Root-Bryce Treaty.

HF1914—Greiling (DFL)

### Taxes

Tax class rates on certain residential property reduced and additional state aid provided.

HF1915—Tunheim (DFL)

### Taxes

School district property taxes reduced, tax class rate for certain agricultural property reduced, and income taxes increased.

HF1916—Bakk (DFL)

### Governmental Operations

Alternative retirement coverage provided for certain state university and community college teachers.

HF1917—Milbert (DFL)

### Ways & Means

National Hockey League athletic organization financing and ownership provisions provided, certain sports facilities conditions for use provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

## Tuesday, May 16

HF1918—McGuire (DFL)

### Judiciary

Private corrections treatment facilities that receive patients under court or administrative order provided liability limits.

HF1919—Lynch (IR)

### Financial Institutions & Insurance

Automobile insurance premium rate surcharge minimum threshold for claims provided.

## Wednesday, May 17

HF1920—Skoglund (DFL)

### Rules & Legislative Administration

Foreign limited liability partnership definition related to the Uniform Partnership Act modified.

HF1921—Greiling (DFL)

### Education

Braille reading and writing competence required by teachers of the visually impaired.

HF1922—Marko (DFL)

### Transportation & Transit

Municipal involvement in certain trunk highway construction projects authorized and construction projects task force appointment provided.

HF1923—Pugh (DFL)

### Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Minnesota Professional Employer Organization Act adopted.

HF1924—Pugh (DFL)

### Financial Institutions & Insurance

Insurance fraud unit created in commerce department, powers and duties prescribed, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF1925—Kalis (DFL)

### Transportation & Transit

Junior driver's license issuance by public safety commissioner authorized.

## Thursday, May 18

HF1926—Huntley (DFL)

### Health & Human Services

Dental hygiene practice regulated.

HF1927—Hackbarth (IR)

### Judiciary

Child support consideration of other children in setting provided, and existence of other children deemed grounds for child support modification.

HF1928—Rostberg (IR)

### Rules & Legislative Administration

Non-partisan legislature implementation study required by the legislative coordinating commission.

HF1929—Macklin (IR)

### Judiciary

Prosecution final rebuttal argument provided.

HF1930—Koppendrayner (IR)

### Education

Teacher probationary and continuing contract review provisions modified.

HF1931—Simoneau (DFL)

### Judiciary

Claims against accountants limited, health care provider and medical product manufacturer non-economic losses liability limited and contingency fees provided, fees of attorney agreement provided, and punitive damages limitation provided.

HF1932—Swenson, D. (IR)

### Judiciary

Juvenile court hearings certification and extended jurisdiction time requirements modified, court consideration of public safety and victim restoration required, and child under age 12 placement in long-term foster care authorized.

HF1933—Swenson, D. (IR)

### Labor-Management Relations

Employment references given in good faith provided civil liability immunity.

HF1934—Erhardt (IR)

### Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Securities face-amount certificate companies, open-end management companies, and unit investment trusts calculation of registration fees and uniform expiration, renewal, and reporting provided, and certain registration exemptions provided.

HF1935—Koppendrayner (IR)

### Governmental Operations

State mandated programs and procedures funding provided.

HF1936—Farrell (DFL)

### Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Fuel burner, heating, air conditioning, ventilation, refrigeration, steam, and hot water equipment systems installation and repair regulated in certain cities.

HF1937—Krinkie (IR)

### Governmental Operations

Legislators and constitutional officers required to resign on filing for another elective office or accepting an appointment to another office, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1938—Boudreau (IR)

### Environment & Natural Resources

Dog group training on state wildlife management areas prohibited.

## Order Form

A publication summarizing the new laws of 1995 will provide brief summaries of the bills that were passed by both the House and the Senate and signed by the governor during the current legislative session. The publication will be ready soon after the session ends. Copies will be mailed to those who order them.

Do you want to receive a copy of the 1995 new laws publication? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please place this form (with the mailing label on the back) in an envelope. Mail it by June 10, 1995, to: *Session Weekly*, House Public Information Office, 175 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.

### 1995 *Session Weekly* Readership Survey

Please take a moment to tell us what you think about the *Session Weekly*. Your opinions will help us plan for next year.

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☐ Once a month ☐ Twice a month ☐ Three times a month ☐ Every week

2. On which day of the week does the *Session Weekly* usually reach your mailbox? \_\_\_\_\_

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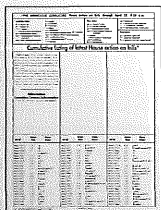
☐ Highlights ☐ Informational material (lists, etc.) ☐ Features ☐ Minnesota Index  
☐ Bill Introductions ☐ Committee Schedule ☐ Do You Know? It's a Fact! ☐ Member profiles

4. Due to a staff reduction, we were unable to provide you with bill tracking sections this year. Would you like to see them restored next year?



Committee, Floor  
& Final Action

☐ Yes ☐ No



Cumulative listing of  
latest action on bills

☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments:

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5. In the last few issues of *Session Weekly*, we have printed unofficial listings of 1995 House files that have been incorporated into other bills. Do you find this information useful? ☐ Yes ☐ No

6. On a scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high), rate the following aspects of the *Session Weekly*? (Circle one number in each set)

Writing	Difficult to understand	1	2	OK	3	4	Easy to understand	5
Story Length	Too short	1	2	Too long	3	4	Just right	5
Readability (type size)	Too small	1	2	Too large	3	4	Just right	5
Photographs	Poor	1	2	Average	3	4	Excellent	5
Layout	Poor	1	2	Average	3	4	Excellent	5

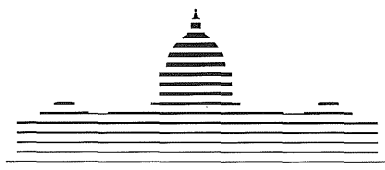
7. What do you like about the *Session Weekly*? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Do you have any suggestions for improving the *Session Weekly*? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. We plan to include a Q & A column next year when space allows. If you have a question about the Minnesota House of Representatives or the legislative process, please write it here. \_\_\_\_\_



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

Speaker of the House: Irv Anderson  
Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Hockey and Minnesota

High school hockey teams in Minnesota, boys .....	148
Girls teams .....	36
Estimated number of hockey players there will be in the year 2000, boys ....	72,306
Girls .....	10,960
Percent of prime ice time at indoor arenas to be reserved for girls hockey teams (as required by law) 1996-1997 hockey season .....	50
Year that the Minnesota North Stars came to the state .....	1967
Number of seasons the North Stars played in Minnesota .....	26
Year the Minnesota Fighting Saints (of the World Hockey Association) came ..	1972
Years the Saints lasted .....	4
Number of the seven World Hockey Association championships won by the Winnipeg Jets .....	3
Year the Winnipeg Jets became members of the National Hockey League (NHL) .....	1979
Number of NHL championships the team has won .....	0
Number of Canadian citizens who stepped up to buy a stake in the Winnipeg Jets, 1975 .....	5,000
Range in the amount of money invested by individual citizens .....	\$25 - \$25,000
Amount Gov. Arne Carlson is willing to provide in state assistance to help bring the Jets to Minnesota, in millions .....	\$15
Number of seasons former North Star Lorne "Gump" Worsley played professional hockey .....	24
Number of those seasons the former goalie wore a protective mask, (saying "my face is my mask") .....	1
Year that the NHL imposed the rule that there may be only one goalie, per team, on the ice at any one time .....	1931
Years since the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame opened in Eveleth, Minn. ....	22
Cost to get in, adult .....	\$3
Annual visitors per year, estimate .....	10,000
Seating capacity of the National Hockey Center on the St. Cloud State University campus .....	7,000
State investment to build the facility, in millions, 1987 .....	\$9.5
Maximum number of uniformed cheerleaders admitted free of charge, per participating school, at the Boys High School Hockey Tournament .....	6
Number of girls who have played in the Boys High School Hockey Tournament, (Amber Hegland of Farmington, 1994) .....	1
Year the first Girls High School Hockey Tournament was held .....	1995

Sources: *The Complete Encyclopedia of Hockey*, edited by Zander Hollander, *Developing a Plan for the Stable Operation of the United States Hockey Hall of Fame*, U.S. Department of Commerce, *Report to the Legislature*, Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission Ice Arena Task Force, United States Hockey Hall of Fame, Minnesota State High School League.



### For more information . . .

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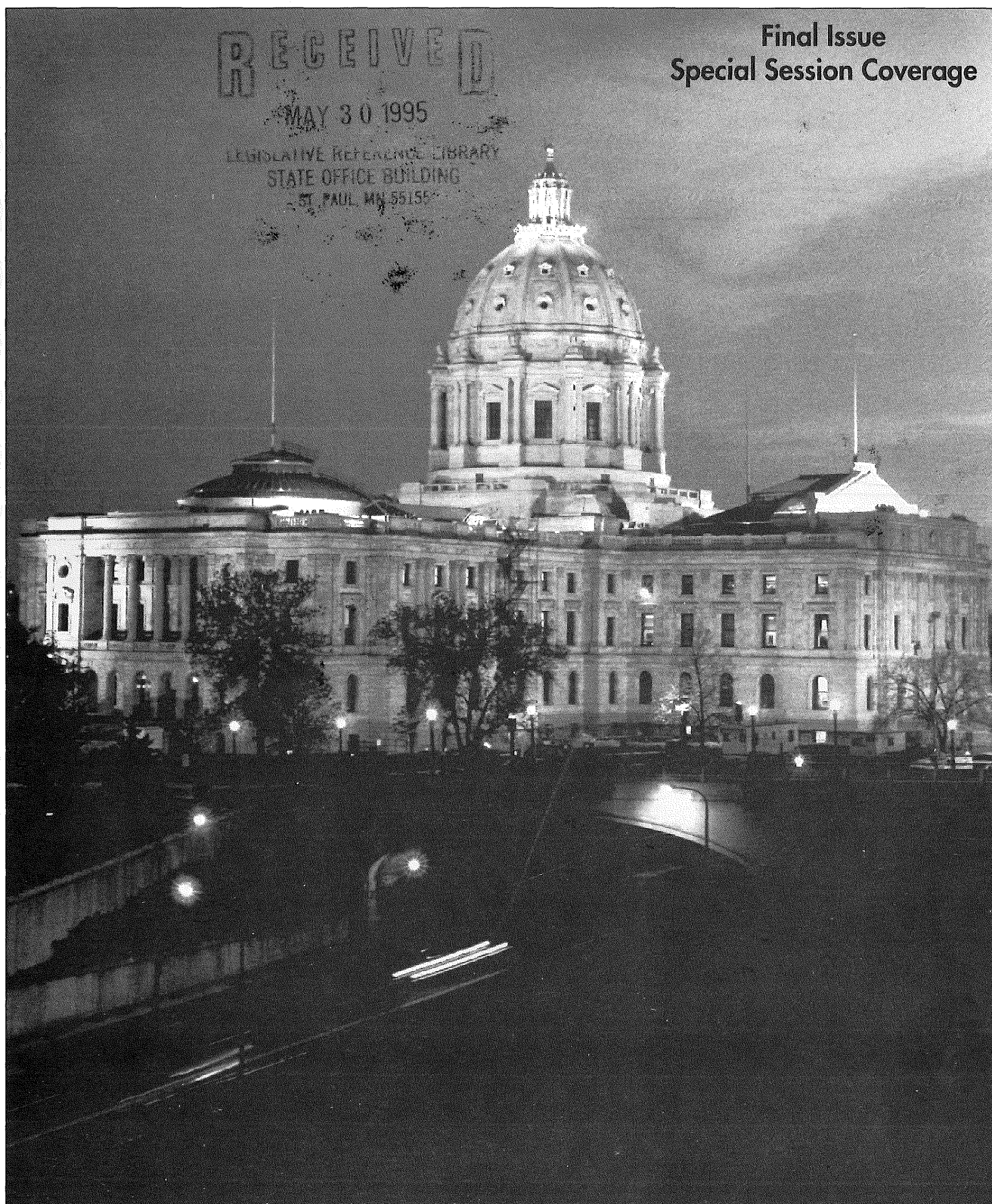


95. May 26

P615

# SESSION WEEKLY

A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ May 26, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 21



**Session Weekly** is a non-partisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1995-96 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • May 26, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 21

## Week at a glance

**Bonding bill passes** — After failing three times on the House floor, a \$34.3 million bonding bill is on its way to Gov. Arne Carlson. It authorizes the state to sell bonds to pay for repairs to Capitol office space, build schools, and help rebuild deteriorating bridges and a city hall in Parkers Prairie, Minn. .... **Page 5**

**Punishing civil disorder** — In the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 167 and wounded more than 400, state lawmakers have added penalties for those encouraging "civil disorder." The provision is contained in a crime bill now being considered by the governor. .... **Page 11**

**Environmental spending bill** — State spending for environmental and natural resource programs will total \$572.2 million over the next two-year budget cycle, under a law signed by Gov. Arne Carlson. The governor line-item vetoed \$445,000 worth of spending from the proposal. .... **Page 14**

**Omnibus game and fish bill** — Anglers winning a fishing contest would be assured of getting their prizes, under the omnibus game and fish bill now being considered by the governor. And anglers fishing for trout or salmon anywhere in the state would have to purchase a trout and salmon stamp. .... **Page 21**

**MinnesotaCare changes** — A bill to expand the number of Minnesotans eligible for MinnesotaCare, the state-subsidized health insurance program, is on its way to the governor's desk. .... **Page 28**

**Genetic discrimination** — Insurance companies could not use genetic information to decide who will receive medical coverage, under a bill on its way to the governor. .... **Page 36**

**Workers' comp reform** — A bill that promises to reform Minnesota's \$1 billion workers' compensation system now awaits Gov. Arne Carlson's signature. Supporters of the measure say it will cut workers' compensation insurance premiums for businesses by 11.4 percent. .... **Page 37**

**K-12 education finance** — Minnesota's public schools would receive an increase in basic funding from the state, under a \$5.75 billion K-12 education spending bill on its way to the governor. The financing represents about a 7 percent increase over funding for the current biennium. .... **Page 47**

**Easing wetlands restrictions** — A bill that would have given counties more authority to develop wetlands protected by state law was passed by the House May 25. However, the bill died several hours later when the Senate rejected the bill. .... **Page 48**

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On the cover: The Capitol glowed at dusk on May 22, the final night of the 1995 Legislative Session.

— photo by Laura Phillips



# Highlights

1995 session, special session . . .

## Lawmakers adjourn; come back nine hours later

**T**he 1995 Legislature adjourned at midnight May 22 — the last day they could meet as specified by the Minnesota Constitution — only to be brought back nine hours later.

Without a bill to fund K-12 education in the next two-year spending cycle, and a variety of other proposals still in limbo, Gov. Arne Carlson called the Minnesota Legislature back for a special session May 23.

It marked the second time in three years that the regular session of the Legislature ended with a special session to clean up unfinished business.

When all was said and done, three bills were passed during the three-day 1995 Special Session — a K-12 appropriations bill, a small bonding bill, and an omnibus game and fish bill.

Those bills were in addition to the 265 bills and three resolutions that were approved during the regular legislative session. (Of those, the governor vetoed a total of 10 bills, two of which contained line-item vetoes.)

Left on the table during the 1995 Special Session was a proposal to relax a 1994 law that banned lawmakers from receiving gifts from lobbyists, a bill that would have eased standards set forth in the 1991 Wetlands Conservation Act, and a measure that would have given top state department heads a pay raise.

Despite the unfinished business, the Legislature's list of accomplishments includes: reforming portions of Minnesota's welfare system; cutting workers' compensation costs to business owners; expanding eligibility so more low-income Minnesotans could qualify for MinnesotaCare, the state's subsidized health care plan; and strengthening laws to help collect delinquent child support payments.

In addition to those changes, the Legislature also approved a bill now on its way to the governor that would pay the overdue bill for a variety of get-tough-on-crime proposals enacted by previous legislatures.

The judiciary finance bill would appropriate about \$546 million for the Department of Corrections over the next two-year spending cycle — a 28 percent increase over corrections spending for the current biennium.

Also included in that money is \$76.3 million in funding for public defenders over the

next biennium — a 36 percent increase over current funding levels.

That increase is largely due to changes made by the 1994 Legislature that created a new class of juvenile offender which is a sort of hybrid between traditional juvenile court and adult court.

This special session may not be the last in 1995. The governor has said he plans to call the Legislature back in October, after it is more clear what kind of cuts the federal government might impose on states.

Since statehood, many reasons have brought the Minnesota Legislature back for a special session. There have been debates on everything from budget shortfalls to women's suffrage, and even daylight-saving time.

Minnesota's first special session as a state took place in 1862, when Gov. Alexander Ramsey recalled the Legislature to resolve on-

going hostilities between settlers and Indians.

The longest special session ever held is believed to have occurred in 1971, when Gov. Wendell Anderson called lawmakers back May 25 and the session lasted 159 days. Lawmakers convened until Oct. 30 (they did recess, however, from July 31 to Oct. 12). Out of the session came the "Minnesota Miracle," which boosted education funding and slashed property taxes.

Carlson holds the record for the most bills vetoed by a Minnesota governor — eclipsing the century mark this year — but former Gov. Al Quie holds the record for the most special sessions called by a governor: seven.

In 1979, Quie called a special session to deal with, among other issues, an energy and transportation bill that included a gasoline rationing plan. (At that time in history the United States was coping with rising fuel prices.) In 1982, Quie called his sixth special session to deal with short-term emergency jobs for unemployed miners on Minnesota's Iron Range.

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

(See Special Session Chart on page 4)



Minutes after the Legislature's mandated adjournment for the regular session at midnight May 22, Gov. Arne Carlson called for the House and Senate to meet in special session May 23. Joining Carlson for the late night press conference are House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum, left, Lt. Gov. Joanne Benson, and Senate Minority Leader Dean Johnson.

# A look back at special sessions

Year	Days	Subject	Governor
1862	21	Conflicts between Indians and settlers	Alexander Ramsey
1881	40	Railroad bonds	John Pillsbury
1902	36	Tax commission report	Samuel VanSant
1912	15	Statewide primary, corrupt practices act, and reapport.	Adolph Eberhart
1916	1	Permitting National Guard members to vote	J.A.A. Burnquist
1919	12	Women's suffrage, WWI veteran benefits, election law, improve state budget system, flood relief	J.A.A. Burnquist
1933-34	33	Unemployment, liquor regulations	Floyd B. Olson
1935-36	55	Social Security Act	Floyd B. Olson
1936	7	Social Security Act, fund for unemployment compensation	Hjalmar Petersen
1937	61	Taxes	Elmer Benson
1944	4	Election dates, soldiers' suffrage	Edward J. Thye
1951	1	Appropriations	Luther Youngdahl
1955	1	Create new revenue sources to balance spending bills, increase income tax rates	Orville Freeman
1957	1	Tax bill, state government finance bill, judge salaries, retirement law	Orville Freeman
1958	4	Unemployment benefits, bonuses for Korean War veterans	Orville Freeman
1959	68	Adopted 90 laws some relating to taxes, approps., day-light saving time, salaries, retirement, and distressed school districts	Orville Freeman
1961	45	Adopted 100 laws, some relating to unfair trade practices, license plates, farm seed, elections, swamp land, state debt, and traffic tickets	Elmer Andersen
1961	2	Income tax, aid to the blind, and Congressional reapportionment	Elmer Andersen

Year	Days	Subject	Governor
1966	25	Reapportionment	Karl Rolvaag
1967	11	Taxation, appropriations for governmental operations	Harold LeVander
1971	159	Tax and spending, bills, public-employee contracts, studded tires	Wendell Anderson
1979	1	Transportation, Downtown People Mover, workers' compensation, energy bill, gasoline-rationing plan, appropriations	Albert Quie
1981	1	Taxes, budget matters	Albert Quie
1981	2	Enact short-term borrowing laws	Albert Quie
1981-82	49	Balance state budget, address cash flow	Albert Quie
1982	1	Unemployment and workers' compensation	Albert Quie
1982	1	Short-term emergency jobs for unemployed miners on the Iron Range	Albert Quie
1982	4	Balance state budget	Albert Quie
1985	3	Tax bill, state budget, billion-dollar tax cut considered	Rudy Perpich
1986	1	Balance a shortfall in the budget, farm loans	Rudy Perpich
1987	1	Dayton-Hudson anti-takeover legislation	Rudy Perpich
1989	3	Tax relief bill, recycling program	Rudy Perpich
1993	1	Appropriations bills, such as for health and human services, and higher education; campaign finance; tougher sentences for repeat domestic abusers	Arne Carlson
1994	1	Strengthen the sexual predators law to keep them off the streets	Arne Carlson
1995	3	K-12 education approps., game and fish approps., wetlands bill, bonding bill, ethics bill, pay raise bill	Arne Carlson

Source: Legislative Reference Library



*Editors' note: The following highlights include selected new laws and bills being considered by the governor, and are listed alphabetically by category.*

*Highlights of a few bills acted upon May 25, including the Omnibus K-12 education finance bill, are summarized beginning on page 47.*



## AGRICULTURE

### Jumping the fence



Any new fences erected by Minnesota deer and elk ranchers to contain their domesticated herds will have to be a little higher, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 1995.

The law raises the height to 8 feet for fences built after Aug. 1 — up from the old standard of 75 inches for deer and 90 inches for elk.

It's not as if state agricultural and game officials miscalculated the jumping abilities of deer and elk when the "farmed cervidae" law was first adopted in 1993.

Rather, the change was made because the 8-foot fence has become the industry standard to keep the domesticated animals contained — and the wild ones out, explained Paul Hugenin, a marketing specialist with the state Department of Agriculture.

It's important to segregate the wild and domesticated animals to ensure that diseases can't spread from one group to the other, said Hugenin, who worked with the farmed cervidae advisory committee in developing the law changes.

But even if a deer or elk did make a break for it, they usually don't stray far.

"If they get out, they're right back again when it's time to eat," said Dr. Bill Hartmann, a veterinarian with the state Board of Animal Health. "They're domesticated to the point that they don't go out and search for feed elsewhere."

Hartmann estimated that there are between 200 and 300 cervidae herds (with an average size of about 20) in Minnesota.

Deer and elk meat is increasingly being marketed as a low-cholesterol alternative to beef, and is sometimes available at fancier, "white tablecloth" restaurants.

Supporters of the industry say domesticated deer and elk taste better than their wild cousins because their feed is controlled and their age at slaughter can be regulated. (Younger animals generally taste better.)

The new law also requires such animals to be identified with eartags, electronic implants or in other ways as long as they are approved

by the Department of Natural Resources.

Under the old law, brands, collars, and tattoos were acceptable.

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison) and Sen. Charles Berg (DFL-Chokio).

HF1176/SF1043\*/CH39

## Wind energy

A bill that would help farmers form cooperatives to harness wind energy is on its way to the governor.

The House passed the bill May 22 on a vote of 128-2. The Senate approved it the same day, 61-1.

The proposal would allow farmers to receive low-interest loans to erect wind energy turbines that could generate up to one megawatt of electricity (enough to provide power for about 600 homes).

The measure also would allow farmers to apply for affordable loans so they could buy stock in cooperatives formed to harness wind power in rural Minnesota. The bill does not specify the particulars of the loan program. (See April 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 4 and May 19, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 4)

Both provisions would expand existing programs operated by the state Department of Agriculture's Rural Finance Authority which lends money to farmers through seven different programs.

Supporters of wind energy say encouraging development of small cooperatives will make it more likely for farmers to share in the

wealth of the growing wind energy movement.

A law approved in 1994 requires Northern States Power Co. to provide a total of 425 megawatts of wind power by the year 2002, which has intensified the interest in wind energy.

Under the bill, at least 51 percent of shareholders in a cooperative must reside in a county or contiguous county to the location of the wind energy production facility. The facility must be located on agricultural land owned by the cooperative.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) and Sen. Janet Johnson (DFL-North Branch).

HF1669/SF1551\*/CH245



## BONDING

### Bonding bill passes

After failing three times on the House floor, a \$34.3 million bonding bill is on its way to Gov. Arne Carlson.

It authorizes the state to sell bonds to pay for repairs to Capitol office space, build schools, and help rebuild deteriorating bridges and a city hall in Parkers Prairie, Minn.

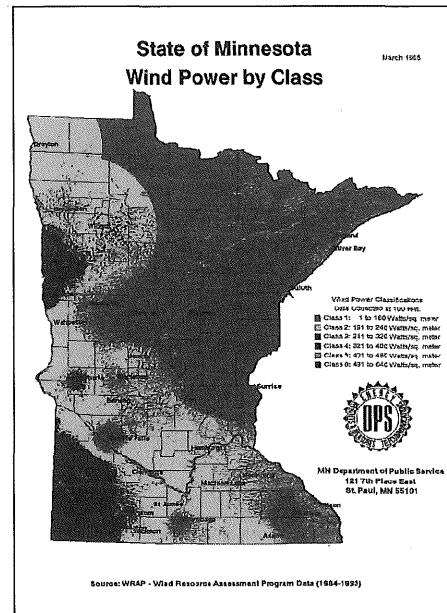
The House and Senate passed the bill (HF1, formerly HF1010) May 25 during a special session. The House passed the bill 122-8. The Senate passed it 53-6.

Previous to the May 25 vote, the House had three times voted down a \$25.4 million bonding bill, while the Senate had passed a \$37.8 million bonding bill. The two bodies worked out a compromise and that is what has been sent to the governor.

The compromise bill, sponsored by Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters), would authorize the sale of \$34.3 million in bonds during this non-bonding year. Last year, the governor signed a \$621 million bonding bill into law, the largest in state history. (Bonding bills are typically assembled in the second year of the state's two-year spending cycle.)

HF1 would authorize \$23.7 million in bonds for maximum effort school loans to three school districts.

Such loans are granted to districts which, due to low property tax values, cannot raise sufficient funds through property taxes to make much needed capital improvements. Districts must show they meet a number of tax capacity qualifications to be eligible for the loans, which allow them to take advantage of the state's low-interest loan rates. (The loans are repaid according to a schedule based on a district's property tax values.)



This map shows areas with the greatest potential for capture and conversion of wind energy into electricity.

Graphic courtesy Minnesota Department of Public Service

Under the bill, the Kelliher School District would receive \$6.9 million to help construct a new school, the Littlefork-Big Falls School District would receive \$7 million for building expansion and to make the schools handicapped accessible, and the Big Lake School District would receive \$9.7 million to help repay a short-term loan used to build a new school.

The Big Lake proposal has been approved by the House each of the past three years and removed from the bonding bill during conference committee negotiations. This year it survived.

Also under the bill, the Department of Administration would receive nearly \$1.7 million in bonds to make improvements to the State Capitol building. Of the amount \$184,000 would come from the general fund.

The dollars would resolve the turf battle over Capitol office space. Earlier this session, the Legislature went to Ramsey County District Court and won an injunction to stop the governor's office from moving into office space lawmakers said was theirs.

The bill also includes bonds to be sold for the following projects:

- \$1.5 million to buy portions of Eagle Creek and adjacent springs and wetlands in Savage, Minn., to protect it from encroaching development.

The bill calls for Savage to prohibit development within 200 feet on either side of the creek.

This provision was originally included in the Senate bill with a request for \$5.2 million.

- \$750,000 to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system to buy land near Metropolitan State University in St. Paul to expand that campus and to buy land in Bloomington so Normandale Community College could construct a parking ramp.

- \$4.5 million to make grants to local governments for bridge building and reconstruction.

Some lawmakers, including Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) have said bridges in their districts are in dire need of repair.

Earlier this session, Mariani sponsored a bill which would have released \$3 million from the transportation fund to help repair the Wabasha Street bridge over the Mississippi River in his district.

That bill did not receive a House hearing.

- \$103,000 to the Department of Agriculture to complete a seed potato inspection facility in East Grand Forks. The bonds would be paid off from inspection fees.

- \$410,000 to the city of Parkers Prairie to assist with the design and construction of a fire hall and city hall to replace those damaged by a propane explosion in April 1995.



## BUDGET

### Emergency spending bill



Signed by the governor

A new state law authorizes nearly \$3.2 million for emergency state government spending.

The funds, which became available April 19, will be used to cover state spending during the current fiscal year.

Just over \$1 million will go to the Department of Health to cover costs incurred during the recent meningitis outbreak in Mankato, which killed one high school student and caused several other residents to be hospitalized.

The House version of the measure had included \$245,000 to cover the meningitis outbreak, which was a preliminary figure based on the first round of meningitis immunizations. The \$1 million figure reached by House and Senate conference committee members reflects the total costs incurred for some 31,000 immunizations.

The deficiency bill also provides:

- \$1.5 million to the Board of Public Defense to handle increased caseloads resulting from juvenile crime laws enacted in 1994;
- \$500,000 to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the emergency financial and medical needs of veterans;
- \$77,000 to the Minnesota Racing Commission to regulate pari-mutuel horse racing;
- \$46,000 to the Department of Military Affairs for paying the city of Roseville assessments due for National Guard property; and
- \$30,000 to the Department of Public Safety to match federal funds for flood relief.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Jim Girard (IR-Lynd) and Sen. Dennis Frederickson (IR-New Ulm).

HF355/SF335\*/CH48

### Tell us exactly



Signed by the governor

Minnesota lawmakers are encouraging their federal counterparts to balance the federal budget, but they want to know what such efforts are going to mean to Minnesotans.

The Legislature has passed a non-binding resolution asking Congress for financial information on the impact of a balanced federal budget amendment on the Minnesota state budget.

The Republican Party's "Contract with America" promised a vote within the first 100 days of the 104th Congress on a balanced budget amendment. It passed the U.S.

House, but failed by a single vote in the U.S. Senate.

The contract says the amendment is necessary to "restore fiscal responsibility to an out-of-control Congress, requiring them to live under the same budget constraints as families and businesses." While the balanced budget amendment failed, the contract still promises a balanced federal budget by the year 2002.

The resolution does recognize that working to balance the federal budget "may impose on the states unfunded mandates that shift to the states responsibility for carrying out programs that the Congress can no longer afford."

A recent study completed by the U.S. Treasury Department for the nation's governors estimates that the balanced budget amendment would reduce federal grants to Minnesota by \$1.2 billion. But some have dismissed that estimate as being politically motivated.

Copies of the resolution have been forwarded to the speaker and clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the president and secretary of the United States Senate, the presiding officers of both houses of the legislature of each of the other states in the Union, and to Minnesota's senators and representatives in Congress.

The proposal was sponsored by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine).

HFnone/SF66\*/R1



## BUILDINGS

### Sprinklers for high-rises

A bill that would require high-rise buildings to be equipped with sprinkler systems is on its way to the governor, who vetoed a similar bill in 1994.

The bill would require most buildings over 74 feet tall and not equipped with sprinkler systems to have the systems installed within the next 15 years.

The proposal is designed to help save lives in case of fires.

The measure would affect only older commercial buildings and apartment buildings. Since 1974, state law has required newly constructed high-rise buildings to be equipped with sprinkler systems.

In addition, a section of the bill exempts buildings that are 70 percent owner-occupied, which would excuse most condominiums from the legislation.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Bob Johnson (DFL-Bemidji) and Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls), passed the House May 18, 80-48, and the Senate May 11, 45-11.

HF1064/SF529\*/CH217



## BUSINESS

### Free haircuts



A new law will allow charities and homeless shelters to provide free haircuts to the clients they serve.

The law stems from an incident last summer involving two volunteers at the Union Gospel Mission in Duluth, Minn.

Two sisters, Theresa Taylor and Velma Williamson, for years had been giving free haircuts to the poor, first out of their home and later in a makeshift hair salon in the ladies' rest room at the mission.

But then the Minnesota Board of Barber Examiners, after complaints from several Duluth barbers, stepped in to say barbering without a license is against the law. Violators could face up to 90 days in jail and a \$700 fine.

Since the 1920s, the state has required barbers to be licensed. Cutting hair for immediate family members is the only exception to the law.

After several media outlets picked up the story, including the nationally syndicated Paul Harvey radio program, the Board of Barber Examiners had a change of heart. Members of the board voted unanimously to grant the sisters honorary licenses.

But before they could be back in business, the barber board said the two women needed to attend a Minneapolis barber school for two weeks to learn how to sanitize the tools of the trade.

"We couldn't afford it," Taylor said. "We've got families to take care of and couldn't just pick up and go to the Cities for several weeks."

The sisters never did get the training. They also haven't touched a head of hair since August 1994.

"We're scared to do it," Taylor said.

The new law, effective Aug. 1, 1995, permits barbering for several charitable purposes "in nursing homes, shelters, missions, or other similar facilities." The cuts must be free, and there is no training required of the barbers.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth) and Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth).

**HF1747/SF838\*/CH59**

### Wheelchair warranties



Equipment such as wheelchairs or Braille printers that aid people with disabilities will have to come with at least a one-year warranty, under a new state law signed by the governor May 19.

House sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said the Department of Administration asked him to carry the bill to help curb a specific problem with malfunctioning wheelchairs.

"There are a small number of devices that continue to break down. It's a problem in the handicapped community," Entenza has said.

If manufacturers of "assistive devices" don't provide a warranty with the equipment, the law — effective Aug. 1, 1995 — calls for a one-year warranty to exist as if the manufacturer had issued one.

Under either warranty, the equipment owner could have it repaired by the manufacturer or an authorized dealer if it breaks within one year. The law also ensures that the owner would get a refund if the device is not repaired within a reasonable amount of time.

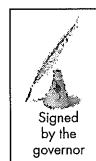
The measure contains no penalty if a manufacturer decides not to honor the government-imposed warranty. A consumer or the attorney general, however, could take the manufacturer to court to recover damages.

Under the law, the court "shall" award a consumer who wins in court twice the amount of the monetary loss, attorneys fees and costs, and any "equitable relief the court determines is appropriate."

Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

**HF990\*/SF1479/CH193**

### Selling exchanges



A telephone company seeking to sell a local exchange will have to get Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approval before making the sale, under a new law.

The law, signed by Gov. Arne Carlson May 19, applies to Class A telephone companies — those with annual revenues of more than \$100 million.

Currently, a telephone company applies to the PUC for the right to offer phone service within a certain geographical area. Under this "local exchange monopoly," the company is the only one that can provide local phone service to the area.

PUC approval is currently needed to buy, but not to sell, exchanges.

"But this would give the PUC an opportu-

nity to hear what customers have to say about their telephone company before (the company) can sell an exchange," said Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins), who sponsored the bill in the House.

The new law, effective Dec. 31, 1995, requires the phone company wishing to sell to provide each customer with a stamped envelope addressed to the PUC. Customers could then comment on the quality of service they've received and send their responses to the PUC. The commission also must hold a public hearing on the proposed sale, under the law.

(The PUC is a quasi-judicial body that regulates the rates and services of Minnesota telephone, natural gas and electric utilities.)

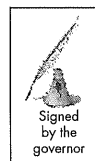
"Then the PUC could see if customers are in favor of the sale," Kelley said. "Most complaints about quality of service are mainly about time delays in making repairs."

The sale could not be approved unless the telephone company wishing to sell has provided a high quality of service throughout the past year. The company wishing to buy the exchange also must show it is financially responsible and has a proper number of trained employees, Kelley said.

Sen. Kevin Chandler (DFL-White Bear Lake) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

**HF1356/SF1173\*/CH191**

### Telephone free-for-all



A new law, effective Aug. 1, 1995, will increase competition among Minnesota telephone companies and give Minnesotans more choices for basic telephone service.

Currently, a telephone company applies to the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for the right to offer phone service within a certain geographical area. Under this "local exchange monopoly," the company is the only one that can provide local phone service to the area. Under the new law, this practice will end, permitting many companies to enter the same calling area.

The change gives Minnesotans a real choice for basic telephone service. A Minneapolis resident, for example, could switch from US West to a cable television operator, a cellular telephone firm, or any company that receives PUC approval to offer local telephone service.

The change also will allow all 100 Minnesota telephone companies — including major players like US West and GTE — to venture into other market areas around the state, after gaining approval from the PUC.

(The PUC is a quasi-judicial body that regulates the rates and services of Minnesota telephone, natural gas, and electric utilities.)

The nuts and bolts as to how this deregulation would take place will be laid out in rules established by the PUC.

The rule-making process is to be completed by Aug. 1, 1997. Until then, the PUC will be allowed to certify a company as a provider of local telephone service.

The PUC also will have to determine how a local telephone company would separate or "unbundle" its services so a competitor could connect to its customers to provide a service. This would make it possible, for example, to receive basic phone service from one company, and voice messaging from another.

Another provision of the law will create an "alternative regulation" framework for phone companies to choose. Under the system, certain essential services, as defined by the law — call tracing, call number-blocking, and 911-service, for example — will remain regulated by the PUC. But the price of other non-essential services, such as voice mail, will be determined by market competition, rather than requiring the PUC to certify any rate change by a telephone company.

If a telephone company opted for this more relaxed regulatory system, its rates for basic residential and business local service could not increase for three years.

A Department of Public Service study will determine what "essential telephone services" should be available to all state households. The study also will address how money from a Universal Service Fund (made up of money all Minnesota telephone companies will be required to contribute) will be spent. Specifically, "whether expenditures from the fund should be used to ensure citizen access to local government and other public access programming." The Department of Public Service will report its recommendations to the Legislature by Jan. 1, 1996.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Edgar Olson (DFL-Fosston) and Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-New Brighton).

HF620/SF752\*/CH156



## CHILDREN

### Foster homes



A new law, effective Aug. 1, 1995, mandates that the Department of Corrections notify local governments before licensing a foster care facility for delinquent children.

Under current law, all such facilities are reviewed by the department at least once every two years. But the department doesn't

have to notify the town or city that such a license is being issued.

The new law requires the department to give a 30-day written notice to any city or town before issuing a license to a foster home for delinquent children within its boundaries.

The requirement applies to a home's initial license. Notification, however, must be made annually should the local government request such a notification in writing.

The notice is not required if the foster home will hold six or fewer children.

Any state funds funneled to the licensed foster care home cannot be made until the notification requirements are met.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) and Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley).

HF74/SF64\*/CH12



## CONSUMERS

### Equal access to videos



Open or closed-captioning would be required of all educational videotapes distributed for sale or rental in Minnesota, under a new state law.

The law, effective Aug. 1, 1995, will apply to tapes produced after June 1, 1997, for rental or sales to educational institutions, state and local governments, and

medical facilities. Most titles seen at the local video store will not be affected by the law.

Only tapes where more than 2,500 copies are produced would qualify, under the law.

(Open-captioning is the term for subtitles, like those added to foreign language films. Closed-captioning refers to the subtitles that include descriptions of sound effects — encoded on a videotape or in a live broadcast — that can be switched on or off by a computer chip which is a requirement for all new television sets sold in the U.S.)

House sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said that Hollywood motion picture interests objected to the original measure that would have applied to both educational and entertainment videos.

Deaf students who cannot understand educational videos shown in schools would benefit from the proposal, although Entenza noted that the compromise "scaled back significantly our original proposal."

Sen. Tom Neuville (R-Northfield) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1048\*/SF846/CH143



Rep. Teresa Lynch had a visit from her grandson, 10-month-old Bennett Larson, who seemed quite oblivious to the debate on the House floor May 19.





## CRIME

### Omnibus judiciary funding bill

Minnesota taxpayers would spend \$867.5 million to fund the state's prisons, courts, and crime prevention programs over the next two-year spending cycle, under a bill on its way to the governor's desk.

The proposal was given final approval by the House May 19. The vote was 128-2. It passed the Senate May 19, 53-10.

The huge price tag indicates that crime and corrections is one of the fastest growing areas of the state budget.

The bulk of the funding — about \$546 million — would go to the Department of Corrections (DOC). That's a 28 percent increase over corrections spending for the current biennium.

Nearly two-thirds of the corrections budget — almost \$366 million — would pay for Minnesota's juvenile and adult correctional institutions.

Spending for community services by the DOC would total more than \$142.5 million — a 50 percent increase over the \$97 million spent during the current biennium.

This dramatic increase in spending includes several million for counties to hire additional probation officers and to operate community-based treatment programs.

Caseloads for state district court judges would be eased through the hiring of nine new judges. The bill would provide almost \$1.8 million for four judges to assume office in 1995 and for five judges to start in 1997.

**HF1700\*/SF1653/CH226**, sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) and Sen. Tracy Beckman (DFL-Bricelyn), also increases criminal penalties for a number of offenses, funds a host of crime prevention programs and includes the following provisions.

#### State public defenders

The bill would spend \$76.3 million over the next biennium for state public defenders. That's a 36 percent increase over current funding levels.

The increase is largely due to changes made by the 1994 Legislature.

In establishing a new class of serious juvenile offenders — the extended jurisdiction juvenile (EJJ) — lawmakers would give these kids in juvenile court the right to a public defender and a jury trial.

The resulting increased burden on the public defender system threatened to cause a huge logjam in the juvenile court system, according to testimony given earlier this session.

The state would spend an additional \$6.8 million for incarcerating and treating EJJ offenders.

The EJJ classification is a hybrid between the traditional informal juvenile court and adult court. It is intended for serious juvenile offenders, but not for those whose crimes warrant a transfer to adult court.

Under an EJJ proceeding, a teenager receives a juvenile court penalty and a stayed adult penalty — often a prison sentence. But if he or she violates the condition of the sentence, the adult penalty is imposed.

An extra \$600,000 appropriation to the State Board of Public Defense would hire additional public defenders and pay for trial transcripts needed in EJJ court cases. (Art. 1, Sec. 10)

#### Background checks

The bill would require criminal background checks on potential apartment building managers.

The proposal stems from the 1994 abduction and murder of Kari Koskinen, a New Brighton woman believed to have been killed by her building manager. It would be called the "Kari Koskinen Manager Background Check Act."

It would require apartment building owners to have the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) conduct a criminal history check on every building manager applicant (or other employee) who would have the authority to enter a tenant's apartment. Managers who have lived in Minnesota for less than five years would also be subject to a national FBI background search.

(An equivalent background check could also be done by a private business or a local law enforcement agency.)

If a manager is found to be convicted of any of a host of crimes, ranging from sexual assault to aggravated robbery, the manager may not be hired unless 10 years have elapsed since the sentence for the crime was completed.

Managers hired before July 1, 1995, or found guilty of crimes before that date could keep their jobs, but tenants must be informed of their past criminal acts. (Tenants also would be released from leases based on this information.)

Owners — who would pay for the background checks — who fail to conduct a background check would be guilty of a petty misdemeanor, punishable by up to a \$200 fine.

Also included in the bill is a tenant's right to privacy section, which states that a landlord may only enter an apartment — after giving reasonable notice — for a "reasonable business purpose." This would include show-

ing an apartment, or for maintenance reasons. Limited exceptions would be allowed for emergency or safety reasons.

A landlord privacy violation could result in a tenant being released from a lease, a recovery of a damage deposit, and up to a \$100 civil penalty for each violation.

Tenants and landlords of mobile homes are exempt from the tenant's right to privacy.

The provisions were included in **HF72** sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville). (Art. 4, Secs. 13-21)

#### Frivolous lawsuits

The bill would call for disciplinary action against inmates who file "frivolous or malicious" lawsuits against the state.

Such penalties could include loss of privileges, isolation, loss of good time, or "discipline confinement" time.

It costs the state about \$350,000 each year to challenge lawsuits filed by those prisoners.

Most prisoners lack the financial resources necessary to pay for court filing fees and associated costs. So the law allows them to bring their actions "in forma pauperis," or as indigents, and they don't pay a dime.

Under the bill, any inmate seeking to file a case without paying the fees would later be billed should they earn or otherwise come into any funds. And prisoners seeking to avoid filing fees by filing as indigents when they really do have the money in their prison accounts would have their cases dismissed. (They could be filed again later.)

Should an inmate prevail in a civil action and be awarded monetary damages, those funds could be seized to pay for their court costs, any taxes they may owe, support for their family, or fines ordered by the court.

The provisions were included in **HF1309** sponsored by Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul). (Art. 6, Secs. 4-5, 12)

#### Fighting sex crimes

Patterned sex offenders could face up to 40 years in prison, under the bill.

Under Minnesota law, a patterned sex offender is a repeat offender or someone who has been determined likely to re-offend in the future.

Current law mandates that a judge sentence a patterned sex offender to twice the penalty called for under the state's sentencing guidelines.

This measure would allow judges to impose a prison term of up to 40 years — regardless of the penalty called for under the state's sentencing guidelines.

The 40-year maximum prison term also would apply to a first-time offender who planned the crime in advance.

And for the first time, crimes committed in other states would apply to the state's patterned sex offender law. Currently, only prior sex offenses in Minnesota can be considered.

Once released from prison, a patterned sex offender would remain on parole for life. Under current law, parole can last either 10 years or the time remaining under the maximum sentence for the offender's crime set by law, whichever is longer. Violating the conditions of that parole at any time after release from prison could put the offender back in jail.

The proposal also would require the state's training program for judges and other court personnel to include information on sentencing laws involving sex crimes — specifically repeat offenders and patterned sex offenders.

Committee testimony indicated many judges are unfamiliar with current patterned sex offender statutes.

The provisions were included in **HF177**. The proposal was drafted by the 1994 Sexual Predators Task Force. (Art. 2, Secs. 12-14)

The bill also would increase to a gross misdemeanor from a misdemeanor the penalty for the crime of indecent exposure in the presence of a minor (under age 16).

The provision was previously included in **HF633**. (Art. 2, Sec. 31)

Additionally, it would extend the statute of limitations for criminal sexual conduct crimes from seven to nine years. The provision was formerly **HF176**. (Art. 2, Sec. 35)

Finally, the bill would change the law to "stop time" on any statute of limitations while DNA testing is being conducted. A man was actually cleared of a possible rape charge because the limitation period expired while authorities waited for DNA test results, Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) told members. The provision was formerly **HF911**. (Art. 2, Sec. 35)

**HF176, HF177, HF633, HF911** all were sponsored by Skoglund.

### Electronic alcohol monitoring

A three-year \$470,000 pilot program would monitor the effectiveness of using breath analyzer units to track DWI offenders ordered by the court to abstain from drinking.

The Department of Corrections would establish the program, which would be tested in two of the state's 10 judicial districts.

Offenders ordered to use the alcohol monitoring device must pay for any costs for its use.

To pay for the program, a \$10 surcharge would be added to the driver's license reinstatement fee charged to those whose driving privileges have been revoked because of a DWI offense. That fee is currently \$250. (Art. 2, Sec. 37)

### Sex offender registration

The bill also would require those convicted of sex offenses in other states to register in Minnesota upon arrival. Such offenders would need to register for 10 years after they enter Minnesota.

Minnesota now requires all felony-level sex offenders to register their address with a probation officer for at least 10 years following release from a Minnesota prison.

Failure to register is now a gross misdemeanor. Under the bill, a second conviction for failure to report would be a felony offense.

Offenders also could register with the local police or sheriff, under the bill. Current law mandates that sex offenders register with their assigned probation officer. The registration information would mandate that a current photo of the offender be included in the file. The provisions were included in **HF178**, sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls). The sections were drafted by the 1994 Sexual Predators Task Force. (Art. 4, Sec. 3-5)

### Evaluating juvenile facilities

A task force composed of lawmakers, corrections officials and others, would study how services are provided to juveniles in residential facilities, both public and private.

The task force is directed to suggest alternative methods to serve serious juvenile offenders — such as those housed at Sauk Centre and Red Wing.

A recent report by the Office of the Legislative Auditor, *Residential Facilities for Juvenile Offenders*, revealed that Minnesota programs for delinquent juveniles are largely ineffective.

Of the 219 juveniles released from the Red Wing or Sauk Centre correctional facilities in 1985, 90 percent were arrested again before turning 23; 69 percent were sent to prison.

The two facilities receive the most serious of Minnesota's juvenile offenders. Juveniles released from Red Wing in 1991 had an average of 13 prior offenses; those released from Sauk Centre had an average of 10 prior offenses.

The Senate proposed to eliminate both Sauk Centre and Red Wing and transfer the residents to private facilities.

Under the bill, the question of the future use of the two facilities "is reserved until the 1996 legislative session has considered the report of the task force." (Art. 3, Sec. 56)

### 'Peeping Tom' law expansion

The bill would expand the current 'peeping Tom' law to include any place where individuals have a "reasonable expectation of privacy" and have removed or are likely to remove some or all of their clothing.

(Hospitals and other medical facilities would be exempt, as would stores that place warning signs in their dressing rooms that individuals may be observed to prevent theft.)

Current law applies to those peeping in windows or secretly photographing or videotaping outside someone's home. Such a crime is a misdemeanor.

But offenses occurring away from the home have frustrated county attorneys, who have said they lack the legal tools to slap offenders with real consequences.

The bill originally applied only to hotel rooms and tanning booths, based on a voyeuristic incident at a tanning salon in Windom, Minn.

Prosecutors considered charging the man under a section of the state's stalking law, but the incident didn't quite fit there, either. In the end, the business owner agreed to pay a \$500 fine to close the case.

The bill also would explicitly include peeping into a tanning bed or hotel room under the state's "pattern of harassing conduct" definition in the stalking law. Photographing or videotaping a person in such a setting also would be a misdemeanor.

The original proposal, **HF272**, was sponsored by Rep. Teresa Lynch (IR-Andover). (Art. 2, Secs. 22-23)

### Safer schools

A student who brings a gun to school would be expelled for at least one year, under the bill.

If a student expelled for a gun violation applies for admission to another school, the school district that expelled the student could disclose that information to the other school.

School boards also would be required to develop a policy directing their schools to refer to the criminal or juvenile system any student who brings a gun onto school property.

Another section of the bill would establish a statewide policy that school lockers are the property of school districts and can be searched by school authorities "for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant." Notice of the policy would have to be distributed in advance to parents and students, and would take effect at the beginning of the 1995-96 school year.

The school locker proposal was introduced as **HF107** and sponsored by Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul). (Article 3, Sec. 10-12)

### Background checks for schools

All people hired to work at a Minnesota school — public or private — would face a criminal background check, under the bill.

All those offered employment would be

subject to a state check through the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and must pay for the cost of the check. Should the check turn up a crime in the applicant's past, "the individual's employment may be terminated" as a result.

Teachers would face both a state and a federal background check. The state Board of Teaching could revoke a teacher's state license should the checks reveal a criminal past. (Art. 3, Secs. 1, 6)

The Department of Human Services would also, by Jan. 15, 1996, develop a way to include child maltreatment reports in the necessary background checks. (Art. 3, Sec. 53)

### Revoking drivers' licenses

Juvenile courts are now required to order that the drivers' licenses of minors found in possession of guns or other dangerous weapons at school or on a school bus be canceled, or their driving privileges revoked, until they turn 18.

The bill would allow courts to deny or revoke the drivers' license of habitual truants as well, until the truant turns 18 years old. (Art. 3, Sec. 31)

### Combating truancy

The proposal also would create a series of programs to better address the growing truancy problem.

Community-based truancy service centers would be established to coordinate intervention efforts, and school attendance review boards would be responsible for matching students with appropriate community services. Each review board would be composed of school officials, parents, school counselors, law enforcement officials, individuals from community agencies, and a probation officer.

County attorney truancy mediation programs also would be established to resolve truancy matters outside of juvenile court. (Art. 3, Secs. 37-44)

### Productive day programs

Last year, the Legislature established "productive day programs" in Hennepin, Ramsey, and St. Louis counties that were designed to motivate inmates in local jails to develop life and work skills. The goal is to provide training and education to create opportunities for inmates upon their release.

The Legislature earmarked \$1 million to be split among the counties, but it was vetoed by the governor.

This year, lawmakers would earmark \$2.16 million for the programs — and expand it to include Anoka and Olmsted counties. (Art. 1, Sec. 11, Subd. 3)

### Essential court employees

An assistant county attorney in Minnesota would be classified as an "essential employee" and could not strike, under the bill.

The provision is designed to head off a simmering labor-management conflict involving Ramsey County and its prosecutors.

A strike by prosecutors would cripple the courts and force those accused of crimes to languish in jail, according to some lawmakers.

If assistant county attorneys — like firefighters and police officers — were classified as essential employees, contract disputes with county officials would be settled through binding arbitration. (Art. 6, Sec. 3)

### Escapees to be charged

The bill would make it a gross misdemeanor for someone committed under the state's psychopathic personality law to escape from a state facility.

Charges against two sex offenders who escaped April 22 from the Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter, Minn., were dropped because their currently is no law against such an escape. The bill closes the loophole. (Art. 2, Sec. 20)

### Elderly prisoners

The bill calls for the state Department of Corrections to look into transferring elderly prisoners from the medium security prison in Faribault, Minn., to the state-run nursing home in Walker, Minn.

The Ah Gwah Ching Center — a nursing home operated by the Department of Human Services — has three buildings which potentially could be turned into a medium-security correctional facility to house up to 100 prisoners. That's the number of elderly prisoners who now require ongoing supervision and health care.

A report would be submitted to lawmakers by Jan. 15, 1996. The provisions were included in **HF1784** sponsored by Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids).

The bill also authorizes a new minimum security prison to be established at Camp Ripley, near Brainerd, Minn.

No funds are provided for either facility. (Art. 5, Sec. 11-12)

### Insurance for inmates

Minnesota prisoners who can afford it would have to pay a co-payment for health care services. The amount would be the same as those charged to enrollees of the MinnesotaCare program.

The co-pays include \$3 per prescription, \$25 for eyeglasses, and up to a \$1,000 per year for inpatient hospital services.

The provision would apply to those in state and county facilities. (Art. 5, Sec. 3, 6)

### Crime victim services

Three state agencies — the Supreme Court, and the departments of Corrections and Public Safety — would split about \$15 million in aid for crime victims services.

But the dollars for the second year of the biennium would be contingent upon a consolidation plan being developed by the three departments.

The programs involved include battered women shelters, sexual assault assistance, and financial reparations to crime victims. (Art. 1, Sec. 22)

### County curfews

The 1994 Legislature gave each county board in Minnesota the authority to establish a countywide curfew for juveniles under age 17.

The bill would expand the curfew to those up to age 18, and would require each county curfew ordinance to set an earlier curfew time for children under age 12. (Art. 2, Sec. 1)

### Punishing civil disorder

In the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 167 and wounded more than 400, state lawmakers have added penalties for those encouraging "civil disorder."

The provision is contained in a crime bill now being considered by the governor. It passed the House May 22 on a 110-24 vote. It passed the Senate the same day, 39-26.

Civil disorder is defined as any public disturbance involving acts of violence by three or more people "which causes an immediate danger of or results in damage or injury to the property or person of any other individual."

Provisions in the bill would make it a gross misdemeanor — punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine — for teaching someone how to use a firearm or to make a bomb if they do so knowing that it will be used to commit such an illegal act.

The same penalty would apply to anyone training or practicing with firearms or bombs with the intent that they one day would be used in a civil disorder.

The law clearly states that the criminal penalties would apply only to those who *know* their training will be used to harm others or damage property. Simply teaching a gun safety course, for example, would in no way be considered "civil disorder." (Sec. 23)

Other provisions in the measure (**HF980\*/SF1564/CH244**), sponsored by Rep. Wes

Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul), include:

### Public nuisance

The bill would change the definition of a "public nuisance" to make it easier to shut down places shown to be operating illegal gambling or prostitution operations.

Current law requires three or more misdemeanor convictions (or two or more convictions, one of which is a felony or gross misdemeanor) within a two-year period to shut down a known brothel or gambling den. Under the bill, it would take only two separate incidents within a 12-month period involving gambling, prostitution (or other drug or firearms offenses outlined in current law) to shut the operation down for a year.

A prosecuting attorney would notify a building owner that a nuisance exists and that failure to help stop it could result in the building being closed for a year, (or the cancellation of a tenant's lease). The notice must describe the type of illegal behavior occurring in the building and notify the owner he or she has 30 days to resolve the matter before appearing in district court.

Current law allows a building owner to cancel the lease of a tenant who maintains a nuisance in the building. The bill also would authorize the owner to assign the prosecutor the right to cancel the lease.

The proposal was originally sponsored as **HF885** by Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls). (Secs. 26-34)

### Collaring familial pimps

Spouses and relatives of a prostitute who profit from prostitution would be guilty of a felony, under the bill.

Under current law, it is a felony offense — punishable by up to three years in prison and a \$5,000 fine — to make money from or to promote prostitution, but anyone related to the prostitute by "blood, adoption, or marriage" is exempt from the law.

Some have said the provision insulates criminals who are benefiting from prostitution.

Committee testimony by women's advocates revealed that at times spouses and parents have worked as pimps for their wives and children.

A single criminal exemption still would exist for kids who depend on a prostitute's earnings for support.

The proposal was originally sponsored as **HF1241** by Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park). (Sec. 15-17)

### Fleeing a police officer

Leading a police officer on a high-speed chase could lead to forfeiture of your vehicle, under the bill.

Under current law, certain DWI offenders — those convicted of a fourth DWI offense within five years or a fifth DWI offense within 15 years — lose their vehicles.

Anyone fleeing a police officer and endangering "life or property" — whether drunk or sober — would face the same penalty. (Sec. 21)

### Witness tampering

The bill would close a loophole in the current witness tampering statute. Current law only makes it a crime to threaten to retaliate against a witness or informant, but not for carrying out the threat and causing injury.

First-degree tampering with a witness, a felony, carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

The penalty is the same whether the threat to retaliate is carried out or not.

The proposal was originally sponsored as **HF772** by Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul). (Sec. 18)

### Unlawful masks

Effective Aug. 1, 1995, covering one's face in public for religious reasons no longer will be a crime, under a new state law.

House sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) says present law, which prohibits concealing one's identity by means of a "robe, mask, or other disguise," is unconstitutional.

The law, originally placed on the books in

1923, targeted Ku Klux Klan members, who maintained a significant presence in the state at the time.

The proposal stems from a Sept. 28, 1994, arrest of a Muslim woman in downtown St. Paul. Police officers asked the woman, dressed in traditional Muslim attire, to lift the veil from her face. When she refused, they issued her a citation.

The local Islamic community called the incident a clear violation of her First Amendment rights.

In light of Minnesota's winter climate, anyone covering their face "as protection from weather" also will be exempt from the law. Technically, under current law, snowmobilers and others protecting their faces in the winter months are in violation of the law.

Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

**HF735/SF214\*/CH30**

### Powers of arrest



A new state law allows a police officer to arrest someone whom the officer has reason to believe committed a misdemeanor offense within a school zone.

A school zone is defined as any school property and the area within one city block of a school. It also includes a school bus while it is transporting students.

The change allows an officer to arrest someone without a warrant. The arrest can be made anywhere, as long as the criminal behavior takes place within a school zone and within four hours of the arrest. Such crimes include a fifth-degree assault or a disorderly conduct offense.

Under current law, an officer normally



House Speaker Irv Anderson, left, and Majority Leader Rep. Phil Carruthers, right, held an impromptu press conference after the House adjourned the 1995 Special Session May 25.



can't arrest someone for a misdemeanor offense that the officer did not witness.

The law, which becomes effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato).

HF110/SF320\*/CH55



## DWI

### Seizing cars from drunks



A new law to clear up a glitch in the state's vehicle forfeiture law took effect April 29, 1995.

Under current law, certain repeat DWI offenders lose not only their driver's licenses but their vehicles as well. The cars are then sold or kept by local law enforcement agencies for official use. Profits from the sale of most vehicles must be used for DWI enforcement, training, and education activities.

But at times, the offenders don't show up for their day in court. As a result, their cars remain in impound lots.

The new law allows for the cars to be sold should a defendant fail to appear in court on such a DWI-related charge.

Drivers convicted of their fourth DWI-related offense within five years can have their vehicle seized by law enforcement officials, as can drivers convicted of their fifth DWI-related offense within 15 years.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Richard Cohen (DFL-St. Paul).

HF377\*/SF390/CH97

### Snowmobiling, boating, DWIs

Some repeat DWI offenders who get caught driving their boats or snowmobiles while under the influence could forfeit their pleasure craft or vehicles to the state, under a bill now being considered by the governor.

It was given final passage by the House May 22. The vote was 114-19. The Senate passed it the same day, 51-7.

The proposal, sponsored in the House by Rep. Tom Van Engen (IR-Spicer), also would apply to all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).

Under current law, those convicted of a fourth DWI offense within five years or a fifth DWI offense within 15 years lose their vehicles.

Under the bill, if that fourth or fifth conviction happens in a boat, snowmobile, or ATV, the recreational craft or vehicle also would be

taken — for good.

Only the vehicle used to commit the drunken driving offense would be seized. The vehicle would not be subject to forfeiture if the person convicted of a DWI was not the vehicle's owner.

Local law enforcement agencies could keep the vehicles for official use or sell them. The profits would be used for anti-DWI efforts. If the arresting officer works for the state, such as a DNR conservation officer, the proceeds would be forwarded to the snowmobile trails and enforcement account or the all-terrain vehicle account, depending on the type of vehicle involved.

"We don't really want the vehicles, we just want [drunk] people to stop driving them," Van Engen has said.

The bill would generate only a small amount of money — \$11,000 — for the state over the next two years. A fiscal note prepared for the bill indicates that counties could gain \$55,000 each year through the sale of boats, snowmobiles, and ATVs.

Sen. David Knutson (IR-Burnsville) sponsored the proposal in the Senate.

HF423/SF399\*/CH230



## EDUCATION

*Editors' note: The omnibus K-12 education finance bill was passed by the Legislature May 25. A summary of that bill appears on page 47.*



## ELECTIONS

### Town supervisor vacancies



An appointed town supervisor must be at least 21 years old and have lived in the town at least 30 days, under a new law that became effective March 28.

Current law says when a vacancy occurs in a town office, the town board must appoint someone to the post until the next annual town election.

The 1995 law change says when a town supervisor needs to be appointed, the person appointed to fill the vacancy must be an eligible voter, be at least 21 years old, and have lived in the town at least 30 days.

Before the change, state law did not specify an age or residency requirement for a town supervisor. Most supervisors fill three-year terms and are elected at a town general election. Metropolitan supervisors hold four-year terms and are elected in the November election.

The law also specifies that a vacancy be filled by an "appointment committee" made up of the remaining town supervisors and the town clerk.

The technical change was sought by the Minnesota Association of Townships which argued that the old law wasn't as clear as it should be.

The new law does not specify age or residency limits for elected town supervisors.

HF229/SF182\*/CH21

### Special time off to vote



A new state law will allow voters to take time off work to vote in a special election held to fill a seat in the Minnesota Legislature.

Under current law, any Minnesotan who is eligible to vote has the right to be absent from work to cast a ballot in the morning on election day. The employer cannot penalize or deduct wages because of the absence.

But current law only applies to a state primary or general election, an election to fill a vacancy in the office of U.S. senator or representative, or a presidential primary election.

The new law adding special elections for state legislative races became effective March 28, 1995.

Since the 1994 general election, there have been five special elections for state legislative seats.

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Richard Cohen (DFL-St. Paul).

HF647/SF181\*/CH20



## EMPLOYMENT

### Omnibus pension bill

The state's contribution to the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund (MERF) would decrease as enrollment in the plan continues to drop, under an omnibus pension bill on its way to the governor.

MERF has been closed to new members since 1978. Since that date, new employees have been covered by a state pension plan.

Because previous individuals enrolled in MERF are now retiring, the three government entities which pay into the fund — the state, the city of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Public School District — expect to see their contributions fall.

The original bill called for the three government entities to maintain their current

payments even as enrollment decreased. The excess MERF money would have been funneled to the Minneapolis Teacher's Retirement Association Fund.

That provision, however, was deleted in the version that is now before the governor.

The House passed the bill May 22 on a 117-15 vote. The Senate passed it the same day, 65-0.

The bill includes a number of other provisions concerning state pension funds, among them:

- Retired Duluth teachers would see an increase in post-retirement adjustments because the bill eliminates the current system and replaces it with a 2 percent yearly increase, plus an investment-based increase.

The teachers also would receive higher benefits at the time of retirement due to a change in the formula used to calculate those benefits. (Art. 2)

- Communities receiving more than enough aid to pay police and salaried firefighter pensions would see the excess money redistributed to other such community pension funds.

Those employee pensions are partially funded through a 2 percent tax on automobile insurance. But because automobile insurance rates have increased in past years, the tax is now raising more money than needed for the pension funds in some municipalities. Under current law, excess funds are deposited in the state's general fund.

The bill would redistribute the money to municipalities in need of the extra aid beginning in October 1997. (Art. 4)

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Steve Morse (DFL-Dakota).

**HF1040\*/SF806/CH262**

## Complete disclosure



Effective Aug. 1, 1995, employers who recruit employees from out of town to work in food processing plants will have to explicitly tell them how much they'll be making and how many hours they'll work, under a new state law.

The law will require employers soliciting people to work at a meat or poultry processing plant to provide specific documentation to potential employees who may relocate for work. This would include the potential employees' pay rate, the job's health and vacation benefits, the anticipated work hours, the job's duration, and other job specifics.

The "disclosure" will have to be written in

both English and Spanish and be signed and dated by the employer and the employee.

An employee who does not receive the disclosure form before beginning work, or whose employer doesn't abide by the tenets of the form, could receive up to \$500 for each violation as well as attorney's fees incurred in bringing a lawsuit to collect the damages, under the law.

The Department of Labor and Industry also could fine an employer between \$200 and \$500 for each violation of the disclosure agreement.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Kevin Goodno (IR-Moorhead) and Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul).

**HF1437\*/SF1152/CH154**



## ENERGY

### Energy discounts



Gas and electric utilities can continue to offer discounted rates to businesses in designated economic development zones, under a new state law.

A pilot program created in 1990 added discounted gas and electric rates to the arsenal of tax and financing incentives designed to lure manufacturers and other businesses to certain areas of the state.

The new law makes the program, which would have expired July 1, 1995, permanent.

Gas and electric utilities can offer new or expanding businesses concessions on rates for a limited time. Previously, this time period was from two to five years. The new law will allow the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to determine the length of time a discounted rate can be offered to a particular customer. No maximum length of time is specified.

Utilities can raise rates to other commercial customers in order to recover income lost under the discounted rate program, but they could not raise rates for residential customers, under a new provision in the law. The PUC has to approve any rate increase proposed by a utility.

The law also adds the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, a rural development agency in northeastern Minnesota, to the list of local governments and agencies that can use discounted utility rates to supplement other development incentives.

The measure, which became effective March 11, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul).

**HF164\*/SF65/CH9**

## Rural electrical competition



A 1990 pilot program that allows electric utilities to offer discount rates to large rural businesses is now permanent, under a law that became effective March 2, 1995.

Since 1974, rural companies using two megawatts or more of electricity have been allowed to buy electricity from any power producer they choose. They are not restricted to the electrical utility assigned to their locale.

A wholesale trade business, for example, can bypass the local electric utility and contract with the owner of a hydroelectric dam in a nearby county for power.

In order to keep their largest local customers — and avoid rate hikes to all customers in their service areas — electric utilities, since 1990, have been allowed to offer reduced rates to these large electric power users for one to five years under a competitive rate schedule approved by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Four electric utilities have used the 1990 law and offered competitive rates to some customers, according to a December 1994 report to the Legislature by the Department of Public Service (DPSv).

The report recommended extending the competitive rate program past its July 1, 1995, expiration date. The new law does just that.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Joel Jacobs (DFL-Coon Rapids), who resigned from the House March 5 when he was appointed to the PUC by Gov. Arne Carlson.

Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Cook) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

**HF137\*/SF213/CH6**



## ENVIRONMENT

### Environmental spending bill

State spending for environmental and natural resource programs will total \$572.2 million over the next two-year budget cycle, under a law signed May 24 by Gov. Arne Carlson.

The governor line-item vetoed \$445,000 worth of spending from the proposal.

The law funds the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Minnesota Zoo and 10 other state agencies.

Nearly 55 percent of the state spending in the bill — \$317.8 million — will go to the DNR effective May 25, 1995. (Sec. 5)

The MPCA, the next largest recipient, will

receive \$78 million effective May 25, 1995. (Sec. 2)

Lawmakers appointed to a joint House-Senate conference committee worked out differences in the bills passed by their respective bodies and pared \$600,000 off the DNR operations budget, and \$150,000 from the MPCA.

These budget cuts could translate into layoffs for some full-time employees.

Peder Larson, MPCA assistant commissioner, said his agency is now "figuring out how to minimize the impact" of the cuts. He said that, as a rule of thumb, each \$50,000 cut from an operating budget eliminates one full-time position.

Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee chair Rep. Chuck Brown (DFL-Appleton), who sponsored the House bill, said the spending bill amounts to \$6 million less than the governor recommended.

Effective July 1, 1995, \$32.9 million is appropriated for 95 environmental and recreational programs selected by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), which is funded from a two-cent per-pack cigarette tax and limited state lottery proceeds. (Sec. 19)

The legislation was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Steve Morse (DFL-Dakota). The following highlights are also included in the law.

HF1857/SF106\*/CH220

### State parks, trails and recreation areas

Effective July 1, 1995, funds for state parks and recreation areas totaling more than \$47.6 million will be available, a spending increase of \$2.4 million over the previous two-year budget.

Another \$22.5 million will go to trails and waterways management programs. Included in this amount is \$4.5 million for grants to counties to maintain the state's network of snowmobile trails.

The Metropolitan Council will receive \$4.5 million for maintenance and operation of regional parks. (An additional \$4 for the metro park system is included in the LCMR recommendations outlined in Section 19 of the law.) Development projects in state parks will receive \$1.4 million from a water recreation account.

A \$140,000 appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995, will replace trucks and other vehicles destroyed in a February 1995 arson fire at William O'Brien State Park.

The law directs the DNR commissioner to prepare a five-year plan for using available funds to construct or modify existing park trails for accessibility to persons with physical disabilities. At least one trail in each state park will be selected for these improvements. (Sec. 5)

### Fish and wildlife

A total of \$71 million will be spent in fiscal years 1996 and 1997 on programs for lake, stream and wildlife area management. Almost all of the money comes from the Game and Fish Fund, which collects hunting and fishing license fees.

The dollars were made available May 25, 1995.

Non-game wildlife management programs will receive \$1.9 million of these funds. Another \$2.6 million will be marked to fund game and fish critical habitat programs and wetlands

protection under the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program. (Sec. 5, Subd. 7-8)

An additional \$3.3 million will be earmarked for RIM programs contained in the LCMR recommendations. (Sec. 19)

DNR enforcement programs will receive \$36.1. The DNR commissioner is directed to maintain "historic levels of overtime" — 400 hours per year — for conservation officers; and not to cut back the number of field-based conservation officers.

Effective July 1, 1995, trout and salmon anglers fishing anywhere in Minnesota will be required to buy a trout and salmon stamp in addition to a regular fishing license. Under current law, the stamp was required only for Lake Superior and designated lakes and streams. This provision is also included in the omnibus game and fish bill (**Special Session: SF1**). (Sec. 90)

### Forest resources council

DNR forest management programs will receive \$61.2 million. The funds were released May 25, 1995. (Sec. 5, Subd. 4)

Effective July 1, 1995, a forest resources council charged with developing sustainable management practices for state forests will be established under the law. The 13 members of the council will be appointed by the governor from business, labor, and environmental groups and government agencies. (Secs. 76, 78-88)

The law also allocates \$1.7 million for the first phase of an environmental impact statement on timber harvesting in Minnesota and funding the forest resources council. (Sec. 5, Subd. 4)

### Clean air and water

The MPCA, effective May 25, 1995, will receive \$20.3 million to clean up Minnesota lakes and rivers. It will receive another \$14 million for air pollution programs, and \$16 million for groundwater protection and solid waste management. The agency's hazardous waste programs will receive \$11.9 million. (Sec. 2)

Most of these appropriations will continue existing pollution control efforts.

"This is not a major year for new initiatives," commented Peder Larson of the MPCA.

The Clean Water Partnership Program will provide local governments with almost \$2 million in grants to develop cleanup projects for local rivers, streams, and lakes, according to Larson.

Efforts to clean up the Minnesota River have been discussed during the legislative session, and the MPCA will spend \$620,000 to begin an analysis of pollutants in river tributaries.



Members, front to back, Reps. Tom Rukavina, David Tomassoni, Mark Mahon, and Myron Orfield leave the House chamber after the House passed bills on K-12 financing, wetlands, and bonding before adjourning the 1995 Special Session May 25.

Larson said another \$1.7 million of MPCA funding will go toward reducing pollution from industrial and municipal "point sources" — pipes draining directly into waterways.

The law directs the governor to appoint an advisory task force to examine the MPCA Water Quality Division's program for issuing permits for discharging pollutants into waterways. The task force on the point source permitting program will report back to the Legislature by Nov. 30, 1995.

Some \$1.7 million of MPCA money will be transferred to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for grants to counties to reduce pollution hazards from cattle feedlots. Counties that issue permits and provide technical assistance to feedlot owners will have to match the grants with cash or in-kind contributions.

Almost \$5 million will fund continuation of the MPCA's four-year project to computerize its data for its varied environmental oversight programs. MPCA officials say completion of the Delta Project will increase the agency's efficiency and help businesses that it now regulates.

The law requires that revenue collected by the MPCA from the sale or licensing of software developed for the Delta Project go to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. (Sec. 2)

The law also includes, effective July 1, 1995, a \$575,000 LCMR appropriation to the MPCA to determine the sources of toxic mercury emissions in Minnesota's air and how much is ending up in the state's lakes. (Sec. 19, Subd. 5)

### Ethanol production

Minnesota farmers will be encouraged to produce all the ethanol that is used in the state, under provisions that became effective May 25, 1995.

It will raise to \$30 million per year the amount the state will pay to subsidize the production of ethanol, although the state will actually spend about half that yearly amount in the next two years.

The cap is currently at \$10 million per year, which proponents of the law say is not enough to encourage the long-term development of more ethanol plants in Greater Minnesota.

Ethanol is made from the fermentation of corn and other agricultural products and has been used as an additive in gasoline to make it burn more cleanly.

There are currently five ethanol plants in Minnesota (a sixth will begin production in April) that combined produce a total of 59 million gallons of ethanol per year.

That's less than half of the 120 million

gallons of ethanol that is consumed per year in Minnesota, most of which is imported from plants in Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska.

The proposal was introduced as **HF202**, sponsored by Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison). Peterson has argued that raising the cap to \$30 million per year will send a message to potential investors in ethanol plants that the state is committed to helping the industry.

Increasing Minnesota's ethanol production will help meet a rising demand.

As of Oct. 1, 1995, automobiles in the 10-county metropolitan area will be required to burn "oxygenated fuel" year round, instead of just during the winter (Oct. 1 to Feb. 1) as is required under current law. And beginning Oct. 1, 1997, all gasoline sold in the state will have to be oxygenated, which will further increase demand for ethanol.

(The law was enacted in 1991 because the Twin Cities was in violation of federal Environmental Protection Agency clean air requirements. Adding one part ethanol for every 10 parts of gas is one way to oxygenate gas, although there are petroleum-based additives that can do the same thing.)

The so-called "blenders' credit" — a tax credit to petroleum distributors who mix gasoline and ethanol — will be phased out on Oct. 1, 1997.

The law also provides for \$350,000 in low-interest state loans to companies building ethanol production facilities in Minnesota, and \$200,000 for loans to farmers to invest in existing ethanol facilities and other value-added agricultural businesses. (Secs. 45-50, 117)

### Treaty litigation costs

Under the law, the DNR will receive \$750,000 — which will be transferred to the Office of the Attorney General — to defend the state against the 1990 hunting and fishing rights lawsuit brought by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe in federal court and to contest a similar lawsuit brought by the Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe.

The governor had recommended \$1 million in funding.

(The state government finance bill (**SF1678**) would give the Office of the Attorney General another \$790,000 in fiscal year 1995 to pay for state expert witnesses already employed in the Mille Lacs treaty court case.)

The law also will allocate \$600,000 for the DNR to survey fish and wildlife resources "in the 1837 treaty area." Of this amount, \$200,000 will come from the Game and Fish Fund. An additional \$100,000 is included in the DNR's enforcement budget for activities related to the 1837 treaty area.

The DNR sought \$808,000 for the natural

resources survey. The survey will be critical in the second phase of the Mille Lacs lawsuit trial next year, which will determine how the band and the state divide the "harvestable surplus" of fish and game in 12 Minnesota counties, according to Ron Nargang, DNR assistant commissioner.

A federal court decided last year that the Mille Lacs Band retains its rights to hunt, fish and gather under the 1837 Treaty.

The provisions became effective May 25, 1995. (Sec. 5, Subds. 7-9)

### Youth deer licenses

Effective July 1, 1995, young people could buy an inexpensive license to hunt deer with firearms in 1995 and 1996, under the law.

The "Youth Deer" provision, which was introduced by Rep. Tom Bakke (DFL-Cook), will allow those under age 16 to buy a deer hunting license for \$5, instead of paying \$22 for a regular firearms license.

No tag will be included in the youth license, so a deer shot by a youth carrying the \$5 license will have to be tagged by a licensed hunter possessing a valid tag.

(Under current law, a tag is issued with each deer hunting license; hunters are allowed to take just one deer per season with a firearm.)

While regular deer hunting licenses are only sold prior to the opening day of the firearms season, the youth license could be purchased at any time during the season.

The law also will allow any deer hunter "who fails to tag a deer" during the firearms season to get a second crack at a deer by buying another firearms license and hunting by muzzleloader. This provision applies to the 1996 and 1997 hunting seasons.

The 16-day muzzleloader season — which allows hunting with an old-fashioned rifle that was common on the frontier — follows the regular firearms season in late November.

Under current law, a deer hunter is allowed to buy only one firearms license and hunt either during the regular firearms season or during the muzzleloader season.

The DNR will solicit public input on both the youth deer and muzzleloader provisions in the law, and report back to the Legislature by March 1, 1996. The report will summarize the public comments and recommendations for legislation. (Secs. 135-137)

### Recreational vehicle fees

Effective July 1, 1995, owners of boats will pay a \$2 registration surcharge for a three-year license. The registration surcharge has been 50 cents since 1971.

Originally introduced as **HF1483** by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), the revenue



generated by the surcharge increase will be kept by deputy registrars in Minnesota. The surcharge revenue collected by a DNR license bureau will be deposited in the dedicated water recreation account.

Also, a current \$5 surcharge on boats to fund public awareness efforts about Eurasian water milfoil, zebra mussels and purple loosestrife, will remain in effect. Under current law, the \$5 surcharge is set to dip to \$3 in 1997. (Secs. 73-74)

### Used oil disposal

Effective July 1, 1996, retailers selling more than 1,000 motor oil filters each year will have to accept and properly dispose of used oil and oil filters from the public.

The program will affect major retailers and exclude small businesses and gas stations.

Affected businesses either will have to set up their own collection facility or contract with another business — within two miles in the Twin Cities metropolitan area or within five miles in Greater Minnesota — to accept used oil and filters.

Also, the law explicitly states that retailers “may not charge a fee” to accept used oil and filters. Under a previous proposal, retailers could charge 50 cents per filter to recover disposal costs.

Under current law, a retailer selling motor oil is required only to post a notice advising consumers of a location within 10 miles of where they can dispose of used oil.

Retailers will now have to post a sign next to their motor oil and filter displays indicating that they accept used oil and filters or where these materials can be taken for recycling. (Sec. 119)

This provision in the law was originally sponsored by Rep. Robert Leighton (DFL-Austin) as HF1073. (Secs. 119-120)

### Minnesota Zoo free days

There will no longer be two free days each month at the Minnesota Zoo. The law now will require that the zoo offer free admission during the year to “economically disadvantaged Minnesota citizens” equal to 10 percent of the average annual attendance. That amounts to about 100,000 people.

By July 1, 1995, zoo officials will develop a plan to distribute vouchers for free admission.

Zoo officials have said that crowds at the zoo on free days were unmanageable, endangering the welfare of the animals and ruining the zoo experience for visitors. (Secs. 70-71)

### Resource management

Much conference committee discussion

focused on a Senate proposal to reallocate \$22 million of DNR funds for a pilot project involving “integrated resource management” of parks, trails and waterways in southern Minnesota. This “sustainable, multiple-use” approach to natural resources management would have involved other state agencies and private conservation, agricultural, and outdoors recreation groups.

Rather than launching the pilot project, House members preferred that the DNR first study the issue and send a final plan to the Legislature by Feb. 15, 1996. The bill will spend \$746,000 to develop the pilot project over the next two years. The funds became available May 25, 1995. (Sec. 5, Subd. 10)  
HF1857/SF106\*/CH220

### LCMR projects

The environmental funding law includes \$32.9 million for 95 projects recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR).

Money to fund the projects comes primarily from a 2-cent per pack cigarette tax and limited state lottery proceeds. (See March 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9)

The largest single LCMR appropriation — over \$4.5 million — would go to the Metropolitan Regional Park System to acquire land and rehabilitate existing facilities. The DNR would receive almost \$3.8 million to acquire land for state parks and improve parks and recreation areas across the state. State and metropolitan parks would each receive an additional \$720,000 appropriation for projects which would have to be completed by Dec. 31, 1995.

The LCMR provisions also would provide:

- \$100,000 to the Minnesota Historical Society to survey “shipwrecks in Minnesota inland lakes and rivers,” and organize a conference in Duluth on “underwater cultural resources”;
- \$575,000 to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to determine the sources of toxic mercury emissions in Minnesota’s air and how much is ending up in the state’s lakes;
- \$150,000 to the Neighborhood Energy Consortium in St. Paul to conduct workshops on landscaping with native Minnesota plants in the Twin Cities metropolitan area;
- \$2.3 million to the DNR for four Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) projects to acquire land to improve streams and wildlife habitat;
- \$900,000 to the DNR for the ninth and 10th years of a 24-year project studying the “ecology of rare plants, animals, and

natural communities” in Minnesota counties;

- \$680,000 for an expansion of the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and development of a wetland restoration demonstration project;
- \$250,000 to Twin Cities Public Television to create an environmental video resource center and to produce and broadcast a series about environmentalism in Minnesota;
- \$100,000 to the International Wolf Center to collect and develop materials about wolf ecology and management for TV and radio broadcasts; and
- \$50,000 to the DNR to contract with TIP, Inc. (Turn in Poachers) for a “turn in poachers youth activity book” to educate children about poaching and “its impact on natural resources.”

The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Chuck Brown (DFL-Appleton) and Sen. Steve Morse (DFL-Dakota).

HF1857/SF106\*/CH220

### Petrofund changes

A bill to encourage petroleum tank owners to check to see if their storage tanks are leaking is on its way to the governor’s desk.

The proposal won final approval in the House May 22 on a vote of 133-0. It passed the Senate the same day, 65-0.

Under the bill, those who pay to have their property tested to see if there has been soil or groundwater contamination from a leaking tank could get their money back for that preliminary assessment. (A typical assessment costs between \$2,000 and \$3,000.) Should the initial assessment show that the tanks are leaking, they would have to be removed or repaired, and further analysis of water and soil contamination would be done.

Any tank that has not been used for a year would have to be removed, whether it is leaking or not.

Many of these tanks are underground and found at sites such as abandoned gas stations. Contamination is found at “about 75 to 80 percent” of the sites with old underground storage tanks, bill sponsor Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island) has said.

The change is one of several the bill would make to the state’s Petrofund program, which was established by the 1987 Legislature to help the owners of storage tanks recover some of the costs of a site’s cleanup.

The Petrofund program is financed by a two-cent per gallon fee paid by petroleum distributors.

The bill also would place a cap on clean-up

costs if the leaking tank is on residential property.

An individual would be responsible for paying no more than \$7,500 for cleaning up a residential site, under this provision. Current law requires an owner to pay an open-ended 10 percent of all cleanup costs.

The following provisions are included in the bill:

- All above-ground storage tanks would need to be labeled to indicate their contents. Multiple tank sites would have to post a permanent sign with a diagram showing the location, contents, and capacity of each tank, and the location of piping, valves, storm sewers, and other information needed for an emergency response.

According to Michael Kanner, manager of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Tanks and Spills Section, accidents have occurred where petroleum products have been poured into the wrong tanks. In one case, fuel was poured directly into the ground through a monitoring well.

Owners of above-ground storage tanks would have to install gauges showing the amount of fuel in a tank, and an "audible or visual alarm" to alert a person delivering fuel that the tank is within 100 gallons of capacity.

- Two contaminated petroleum bulk storage sites — one owned by the city of Minneapolis, and one in St. Paul owned by a company going through financial reorganization — would receive reimbursement for cleanup through the Petrofund program. (While the Petrofund was not intended to pay for cleaning up leaking storage tanks of more than 1 million gallons, current law does include an exception for such facilities owned by mining companies.)

- Contractors who register with the Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Board, commonly called the "Petro board," would have to obtain \$1 million in liability coverage, and agree to make all field and financial records available for audits by the board.

Additionally, in order to receive reimbursement for cleanup work, contractors would have to retain their work records for seven years. Under current law, records detailing corrective actions must be kept for five years.

Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-New Brighton) sponsored the proposal in the Senate.

**HF488/SF507\*/CH240**

## Emission omissions



Metropolitan area residents driving newer cars will be spared the inconvenience of an annual emissions test, under new state law signed by Gov. Arne Carlson May 22.

The law will exempt vehicles up to five years old from the \$8 test currently required to obtain annual license plate tabs in the Twin Cities area.

The exemption will begin with cars having license tabs renewed after July 31, 1995.

Sponsored by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), the law takes effect Aug. 1, 1995. At that time, cars from the 1991 model year or later will not have to be tested.

Because so few newer cars fail the test, the procedure is unnecessarily costly and time consuming, Johnson has said. A recent Minnesota Pollution Control Agency study showed that less than 1 percent of cars from the 1991 model year or newer failed the test during a one-year period.

The 1988 Legislature enacted the vehicle emissions testing program, which took effect in mid-1991 because the state was in violation of federal clean air requirements.

If the state falls below standards set forth in the 1990 Clean Air Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may withhold federal highway funds from the state.

Sen. James Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

**HF2\*/SF27/CH204**

## Bigger state parks



Several state parks will have their legal boundaries expanded, under a bill signed into law May 24 by Gov. Arne Carlson.

The new law will allow parcels of land to be added to Forestville, Gooseberry Falls, and William O'Brien state parks.

In addition, the law will correct a legal oversight to reclassify John A. Latsch State Park. The land was once a state park, but, for reasons unknown, it inadvertently became classified as a wayside rest area.

A bill is usually introduced each session to modify state park boundaries. In some cases, landowners want their land to become part of a park. In others, state forest land is added to a park.

Although the law will expand the legal boundaries of the state parks, future legislation will need to be approved to authorize the

sale of state bonds to pay for acquiring private land to add to the parks.

The measure also will allow vehicles without state park permits to enter Gooseberry Falls State Park and park in a new highway rest area that lies within the park. Parking no longer will be allowed along the highway.

Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) and Sen. Steve Morse (DFL-Dakota) sponsored the proposal.

**HF479\*/SF548/CH215**

## State ownership of waters



A new law asserts the state's ownership of waters inside federal nature areas in northern Minnesota.

House sponsor Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) said the law will make it clear the state has never given up jurisdiction over surface waters and lake beds inside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA) and Voyageurs National Park.

The law says that the state has not ceded control over "roughly 100,000 acres of state-owned" land within the BWCA portion of the Superior National Forest in the northeastern part of the state.

The law also asserts state control over parts of Rainy Lake and other lakes within the 35,000 acres donated by the state in 1971 for Voyageurs National Park, which is just east of International Falls.

Minnesota's governor and other constitutional officers are instructed to "vigorously assert and defend" the state's ownership of "these waters and their beds and related natural resources," and to protect the rights of Minnesota citizens to free navigation on border waters in accordance with two treaties between the U.S. and Canada.

House Speaker Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), a co-author of the law, said, "This legislation will help bring greater state and local input to management decisions regarding Voyageurs and the BWCA."

Bakk and other supporters of the law would like to see fewer restrictions on the use of the waters. In particular, Bakk expressed opposition to newer restrictions banning fishing contests and forbidding snowmobiling on specific lake bays in Voyageurs.

"It seems to be moving more and more away from being a multi-use park, and that's what we were promised [when it was created]," Bakk has said.

The law puts the state on record about where it stands on ownership of the waters, said Bakk.

Minnesota, along with property owners

and a snowmobilers group, has already challenged federal restrictions on motorboat and snowmobile use in the BWCA.

In 1981, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit ruled that the federal government had the right to regulate motorized vehicles within the northern wilderness area — even though the state still owns the land and water.

The court noted that testimony before Congress on the 1978 Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act established that the “sight, smell, and sound of motorized vehicles seriously marred the wilderness experience of canoeists, hikers, and skiers and threatened to destroy the integrity of the wilderness.”

The appeals court also rejected arguments from Minnesota that federal restrictions violated two U.S.-Canadian treaties — the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842 and the Root-Bryce Treaty of 1909.

The proposal, which became effective May 11, 1995, was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Cook). (See April 21, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8)

HF54\*/SF279/CH1242

## Natural disaster relief



Effective Aug. 1, 1995, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be allowed to lend equipment to cities and counties facing a natural disaster, under a new law signed by the governor.

Under current law, the DNR is authorized to lend its equipment only for “wildfire prevention or suppression.”

The new law replaces that reference with “natural disaster relief,” which includes “wildfire prevention or suppression, hazardous material discharge control or clean-up, and flood or windstorm relief.”

The DNR provided gloves, shovels, pumps, and large earth-moving equipment during the 1993 Minnesota floods, even though it did not have specific legal authorization to do so, said Olin Phillips, a manager in the DNR's Forestry Division.

DNR finance officials suggested the state statute be changed to cover this practice.

The DNR and the U.S. Forest Service jointly maintain fire fighting equipment in Grand Rapids, Minn.

Phillips explained that the new law, signed April 12, 1995, allows the DNR to provide municipalities and counties with “multi-use equipment,” such as shovels and bulldozers, needed for natural disaster relief.

Local governments will reimburse the state

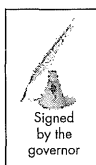
for the cost of the equipment used, and the money will revert to the DNR's emergency fire fighting fund.

“This is a small piece of legislation that's going to have a lot of value,” Phillips said.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment (IR-Rosemount), and Sen. Dennis Frederickson (IR-New Ulm).

HF812\*/SF710/CH36

## Expanding trails



The Blufflands Trail System in southeastern Minnesota will have its legal boundaries expanded, under a new state law. But it will be up to future legislatures to actually appropriate money to develop the trail system.

The trail was originally authorized by the 1992 Legislature. It called for connecting the Root River Trail to a number of towns in the area.

It was extended by the 1994 Legislature to connect several cities in Houston and Fillmore counties — and the city of Winona — to the Root River Trail, which runs from Fountain, through Lanesboro, to Rushford.

The new law will add Minnesota City, Rollingstone, Altura, Lewiston, Utica, St. Charles, and Elba, all located in Winona County, to the trail system.

Funding for the trail has yet to be secured.

The measure, effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Virgil Johnson (IR-Caledonia) and Sen. Steve Morse (DFL-Dakota).

HF121\*/SF310/CH26

## Reprieve for a burner



A meat processing plant will be allowed to continue burning blood- and meat-contaminated packaging until the year 2005, under a new law, effective April 25, 1995.

In 1992, Huisken's Meats in Chandler, Minn., installed a gas-fired waste incinerator to burn the waxed cardboard boxes and cellulose used for shipping frozen meat.

The incinerator was approved by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), but the agency revised its air quality rules in June 1994 and banned such smaller incinerators, except those used by medical facilities, crematoria, and companies that recover precious metals from electronic circuit boards.

The small incinerators allowed to continue operating must meet new MPCA performance standards, and some will require an operating permit from the agency.

The new law is essentially a waiver from the 1994 MPCA small incinerator ban. It will allow the incinerator in Chandler to operate until the year 2005, which covers the useful life of the incinerator.

Without the waiver, the plant would have had to pay to dispose of its cardboard and cellulose refuse in a landfill.

The waste incinerator must be monitored by an automatic temperature control device, and must meet the emission standards in effect when it was installed.

“This is an economic enabler for that small town processing plant,” explained Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), who sponsored the legislation.

The company employs 400 workers producing sausage sticks and beef jerky “sold all over the world,” according to Winter.

Small, on-site incinerators used by various businesses, schools, and hospitals release large quantities of pollutants, according to the MPCA. The agency says that small incinerators generate 93 percent of the dioxin emissions from waste burned in Minnesota.

(A dioxin is a toxin that studies have shown can cause cancers, birth defects, and fetal deaths in animals. Scientists disagree on whether it contributes to cancer in humans.)

The measure was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Arlene Lesewski (IR-Marshall).

HF485\*/SF445\*/CH87



## FAMILY

### Improving child support

A \$3.7 million comprehensive proposal to help collect delinquent child support payments — which includes provisions to suspend drivers' and occupational licenses — is on its way to the governor.

The bill won final approval from the House May 22 on a 108-21 vote. It passed the Senate the same day, 43-23.

As of July 1994, Minnesota kids were owed \$551 million in delinquent support payments, according to the Office of the Attorney General.

Supporters say the bill should be considered welfare reform, as well.

There are currently 91,600 Minnesota child support cases involving families on public assistance.

The bill would suspend the drivers' and occupational licenses of certain deadbeat parents who refuse to pay up. It also would establish a program to make custody and visitation proceedings less confrontational.

Sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St.

Paul) and Sen. Richard Cohen (DFL-St. Paul), the major provisions of **HF966/SF217\*/CH257** include:

### **Child custody**

A custodial parent's failure to comply with a court-ordered visitation schedule could be used to help a non-custodial parent regain custody of a child, under the bill.

Specifically, the "unwarranted denial of, or interference with, a duly established visitation schedule" may be considered by the court in deciding to modify a custody order.

As passed by the House, the bill contained a controversial provision ordering judges to consider a parent's refusal to comply with a visitation agreement in determining child support payments. That provision was deleted by House-Senate conferees.

Instead, the bill includes \$90,000 for the Supreme Court to study whether there is a relationship between visitation and payment of child support in Minnesota. Included in the study will be consideration of whether visitation impacts a non-custodial parent's compliance with court ordered child support.

### **Pay it or park it**

Parents who are at least three months behind in their child support payments could lose their driver's license.

The "pay it or park it" provision would notify those at least three months behind in their child support that they have 90 days to work out a payment plan with the county or the court. Failure to do so would result in a suspended driver's license. (The debtor may request a hearing on the matter.)

The provision is modeled after a current Maine law which has generated \$21 million in collections since its 1992 inception. It cost the state \$70,000 to implement the program. Only 39 drivers' licenses have been suspended.

Bill sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) called the Maine program a successful deterrent. He said the goal is to collect money, and that few license suspensions are expected.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) would get \$50,000 to administer the program. By fiscal year 1999, when the program would be fully operational, DHS conservatively estimates the program will account for the collection of an additional \$30 million in child support.

### **Occupational license suspension**

Those who are at least three months behind in their child support payments also could lose a state-issued occupational license. Current law doesn't specify a minimum amount before a license can be suspended.

The state issues occupational licenses including those for barbers, doctors, contractors, and other professions. Without a license they could not practice.

Parents would be warned 30 days in advance that such a license suspension will be sought, and would have a right to a hearing on the matter.

The Department of Human Services would get \$10,000 to implement the program.

### **Curbing teen sex**

To curb the trend of teens becoming pregnant at younger and younger ages, the state would authorize a grant program for communities that develop programs to target 12- to 14-year-old boys and girls.

The bill includes \$362,000 from the general fund to start the program.

Originally sponsored by Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope) as **HF517**, the ENABL (Education Now And Babies Later) program would be created, modeled after a similar program in California.

School districts, churches, YMCAs, and other groups would qualify for grants as long as they could come up with 25 percent of the cost of the program.

The program would focus on convincing 12- to 14-year-olds to postpone sex by using an existing curriculum that doesn't include birth control information.

Part of the program would include a statewide media campaign that would encourage parents to talk with their children about postponing sex. Older teens also would talk to their younger peers on abstaining from sex.

The state would distribute grants to community organizations across the state to implement the ENABL program.

The need to reduce teen pregnancy is a taxpayer issue, according to proponents. In 1993, Minnesota spent \$20 million on Aid to Families with Dependent Children welfare grants to families that began with a teen birth.

There are about 7,100 parents on AFDC who are either minors now or were under 18 when their oldest child was born. That accounts for about 14,000 children.

The program also would get another \$128,000 in revenue from an increase in the marriage license fee. The bill would boost the fee to \$70, up from \$65. Of the \$5 increase, \$2 from each license would fund ENABL, the

remaining \$3 of the hike would fund grants for children's safety centers. The grant program was established by the 1992 Legislature to provide a safe place for family visitation in situations where there has been abuse in a relationship. Up to \$192,000 would be available for such grants.

### **Support or service**

A "support or service" pilot project would be established to make able-bodied debtors without jobs perform community service work. They could be made to work up to 32 hours per week for six weeks. Entenza has said a similar Wisconsin program has proven to be an incentive for debtors to find work and has resulted in improved child support compliance.

The Department of Human Services would get \$119,000 to implement the program.

### **Work reporting system**

A centralized employment database at the DHS would be created by Jan. 1, 1996. Business owners must report all new hires to the department within 15 days or face up to a \$500 fine, per employee, for repeatedly (and intentionally) failing to report. Its purpose is to track those who drift from job to job to avoid having wages garnished to pay child support.

When the state or any other governmental unit hires a contractor, it, too, will be reported to the DHS.

The Department of Human Services would get \$350,000 to implement the program.

### **Naming deadbeat parents**

The names of those delinquent in their support payments would be published twice per year — instead of quarterly — under the bill.

The program publishes the names of those owing at least \$3,000 in delinquent child support payments. Those not in compliance with a current payment plan will see their names in the newspaper with the widest circulation available in their neighborhood.

A decision not to publish someone's name due to special circumstances may be made by the commissioner of human services.

The DHS would also need to publish "a printed retraction and apology" acknowledging those whose names are published in error.

The changes follow the recent erroneous publication of the names of several people in newspapers statewide.

The Department of Human Services would get \$275,000 to implement the program.



## Motor vehicle liens

The state (or person owed child support) would be a "secured party" listed on the motor vehicle title of someone at least three months delinquent in child support payments. When such a vehicle, valued at more than \$4,500 is sold, the seller would keep \$4,500 and the state or the person owed child support would get the rest.

The Department of Human Services would get \$24,000 to implement the program.

## Cooperation for kids

A "cooperation for the kids" pilot project would be created to address issues of custody and visitation in a mediation setting without judges or attorneys. It would be implemented by the DHS, the Office of Administrative Hearings, and the Office of the Attorney General.

The program would be implemented in select counties and participants would be charged on a sliding-fee scale. All couples would be screened to identify a domestic abuse situation.

The Department of Human Services would get \$100,000 to implement the program.

## Support payment center

A centralized state child support collections unit would be established within the DHS in 1997. All payments made to local agencies would be forwarded to the DHS.

The Department of Human Services would get \$358,000 to implement the program.

## Freezing interest

The accrual of interest would be frozen on back child support owed if the parent makes timely payments for 36 consecutive months. This is designed to aid parents who at one time owed a lot in back child support but were unable to pay. By freezing the interest on that large unpaid balance, it is hoped that parents who resume paying can catch up and pay off the debt's principal. This provision was previously contained in **HF348**, sponsored by Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids), which was incorporated into **HF966/SF217**.\*

The Department of Human Services would get \$19,000 to implement the change.

## 'Mrs. Doubtfire' arrangements

Non-custodial parents could see their kids more by providing child care for them, under the bill.

If the custodial parent works, and the non-custodial parent is able to care for the child, such an arrangement may be approved by the court.

The provision is named after a popular movie in which, to resolve a child care crisis, the non-custodial father eventually becomes the child care provider.

In approving such an arrangement, the courts would consider the ability of the parents to cooperate, methods for resolving disputes regarding care of the children, and whether domestic abuse has occurred between the parents.

## Children of divorce



Divorce is never easy, but it often hits children the hardest.

A new law could require parents who are separating to attend a special workshop.

After Aug. 1, 1995, in a proceeding involving child custody, child support, or visitation of children, the court may require the parents to attend an orientation and education program which addresses the impact of such proceedings on children.

Parents could be required to pay a fee to cover the costs of the program. (Any fees would be waived for those who are unable to pay.)

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Fran Bradley (IR-Rochester) and Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (IR-Rochester).

**HF1008\*/SF606/CH127**



## GAMBLING

### Gambling treatment funds



Public funds for treatment of compulsive gamblers will be available to private, for-profit agencies, under a new state law.

Bill sponsor Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) has said the bill is necessary to give Minnesotans, especially in outstate areas, more opportunities for treatment.

Effective April 25, for-profit agencies are now able to compete with non-profits for the grant funding.

During the current two-year spending cycle, the state will spend about \$1.2 million to treat problem gamblers. Non-profit treatment facilities are selected to receive some of that money through Department of Human Services grants. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9)

The House passed similar legislation in 1993, but it did not survive conference committee negotiations.

Sen. Skip Finn (DFL-Cass Lake) sponsored the proposal in the Senate.

**HF83/SF91\*/CH86**



## GAME & FISH

### Omnibus game and fish bill

Anglers winning a fishing contest would be assured of getting their prizes, under the omnibus game and fish bill now being considered by the governor. And anglers fishing for trout or salmon anywhere in the state would have to purchase a trout and salmon stamp.

On May 23, the House approved **SF1**, the first bill of the 1995 Special Session, on a 130-0 vote. The Senate approved it the same day on a 60-0 vote. The bill (previously known as **HF683/SF621\***) was the result of a compromise arrived at by lawmakers appointed to a joint House-Senate conference committee.

Under the bill, promoters of fishing contests would have to furnish proof to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that they have the financial resources to pay for the advertised prize awards.

They would have to furnish a \$25,000 surety bond or a bank letter of credit in that amount.

This provision would apply to any contest having an entry fee of more than \$25 per person, or total prizes valued at more than \$25,000. (Sec. 33)

The House sponsor of the bill considered during the regular session was Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul). Selected highlights of the bill, sponsored by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls) in the special session, are listed below.

**Special Session: HFnone/SF1\***

### Trout stamps required

Anglers fishing for trout or salmon anywhere in the state would have to purchase a trout and salmon stamp. Under current law, the stamp is required only for fishing in Lake Superior and certain designated lakes and streams. (Sec. 34)

### Hunting heritage week

Minnesota would observe an official "hunting heritage week" in late September, under the bill.

The week to "commemorate the state's valued heritage of hunting game animals" would begin on the third Monday in September. Minnesota citizens would be urged to "reflect on hunting as an expression of our culture and heritage."

The first observance of hunting heritage week could take place in September 1995, if the governor signs the bill into law. (Sec. 1)

### Milfoil fine hike

Another provision of the bill would increase the fine — to \$200 from \$150 — for spreading water milfoil into a lake or river. The fine could be assessed against those who introduce a trailer or boat — either of which are contaminated with the exotic species — into a body of water. The state had been attempting to curb the spread of Eurasian water milfoil that has quickly spread in Minnesota waters. (Sec. 13, Subd. 2)

### Mute swan season

The mute swan would be added to the list of unprotected birds, under the bill. Unprotected birds, such as house sparrows, blackbirds and common pigeons, can be killed at any time. The mute swan is a non-native species. (Sec. 17)

Mute swans aren't to be confused with trumpeter swans, a breed which the Minnesota DNR has been working to bring back in greater numbers in Minnesota, according to Steve Wilds, chief of the migratory birds and refuge biology section of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### Firearms safety

The DNR would develop a plan for a firearms safety program "directed at children that is value-neutral concerning firearms ownership." The course would promote awareness of the "safe use and storage of firearms." The DNR would submit its plan to the Legislature by Feb. 1, 1996. (Sec. 46)

### Tip-ups, from a distance

An ice angler would be allowed to stray 200 feet from a "tip-up," which is a mechanical device that raises a small red flag when a fish tugs on the line. Under current law, a person has to be within 80 feet of a tip-up. This provision would allow Minnesota anglers to build a bonfire on the shore for warmth and still be fishing within the law. (Sec. 35)

### Licenses in advance

An angler would be able to buy a 24-hour, 72-hour, seven-day, or 14-day fishing license that would begin on a specified future date. Under current law, these licenses become effective on the day they are purchased. (Sec. 23)

### Trapping licenses

Residents 13 and older would have to buy a trapping license. Under current law, those 14 and older must obtain a license. (Sec. 22)

## Ontario fishing dispute

Minnesotans who fish in Ontario will be allowed to return to the state with their fish filleted — at least for the next year, under a new state law.

The law, contained in the environment and natural resources spending bill, is the result of an agreement reached by legislative leaders, Gov. Arne Carlson, and the Department of Natural Resources.

It repeals a 1994 law that limited Minnesotans fishing in Ontario to bringing back just one trophy fish of each species. (Sec. 141)

The law permits anglers to bring back their full limit of game fish allowed under Ontario law.

But the provision to bring back filleted fish could be short-lived. A separate bill (SF1670) now being considered by the governor would give the governor the authority after May 1, 1996, to require that all anglers fishing in Ontario return to Minnesota with fish unfileted, or "in-the-round."

The one-year reprieve from fish transpor-

tation restrictions is designed to allow time for the governments of the two countries to get together to resolve the long-running dispute over fishing and tourism.

The "in-the-round" requirement is significant because the prospect of unfileted fish makes Canadian fishing expeditions less attractive, so that fewer anglers will patronize Ontario resorts. Fish spoil more quickly when "in-the-round" and consequently don't taste as good.

The 1993 Legislature approved a law that required fish to be transported into the state unfileted, which was changed in 1994 to allow only one trophy fish of each species.

This year, the Legislature had considered resurrecting portions of the 1993 law — but the proposal had strong opposition in the Senate and from some House members.

Ontario has placed stricter fish limits on anglers who lodge in Minnesota than on those who stay in Ontario resorts, including a ban on keeping any walleyes that Minnesota-based anglers have caught on the Ontario side of Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake.

Another provision of the economic development spending bill (SF1670) would allow anglers fishing north of Big Island in Lake of the Woods to possess both a Minnesota and Ontario fish limit if they have valid licenses and tags. That's six walleye from Minnesota waters and an additional two from Ontario waters. (Sec. 51)

Currently, anglers can only bring back the Minnesota limit of six walleye, according to Roger Holmes, director of the DNR's Fish and Wildlife Division.

DNR Commissioner Rod Sando has said the provision would encourage anglers to stay at resorts on the Minnesota side of the lake.

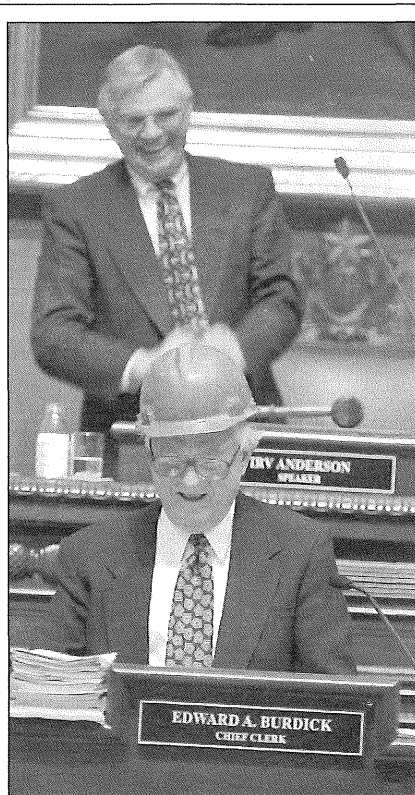
The expanded limit would not apply on the Manitoba side of Lake of the Woods or on other border waters.

(The Minnesota-Canada border runs through Lake of the Woods in Minnesota's Northwest Angle. The western portion of the lake is in Manitoba, eastern portions of the lake are in Ontario.)

The bill also would allocate \$100,000 to the Department of Trade and Economic Development to examine ways to legally or diplomatically challenge Ontario's current fishing regulations. (Sec. 2, Subd. 4)

A third bill moving through the Legislature also would repeal portions of existing law dealing with fishing in Ontario.

The omnibus game and fish bill (**Special Session: SF1**), now being considered by the governor, also includes a section that would repeal the law restricting Minnesota anglers



Ed Burdick, chief clerk of the House of Representatives, sports a hard hat given to him by Rep. Bob Johnson for "protection from falling gavel" May 22. Burdick, seated, was grazed by the speaker's gavel earlier that day.

from returning from Ontario with only one trophy fish of each species. (Sec. 48)

HF1857/SF106\*/CH220

## Turkeys saved, owls trapped



Minnesota turkey farmers now have a new way to protect their flocks from the threat of great horned owls.

A new law, effective May 19, 1995, allows farmers to catch the owls in padded jaw traps.

Currently, only licensed game farmers are permitted to trap the birds.

Turkey farmers say they suffer large financial losses at the hands of owls. They say the mere presence of an owl can cause serious problems on a turkey farm.

Turkeys panic when an owl is near, and they have been known to run in fear, pile on one another and smother each other. (See April 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8)

Under the law, farmers have to obtain a federal permit to trap owls. Traps have to be tended twice daily. Injured owls have to be taken to a veterinarian.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) and Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls).

HF120/SF155\*/CH188

## Antlerless permits



Youths under age 16 who have completed certified gun training will still be able to bag a deer of either sex, under a new state law.

In 1993, lawmakers set up a two-year pilot program to allow youths to take a deer of either sex. The new law repeals a Dec. 31, 1995, sunset date for the program.

Older hunters in a group are still prohibited from taking an antlerless deer unless they have the required permit.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) and Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls).

HF321\*/SF174/CH32



## GOVERNMENT

### Omnibus state government bill

A \$508 million omnibus state government spending bill with money for everything from ice rinks to a Korean War veterans memorial is on its way to the governor.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) and Sen. Richard Cohen (DFL-St. Paul), includes new policies such as cutting state agency money spent on private consultants.

The bill passed both the House and Senate May 22. The House passed it 90-42, the Senate, 37-25.

Below are some of the bill's highlights for the 1996-1997 biennium.

HF1001/SF1678\*/CH254

#### 'Mighty Ducks'

The bill spends \$2.9 million to build more indoor ice arenas in Minnesota. (Art. 1, Sec. 17)

The proposal was originally part of HF1260, sponsored by Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul). The Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission would use money to distribute grants of up to \$250,000 each to local communities. To the extent possible, 50 percent of all grants must be awarded to communities in Greater Minnesota. (Art. 1, Sec. 76)

Milbert, also a member of the amateur sports commission, said a study of ice needs in Minnesota discovered more than 90 communities that say they need a new indoor ice arena or repairs for an existing arena. The number of girls and boys participating in winter sports such as hockey and competitive figure skating has increased the demand for ice time.

(A 1994 law mandates that all public indoor ice arenas must give female hockey teams "up to 30 percent" of the prime ice time during the 1995 winter season and "up to 50 percent" by the 1996 season.)

The "Mighty Ducks" label is in reference to a movie about a group of misfit youthful hockey players.

#### Unpaid leaves

The bill requires state department managers to "encourage" their state employees to take an unpaid leave of absence for up to 160 hours during the two-year budget period ending June 30, 1997. It is anticipated that this proposal would save the state's general fund \$400,000 in each year of the biennium. (Art. 1, Sec. 92)

### Bank refunds

The bill sets aside \$1.3 million to pay overtime to experienced state corporate audit staff to process bank refund claims as part of the Cambridge State Bank court settlement against the state. The money also would be used to hire temporary employees for some duties. The Minnesota Supreme Court has ruled that the state illegally taxed the interest that banks and other corporations paid on federal bonds over a four-year period in the late 1970s and early 1980s. It is estimated that the settlement will cost the state about \$320 million. (Art. 1, Sec. 16, Subd. 2)

### Gambling

The bill would abolish the seven-member advisory State Lottery Board. (Art. 1, Sec. 80, Subd. 4)

This provision was originally part of HF138 sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls). Her bill also called for the elimination of the Gambling Control Board and the Minnesota Racing Commission, but the omnibus state government bill does not include them in the cuts.

The omnibus bill also would require 70 percent of all unclaimed prize money from the lottery to be distributed as follows: 40 percent must be transferred to the Minnesota environment and natural resources trust fund and 60 percent must be transferred to the general fund. The remaining 30 percent of the unclaimed prize money must be added to the prize pools of future lottery games. Currently, all unclaimed prize money is added to future games for financial prizes. (Art. 1, Sec. 84, Subd. 5)

### Mille Lacs court fight

Costs continue to mount in the state's challenge of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians' established claim to hunting and fishing rights in a 12-county area of east-central Minnesota. Their claim involves Lake Mille Lacs, the state's premier walleye lake.

The omnibus state government spending bill gives the Office of the Attorney General another \$790,000 to pay for state expert witnesses in the treaty court case. (Art. 1, Sec. 34)

Peggy Willens, finance director for the Office of the Attorney General, has told lawmakers that none of the \$790,000 would pay for attorneys. The Legislature in 1993 appropriated about \$1 million for the attorney general's office to take the case to court. About half of that was to go to pay for expert witnesses.

Willens has said that "\$500,000 was our estimate. It was low."

## State debt collection

A measure to give the state more power to collect overdue debts owed to state agencies and threaten deadbeat debtors with a penalty surcharge also can be found in the omnibus state government finance bill. (Art. 5)

The penalty — of up to 25 percent of the debt — would be added to an existing bad debt, such as a student loan, back taxes, or a fee, to pay for the cost of the collection.

As of Sept. 30, 1994, people owed \$641 million to the state's general fund and \$587 million to other state accounts, according to the Minnesota Collection Enterprise (MCE). The MCE was established by the 1994 Legislature to coordinate a statewide effort on bill collections.

Another provision in the measure, originally sponsored by Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul) as **HF625**, would allow the state to seize or reduce an individual's tax refund check or other state payment of more than \$5,000 to pay debt owed the state. (Public assistance checks would not be seized.)

Current law allows for such deductions only for back taxes or child support payments owed the state.

The state would notify the person whose funds would be taken, and the individual would have 30 days to request a hearing to dispute the matter.

Wages also could be garnished until a debt is paid off, as long as no other creditors were garnishing the wages.

Currently, the state and other creditors can garnish a person's wages for up to 70 days. Debtors who prove that they need more money for necessities, such as shelter, food, and work transportation, could reduce a garnishment.

The measure also would allow the Department of Finance to begin a pilot program to compare which is more effective in collecting debt — the state's MCE or private collection agencies.

The finance department would farm out \$35 million of the money owed to the state to private collection agencies, compare their collections with the MCE, and report to the Legislature by Feb. 1, 1997. The department currently farms out debt to several national firms, but the amendment calls on the department to try out different firms for the pilot project.

## Private consultants

The state's use of private contracts and consultants would be cut by 5 percent during the 1996-1997 biennium, under the omnibus state government spending bill.

The state's 20 main agencies would have to

cut 5 percent off the *aggregate* amount they spent on consultants in fiscal years 1994-1995. They could not make the cuts from grant money or federal funds. Instead, they must cut from the dollars allocated to them by the state. (Art. 1, Sec. 93)

Under the measure, the governor would decide which agencies would face contract cuts. Some could increase their use of consultants as long as others decreased enough for an overall reduction of 5 percent.

The measure was originally sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) as **HF123**. His bill, however, asked for a 10 percent cut.

The provision also would apply to the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Legislative Coordinating Commission. Each would be required to cut 5 percent in their consultant spending.

There are exemptions in the bill, such as contracts for highway construction and maintenance; consultants hired by a Minnesota state college or university to teach public or private organizations, agencies, or businesses; and consultants used to help with pension plans.

## Veterans

A memorial to be built on the Capitol grounds honoring those who served in the Korean War would be given \$50,000. (Art. 1, Sec. 13)

In addition, \$16,200 would be set aside under the bill to contribute to a memorial honoring women in military service which is being built at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. (Art. 1, Sec. 20)

Another \$30,000 over the 1996-1997 biennium would go to help Vietnam veterans and Vietnam-era veterans prepare and present their claims to the U.S. government for compensation and other benefits they are entitled to as a result of disabilities incurred in military service. (Art. 1, Sec. 20) Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport) originally sponsored this provision as **HF1045**.

## House and Senate television

The House and Senate television departments would receive \$300,000 over the 1996-1997 budget period. The money would be used to expand the broadcasts of House and Senate floor sessions and some committee hearings. At least half the money must go toward broadcasting in rural Minnesota. The proposal (**HF1120**), sponsored by Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), originally had asked for \$425,000 over the biennium. (Art. 1, Sec. 11, Subd. 8)

## Leif Erikson face lift

A proposal to repair the Leif Erikson statue on the Capitol grounds would receive \$20,000 in fiscal year 1996. The proposal was originally sponsored by Rep. Mark Holsten (IR-Stillwater) as **HF1219**. Erikson, son of Eric the Red, who colonized Greenland, is reputedly the first European to discover America. (Art. 1, Sec. 11, Subd. 4)

## Economic, community development

There would be no 1996 presidential primary in Minnesota, under a provision of an economic development spending bill that has been sent to the governor.

The Senate gave the bill final passage May 18, and the House passed it May 19. The votes were 40-22 and 90-40, respectively.

The \$397 million omnibus economic/community development bill provides funding in the next two-year spending cycle for a diverse group of state agencies, ranging from the Office of the Secretary of State to the Board of Boxing.

The bill also includes provisions setting requirements for the recipients of so-called "corporate welfare," and prohibits the establishment of juvenile sex offender treatment centers in neighborhoods.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls). Rep. Jim Rice (DFL-Mpls) chaired the committee which assembled the House version.

**SF1670\*/HFnone/CH224**

## Presidential primary

The bill would defeat a presidential primary proposal that had the support of Gov. Arne Carlson. The governor was one of the backers of a plan to create a "Big Ten" primary in March 1996 along with Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Instead, the bill would bar the state from holding a presidential primary until the year 2000. (Sec. 73)

Rep. Jim Rice (DFL-Mpls) has said the provision was added because the bill's appropriation for the Secretary of State does not include money for a primary. As a result, allowing a 1996 primary would have resulted in an unfunded mandate on local municipalities.

The Secretary of State would receive \$12.2 million for the biennium, more than \$4 million below the agency's request. Much of that cut — \$3.1 million — would have reimbursed municipalities for the expense of the presidential primary. (Sec. 27)

Rep. Ron Abrams (IR-Minnetonka), who supported the "Big Ten" primary proposal,



argued a presidential primary is needed to involve more Minnesotans in the political process than the current caucus system attracts.

"We ought to do something for the people in the state rather than the political pros in the state," Abrams said.

### Corporate welfare

Some companies receiving financial assistance from the state would have to meet job-growth standards, under the compromise "corporate welfare" language included in the bill.

But the companies would not have to pay employees the "livable wage" — about \$15,150 annually — prescribed in the House version of the bill.

Instead, the bill would require companies receiving a benefit in the form of a state grant, loan, or tax increment financing district worth more than \$25,000 to show a net job growth within two years. Also, the state agency that provides the assistance would negotiate job and wage goals with the company. The company would have to pay back the state if it fails to meet those goals. (Sec. 58)

The requirements in the omnibus bill are the result of a proposal included in a separate bill (HF869) originally sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls). Clark has argued the state needs to be assured its investments in business yields positive results for workers.

The omnibus bill also includes a provision to require the legislative auditor to study state and local assistance to businesses and its affects on job creation. (Sec. 44)

### Minority affairs councils

Four state councils designed to ensure minority groups in Minnesota get equal access to the state's services would be funded for an additional year, but funding for the second year is not set in stone.

The measure requires the Indian Affairs Council, the Council on Affairs of Spanish-Speaking People, the Council on Black Minnesotans, and the Council on Asian-Pacific Americans to conduct a study of their operations.

In his proposed budget, Gov. Arne Carlson said he intends to submit legislation that would remove these councils from "state agency status."

The bill states that the study must, among other issues, consider:

- removal of council members by the governor;
- methods of reducing overall costs of the councils through sharing of staff and administrative expenses;
- methods of improving coordination with other state agencies; and

- methods of educating council members in management issues for state agencies, including statewide budget and accounting practices, management practices, and legal liability.

Each council must submit its report to the Legislature by Feb. 1, 1996. The bill states that funding for each council in the second year of the biennium is contingent upon the report being completed.

Another provision in the bill would allow the Council on Affairs of Spanish-Speaking People to sell advertising in its publications to help underwrite publication costs. (Secs. 23-26, 35)

### Koch refinery

The Koch Refining Co. in Rosemount, just south of the Twin Cities, could have an easier time constructing a nearby co-generation power plant, under a section of the measure.

The refinery is considering constructing a co-generation plant that would burn "petroleum coke," which is a byproduct of the refining process.

The proposed plant would burn the petroleum coke to generate up to 250 megawatts of electricity — which would more than meet the plant's electrical needs — and steam, which would be used for heating.

The measure would streamline power plant siting laws that are administered by the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board.

The provision also would allow the Environmental Quality Board to waive an Environmental Impact Statement for the project provided the board "determines that the proposed site will not have a significant human and environmental impact."

All that would be needed is a less detailed environmental assessment worksheet.

Supporters of the Koch proposal argue that co-generation plants are much more efficient than traditional power plants and that the project would make use of a byproduct that is essentially wasted now.

The measure does not contain earlier proposals advanced by Koch that would have exempted the project from the Public Utilities Commission's certificate of need process and from paying *personal* property taxes, which are not to be confused with local property taxes. (Personal property taxes are only paid by pipeline companies and electric utilities.)

Those provisions were among the most controversial of the proposals put forward by Koch, which processes crude oil into a variety of more refined petroleum products, including gasoline and heating oil.

The refinery, which processes crude oil from Canada and the Gulf of Mexico region

that is sent here via pipelines, produces about half of the gas used in Minnesota. (Sec. 47)

### Juvenile sex offenders

Smaller, residential treatment programs that are designed to treat juvenile sex offenders would no longer be permitted in neighborhoods, under the bill.

Such facilities would no longer be considered a "permitted single-family residential use" under the state's zoning law definitions.

The law would now specifically exclude a "residential program whose primary purpose is to treat juveniles who have violated criminal statutes relating to sex offenses or have been adjudicated delinquent on the basis of conduct in violation of criminal statutes relating to sex offenses. . . ." (Secs. 79 & 95 )

### Historical society

The omnibus bill would keep open historical sites such as the James J. Hill House in St. Paul which may have closed under Gov. Arne Carlson's budget recommendations.

The Minnesota Historical Society would receive a total of \$37.7 million for the biennium — about \$500,000 more than called for by the governor.

The money in the bill pays for the operation of the Hill House and other historical sites, some of which may have closed under the governor's budget recommendations, such as the Northwest Co. Fur Post in Pine County, the Mille Lacs Indian Museum, and the Children's Museum in St. Paul. (Sec. 18)

### Housing

A family housing assistance program would be expanded so more families could qualify for help, under the bill.

The program currently provides loans or direct rental subsidies to families with incomes of up to 60 percent of the area's median income, which ranges from a high of \$30,600 in the metropolitan area to a low of \$14,000 in Mahanomen County. (Sec. 111)

The bill would change the maximum qualifying level to 80 percent of the state's medium income, which is \$34,800.

The provision was part of HF509 — the omnibus housing bill — sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls). (See April 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11). Provisions of that bill were folded into the economic development omnibus bill.

The bill also would set aside money to help people convert contracts for deed on their homes to traditional mortgages. That would eliminate the need for home owners to come up with large balloon payments. (Sec. 107)

## Claims bill approved

The state would pay the remaining medical expenses from a 1988 crash of a Department of Corrections van and war veteran bonuses that are decades overdue, under a bill on its way to the governor.

The 241 appropriations listed in the 1995 claims bill total about \$164,000.

The Senate passed the bill May 18, 56-0. The House passed it May 22, 128-3.

The Claims Committee, a joint panel composed of House and Senate members, considers claims made against the state each year. The panel serves as a court of last resort for those who feel the state is responsible for a financial loss. A person can pay a \$5 filing fee and plead their case for reimbursement.

This year's House bill contains claims that range from \$10 to more than \$74,000.

The highest claim would pay remaining medical expenses from the Oct. 27, 1988 crash of a state-owned van transporting residents of the Sauk Centre juvenile correctional facility. Three teenagers and a staff member on a movie outing were killed when the van skidded off Interstate 94 near Alexandria, crossed the median and was struck by a semi-truck. Eleven others were injured in the accident.

The lowest claim would pay a World War II veteran who is eligible for a military service bonus.

Most of the claims contained in the bill, would go to the Department of Veteran Affairs to compensate Minnesota veterans for state-authorized bonuses based on their length of military service during wartime. Each veteran must apply for the bonus. The bill appropriates \$43,315 for the bonuses.

Bill sponsor Rep. Edgar Olson (DFL-Fosston), chair of the Claims Committee, said this will be the last series of veterans bonus payments for anyone who served in World War I, World War II, the Korean conflict, and Vietnam.

The bill also would pay five Minnesota prison inmates for injuries sustained while performing assigned work. Those claims total about \$23,600. Another \$9,000 would go to two people injured while performing court-ordered community work.

The bill was carried by Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) in the Senate.

**HF1910\*/SF1701/CH228**

## Government efficiency

A bill that aims to improve government efficiency by eliminating periodic reports to the Legislature and reducing regulations on some state agencies is now being considered by the governor.

Both the House and Senate passed the bill on May 22. The votes were 117-16 and 58-6, respectively.

Some governmental entities the House previously voted to abolish will survive, under the bill.

The Minnesota Racing Commission and Gambling Control Board — once marked for elimination by the House — and the Department of Public Service and Public Utilities Commission (PUC) — slated to be merged into a new department — remain untouched.

Rep. Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon) complained the bill is long on reports and experiments and short on real action to cut the size and cost of government.

While conceding the bill would not do everything he set out to do, Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul), the House sponsor, described it as a significant step in the right direction.

Sen. Phil Riveness (DFL-Bloomington) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

The following are major provisions of the bill **HF1542/SF1246\*/CH248**.

### Untangling bureaucracy

Pilot projects would be established to free three state agencies from what some consider to be cumbersome bureaucratic requirements.

The two-year projects would free one state agency from purchasing requirements and a second agency from many personnel requirements. The governor would be allowed to decide which agencies would take part in the projects.

The first project would allow an agency the freedom to do more comparison shopping. According to Orenstein, many items such as office supplies and cleaning supplies often can be purchased from retailers at lower prices than if bought from the state's central store.

The second project would allow an agency to cut through much of the red tape involved with hiring and other personnel procedures. However, the agency would not be exempted from affirmative action requirements.

The third pilot project would test a "gainsharing" program in the Department of Employee Relations.

The program would provide financial rewards for any employee who comes up with an idea that makes significant reductions in costs or improvements in efficiency.

Orenstein said the pilot projects should help lawmakers identify where changes can be made.

### Legislative commissions

On July 1, 1996, all legislative commissions, with the exception of the audit commission and the advisory commission, would be abolished unless the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) acts to continue them by Jan. 1, 1996.

The LCC's budget for the second year of the biennium would be cut by \$601,000 due to these changes.

Potentially, 13 existing commissions could be disbanded.

The commissions are joint House-Senate panels of lawmakers that meet often between legislative sessions to develop legislation and hear public testimony on policy issues. Most commissions have small staffs of one to three employees.

The bill also would eliminate the staff complement of the Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy by Aug. 1, 1995.

The commission would remain, but existing legislative staff will perform necessary duties.

The staff and duties of the Commission on Employee Relations would be transferred to the LCC July 1, 1995.

### Reports eliminated

Many of the 700 periodic reports required from state agencies could be eliminated. Any report that is not specifically exempted in the bill or requested by the legislative leaders including the House speaker, minority leader and committee chairs, would be discontinued.

### Restructuring government

The commissioner of the Department of Public Service and the director of the PUC would be required to report to the Legislature on whether the department and the commission should be merged or restructured.

The Department of Public Service is responsible for protecting the public interest in the areas of energy, telecommunications, and weights and measures. The PUC is a quasi-judicial body that regulates the rates and services of Minnesota telephone, natural gas, and electric utilities.

Orenstein had proposed the elimination of the department and the creation of a new agency to house the PUC and to handle some of the duties of the department.

Additionally, studies would be done to determine the feasibility of merging or reorganizing state agencies that promote economic development and assist business, in-

cluding the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Economic Security.

The bill also calls for a similar study concerning the potential for reorganizing environmental agencies, including the Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

### Customer service

State agencies would be required to make improvements in the service provided to citizens. Under the bill, state agencies would have 60 days to act on an application for a license or permit or it would be automatically granted to the applicant. Exceptions would be made in some cases, such as those requiring a public hearing.

The bill also aims to reduce the hassle for citizens needing the help of more than one agency. In such cases, the first agency contacted would be required to coordinate services from other agencies instead of sending the citizen from one office to the next.

### Friendly government

Any individual or small business applying to a state agency for a license would get a refund, upon request, if they don't receive it within six weeks, under a bill now being considered by the governor.

The proposal passed the House May 22 on a 126-6 vote. It passed the Senate the same day, 63-0.

The money-back guarantee also would apply to permits, variances, orders, or other documents. It would not apply to drivers' licenses.

There are certain exceptions to the six-week deadline, including those documents requiring public hearings or environmental impact statements. (See May 19, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 12)

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Phil Caruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) and Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing).

HF796/SF538\*/CH237

### Incapacitated chief officer



A new law will clarify who would run the state if the governor is unable to carry out the duties of the office.

Current law stipulates the lieutenant governor would take over if the governor dies. But it says nothing about what would happen should the governor become too ill to run the state.

A change will clarify present law to say a

governor who anticipates incapacity — such as a terminal or debilitating illness — would write to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House declaring the inability to discharge the duties of office. The lieutenant governor would then take over those duties.

In unanticipated cases, such as when the governor suddenly becomes too sick to perform the job, the lieutenant governor would take over when four of five officials declare in writing the governor cannot discharge the duties of office. Those officials are the chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, the lieutenant governor, the governor's chief of staff, the governor's personal physician, and a member of the governor's cabinet designated in advance by the governor.

The proposal, effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon) and Sen. William Belanger (IR-Bloomington).

HF1468\*/SF1268/CH98

### Unfunded mandates



A new state law will help determine how much money federal mandates are costing the state of Minnesota.

It calls for every state agency that runs a program subject to federal mandates or supported by federal funds to report certain information to the Department of Finance.

This will include anticipated federal and state funding for programs for the next biennium, the extent to which the state funding is mandated by federal law, and the extent to which state funding mandated by federal law is in compliance with state policy.

Departments also will be asked to submit suggestions as to how state costs could be minimized by changing state laws or rules or seeking waivers of federal requirements.

Finally, departments will need to report "the extent to which the agency could achieve the outcomes desired by the federal mandate in a less expensive or more efficient manner if the federal mandate were modified or repealed."

The Department of Finance will, in conjunction with Minnesota Planning, report back to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 1996, with its findings.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Tim Pawlenty (IR-Eagan) and Sen. Kevin Chandler (DFL-White Bear Lake), becomes effective Aug. 1, 1995.

HF139/SF204\*/CH57

### Offensive place names



The word "squaw" — a term considered derogatory by some American Indians — will soon vanish from some place names in Minnesota, under a new state law.

New names in their place will be selected by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) commissioner in cooperation with county boards, said House sponsor Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls).

The proposal specifically will change the name of any "geographic feature" containing the word "squaw." It will affect lakes, ponds, islands, bays, and other natural features.

Angelene Losh and Dawn Litzau, two Cass Lake-Bena High School students, started the movement against offensive place names by organizing to change the name of Squaw Point, which is on the Leech Lake Indian reservation in northern Minnesota.

Their personal testimony and supporting materials presented to legislators indicated that the word "squaw" is a French corruption of "otsiskwa," an Iroquois word denoting female sexual parts. The Ojibwe word for woman is "ikwe."

The name-change campaign met with success Feb. 7 when the Cass County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to change the name of Squaw Point to Oak Point.

There is another Squaw Point in Minnesota, six Squaw Lakes, and a Squaw Pond, according to Glen Yakel, a supervisor in the DNR's waters division.

Anticipating that the measure would become law, letters from the DNR already have been sent to the five county boards that will be involved in name changes.

The measure, which became effective April 19, was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Skip Finn (DFL-Cass Lake).

HF714/SF574\*/CH53

### Seized goods for sale



Unclaimed items recovered by police departments across the state will soon be sold in non-profit stores, under a new state law.

The law will allow merchandise not claimed within 60 days to be sold at auction, as is the current practice, or by sale through a non-profit agency.

In 1992, Minneapolis police began working with a community organization on a plan to teach young people bicycle repair, business management, and other skills by setting up a non-profit store, The Phantom Bike

Shop, for the sale of "recycled" bicycles. The store receives damaged bikes the police cannot auction off, fixes them up, and sells them.

The law will allow the police departments to dispose of unclaimed items — such as electronic equipment, tools, and lawn mowers that it recovers each year — through similar stores that sell second-hand goods. Police will not provide items such as clothing, fine jewelry, and firearms to the stores.

Police departments will benefit by gaining a percentage of the sale price on the items sold at the store and clearing out storage space.

The proposal, which becomes effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Carol Flynn (DFL-Mpls).

HF859\*/SF833/CH79



## HEALTH

### MinnesotaCare changes

A bill to expand the number of Minnesotans eligible for MinnesotaCare, the state-subsidized health insurance program, is on its way to the governor's desk.

The House approved the bill May 22 on a 121-13 vote. The Senate passed it the same day, 45-18.

On May 4, the House voted down the bill, in part because two controversial abortion amendments were attached during debate. Throughout the final weeks of session, bill sponsors Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island) and Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls) worked to find a compromise agreeable to lawmakers.

As passed, the bill specifically says public money would not be used to finance abortions except in certain circumstances, such as when the life of the woman is at stake or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

The bill also says no one may perform an abortion except physicians and physicians assistants. No health insurance plan is required to cover the procedure.

HF1077/SF845\*/CH234

#### Health care access

The bill may allow more people to be eligible for MinnesotaCare.

After October 1995, single adults and households with no children who make no more than 135 percent of the federal poverty guideline would be eligible for the state insurance program. Currently, the cap for those people is at 125 percent. The expansion is contingent upon approval from the commissioner of human services.

In dollars, that means couples earning up to \$13,530 and singles earning up to \$10,120 would be eligible. Currently, couples earning \$12,300 and singles earning \$9,200 annually are eligible for the program.

Nearly 80,000 Minnesotans are enrolled in the program.

The bill originally would have expanded eligibility to include singles and childless couples earning up to 150 percent of the federal poverty guideline, but some were concerned the state couldn't afford it. (Art. 6, Sec. 9)

Currently, the MinnesotaCare program is funded by a 2 percent gross revenue tax on hospitals, health care providers, and wholesale drug distributors.

The bill would appropriate \$244.3 million to pay for MinnesotaCare during the upcoming biennium. (Art. 11)

#### Universal coverage

The 1992 MinnesotaCare Act originally called for every Minnesotan to have health insurance by July 1, 1997.

The bill now does not specify a date by which "universal coverage" — when all Minnesotans have health care — must be achieved. Instead, it says universal coverage is achieved "when every Minnesotan has access to the full range of health care services, including preventive and primary care, and pays into the system according to that person's ability."

It also sets a goal of reducing the number of uninsured Minnesotans by 4 percent by January 2000. In 1994 it was estimated that 8.9 percent — or about 400,000 — of the state's residents were uninsured.

Also, the commissioner of health would have to make an annual report to the Legislature on the state's progress toward universal health care coverage. (Art. 4, Sec. 1)

Another change would ensure that all MinnesotaCare enrollees pay at least \$4 each month to be enrolled in the program. (Art. 6, Sec. 16)

#### Senior discount drug program

The bill would establish a program to provide prescription drugs for senior citizens at a discounted price.

Eligible seniors would pay \$5 each year to be enrolled in the drug discount program.

Under the program, seniors would pay 20 percent less than the average wholesale price or 5 percent less than the usual retail price for a drug, whichever is less.

Participation on the part of drug companies and pharmacies is strictly voluntary.

To be eligible, senior citizens must not earn more than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline, (or \$14,720 per year),

must be enrolled in Medicare, and have no prescription drug coverage under any other health care plan.

Participating pharmacies would be reimbursed at four percent of the average manufacturer's price for the drug. They could not charge a more than \$3 dispensing fee. (Art. 6, Sec. 2)

#### RAPO

The bill would eliminate the regulated all payer option (RAPO), which would have allowed the state to standardize insurance prices and ensure that health insurance companies operate under uniform rules.

RAPO requirements were to apply to all health care services provided outside integrated service networks (ISNs) — nonprofit organizations agreeing to provide health care to an enrollee for a fixed charge per month.

(ISNs will begin operations in July 1996, and will function as a health care provider and an insurer.)

A 1994 law called for the commissioner of health to present recommendations to the Legislature by July 1995 on RAPO requirements and reimbursement methods. RAPO was to have been fully implemented by July 1997. (Art. 3)

#### Integrated Service Networks

The bill still permits ISNs to begin operating in 1996 and would ensure each is solvent before beginning operations.

The bill calls on ISNs to deposit \$300,000 in a custodial account with the Department of Health, which will oversee the ISNs. An ISN must then deposit \$300,000 annually, which would be used to pay costs should the ISN become insolvent.

The bill requires that each ISN have a net worth of at least \$1.5 million or an amount equal to a portion of the expected first year's operating expenses. An ISN also must maintain a \$1 million net worth after the first year of operation, under the bill.

It also would require the ISN to file a yearly audited financial statement with the Department of Health.

The bill requires an ISN to immediately notify the department of health if it does not have sufficient "working capital" as outlined in the bill. The commissioner of health can then take action deemed necessary to correct the situation. (Art. 1, Sec. 14, 15 and 16)

The bill also would require ISNs to make sure emergency services are located 30 miles or 30 minutes from every enrollee.

Also, an ISN would have to make sure all covered health services are available 24 hours a day seven days a week. (Art. 1, Sec. 24, Subds. 2, 6)



## No standard health benefits

As passed, the bill contains no references to standard health care benefits, that is, a set policy for all insurers with identical coverage so that consumers could better compare prices and services.

Amendments that prohibited abortions from being included as part of a standard benefits package almost stalled the proposal. All provisions referring to standard health benefits were removed from the bill.

During floor debate May 22 on that bill, Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) offered several abortion-related amendments. All were unsuccessful.

## Vulnerable adults

A bill that would increase criminal penalties for those who neglect or abuse vulnerable adults is on its way to the governor's desk.

The proposal was given final House approval May 22 on a 122-10 vote. The Senate approved it May 19, 62-0.

The measure would strengthen the 15-year-old law which protects adults vulnerable to abuse because they suffer from a physical or mental disability or are dependent on caregivers.

The bill creates stiff felony penalties under a new criminal abuse statute for any caregiver who intentionally physically or mentally abuses a vulnerable adult.

Should such an act result in the death of a vulnerable adult, an offender could face 15 years in prison and a \$30,000 fine. Lesser prison sentences of 10 years, five years, or up to a year could also be imposed, depending on the injuries to the vulnerable adult.

Under current law, a person who intentionally fails to supply food, clothing, shelter, or other necessities to a vulnerable adult may be charged with the gross misdemeanor offense of criminal neglect, which carries a maximum penalty of a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine. Under the bill, financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult would carry the same penalty.

The bill also would increase — to a gross misdemeanor from a misdemeanor — the criminal penalty for fifth-degree assault of a vulnerable adult.

It also calls for criminal background checks to be conducted on virtually all health professionals who work with vulnerable adults: those working in hospitals, surgical centers, nursing homes, or for home care agencies are among those included.

The bill also specifies that sexual contact between a vulnerable adult and his or her domestic partner does not constitute sexual

abuse. (The provision had been previously deleted in the House.)

The bill also would streamline the current mandated reporting system. Under current law, health care workers and other professionals who suspect a vulnerable adult is being abused are legally required to report the suspected abuse to the state.

The bill would create a single point at the county level for those people to make reports. Currently, the reports are made to and investigated by more than one agency, causing confusion and needless duplication, Greenfield has said.

The bill's price tag amounts to about \$3.1 million. Much of the money would pay for criminal background checks and the cost of appeals filed by individuals denied employment or who disagree with an administrative charge against them.

Licensing fees for certain hospitals, nursing homes, and home care agencies would increase slightly to pay for the bill.

Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the proposal in the Senate.

HF598/SF512\*/CH229

## Licensing acupuncturists



A new law requires Minnesota acupuncturists to be licensed by the state.

Acupuncture involves the ancient Chinese practice of puncturing the skin with needles at specific points to relieve pain and cure diseases.

Currently, the state requires neither training nor licensing for acupuncturists. House sponsor Rep. Peggy Leppik (IR-Golden Valley) has said that's precisely the problem. There are 50,000 acupuncture treatments performed each year in Minnesota and consumers have no assurance that their practitioner is trained in either acupuncture or clean needle techniques.

The law, effective July 1, 1995, will prohibit a person from practicing acupuncture after June 30, 1997, unless certified by the National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncturists or unless "grandfathered" in under the bill.

During a two-year transition period beginning July 1, 1995, a current acupuncturist may qualify for a state license without national certification if they have practiced in the field for at least three years between July 1, 1991, and June 30, 1995. During those years they must have had at least 500 patient visits annually with at least 100 different patients.

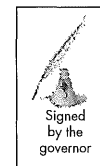
Last year, a similar provision appeared in the omnibus health and human services bill, but Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed the entire bill. Members of the profession have unsuccessfully sought state licensure for several years.

The law also requests that acupuncturists be regulated by the same board that regulates doctors: the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice.

Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF446\*/SF307/CH177

## Breast cancer treatment



A bill to require insurance companies to pay for bone marrow transplants for Minnesota residents with breast cancer was signed by the governor May 18.

Some breast cancer patients whose doctors tell them their best chance of survival is a high-dose chemotherapy treatment accompanied by a bone marrow transplant have had to battle insurance companies that refuse to pay for the procedure. Most often the battle lands in the courts.

The new law sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) doesn't give insurance companies the option. They must pay. (See April 7, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10, April 21, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 15, and May 5, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 8)

The measure, effective May 19, 1995, prohibits insurance companies from charging co-payments and deductibles greater than those that apply to other portions of the policy.

Long said that in Minnesota, too many insurance companies are making medical decisions by refusing to pay for the treatment. The decision, she said, should be in the hands of the woman and her physician.

Lawmakers heard debate from several doctors, many of whom agree the treatment should be covered by insurance. But some said only patients in a clinical study should be covered.

Patients, however, don't want to take the chance they'll be part of the group that doesn't receive the treatment. In a clinical study, there is a 50 percent chance you'll be a part of the study that receives the treatment but an equal chance you'll be a part of a "control" group that doesn't receive the treatment.

Mike Hatch, former head of the Department of Commerce, and now an attorney who has represented women whose insurance companies refused to pay for the proc-

edure, has said costs can run about \$65,000 compared to traditional chemotherapy, administered in low doses over several months, which costs about \$45,000.

He said he has represented many women in recent years and cited court decisions that have required insurance companies to pay for the procedure. Courts have found the procedure can be effective.

Sen. Pat Piper ((DFL-Austin) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

HF1742\*/SF1590/CH183

## Insurance and dental work



Health plans that insure Minnesota residents will have to cover general anesthesia and treatment for dental work if the work is for a medical condition covered by the plan, under a new state law.

Sponsored by Rep. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick), the law also calls for health plans to cover dental treatment that requires general anesthesia, a hospital stay, or both, if the patient is a child under five, a severely disabled patient, or a person who, due to a medical condition, needs anesthesia or a hospital stay for dental work.

Such cases may not be covered by health plans now, Lourey said.

The law becomes effective for health plans issued or renewed on or after Aug. 1, 1995.

Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the proposal in the Senate.

HF843\*/SF613/CH91

## Diabetes coverage



Health plans supplementing Medicare insurance will have to provide coverage for doctor-prescribed equipment and supplies needed for the "management and treatment of diabetes," under a

new state law.

Coverage will be subject to the same de-

ductible or other co-payment provisions applicable to an insurance plan's specific hospital, medical equipment, or prescription benefits.

Health plans were required to provide coverage for all items prescribed for patients with diabetes under a 1994 law, but it did not apply to health plans supplementing Medicare.

The proposal, effective Jan. 1, 1996, was sponsored by Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) and Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan).

HF350/SF34\*/CH52

## Complete malpractice reports



A new state law will ensure that the Board of Medical Practice receives the names of all doctors who are the subject of malpractice awards or settlements.

Under current law, insurance companies are required to provide the board reports of all settlements or awards involving doctors.

But hospitals, clinics, and other entities paying off settlements against physicians have been able to dodge the requirement to provide details to the board. Since they are not insurance companies, they technically have not been required to report.

The new law closes that loophole by specifically requiring that hospitals and other entities that provide malpractice coverage for doctors or other health professionals report all settlements and awards to the Board of Medical Practice.

Reports must include the health professional's name, the allegations in the claim or complaint, and the date and dollar amount of the settlement or award.

The measure, which is effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) and Sen. Pat Piper (DFL-Austin).

HF226\*/SF73/CH44

## Criminal doctors



Any doctor convicted of a felony-level criminal sexual conduct offense will have his or her medical license automatically — and permanently — revoked, under a new state law.

And Minnesota doctors convicted of felonies "reasonably related to the practice of patient care" will have their licenses automatically suspended.

The law also will apply to physician's assistants, physical therapists, or other health professionals licensed by the state Board of Medical Practice.

Under the measure, license suspension will be automatic following a felony conviction, and a doctor or other health professional will have to request a hearing to get back his or her license. For reinstatement, the individual will have to demonstrate that he or she has been rehabilitated by "clear and convincing evidence."

Under current law, the board has the authority to suspend a doctor's license, but a hearing is held first. The board can suspend a license without a hearing in some circumstances, but the burden is then on the board to set up a hearing seeking a final determination.

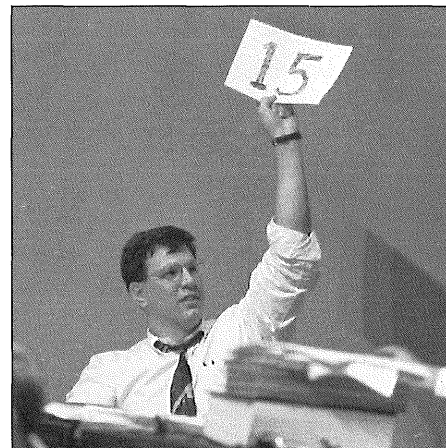
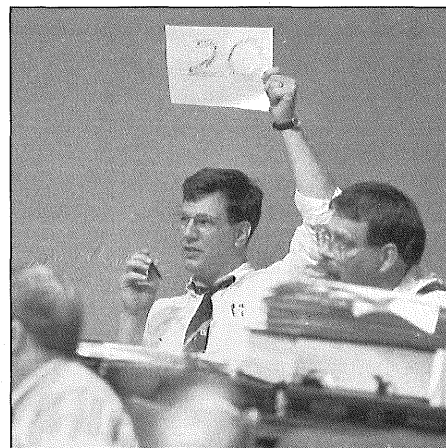
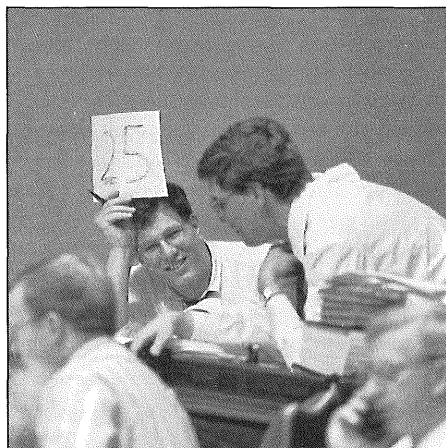
The new law will shift the burden to the health professional, who must seek a hearing and prove the suspension should not be made permanent.

Another provision in the bill will allow the medical board to suspend or revoke the license of a doctor or health professional who fails to repay a state or federal student loan.

Most of the proposal becomes effective Aug. 1, 1995. The provision relating to the revocation of a state license because of a criminal sexual misconduct conviction became effective March 28, 1995.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) and Sen. Pat Piper (DFL-Austin).

HF231\*/SF95/CH18



## Insurance and prescriptions



Health insurance plans that cover prescription costs will have to help pay those costs whether a doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant wrote the prescription, under a new state law.

Currently, many health plans pay only for prescriptions written by a doctor. But under current law, nurse practitioners and physicians' assistants also are able to write patient prescriptions.

The law won't cost insurance companies anything or affect insurance rates. It only ensures that prescriptions legally written by nurse practitioners and physician's assistants are covered by an insurance plan.

The House and Senate passed the same provision last year as part of the Health and Human Services supplemental appropriations bill, which was vetoed by the governor.

The proposal, effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples).

HF612\*/SF543/CH69

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### Higher ed funding



For the first time, a small portion of the state appropriation to Minnesota's higher education institutions will be granted only if those schools meet specific goals spelled out by the Legislature.

The measure, which the governor signed on May 24, comes as part of a \$2.14 billion higher education spending package.

It marks the first time the granting of state money is tied to the performance of the institution or agency receiving the money.

Of that \$2.14 billion appropriation, a total of \$10 million — or about one-half of 1 percent of the total — is tied to the making of

improvements at the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system.

### University of Minnesota

Of the \$969 million in state money intended for the University of Minnesota, \$5 million will be tied to the university making increases in the following five areas:

- The percentage of freshmen who ranked in the top 25 percent of their high school class.
- The rate of retention of entering freshmen.
- The number of minority freshmen and the number of women and minority faculty.
- The five-year graduation rate measured between August 1994 and August 1996.
- The number of credits issued through televised classes between fiscal year 1995 and fiscal year 1996.

Each time the school meets one of those goals, it will receive \$1 million in state money.

### MnSCU

Money for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system — which will represent all Minnesota higher education institutions except for University of Minnesota schools — also will be tied to performance. Specifically, \$5 million of the MnSCU's \$937 million appropriation.

The system will receive \$1 million of the \$5 million each time it makes increases in the following areas:

- The portion of the budget devoted to instruction.
- The number of courses offered on television.
- Student retention rate by 2 percent each year.
- The graduate rate by 2 percent each year.
- The number of students who complete two-year degrees and transfer to four-year programs.

The idea behind tying state aid to specific "performance measures" originally came from Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins), who included such a provision in the original House

bill, though it pertained only to the University of Minnesota.

His language called for University of Minnesota schools to meet goals administrators already had set for those institutions, such as increasing minority enrollment. Under Kelley's plan, \$1.25 million of the \$5 million appropriation will be released each time the schools meet a goal.

"But this goes beyond what we originally intended," Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) said of the conference committee bill. Other government operations could, in the future, tie the release of state funds to the meeting of set goals in much the same way, he suggested. Kinkel served on the conference committee and chaired the House Higher Education Finance Division where the House bill originated.

The law calls for the planned merger of the state's university, technical college, and community colleges in July. Those schools will combine to form the MnSCU system.

The House had voted — as it did in 1992 and 1993 — to call off the merger.

But this year's conference committee again took out the House provision calling off the merger. The law now includes a number of technical and administrative provisions necessary to enact merger legislation.

In terms of financing, the law will allocate \$937 million to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities — the merged system — over the next two years, and \$969 million to the University of Minnesota.

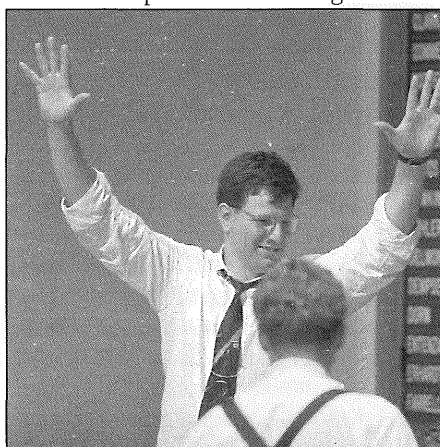
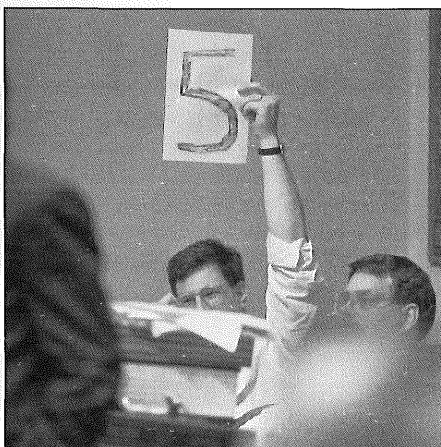
The House bill originally called for the merged system to receive \$935.6 million over the next biennium and the University of Minnesota to receive \$970.6 million.

Kinkel said the funding is "woefully short" but the best the state can do in an extremely tight budgeting year.

The governor had originally called for a higher education spending bill which would not increase tuition at state schools by more than 3 percent each year of the biennium. But Kinkel said he expects tuition to increase by more than that amount simply because the new law does not provide the full funding amount needed by state colleges and universities.

University of Minnesota officials, for example, have said they may need to raise tuition by 7.5 percent each year during the next two years.

Rep. John Tuma used signs and his fingers to count down the final 25 minutes before the mandated midnight adjournment of the House, May 22. The Minnesota Constitution calls for the Legislature to adjourn on the first Monday following the third Saturday in May. This year, that date fell on May 22.



Under the law, the Mayo Medical School gets \$1.8 million over the two-year spending cycle. Of that amount, \$120,000 is intended to help fund a program to train medical residents at the St. Cloud Hospital.

Doctors at the hospital had originally asked for a \$120,000 state appropriation in 1997 with a stepped-up appropriation in following bienniums. But the conference committee bill stipulates money for the program is one-time only. The hospital will have to ask for renewed funding in upcoming years.

Also, the Higher Education Services Office — a newly created office — will receive \$236 million for the two-year state spending cycle to administer financial aid to Minnesota residents attending public higher education institutions. The agency will replace the Higher Education Coordinating Board, which will be abolished.

The new law (HF1856\*/SF1234/CH212), sponsored in the Senate by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls), also includes the following key provisions:

### HECB eliminated

The Higher Education Coordinating Board, which is responsible for distributing financial aid to Minnesota's post-secondary students, will be eliminated and its duties moved to a newly created Higher Education Services Office (HESO).

Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona) sponsored HF307, the language of which has been rolled into the omnibus bill, said the move would save about \$3.7 million over the next biennium. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11)

The law will eliminate 27 of the 67 HECB employee positions, Pelowski said. The remainder will be transferred to the HESO.

The law will also set up an 11-member Higher Education Administrators Council (HEAC) made up of campus presidents, the president of the private college council, the commissioner of education, and others. The HEAC will be responsible for consulting with a newly established student advisory council, appointing the HESO director, and communicating with the Legislature and the governor.

### Semester system

Classes at Minnesota's state universities, community colleges, and technical colleges will last one semester rather than one quarter of the academic year.

Those universities and colleges will have until fall 1998 to begin a semester school year. (See March 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 13)

Kinkel has said the move would save money because students would have to register only twice during the academic year instead of three times, and financial aid would be distributed only twice. Also, 80 percent of colleges and universities nationwide use a semester school year, he said.

Also under this section of the law, schools in the soon-to-be-combined state university, technical, and community college system will begin classes on the same fall date.

If all system classes start at the same time, students can more easily transfer between schools, Kinkel said. The University of Minnesota will be exempted from this provision because the Legislature has no authority to mandate changes at that school.

This portion of the law was originally included in HF899, which Kinkel sponsored.

### Financial aid limited

The law also calls for the state to stop subsidizing tuition costs after a student has earned 48 more credits than are needed for a degree in his or her major.

This would apply to students at any public college or university in Minnesota.

Currently, the state pays 60 percent of a Minnesota student's education costs for up to 180 credit hours. Student tuition pays the remaining 40 percent.

After the excess 48-credit limit is reached, students will be responsible for the true cost of a course. That means an otherwise \$280 four-credit course at the U of M will cost about \$467.

Also, the state university campus in Akita, Japan, will have two years to bring state funding of its Minnesota students in line with state funding of students on Minnesota public campuses.

Currently, the state pays about \$17,000 to subsidize the education of each Minnesota student in Akita. For students studying in Minnesota, the subsidy amount is about \$3,500.

This portion of the law was originally included in HF899, which Kinkel sponsored.

### More rural doctors

A program to train medical residents at the St. Cloud Hospital will receive \$120,000 from the state in 1997.

The money will go to help establish a family practice residency program to be run in conjunction with the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine in Rochester, Minn. The hospital will also use federal government and hospital money to fund the program. (See March 31, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11)

After they finish medical school, doctors

need to complete a residency program before they can become certified doctors.

Rural Minnesota — like rural areas throughout the nation — faces a shortage of doctors because only about 30 percent of medical students today become general practitioners.

Presently, 220 additional doctors are needed in rural Minnesota. The hospital will train residents who would hopefully stay in the area and practice as rural doctors.

The hospital's residency program will kick off in 1999 with four residents. Four students would be added each year until there are 12 students total in the three-year program.

The Mayo Graduate School of Medicine request for a state appropriation may make additional requests for state funds in upcoming years.

This portion of the law originally entered the legislative process as HF1028, sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud).

### Interpreter training

An advisory committee could determine whether there is a need for a training program to certify interpreters and translators, under this portion of the law.

If they find a need, certification would begin in September 1998. (See March 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7)

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), who sponsored the original language of this provision (HF678), has said because interpreters are untrained and are sometimes friends and relatives of the non-English speaking person, the actual interpretation could be sketchy.

Certifying interpreters will ensure they meet certain standards and will protect those who use interpreters at court hearings and doctor's appointments, Clark said.

The Higher Education Board will determine standards interpreters will need to meet for certification.

An interpreter acts as a go-between for people carrying on an oral conversation. Translators work from written material.

HF1856\*/SF1234/CH212



## HOUSING

### Affordable housing

A bill to help clean up polluted land in the Twin Cities metropolitan area to make room for new development, create more affordable housing, and offer tax breaks for people who move into blighted neighborhoods, is on its way to the governor.

The House and Senate both passed a compromise version of the bill May 22. The House voted 81-49, the Senate 57-1. (See March 31, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 12,



May 5, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10, and May 19, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 15)

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Ted Mondale (DFL-St. Louis Park), contains several programs for the seven-county metropolitan area paid for by several different funding sources.

**HF1156/SF1019\*/CH255**

### Local housing

First, the Local Housing Incentives Account program — a voluntary program for cities — would require that a portion of the property taxes on high-value homes in metropolitan communities be used to build more affordable housing and “life-cycle” housing for targeted groups at various stages of life — such as young families, singles, and the elderly.

Under the program, each seven-county metro area city could annually negotiate affordable housing goals with the Metropolitan Council. A city would keep the tax money generated from certain high-value homes if the city works toward its negotiated housing goals. But a city could lose some of its property tax dollars to a regional pool or its local housing authority if it refused to work toward the housing goals it negotiated.

Besides those dollars, the program is paid for with a \$1 million appropriation from solid waste bond proceeds. And, beginning in 1998, \$1 million per year of the Metropolitan Council's general property tax levy, would help fund the program. Another \$500,000 would come from a separate account under the bill which funds “livable communities” demonstration projects such as a project that may relate development with transit needs in a community.

A city could choose not to participate in the housing program, but then it could not apply for state grants to help clean up contaminated sites.

If the city wants to apply for the grants, it must show it has spent money on affordable housing as if it had been a participant in the program. Or, it must spend the money (cumulative for all the years it did not participate) on those housing programs. The city also could agree to deposit its share into the regional pool for affordable housing. The Metropolitan Council would have the option to waive a portion of the cumulative amount owned.

The bill does require the Metropolitan Council to issue an annual public report card on affordable and life-cycle housing in the metro area by city.

### ‘Livable communities’

A second program under the bill would fund “livable communities” demonstration projects. The Metropolitan Council would provide grants and loans to cities for certain projects. Just what kind of projects would qualify for grants or loans is left up to the Metropolitan Council to determine.

To pay for the grants and loans, the bill authorizes the Metropolitan Council to levy a tax up to 50 percent of the current Metropolitan Mosquito Control District's levy and provides an annual Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid (HACA) payment equal to 50 percent of what the mosquito control district receives.

Fifty percent of the mosquito control district's levy, along with the HACA payment, could amount to about \$4.5 million a year for the grants and loans.

To balance the books, the bill lowers the mosquito control district's taxing authority by the amount granted to the Metropolitan Council and cuts its HACA payment by 50 percent.

### Contaminated land clean-up

And finally, the bill would help clean up polluted lands in the metropolitan area. This program would help revitalize the tax base in urban areas by providing more land for commercial and industrial development.

Some of the money to fund the clean-up program would come from funds the Metropolitan Council sets aside to help local governments purchase rights-of-way necessary when building roads.

Other dollars would come from a pool of money (the fiscal disparities fund) made up of a portion of each metropolitan city's commercial-industrial tax base. Specifically, the bill would tap into a portion of the pool that dates back to the construction of the Mall of America.

When the Mall of America was built, the city of Bloomington sold bonds to pay for a series of highway improvements around the mall. For now, the fiscal disparities fund foots the bill for interest on the bonds. The pool is to stop paying off the interest in 1999. The city of Bloomington must then repay the pool for the interest on those bonds.

Under the bill, Bloomington is still responsible for paying its debt, but instead of beginning repayments in the year 2000, the city would begin in 2006.

Money from the fiscal disparities pool, however, would continue to be tapped, this time set aside in a new account to finance the cleanup of polluted land. It is estimated that the pool would pay about \$5 million a year to the program.

The bill also includes a provision originally found in a housing and economic development bill (**HF1627**) sponsored by Rep. H. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth).

It would create an urban homestead exemption program that would provide tax breaks to people who move into homes in blighted metro neighborhoods.

The Metropolitan Council would designate one or more urban revitalization and stabilization zones by Sept. 1, 1995. Anyone buying and occupying a home within such an area would receive an income tax break for up to five years, provided they do not move out of the home, sell the house, fail to comply with building codes, or get convicted of a gross misdemeanor or a felony.

The maximum exemptions would equal \$15,000 for a married couple filing jointly, \$10,000 for singles, and \$12,500 for unmarried people qualifying as heads of households.

### Joint utility bills



Landlords who own multi-unit apartment buildings and measure tenants' utility use with a single meter will be required to pay the utility bills, under a new state law.

Beginning with leases signed after Aug. 1, 1995, landlords will either have to install separate utility meters for each apartment or become the utility company's customer of record, pay the bill, divide it up among the tenants, and figure it into the rent.

In some buildings with only one meter, tenants are now required to pay the electric and other utility bills for all tenants. Later, they must seek out the other tenants to get them to pay their share.

Some tenants also are now being charged to light and heat the common areas of a building, such as lights in the hallways and parking lots.

The problem, House sponsor Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) has said, is that the tenant who pays the utility bill has no recourse if the other tenants refuse to pay their share. The utility company will seek reimbursement from the individual whose name appears on the bill. A landlord, on the other hand, can pay the bill and then figure it into each tenant's rent.

Sen. Janet Johnson (DFL-North Branch) sponsored the proposal in the Senate.

**HF323\*/SF249/CH192**



## HUMAN SERVICES

### Health, human services funding



A \$5.1 billion bill that spends money on child care, sets limits on in-home personal care services for the disabled, and requires some individuals to obtain a foster care license to care for a child to whom they are related, has been signed into law.

The House passed the compromise May 17 on a vote of 98-31. The Senate passed it the same day, 56-11.

The Omnibus Health and Human Services new law for 1996-1997 spends about \$58 million less than Gov. Arne Carlson recommended and roughly \$650 million more than in the 1994-1995 two-year budgeting period. (See April 28, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 15 and May 5, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11, and May 19, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 16)

The law appropriates money for programs in the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, and several other smaller agencies.

It sets aside \$16.2 million to subsidize child care costs for low- and moderate-income families, thus removing a barrier to their returning to work. It also sets aside more than \$3.4 billion for the state's medical plans such as Medical Assistance, \$290.3 million for Aid to Families with Dependent Children grants, \$90.7 million for General Assistance grants, and more than \$175 million in other public assistance and work and training grants.

The bill became wrapped in heated debate earlier this session when Carlson proposed cutting back two programs that help disabled people remain at home instead of in an institution.

Specifically, the governor proposed to cut a program that provides in-home personal care attendants for the disabled and another program — known as TEFRA — that allows the families of children with disabilities to buy into a state medical care plan.

But after hours of public hearings and hundreds of people who testified — many of whom came in wheelchairs, with guide dogs, or with ventilators — lawmakers backed down from some of the cuts.

If the two programs had been left alone, they would have received \$116.6 million (combined) during the 1996-1997 budget period. The new law cuts the two by \$10.3 million altogether.

Although the governor's supplemental

budget recommendations showed cuts of about \$11.5 million for the two programs, Carlson was anticipating federal waivers to transfer people into other programs. Those waivers were never guaranteed.

The new law does tighten eligibility requirements and limits some services for personal care attendants and the TEFRA program.

The law reduces by 12.5 percent the maximum number of personal care service hours a recipient may receive. (Art. 6, Sec. 55) It also eliminates personal care services for ventilator-dependent people in hospitals and prohibits legal guardians from being personal care service providers. (Art. 6, Sec. 48)

The measure further expands the list of personal care services not eligible for Medical Assistance reimbursement. Only care ordered by a doctor can be reimbursed. Currently only a registered nurse, in conjunction with the personal care assistant, needs to authorize care. (Art. 6, Sec. 54)

The law also tightens eligibility requirements for people seeking personal care services. To qualify for those services under the law, individuals must be able to "identify their needs, direct and evaluate task accomplishment, and assure their health and safety." (Art. 6, Sec. 48)

Families with children receiving care under the state's Medical Assistance program (including those in the TEFRA program) will have to contribute more for their care. Under the law, parents with an adjusted gross income of \$30,000 or more will have to pay a \$25 minimum fee or a greater amount depending on their income. The law changes the formula so more of a family's income is chargeable to the fee. (Art. 6, Sec. 6)

Currently, only the income above 200 percent of the federal poverty level is used to calculate the fee. The law will lower that to 150 percent. For a family of four that means that instead of income more than about \$29,600 being used to calculate the fee, income more than about \$22,200 applies.

The law was sponsored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd).

HF1588/SF1110\*/CH207

Some of the law's highlights include the following provisions.

#### Electronic welfare

The measure authorizes the Department of Public Safety to issue cards to welfare recipients across the state so they can access their food stamp and other public assistance benefits electronically. Ramsey County piloted the program.

Under the system, people receiving public

assistance use a "cash card" to withdraw their benefits — both monetary and food stamp — from either machines stationed at grocery store checkout lanes or a typical "cash machine."

Although costly to set up, the electronic system reduces the potential for theft and fraud and eliminates mailing costs. (Art. 2, Sec. 3.)

#### Foster care by relatives

An individual who wishes to provide foster care to a child that they are related to must have a foster care license, under the law. This provision takes effect May 26. (Art. 2, Secs. 5-8)

"Relative" is defined to include members of the child's extended family as well as important friends with whom the child has had significant contact. The measure does include a federal waiver request to exempt grandparents from the foster care license requirement. (Art. 2, Sec. 38)

The law does make room for an emergency license that allows a county to place a child in foster care with an unlicensed relative so long as the county inspects the home within three days, requires the relative to apply for a regular foster care license, and obtains background information on the relative.

If an emergency license is granted, it stays in effect until a regular license is obtained, but for no longer than 90 days. If the request for an emergency license is denied, the child is taken out of the home. The relative does have the option to appeal the decision to the commissioner of human services.

#### Cultural child care centers

The law requires child care providers at licensed child care facilities — as part of their on-going training — to be trained in "cultural dynamics." The training will include understanding the importance of the cultural differences and similarities in working with children. It also will include learning skills to help children develop unbiased attitudes about cultural differences. (Art. 4, Sec. 1)

#### Laura Baker School

The Department of Human Services will be required to inspect and certify the expansion of a Northfield, Minn., health care facility to a 44-bed crisis facility for persons with Prader-Willi Syndrome, a genetic obesity disease. The hospital will be eligible for Medical Assistance funding under the law. Currently there are two other facilities in the state to care for people with this disease but both have lengthy waiting lists for services. (Art. 3, Sec. 21)

### Home visits

The law sets aside \$82,000 to expand the current public health nurse and family aide home visiting program. The money will be used to fund additional projects to help prevent child abuse and neglect and reduce juvenile delinquency. The projects, through a public health nurse or other trained individual, will contact adolescent parents, families with a history of violence or drug abuse at the birth of a child, and other families considered to be in need of additional services.

The nurse or other staff member will offer to visit, answer parenting questions, provide information on breast-feeding and other infant health issues, and make referrals to any other appropriate state or county services. Staff will also screen the family to determine if families need additional support or are at risk for child abuse and neglect. (Art. 9, Sec. 37, Subds. 1-3)

### Children's Mental Health Act

A county board could provide services under the Children's Mental Health Act to an individual who is no longer a minor. The law allows services to individuals between the ages of 18 and 21. The act requires counties to make available a range of mental health services, both inpatient and outpatient, for all county residents. If state aid or private insurance is unavailable to pick up the tab, the county charges fees based on income. (Art. 8, Sec. 8)

This provision is designed not to abruptly switch a child's mental health care simply because he or she reaches age 18. It allows a county board to continue mental health services to individuals older than 18 but younger than 21 if the individual is enrolled in special education lessons through the local school district or it is in the best interest of the person to continue their current treatment. The language matches the age range of persons served through the social service system with that used in the education system, because special education may be provided to persons up to age 21.

### Homeless youth

The law requires the Department of Human Services to solicit proposals to create safe houses and transitional housing for homeless youth. The department must request the proposals from groups knowledgeable about the homeless youth problem. The measure sets aside \$1.2 million.

Safe houses will provide emergency housing for homeless youth ages 13 to 22. Transitional housing will provide housing for homeless youth ages 16 to 22 who are pre-

paring to live independently on their own. The law says the housing should resemble a family atmosphere in a neighborhood or community and, if possible, provide separate homes for males and females. (Art. 4, Sec. 4, Subds. 1-2)

The homes will also provide counseling services, employment services, health care, and education services.

### Child care slots

The measure will help some families on public assistance — specifically Aid to Families with Dependent Children — more easily find child care. (Art. 4, Sec. 30)

Currently, AFDC recipients who are enrolled in STRIDE (the federally mandated employee and training program for AFDC participants) are entitled to full payment of child care costs. But there is a lengthy waiting list for STRIDE.

The law allows those on the waiting list to obtain a slot in a separate child care program for AFDC participants who are in a self-initiated employment and training program independent of STRIDE. The law reallocates the child care slots from counties that have vacancies to counties that have a waiting list.

### Home care for some

Pending federal approval, an individual who is mentally retarded or otherwise developmentally disabled may receive state Medical Assistance benefits for care in their own home, even if that home is not licensed, under the law.

The home, however, must be inspected and care provided by qualified professionals. The provision is designed to provide care at home instead of at an institution. (Art. 3, Sec. 19)

### Nursing home restrictions

Effective July 1, 1996 — pending federal approval — people considered "high functioning" could no longer be admitted to nursing homes where their care is paid for by state medical assistance programs, under the law.

High functioning people are defined, in part, as being "independent in orientation and self-preservation." Instead of nursing home care, they will have the option of receiving personal care services and home health aide services; residing in group residential housing; or receiving a service allowance to arrange for their own care.

This provision exempts nursing home residents admitted before July 1, 1996, and provides an appeals process for those denied admission into a nursing home. (Art. 6, Sec. 1)

### Estates subject to MA claims

The law allows a claim against the estate of a person who is over 55 and who receives state Medical Assistance. Currently, the age is 65. (Art. 6, Sec. 79)

### Osteoporosis prevention

Gone from the bill is a \$300,000 proposal for a statewide osteoporosis prevention and treatment program.

Instead, the law requires the Department of Health to report on the need for an osteoporosis prevention and treatment program and authorizes the department to apply for grants and gifts to establish a program. (Art. 9, Sec. 53)

Osteoporosis is characterized by a decrease in bone mass leading to fragile bones that can fracture easily.

### U.S. Army spraying examined

The law requires the Department of Health to review the National Academy of Science's report on the past and future adverse effects, if any, on public health and the environment from the U.S. Army's spraying of zinc cadmium sulfide and other chemicals in Minnesota in the 1950s and 1960s.

Some residents in Minneapolis and around the state maintain they have health problems due to the spraying.

It further requires the Office of the Attorney General to determine whether any state or federal laws or constitutional provisions were broken and what legal action is available to recover damages and prevent any future spraying. (Art. 9, Secs. 51-52)

### Child support changes

The law creates an employee remedy against an employer who engages in reprisals because the employee has child support withheld from his or her check. It allows the employee to recover twice the amount of any lost wages and imposes a \$500 fine on those employers who violate the ban. (Art. 10, Sec. 22)

The law also imposes a maximum \$250 fine on an employer found guilty of contempt for not withholding child support ordered by the court. (Art. 10, Sec. 24)

## Welfare reform



A welfare reform bill that requires some new Minnesota welfare recipients to take part in a tough new jobs program and mandates that teen-aged moms on welfare live at home, was signed into law May 18.

But the governor line-item vetoed a food stamp outreach program and a cash assistance program for single adults totaling nearly \$6.6 million. (See related story page 51)

The new law authorizes \$22.4 million in spending during the 1996-1997 biennium for a variety of programs.

But despite that price tag, supporters of the welfare reform measure say it will actually save millions over the next two years — primarily through cuts in some public assistance benefits such as AFDC.

The law appropriates \$1.7 million for AFDC grants, \$500,000 for welfare fraud prevention efforts, and beginning July 1, 1996, it spends more than \$1 million for an intensive six-month language program for some non-English speaking welfare recipients who participate in work training programs.

A major provision in the new law appropriates more than \$1 million to help some counties design their own employment program for first-time public assistance recipients or participate in a Work First pilot program.

The Work First program includes tough penalties, such as losing benefits, if participants don't stick to a contract to search for a job and accept work. The new law does not specify which counties could operate the program.

Under Work First, participants will not receive a check, but will see their AFDC or other public assistance grant money first go toward vendor payments for rent and utilities for up to six months. They also will receive food stamps, medical assistance, child care assistance, and a job search allowance.

The new law also will require most teen-aged moms, beginning Oct. 1, 1995, to live at home or with a supervising adult except in special circumstances, such as in a case where there has been abuse at home. A waiver of federal rules will be required before this can be implemented.

The law also seeks exemptions from federal rules that some argue discourage welfare recipients from finding work. One waiver allows welfare recipients to spend more for an automobile, giving them more reliable transportation to and from work. The new law asks that the limit be raised to \$4,500 —

up from the current \$1,500 limit. Another allows individuals receiving AFDC to work more than 99 hours per month and remain eligible for public assistance.

In addition, the new law:

- prohibits Medical Assistance from paying for fertility drugs;
- prohibits General Assistance Medical Care from paying for sex-change operations;
- requires the Department of Human Services to develop a grant pilot program to enable AFDC caretakers to become child care workers; and
- expands the Minnesota Family Investment Plan (MFIP) welfare program to Ramsey County at a cost of \$6.6 million in grants. The program is currently a five-year pilot project in seven counties. It allows families to accept lower paying jobs while receiving some public assistance. This helps them gain work experience. The bill would further tighten the MFIP program and specifies that participants must seek and accept full-time employment (30 or more hours per week). After three months of searching for a job, participants are required to take any suitable job. Those who quit, lose their job, or fail to meet with their case manager, would be subject to sanctions.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Bob Anderson (DFL-Ottertail) and Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd).

(See Jan. 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; Jan. 20, 1995, *Session Weekly*, pages 6-7; Feb. 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10; and Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, pages 8-9; Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9; and May 12, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7)

HF5\*/SF1/CH178



## INSURANCE

### Genetic discrimination

Insurance companies could not use genetic information to decide who will receive medical coverage, under a bill on its way to the governor.

Both House and Senate passed the bill May 22. The votes were 131-2 and 62-0, respectively.

The proposal, sponsored in the House by Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka), would bar health insurance providers from requiring applicants to submit to genetic testing and from refusing coverage on the basis of the results of tests taken by individuals or their relatives.

Scientists currently can identify at least 4,000 of the about 100,000 human genes and the indicators of 500 to 1,000 medical

disorders. Recently, genes have been identified for such maladies as Huntington's disease, colon cancer, and breast cancer.

While the mere presence of a genetic indicator does not mean a person will ever contract the disease, discrimination on genetic grounds is already taking place in the insurance industry and the practice threatens to become more common, according to Weaver.

His bill applies to tests performed in the absence of any symptoms to determine the presence or absence of a gene or genes. It does not apply to cholesterol tests or other similar procedures.

The ban on using genetic information to determine insurance eligibility would not extend to life insurance providers.

(See March 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11 and March 31, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 14)

Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids) sponsored the proposal in the Senate.

HF278/SF259\*/CH251

## Terminal illness, insurance



A new state law will provide protection for AIDS patients and other terminally ill people who sell the rights to their life insurance policies and sometimes end up on the short end of the deal.

The law, effective Jan. 1, 1996, will regulate what are called viatical settlements. Under the agreements, those who face certain death sell off their life insurance policy to receive some cash on their investment before they die.

Those who buy the insurance policies do so as an investment. They receive the value of the policy when the person dies.

The problem is that in some cases profiteers have purchased policies for as little as 25 percent of the amount that will be received in death benefits.

The law, signed by Gov. Arne Carlson May 10, will require companies or individuals who provide viatical settlements to be licensed by the state and to be subject to state oversight.

Under the measure, buyers will be required to pay a minimum percentage of the face value of the policy dependent on the seller's life expectancy.

For example, the buyer would have to give the ill person at least 80 percent of the value of the policy if the seller has less than six months to live or 70 percent if the seller has six months to a year to live. The law sets an absolute minimum of 50 percent of the policy



value to be paid to sellers with a life expectancy of two years or more.

Policy buyers will be required to receive a physician's statement showing the seller is of sound mind. They'll need to obtain a signed and witnessed statement from the seller demonstrating he or she understands the consequences of the contract and consents to it.

The law also will require policy buyers to inform sellers of alternatives to viatical settlements, including the fact that some insurance companies are willing to offer them early payments on their policy benefits.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley) and Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth).

HF217\*/SF139/CH151

## Insurance break



Owners of automobiles equipped with certain anti-theft devices will get a break on insurance premiums, under a new state law.

The measure requires insurance companies to provide a minimum 5 percent discount on comprehensive coverage to policyholders whose vehicles have alarm systems.

In order to receive the discount, the policyholder must have an alarm system that was original equipment on the vehicle or was installed later by the manufacturer or an authorized dealer.

The measure, which was sponsored by Rep. Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley) and Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), was signed May 3 by Gov. Arne Carlson. The law takes effect Jan. 1, 1996.

HF877\*/SF949/CH115

## No more quotas



Independent insurance agents no longer will be required to meet quotas for the sale of certain kinds of insurance, under a new state law.

Independent agents often represent as many as 30 separate insurance companies. Some of those companies link the agents' right to sell property and casualty insurance, such as homeowner and automobile policies, to quotas on the sale of life and health policies which are more difficult to sell.

Agents can run into problems trying to meet all of the quotas demanded by the companies they represent. Those who fail to meet the quotas can be dropped by the companies — limiting insurance options available to consumers.

The new law does not apply to agents directly employed by a single company or those who sell for only one company.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (IR-Preston) and Sen. Kevin Chandler (DFL-White Bear Lake), was signed May 10 by Gov. Arne Carlson. The law goes into effect Aug. 1, 1995.

HF751\*/SF649/CH152

## Rental car coverage



Vehicle owners will be able to rent cars, trucks, and vans by the month and still expect their private automobile insurance to extend coverage to those rental vehicles, under a new state law.

Current law calls for private automobile

insurance to cover vehicles rented on a weekly or daily basis. But House sponsor Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) said those who rent cars are able to obtain better rates when renting by the month.

The law calls for vehicles rented on a monthly basis to be accompanied by a statement which informs the renter that, under state law, personal automobile insurance policies issued in Minnesota must cover rental vehicles.

Currently, such statements must accompany vehicles rented by the day or week.

The measure includes language that would prevent long-term renters from leasing cars and having their auto insurance provide coverage for those cars, McCollum said.

The proposal, which becomes effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. James Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul).

HF1308/SF973\*/CH140



## LABOR

### Workers' comp reform

A bill that promises to reform Minnesota's \$1 billion workers' compensation system now awaits Gov. Arne Carlson's signature.

The House passed the bill May 22 on an 81-52 vote. The Senate passed the bill May 19 on a 37-28 vote.

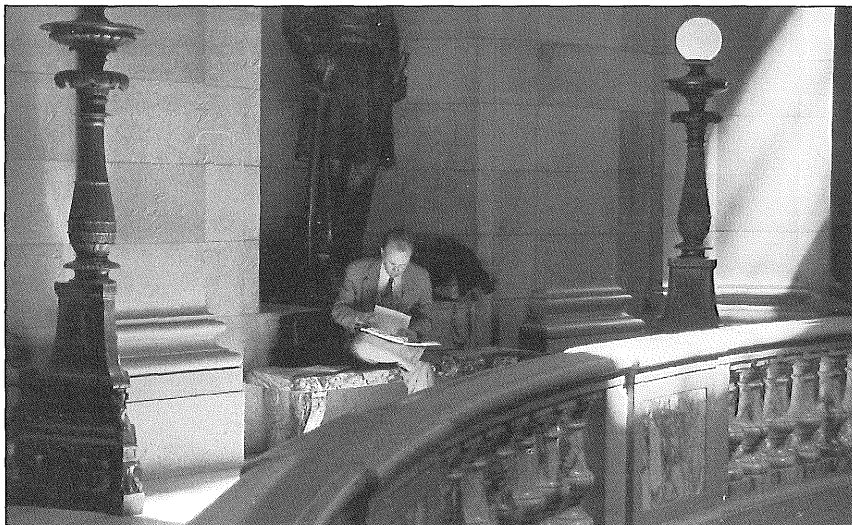
The proposal was backed by a group of lawmakers dubbed the Bipartisan Workers' Compensation Caucus, who found the necessary support to supplant a DFL proposal relying mainly on insurance reform.

Supporters of the measure say it will cut workers' compensation insurance premiums for businesses by 11.4 percent.

Most of the savings would be accomplished by three main changes.

First, the automatic cost-of-living increases in the benefits paid to injured workers would be cut. The annual hikes would be trimmed from the current 4 percent to 2 percent. (A 1992 workers' compensation reform bill cut the automatic increase from up to 6 percent to the current 4 percent.)

Second, the bill would make it more difficult to qualify for permanent total disability benefits. These are benefits paid to injured workers who are found to be unable to work. The stricter standards for permanent total benefits would cut in half the number of people receiving them, supporters said. This would be accomplished by altering the current complex formula to determine one's disability classification. This change alone, according to the Department of Labor and



The morning sun created a contrasting display of shadow and light over the Capitol rotunda May 19. Mark D. Britton, a lobbyist with Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A., took advantage of the natural light to go over his notes.

Industry, would give businesses an estimated 5 percent savings in their workers' compensation insurance premiums.

Third, the workers' compensation insurance industry would face limited regulation. Insurance companies would have to receive approval from the Department of Commerce for any premium increase or decrease exceeding 25 percent, under the bill. (Currently, insurance companies are only required to notify the state of rate increases before they are implemented.) The bill also mandates a 33 percent cut in insurance premiums for businesses in the state's assigned-risk pool for businesses that have no injury claims for three years.

Any workers injured before Oct. 1, 1995, would not see their benefits cut. Also, the reduction in cost of living increases would apply only to workers injured in the future.

The bill also would increase the amount paid to some workers receiving benefits for a temporary total disability — boosting the maximum benefit for a temporary total disability from the current \$516.66 a week to \$615.

And small businesses in the assigned risk pool who for three consecutive years have no workers' compensation claims paid for lost work time would see their premiums discounted by 33 percent.

In 1992, lawmakers put a temporary freeze on workers' compensation rate increases and created a managed care system of medical providers in an attempt to control costs. These and other changes helped to stem the rise of employers' insurance premiums, but critics said the 1992 law did not provide the "institutional reform" that proponents are now promising should the bill become law.

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) and Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-New Brighton).

**HF642\*/SF1020/CH231**

## Elevator repairs

Work performed on a passenger or freight elevator would have to be done by a state licensed elevator mechanic, under a bill on its way to the governor's desk.

The proposal won final passage in the House May 19. The vote was 93-34; it passed the Senate May 18, 61-0.

The bill, sponsored in the House by Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), requires that a licensed person or company obtain a state permit before installing, altering, repairing, or removing an elevator.

Current law requires only that a person apply for a permit before work is started.

A person must complete the National Elevator Industry Education Program and must have an elevator constructor license issued by the state Board of Electricity before receiving state licensure. A licensed elevator mechanic could supervise up to five helpers, under the bill.

Requirements of the bill would not apply to demolition work or minor repairs.

Carruthers said the bill addresses important public safety concerns. He said that a similar measure passed out of committee last year, but no action was ever taken on the House floor.

Sen. Paula Hanson (DFL-Ham Lake) sponsored the proposal in the Senate.

**HF398/SF255\*/CH221**



## LAW

### Data practices changed

The list of exceptions to the Minnesota Data Practices Act — which since 1974 has deemed all government information open to the public unless the Legislature decides otherwise — would grow again this year under the omnibus data practices bill.

The bill has been sent to the governor.

The House and Senate passed the bill May 22. The House voted 131-3. The Senate voted 56-0.

In 1974, the data practices act was three pages long. It has since ballooned to cover 67 pages in *Minnesota Statutes*.

The 1995 bill outlines a myriad of additions to the laws, including the following:

- Copies of videotaped interviews with abused children would be non-public data, even when the children's parents ask for them. County attorneys have sought such restrictions on videotaped interviews. The issue came to their attention after a mother tried to get a copy of her daughter's videotaped interview about an alleged sexual assault. The videotaped information is currently considered public. (Art. 4, Sec. 2)
  - The bill also would classify as private any information acquired during a session held to help emergency dispatchers, firefighters, and other public safety employees deal with a traumatic event. (Art. 1, Sec. 9)
  - The measure would allow custodial parents on welfare to learn how much the noncustodial parent pays the state or county in child support. (Art. 1, Sec. 11, Subd. 2)
- Under current Minnesota law, child support payments to a family on welfare first go to the government to reimburse tax coffers for the family's public assistance benefits.

- It would classify drafts of the governor's budget proposals and state agency budgets as private data. But the governor's office would have to make "supporting data, including agency requests" public when the governor officially presents his or her budget recommendations.

In Gov. Arne Carlson's first term, some advocates tried to determine whether the governor planned to propose deep cuts to the Department of Human Services. They requested his draft budget but Carlson successfully had the draft temporarily classified as non-public data. (Such a classification means the information is only available to the subject of the data and no one else).

This language in the bill, originally proposed by Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester), is in response to that incident. (Art. 1, Sec. 16)

- Although the fact that a business has requested state financial help would remain public, financial information on the business would be private under the bill.

Such information would include credit reports, financial statements, net worth calculations, customer lists, and tax returns.

The measure comes after the state was criticized for proposing subsidies to the Dayton-Hudson Corp. Publicity over the company's financial matters may have squelched the deal, according to officials at the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development. (Art. 1, Sec. 29)

- Heads of state agencies, their assistants, or deputies who have a complaint or charge lodged against them would see investigative information about the charge become public after the investigation is completed.

The information also would become public if that person resigned or was fired before the investigation was completed. Exceptions would be made if the release of information would jeopardize an active investigation or reveal confidential sources. (Art. 1, Sec. 7)

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) and Sen. Skip Finn (DFL-Cass Lake) sponsored the bill.

**HF1473/SF1279\*/CH259**

### Authorized use of force



Workers at the privately owned Prairie Correctional Facility in Appleton, Minn., have a right to defend themselves against an assault by an inmate — just as guards currently do in state-owned prisons, under a new state law.

The law, effective Aug. 1, 1995, clarifies that the power to use force in defense of an assault also applies in Minnesota prisons that

are not run by the state. The Appleton prison is the only such facility in Minnesota.

The law applies to anyone assaulted by a prison inmate, including another inmate.

The law currently states that "if any inmate attempts to damage the buildings or appurtenances, resists the lawful authority of any correctional officer, refuses to obey the correctional officer's reasonable demands, or attempts to escape, the correctional officer may enforce obedience and discipline or prevent escape by the use of force. If any inmate resisting lawful authority is wounded or killed by the use of force by the correctional officer or assistants, that conduct is authorized under this section."

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Chuck Brown (DFL-Appleton) and Sen. Warren Limmer (IR-Maple Grove).

**HF145/SF1255\*/CH70**

## Notary cops



Beginning Aug. 1, 1995, all licensed peace officers will have the authority to notarize certain witness statements, under a new state law.

Currently, such authority rests only with state-licensed notaries public — persons authorized by the state to administer oaths and authenticate signatures. Such a license, purchased from the Department of Commerce, costs \$40.

The law will grant peace officers some of the authority of a notary, which means no license or fee is required of them.

The need for the law stems from a 1991 U.S. Supreme Court decision which required that all witness statements submitted to the court to establish probable cause be notarized.

Police officers administer an oath to a person providing information for such a purpose.

Since the court ruling, police departments have had to pay to have a certain number of their officers become notaries public. The city of Bloomington — at a cost of \$800 — has 20 officers that are state certified.

The law will not extend to police officers the other statutory powers given to notaries public: "to take and certify all acknowledgments of deeds, mortgages, liens, powers of attorney, and other instruments in writing; and to receive, make out, and record notarial protests." Any officer wishing to perform any of these duties must apply to the Department of Commerce for the proper notary license.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington) and Sen. Phil Riveness (DFL-Bloomington).

**HF564\*/SF748/CH37**

## Probate guide



The state court administrator will prepare a guide to informal probate proceedings, under a new state law.

Such court proceedings are necessary to validate a will or administer an estate following a death.

But the paperwork involved in such probate proceedings is complex and often baffling, House sponsor Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) has said.

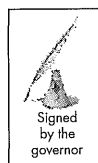
In addition, the "legalese" can be confounding. In the lingo of probate, houses become 'domiciles' and the subject of a will is termed a 'decendent.' Standards of 'reasonable diligence' apply, and applicants for such an informal proceeding must state whether they are aware of any "unrevoked testamentary instrument relating to property having a situs in this state."

The probate guide to be prepared by the state court administrator promises to use plain English to interpret the law and application process for those who encounter the system.

The measure, which became effective April 21, 1995, was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township).

**HF544\*/SF520/CH78**

## Inmate name changes



Harley Davidson, Punisher X, and Jay De Lawless are Minnesota prisoners, but they didn't go behind bars with those names. Once incarcerated, they obtained legal name changes at taxpayer expense.

A new law to curtail the occurrence of such name changes will take effect Aug. 1, 1995.

The law will limit prisoners to one name change while within the state prison system. And it can be done at public expense only when "failure to allow the name change would infringe on the constitutional rights of an inmate." Religious reasons would be an example of such a case.

A total of 305 name changes were made between 1990 and February 1995, according to Jim Bruton, deputy commissioner of the Department of Corrections. Some inmates have changed their name as many as three times. Currently, there is no limit on the number of name changes a prisoner may request.

Each change costs between \$400 and \$500, Bruton has said. The most concrete cost is in the form of a \$142 filing fee that is waived for

most prisoners because they can't afford it. The remainder of the cost is the price of bringing a judge, court reporter, and bailiff to the state prisons several times per year. Time spent by Department of Corrections staff renaming prison files also adds up, Bruton has said.

The proposal was sponsored in the House by Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester) and in the Senate by Sen. Tracy Beckman (DFL-Bricelyn).

**HF125\*/SF197/CH16**

## Abandoned waste



A building owner now has a greater chance of successfully suing a renter who moves out leaving behind containers of hazardous waste, under a new state law.

The law, effective May 6, 1995, applies to both residential and commercial space rental. It requires the property owner to request in writing that the former renter "remove and properly dispose of the abandoned waste."

Cleaning solvents or other flammable or corrosive liquids are examples of such waste. By law, they must be properly disposed of at an authorized waste facility.

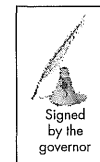
If the renter does not remove all the waste within 20 days, the property owner can then remove the waste which entitles him or her to twice the cleanup and disposal costs. The owner also is entitled to "losses that result from court costs and attorney fees."

Under current law, a property owner's only financial recourse is to withhold a tenant's damage deposit.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Robert Leighton (DFL-Austin) and Sen. Kevin Chandler (DFL-White Bear Lake).

**HF1320\*/SF1073/CH119**

## Icehouse identification



In the land of Olsons, Petersons, and Johnsons, where the winter religion is ice fishing, how can you tell one ice house from another?

It's not easy — particularly when the only identifiable landmark on a wind-swept lake may be a frozen walleye or a block of ice.

But a new law will allow anglers the option of painting their drivers' license number on the shack's outside wall.

Currently, icehouse residents must identify their home-away-from-home by painting

their name and home address in letters at least three inches high.

But problems ensue when more than one—or even more than two or three—Johnsons or Olsons share the same lake, said House sponsor Rep. Don Ostrom (DFL-St. Peter).

The painted names serve to identify fish house owners to the Department of Natural Resources, which issues licenses for, and regulates fish houses.

The measure, effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato).

HF1307\*/SF867/CH65

## No baby food allowed



People who shop at flea markets could no longer pick up some food for their newborns while they browse for antiques, under a new state law.

There is a growing trend among transient vendors: selling baby food from flea market booths. Anyone may rent a table at a flea market and sell items.

Effective Aug. 1, 1995, merchants at flea markets cannot sell infant formula, other food intended for a child under two years old, over-the-counter drugs, medical devices, or cosmetics.

Since the sales of such items are unregulated if they're sold at such booths, the safety or freshness of the products can't be assured.

The law does make an exception for authorized manufacturers' representatives who may sell such items from booths they rent.

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato).

HF1091\*/SF1337/CH64

## Radar jamming



On Aug. 1, 1995, speeders will lose a leg up on police, under a new state law.

The measure will make it illegal to sell, use, or possess a radar jammer. Violators could face a \$200 fine.

The law targets devices that send out radio waves from a car or truck to block the effectiveness of radar guns police use to catch speeding drivers.

House sponsor Rep. Dan McElroy (IR-Burnsville) has said radar jammers are more dangerous than their less-sophisticated brethren, radar detectors or fuzz busters.

Why?

Because a screeching radar detector likely

will cause a driver to slow down, McElroy said, but a driver using a jamming device can travel at illegal speeds relatively free from the risk of being caught.

The Senate companion was sponsored by Sen. Tom Neuville (IR-Northfield).

HF1011\*/SF1015/CH118



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Noisy town hall



Two towns in Aitkin County will be allowed to work around a state statute which says town meetings are to be held the second Tuesday in March.

A new 1995 law pertains specifically to Glen and Kimberly, two towns sharing a town hall.

The town boards can't hold town meetings on the same state-mandated day—the second Tuesday in March—because the hall becomes too noisy, said Rep. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick) who sponsored the legislation in the House.

Under the new law, either town may hold its town meeting the day before or the day after the second Tuesday in March. The other town would meet on the mandatory meeting day.

The boards would determine between them which will meet on what date.

The proposal, effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake).

HF37\*/SF49/CH10



## Paying the bills

Minnesota towns may not have the hustle and bustle of big cities, but they've got to pay the bills just the same.

A new law, effective Aug. 1, 1995, will allow towns in Minnesota to have petty cash funds to pay the bills. Previously, only cities and counties had the authority.

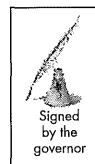
In the past, when town officials wanted to pay the phone bill, electric bill, or other monthly normal operating expense, they had to wait until the regular meeting of the town board and seek approval.

The new law will help speed up the process and make it more practical, said David Fricke, executive director of the Minnesota Association of Townships. It does not specify how much money can be in a petty cash fund. The law does state that the town board at its regular meetings must receive an itemized list of what bills the petty cash fund is paying off.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Jeff Bertram (DFL-Paynesville) and Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), prohibits using the petty cash fund to pay the salary and personnel expenses of a town officer or employee.

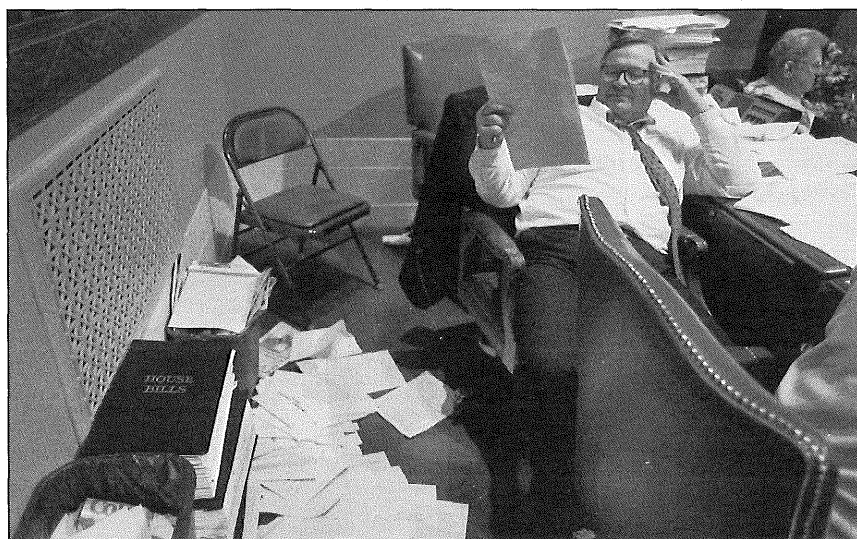
HF362\*/SF266/CH15

## Random audits



Minnesota cities and towns with annual revenues of \$100,000 or less and combined clerk and treasurer offices will be audited once every five years, and then for only one of those years, under a new

law.



A long trail of paper led to the desk of Rep. Doug Peterson, who examined one of the final amendments considered at the end of the 1995 regular legislative session May 22.



The measure clarifies a 1994 law that allowed for an audit once every five years for some smaller cities and towns. That law, however, did not specify whether each of the years in the five-year period, or only one year chosen at random, had to be audited.

The new law, effective March 30, 1995, clarifies that auditors or accountants will audit only one year, chosen at random, for each five-year period.

Prior to the 1994 law change, towns and cities — regardless of size — had to be audited by the state auditor or a public accountant every year.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples).

**HF305\*/SF265/CH27**



## METRO AFFAIRS

### Status quo for Met Council pay

The Metropolitan Council could not use money from the sale of bonds to buy uniforms for bus drivers, under a bill now being considered by the governor.

The proposal was given House approval May 22. The vote was 109-55. It passed the Senate the same day, 55-9.

The bill makes mostly technical changes to the council and its operations, but also says uniforms are not to be considered a capital expenditure.

Without the provision, \$750,000 could have been spent to buy new uniforms for the more than 1,000 Metropolitan Council Transit Operations (formerly MTC) bus drivers.

The bill also deletes from current law a requirement that the council submit salary recommendations for council members to the Legislature.

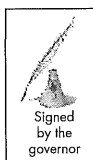
The House voted overwhelmingly (106-20) to cut council salaries this year. The vote was to slash the salary for the chair of the Metropolitan Council from \$52,500 per year to \$29,657 — the same pay lawmakers receive. And it would have trimmed Metropolitan Council members' salaries from \$20,000 per year to \$6,000.

The cuts were removed during conference committee negotiations.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Carol Flynn (DFL-Mpls).

**HF585/SF281\*/CH236**

## Better metro planning



A new state law is intended to better coordinate planning and development across the Twin Cities metropolitan region.

Effective Aug. 1, 1995, cities, counties, and towns within the seven-county metropolitan area must review and update their comprehensive plans by December 1998. Each will then have to repeat the process every 10 years. (The final plans are then to be submitted to the Metropolitan Council.)

A comprehensive plan serves as a development and planning blueprint for a local government. Plans include a section stating how the government's planned land use and its urban services, such as sewer service, would affect adjoining communities.

The law will not allow local governments to adopt zoning ordinances which conflict with their comprehensive plans.

The zoning guide laid out in the plans, however, can be amended by a two-third majority vote of the local governmental unit's governing body.

Currently, if a government's zoning ordinance differs from its comprehensive plan, the zoning ordinance supersedes the plan.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Ted Mondale (DFL-St. Louis Park).

**HF833\*/SF841/CH176**



## TAXES

### Omnibus tax bill

All those owning cabins in Minnesota — including non-residents — would get a small property tax break, under the omnibus tax bill on its way to the governor.

The proposal was given final approval May 22 by the House. The vote was 72-59. It passed the Senate the same day, 53-13.

The current property tax rate on seasonal recreation property is 2 percent of the property's value up to \$72,000, and 2.5 percent on the value over \$72,000.

Under **HF1864**, the 2 percent rate on the first \$72,000 in value would be cut to 1.9 percent for taxes payable in 1997. For taxes payable in 1998, it would dip again to 1.8 percent. (The 2.5 percent tax rate for property value above \$72,000 would not change.)

The tax break would cost the state \$24.14 million over the 1998-1999 biennium in lost property tax revenue. (Art. 3, Sec. 10)

The tax bill also would impose a new property tax on wind energy conversion systems, but the tax would be a boon for Lincoln

and Pipestone counties in southwestern Minnesota.

The proposal does not cut \$57 million in local government aid for the current year, as called for by Gov. Arne Carlson. But an across-the-board cut of \$16 million in Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid to local governments would take effect in the second year of the biennium.

Sponsored by Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope), the bill sets a budget reserve of \$350 million for the state and also includes the following tax changes.

**HF1864\*/SFnone/CH264**

### Wind energy property tax

The current property tax exemption for wind energy conversion systems would end, under the bill.

The change would be a boon to Lincoln and Pipestone counties, both property-poor but geographically poised nearby the "Buffalo Ridge," an area wind energy experts have called one of the best resources in the United States to tap wind and convert it to electricity.

And with last year's law mandating that Northern States Power Co. (NSP) produce 425 megawatts of wind energy by Dec. 31, 2002, (as a condition for allowing the company to store spent nuclear fuel at Prairie Island), there are many more wind turbines coming to the area.

Under the bill, new wind energy systems generating less than two megawatts of electricity would remain tax exempt, as would the 73 existing wind towers in Lincoln County. Beginning with taxes payable in 1996, all other new wind energy systems would be taxed.

The owner of the wind power system would pay at the commercial-industrial property tax rate: 3 percent of the first \$100,000 of the wind energy system's value and 4.6 percent on any value exceeding \$100,000.

But the tax would not apply to the entire value of the wind power structure — each of which is estimated at between \$325,000 and \$400,000. Only the value of the structure's foundation would be taxed — or about 8 percent of the entire system's value. After five years, 30 percent of the towers' value also would be taxed, in addition to the foundation tax.

Since NSP already has taken bids for the equipment to produce the first 100 megawatts of wind energy, the bill would allow NSP to pass the cost of property taxes resulting from these wind energy systems on to rate payers. (Art. 3, Secs. 4, 12, 17-18)

## TIF district changes

Under Minnesota law, cities can offer tax breaks to companies to help create jobs in their communities. In exchange for creating jobs, a city can agree to forego property taxes on a business for a set number of years.

Proponents say these tax increment financing (TIF) district arrangements place businesses — and jobs — in Minnesota cities that would otherwise be built elsewhere. Opponents have said they cost too much in lost property tax revenue — about \$260 million per year, statewide, by some counts — and at times provide tax breaks to businesses that would have been built anyway without the state's help.

Several bills were heard this session to limit the way different cities sometimes compete with one another to lure businesses to either move or expand in their towns through the creation of TIF districts.

Under provisions in the omnibus tax bill, cities would be required to show that the use of a TIF district would increase the taxable market value of a site over what would have occurred without TIF.

Additionally, more details about TIF districts would need to be disclosed in legal sections of newspapers. Under current law, the disclosure doesn't have to be published if the city files an annual report with the state auditor. (Enforcement of the TIF law also would be shifted to the Office of the State Auditor from the Department of Revenue.)

Also, special laws extending the duration of a TIF district would need to be approved by all affected local units of government — the city or town, school district, and county. (This would apply to all the extensions granted in the bill, except for Lake City.)

Provisions in the House tax bill calling for the repayment of TIF benefits to the city if the property is sold or transferred, (repayment of up to 100 percent of the benefit if sold within five years), were deleted by House-Senate conferees. (Art. 5, Secs. 18, 19, 34, 35)

## Help for landlords

A program established in 1994 to encourage St. Paul landlords to reinvest more money in their properties would be extended for another year.

Owners of single-family and duplex rental units would get a property tax break for repairing or upgrading their properties, under the program.

The goal is to establish more safe, affordable housing for renters and to improve St. Paul neighborhoods.

A total of \$1 million was earmarked for the program, and about half of the money was not used.

To participate, a landlord must pay a fee to hire a housing evaluator to inspect the rental unit or units, repair the property based on the evaluator's findings, have the property re-inspected after repairs, and gain approval from city officials. (Any life and safety hazards identified in the inspection would need to be repaired even if the building owner withdraws from the program.) (Art. 3, Sec. 38)

A similar one-year program would be established in Brooklyn Park, under the bill. (Art. 3, Sec. 43)

Since renters' rebates are tied to the amount of property taxes paid by the building owner, renters' credits in St. Paul and Brooklyn Park will be based on 20 percent of rent paid for next year. (Art. 3, Sec. 44-45)

## Property tax breaks

Those who own apartment buildings with four or more units in small cities outside the seven-county metro area would see their property taxes decline.

Currently, those property owners are taxed at 3.4 percent of the property's value. Under the bill that would dip to 2.3 percent for taxes payable in 1996.

To be eligible for the tax break, a small city cannot be within 15 miles of a city that has a population of more than 5,000.

The provision is also designed as an incentive to encourage the building of such units, which are in short supply in Greater Minnesota's small cities.

Additionally, the 2 percent property tax rate on all manufactured home parks (trailer homes) would be made permanent. Under current law, it was scheduled to increase to 2.3 percent in 1996. (Art. 3, Secs. 10)

## 'Targeting' refund program

A state property tax refund program scheduled to end after the 1996 tax season would be made permanent and fully funded by the state.

The state's "targeting" refund program helps property owners whose taxes go up more than 12 percent and increase by at least \$100 over the previous year.

Under current law, the state can only give a maximum of \$5.5 million in refunds under the program in a given year. When property taxes increase sharply across the state — as they did for the 1994 tax year — those funds don't provide help to everyone who is eligible.

(In 1994, lawmakers made a one-time exception to the law and pumped a total of \$11.7 million into the program to cover all those eligible for targeted refunds.)

The maximum refund under the targeting program is \$1,000. (Art. 4, Sec. 11)

## Sales tax changes?

Should clothing be taxed? Or should more services be subject to a sales tax?

A 17-member advisory council would be established to study and recommend possible changes in the sales tax system.

The council would be composed of five members each from the House and Senate, the commissioner of revenue, and six members of the public.

The council would have to suggest changes to the current sales tax system, and would specifically examine alternative forms of taxation, including a value-added tax or another form of consumption tax. Current tax exemptions also would be examined for possible alteration or elimination.

The council would need to consider equity, efficiency, and ease of understanding in formulating its proposals for changing the current sales tax system.

Its findings would be presented to lawmakers by Feb. 1, 1996 — in time for consideration by the 1996 Legislature. (Art. 2, Sec. 42)

## Tax-free horses (and feed)

In 1994, lawmakers exempted many horse purchases (except race horses) from the state sales tax. When that law goes into effect June 30, 1995, it's estimated to save horse buyers \$200,000 a year.

This year, lawmakers have decided race horses ought to be sold tax-free as well. Horse feed and bedding used in breeding and racing horses would also be exempt. (Art. 2, Sec. 29)

## Tax-free materials

Materials and supplies used to construct an indoor ice arena would be exempt from the sales tax if it would be used primarily for youth activities or owned and operated under a joint powers agreement with a school district.

This provision goes hand-in-hand with the "Mighty Ducks" provisions of the omnibus state government finance bill (HF1001/SF1678\*), which would mark \$2.9 million to help build and renovate ice arenas throughout the state. (Art. 2, Sec. 30)

Also, construction materials used to improve and expand the Duluth Convention Center and an agricultural processing facility in Brooten, Minn., would be exempt from the sales tax, under the bill. (Art. 2, Sec. 31-32, 41)

## Tax-free farm machinery

The current sales tax exemption for used farm machinery, set to expire on June 30, 1995, would be extended until June 1, 1996.

The extension would cost the general fund \$300,000 and the Local Government Trust Fund \$1.3 million in lost revenue in fiscal year 1996. (Art. 2, Sec. 30)

## 1-900 calls

Since 1992, there has been a 50-cent per-call tax on 1-900, 1-976, and other fee-per-call services.

This year, lawmakers are trying to repeal the tax entirely, as of June 30, 1995.

The original law was targeted at phone sex operations, but most are located out of state — and therefore aren't subject to the tax. Some also skirt the tax by providing a 1-800 number and then use the connection to refer callers to 1-900 extensions.

Those that are paying the tax include legitimate information services that have testified the tax has put them at a competitive disadvantage because out-of-state services are exempt from the surcharge.

The Department of Revenue estimates the state would lose about \$400,000 over the biennium if the tax is repealed. (Art. 2, Sec. 43)

## Board of Innovation

The State Board of Innovation and Cooperation would get \$2 million, of which \$1 million would be spent in grants over the next biennium to enhance local government cost-saving efforts through consolidation and cooperation.

The board is also directed to study unfunded state mandates and the feasibility of consolidating counties.

The board was created by the 1993 Legislature and has a three-pronged mission to: grant waivers of state rules to local units of government; provide grants to cooperating units of government; and to facilitate mergers of local governments.

In his budget proposal, Gov. Arne Carlson targeted the board for elimination, which was estimated to bring a cost savings of \$3.4 million over the next biennium.

In a related provision to find greater efficiency in government, the Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy would create a subcommittee to consider alternative methods of local government aid delivery and the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery. The subcommittee shall report by Feb. 1, 1996, to the commission and the chairs of the House and Senate tax committees.

Should SF1246, a government reorganization bill, be signed into law, the commission would be eliminated, and the study would be done by Legislative Coordinating Commission staff. (Art. 8)

## Cambridge Bank settlement

The bill authorizes the Department of Finance, upon the request of the governor, to issue an unspecified amount of state revenue bonds to pay for the judgment against the state in the Cambridge State Bank case.

A 1994 the Minnesota Supreme Court decision requires the state to provide tax refunds to certain banks and financial institutions totaling about \$320 million over the next four years.

The bill specifies that Minnesota taxpayers are not responsible for the debt, and the bonds and any accrued interest are not to be paid by a statewide tax.

Instead, they would be secured by lottery revenues (up to 60 percent), various state fees, and reimbursements from regional treatment centers and state nursing homes. (Art. 6)



## TRANSPORTATION

### Omnibus funding bill

The transportation funding bill which would appropriate \$2.5 billion for the state's roads, bridges, and aviation projects won House approval on a 121-12 vote May 22.

It passed the Senate the same day, 47-19, and now awaits action by the governor.

The bill appeared before legislators as an amendment to HF611/SF371\*, a bill to add an additional lane of traffic in each direction to a stretch of Interstate 394 near the Penn Avenue interchange in Minneapolis.

(The bill does not include any money to pay for the new lanes nor does it set a date for construction.)

Most of the money in the bill — about \$2.2 billion — would go to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

The bill also would appropriate \$84.4 million to the Metropolitan Council for the next two-year spending cycle. The council is responsible for coordinating the metropolitan area public transportation system. Of that money \$30.6 million would go to Metro Mobility, which provides rides to approximately 24,000 people with disabilities around the metropolitan area — a \$1.3 million increase (4.2 percent) over funding for the current biennium.

The transportation bill, sponsored by Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) and Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon) (HF1793/SF1536\*), was incorporated into the I-394 interchange proposal sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (IR-Golden Valley) and Sen. Gen Olson (IR-Minnetrista).

HF611/SF371\*/CH265

## Bus safety

The bill would earmark \$354,000 to the Metropolitan Council to improve security on metropolitan area city buses.

The money would pay for Plexiglas shields to protect drivers and surveillance cameras on 59 buses that travel six "high risk routes" in the Twin Cities. Combined with the planned purchase this year of similarly equipped buses, there would be cameras and shields on 150 of the approximately 1,000 buses in the Metropolitan Council Transit Operation (MCTO) fleet.

The shields would protect drivers from blind attacks from the rear or side, and the cameras would record the behavior of passengers.

Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) originally sponsored a bill (HF848) calling for such security measures on buses, saying growing violence on buses demands action.

Also, \$625,000 would go to the Metropolitan Council to study operating buses between suburbs, and from downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis to the suburbs.

Few such routes exist now, officials say. That provision was originally sponsored as HF342 by Rep. Edwina Garcia (DFL-Richfield) (Art. 2, Sec. 3)

## High speed rail

The bill would conditionally appropriate \$500,000 over the biennium for the second phase of a study to evaluate a high-speed train linking Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois by high-speed rail.

Unlike the feasibility phase of the study, which was done in 1991, the second phase will determine which train technology is best and what route the link should take.

The appropriation would come only if Wisconsin provides \$500,000 for the study and if Minnesota receives federal money to help fund the study.

The same legislation passed during the 1994 session, but Wisconsin failed to come up with its share, so the study was postponed.

The Wisconsin Legislature is expected to appropriate \$500,000 which, along with the Minnesota money, should trigger a \$1 mil-

lion federal match. The cost of the two-year study is \$2 million.

This portion of the bill was originally sponsored as **HF729** by Rep. Don Frerichs (IR-Rochester). (Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd., 4)

### Wakota bridge

The bill calls for MnDOT to complete the Wakota bridge reconstruction project at "the earliest feasible date consistent with available funding."

The present bridge is in such poor repair a new one is needed by the year 2000, said Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport), who sponsored the provision in the bill.

When representatives voted on a different version of the bill May 17, it called for MnDOT to complete bridge construction in specific stages to be done by specific dates. The bridge would have been completely reconstructed by August 2003.

That language was removed from the bill.

A new bridge will aid more than just the communities of South St. Paul and Newport, which the bridge will connect. The entire surrounding area will benefit because the Interstate 494 interchange is heavily used, Marko said. (Art. 2, Sec. 13)

### Electric bus

The omnibus transportation spending bill also includes a \$250,000 appropriation to help build the world's first bus powered by an electric strip embedded in the road.

That money would be matched by federal and private dollars and would help pay for vehicle testing.

In 1994, the Legislature appropriated \$200,000 to the St. Cloud-based Saints Road Project to study how the electric bus developed by the company would move through snow and ice.

The 1995 bill calls on the Metropolitan Council Transit Operation to analyze the findings of the bus testing study.

The developers of the bus hope it is one day used as public transportation in Minnesota and internationally.

Marko originally sponsored this provision as **HF395**. (Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 9)

### Other road projects

The bill calls for MnDOT to find alternative ways to fund the reconstruction of Highway 212 between Interstate 494 and Cologne, which is about 30 miles southwest of Minneapolis.

Those alternative funding methods could include public-private partnerships and toll financing, under the bill. (Art. 2, Sec. 12)

Gone from the bill are several local trans-

portation projects added during a lengthy April 27 floor debate.

Those amendments called upon MnDOT to reconstruct portions of highways, erect stop signs, and repair bridges from the suburbs to the Iron Range.

## Longer semi-trucks

A bill to give over-the-road-truckers more sleeping room inside their cabs is on its way to the governor's desk.

The proposal won final approval from the House May 19 on a 108-21 vote. The vote was 121-8. The Senate passed the bill May 19, 43-7.

The proposal would allow semi-tractors which pull trailers to be 10 feet longer than allowed under current law.

Current law says semi-tractor trailer combinations cannot be more than 65 feet long. The bill would allow those combinations to equal 75 feet in length.

The proposal would not affect the length of the trailer, which can be either 53- or 48-feet long, bill sponsor Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) has said.

The additional 10 feet would be added to the "tractor cab" that pulls the trailer, Winter said. That length would widen the bed in the tractor cab. Truck drivers sleep in their cabs when they park their truck overnight at truck stops. (See April 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 13)

Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

**HF1207\*/SF571/CH223**

## Selling junked cars



Effective Aug. 1, 1995, junked vehicles which have been towed to private or public impound lots could be immediately sold, under a new state law.

Junked vehicles—vehicles with little value that don't run—frequently sit at impound lots with little or no chance that their rightful owners will claim them.

The public impound lot usually ends up losing money whenever such a vehicle is towed, said House sponsor Rep. Jeff Bertram (DFL-Paynesville).

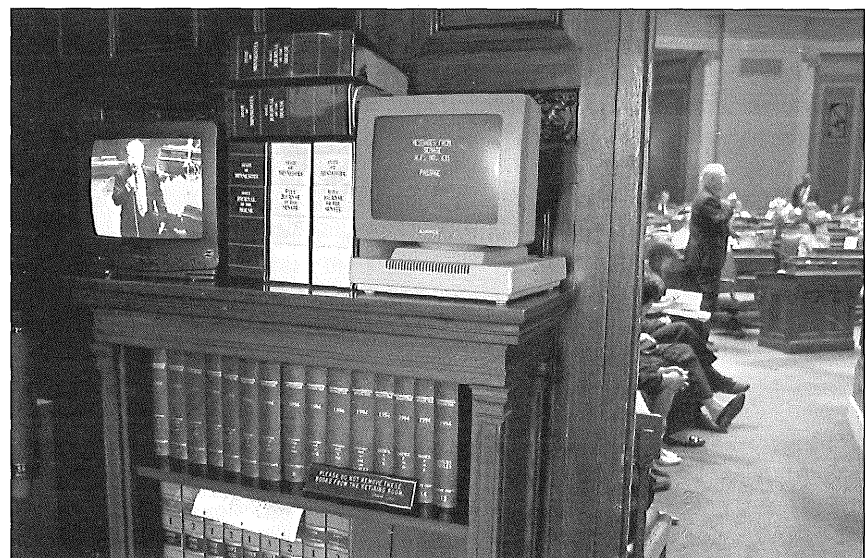
The measure would allow junk vehicles to immediately be sold at public auctions or sold as scrap. Present law says the vehicle may be sold 15 days after the owner receives notice that the impound lot has the car.

A "junk vehicle" is defined as one that is at least three or more years old, extensively damaged, apparently inoperable, not registered, and has value only as scrap.

The law also will allow the towing of "unauthorized" vehicles—those left unattended on public property more than 24 hours after being tagged for unauthorized parking.

Currently, local governments can tow only "abandoned" vehicles—vehicles which have sat for long periods of time on public or private property. (Vehicles also can be towed immediately for specific reasons outlined in Minnesota law, such as if a car is parked in a location that creates a traffic hazard.)

Such vehicles could be sold at a public auction 45 days after notice is given to the vehicle's owner of the proposed sale.



Rep. Ron Abrams, right, stood to speak on the House floor May 19 while his image, TV left, was broadcast to the metropolitan area via a local cable station. During the 1996 Legislative Session, Greater Minnesota is expected to see more broadcasts of House proceedings.



The law also will allow impound lot owners to notify a vehicle owner of the proposed public sale of their car. Under present law, only units of local government can give such notice.

The measure was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville).

**HF586\*/SF553/CH137**

## Vintage license plates



Vintage car owners will be able to display license plates from the year their car was made, under a new state law.

Currently, those who own restored or vintage automobiles can display special "collector license plates" that bear the year a car was built, but the plates don't look like the original license plates issued for that year.

Cars with collector plates can be used only to drive to and from collector car shows. Owners of such plates need not renew them on an annual basis. However, they may drive only 2,000 miles per year in the cars.

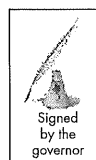
Under the new law, collector car owners will be allowed to use the original plates for cars that are at least 20 years old. The license plate number, however, cannot have been previously issued.

Owners of such plates will need to renew them each year. To preserve the aesthetic integrity of the original plates, owners will not have to display the month and year renewal stickers on the plate's lower corners, but they will have to carry the vehicle license registration in the car with them at all times.

The measure, effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Alice Seagren (IR-Bloomington) and Sen. Bill Belanger (IR-Bloomington).

**HF1402\*/SF1163/CH145**

## Plates for test cars



Automobile manufacturers testing their cars in Minnesota will need to purchase special license plates for the vehicles, under a new state law.

The law creates a new Minnesota license plate called a manufacturer test plate. Automobile manufacturers will buy such plates for cars which are tested in Minnesota to assess cold weather performance.

Such test cars are usually parked for long periods of time in northern Minnesota, then driven to determine how they perform after being idle in cold weather, said Katherine

Burke Moore, director of the Driver and Vehicle Services Division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

The division will issue the license plates. Manufacturers must pay \$40 per year for the first four plates. Of that charge, the department keeps \$25 and the remaining \$15 goes to the general fund. Each additional plate would cost \$25 — \$10 of which is kept by the division with the remainder going to the general fund.

Currently, test cars usually come from Michigan auto plants and use Michigan manufacturer plates, Burke Moore said.

Her division will pay only about \$300 to begin making the plates, because they are pressed from standard stock used to create Minnesota license plates, she said.

Under the law, cars with such plates can be operated on streets and highways by employees of the automobile manufacturing company testing the plates.

The law, sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) and Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls), became effective April 20, 1995.

**HF971/SF172\*/CH74**

## Bridge of Hope



A bridge over the Mississippi River at St. Cloud will be named the "Bridge of Hope," under a new state law.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Jim Knoblach (IR-St. Cloud), said the Highway 15 bridge will be named in honor of Jacob Wetterling and other abducted and missing children.

Jacob Wetterling of St. Joseph, Minn., was abducted near his home in 1989 and is still missing.

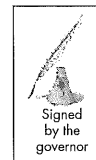
The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) will create a suitable design for signs and plaques marking the bridge. Members of the local community will reimburse MnDOT for costs incurred in "marking and memorializing" the bridge.

Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

The new law becomes effective Aug. 1, 1995.

**HF175/SF194\*/CH50**

## Betty Adkins Bridge



A new state law will name a bridge near Elk River, Minn., after a former state senator who represented the area for 12 years.

The bridge over the Mississippi River near Elk River connecting Highway 101 in Wright County with Highway 169 in Sherburne County will be designated the "Betty Adkins Bridge."

The commissioner of transportation will furnish and erect plaques or signs to mark and memorialize the bridge.

Betty Adkins, of St. Michael, Minn., was first elected to the Senate in 1982 and served through the 1994 session. At the time, she was chair of the Senate Metropolitan and Local Government Committee.

The measure, which becomes effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Bruce Anderson (IR-Buffalo Township) and Sen. Mark Ourada (IR-Buffalo).

**HF6/SF50\*/CH19**

## Rescuing rail travel



A resolution asking Congress to continue funding the Amtrak passenger rail service has been signed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

Congress is discussing major cuts to the federally subsidized Amtrak budget. House sponsor Rep. Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington) said the nation's only passenger rail service would not be viable without federal funding.

"No passenger rail service in the world makes money," he said.

Last year, Amtrak received a \$952 million subsidy from the federal government. One Amtrak route passes through St. Paul on a line running between Seattle and Chicago.

About 160,000 people take the train each year in Minnesota. About 130,000 of them arrive in or depart from St. Paul, according to Mahon. Amtrak employs 74 Minnesotans, who make a combined \$3 million annually, he said. (See March 10, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 13)

The measure was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing). The law was signed April 28, 1995.

**HF821\*/SF700/Res. 3**

## Educating drivers



Minnesotans learning to drive will now be taught how they could be affected by the state's DWI laws.

Under the new law, all schools and private companies teaching drivers' training must instruct their students on the hazards of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. All students also will hear what the criminal penalties and financial consequences are should they get caught driving under the influence.

Training courses must also teach students how drinking and using drugs can affect a person's ability to drive.

Also under the law, the written test given by the Department of Public Safety must include information on the penalties one could face for driving drunk or after using drugs. Such information must also be contained in future editions of the state driver's manual issued by the department.

Future manuals also will warn teens that, should they drive after consuming any amount of alcohol, they could face a driver's license suspension — whether they are legally drunk or not.

(The 1993 Legislature enacted the so-called "not a drop law," which calls for a mandatory 30-day drivers' license suspension for anyone under the age of 21 who is caught drinking and driving.)

The measure, effective July 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Doug Swenson (IR-Forest Lake) and Sen. Linda Runbeck (IR-Circle Pines).

HF901\*/SF1129/CH104

## Ensuring bike safety



Motorists who pass alongside a bicycle at closer than three feet are subject to a petty misdemeanor fine, under a new state law.

The law is intended to make the roads safer for bicyclists, said House sponsor Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton).

The law, effective Aug. 1, 1995, calls for cars or other vehicles passing bicyclists to leave at least three feet of space between the vehicle and the bicycle. Current law does not stipulate a safe passing distance.

Motorists who don't observe the three-foot passing distance could be stopped by officers and slapped with a petty misdemeanor. The maximum fine is \$200.

The law also calls for drivers' examination tests to include questions about traffic laws relating to bicycles to ensure that drivers know about bicycle safety.

It also requires that the Minnesota drivers' manual — which is studied before taking the drivers' license examination — must include a section on bicycle traffic laws.

Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township) sponsored the proposal in the Senate.

HF1134/SF687\*/CH72

## Private driver data



The names and addresses of disabled drivers won't be available to the public, under a new state law.

The law is necessary to curb some medical equipment vendors from compiling lists of potential customers and contacting them in an attempt to make a sale, said Kurt Strom, an advocate for the State Council on Disabilities. Some disreputable vendors have made such contacts, he said.

Currently, only medical information on those disabled drivers is private — which means members of the public don't have access to that data. But the fact that a driver has a handicapped parking permit has been public.

The law also will allow disabled drivers to display their handicapped parking certificate on the dashboard if their disability prevents them from hanging it from the rear view mirror as state law currently requires.

The proposal, effective Aug. 1, 1995, was sponsored by Rep. Sherry Broecker (IR-Vadnais Heights) and Sen. Paula Hanson (DFL-Ham Lake).

HF900/SF144\*/CH85

## Eye protection mandated



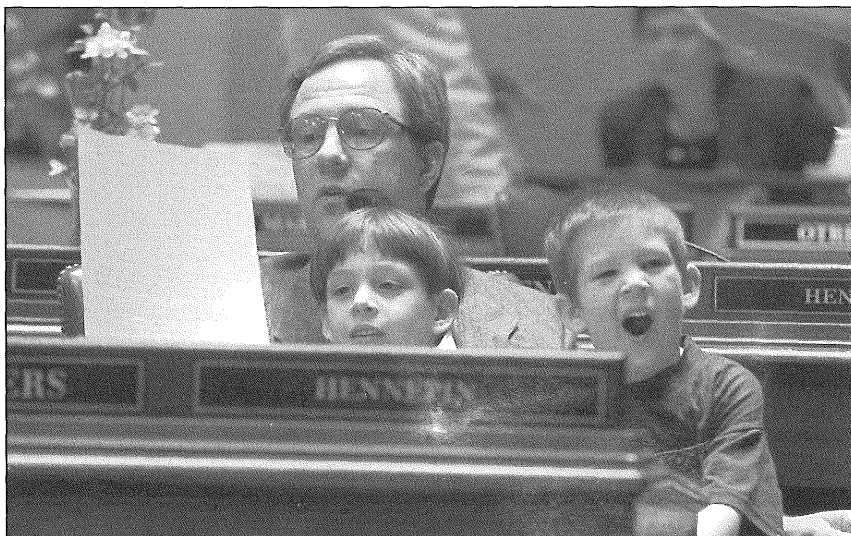
All motorcycle drivers and riders must wear glasses, goggles, visors, or some other type of eye protection, even if their vehicles have windshields, under a new law.

Both the Minnesota Motorcycle Riders Association and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety support the law which is effective Aug. 1, 1995.

State law has long required a motorcycle rider or driver to wear eye protection unless their motorcycle had a windshield. But many new windshields are too low to offer any real protection from objects that may fly up from the road, said Rep. Don Frerichs (IR-Rochester), sponsor of the bill.

The new law, effective Aug. 1, 1995, mandates drivers or riders to wear eye protection, which could be regular eyeglasses, sunglasses, a helmet visor, or "anything else that literally protects the eye," Frerichs said.

HF568\*/SF528/CH40



Three-year-old Rory Carruthers found the action on the House floor less than interesting as he and his brother, six-year-old Alex, visited their father, Majority Leader Phil Carruthers, on May 22.

# 1995 Special Session



## EDUCATION

### Omnibus K-12 finance

Minnesota's public schools would receive an increase in basic funding from the state under a \$5.75 billion K-12 education spending bill on its way to the governor.

The financing represents about a 7 percent increase over funding for the current biennium.

Both the House and Senate approved the bill in a special session May 25. The votes were 125-5 and 54-5, respectively.

The bill, **Special Session: HF4** (formerly **HF1000\*/SF944**) would spend \$200 million more during the next two years than recommended by Gov. Arne Carlson. It would, however, set aside \$200 million in a rainy day account sought by the governor.

Carlson had requested a \$220 million rainy day fund to brace for cuts he expects the federal government will impose on states later this year.

Public school funding was the subject of a month-long negotiation between select House and Senate members as they tried to hammer out a compromise bill. Deadlock on the bill helped force the 1995 Special Session.

Under the bill, the general education funding formula would jump from the current \$3,150 per pupil unit to \$3,205 in 1996 and \$3,505 in 1997. The amount would drop back to \$3,430 beginning in 1998, under the bill. (Art. 1)

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) and Sen. Larry Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls)

Other major provisions of the bill include:

#### New children's department

The Department of Children, Families, and Learning — one of the governor's pet proposals — would be created to house the functions of the Department of Education and other agencies that run programs related to children and families. (Art. 16)

The governor would appoint the head of the new department on July 1, 1995. The commissioner would then work with a planning team to prepare for the transition of programs to the new department.

The Department of Education would be abolished and its functions transferred to the new department on Oct. 1, 1995.

Some programs from the Department of



House Speaker Irv Anderson, left, and Rep. Alice Johnson, right, listened as Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller, foreground, addressed a House proposal to break the impasse over the financing of Minnesota's K-12 schools during a May 24 conference committee hearing.

Human Services, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Public Safety, and Minnesota Planning also would transfer to the new department, under the bill.

Despite opposition, Head Start, now run by the Department of Economic Security, would be among the programs transferred to the new department July 1, 1997.

And, beginning July 1, 1996, seven programs, including early childhood development and child care initiatives, would transfer from the Department of Human Services.

#### Graduation rule

The bill includes \$12.5 million to continue developing graduations standards for Minnesota high school students. (Art. 7)

During the past two years, the Department of Education has spent \$12 million developing and testing new standards.

New requirements for math and reading proficiency are slated to take effect statewide beginning with the 1996-97 ninth-grade class.

Students who begin ninth grade in the 1997-98 school year would have to meet writing and science requirements in addition to the reading and math requirements.

The Department of Education requested \$15 million to continue testing new graduation standards at 23 sites across the state and to begin implementing the reading and math requirements.

#### Special education

The omnibus bill would eliminate — over the next five years — all local property taxes used to pay for special education programs.

Beginning in 1997, the state would use money from the Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid (HACA) to replace local levies for special education.

The state would pay 70 percent of special education costs in 1997, 80 percent in 1998, and so forth until the state paid 100 percent in the year 2000. (Art. 3)

A portion of HACA currently is used to reduce school districts' reliance on local property taxes. When the HACA funds are shifted to pay for special education, districts will need to find another revenue source — or increase property taxes — to compensate for the revenue loss.

#### Internet connections

The bill would establish a program to help schools and regional public libraries connect to the information superhighway.

Some \$10.5 million in grant funding would be available to help schools and libraries link to the Internet and expand access to the global information resource for those already on-line. (Art. 12)

The program aims to expand learning opportunities for both students and adults by giving them access to a broad scope of information through the Internet computer network.

## Staff development

Finally, the bill allows local school officials more control over how they spend their state aid.

A requirement in current law that school districts spend 2 percent of their general education dollars for staff development would be lifted. (Art. 1)

Instead, the bill would simply encourage districts to use an unspecified amount for staff development, which consists of specialized training to keep educators up-to-date in their field.

Money mandated for staff training has drawn criticism because it forces districts to spend money to send teachers and administrators to conferences or training seminars when schools lack necessary classroom supplies.

As a result, no changes were made by lawmakers to the current Wetlands Conservation Act.

**Special Session: HF5 (formerly HF787\*/SF1116)**, sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), would have allowed counties to create their own less restrictive wetland protection and management plans to replace the rules of the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), which currently over-see the law.

Local governments have argued those rules are overly restrictive and unnecessarily prevent land development, especially in northern Minnesota.

The Wetlands Conservation Act now requires developers, local governments, property owners, or others to replace the wetlands they drain to build roads, housing, and other developments.

Under current law, wetlands in most parts of the state must be replaced on a two-for-one basis, except in areas that still have at least 80 percent of the wetlands which existed when Europeans arrived in Minnesota. (This standard is referred to as "presettlement wetlands.") Those areas are allowed under current law to replace wetlands on a one-for-one basis.

The bill would have provided breaks to those counties having 80 presettlement wetlands intact.

In those counties, which are located almost exclusively in north and northeastern Minnesota, wetlands less than 10,000 square feet in size would have been exempted from the current Wetlands Conservation Act. Currently, wetlands less than 400 square feet are exempt.

Tunheim said the bill would benefit counties that are now suffering under current law.

But some House members said the bill was not the proposal negotiated the previous night.

Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka) said that officials of both the Department of Natural Resources and BWSR told him that the bill before the House was not the "deal" they had agreed to.

Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), sponsor of the 1991 Wetlands Conservation Act, said the bill went too far in exempting certain wetlands from protection.

He offered an amendment to the bill that would have eased some current restrictions, but it was rejected on a 59-68 vote.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Easing wetlands restrictions

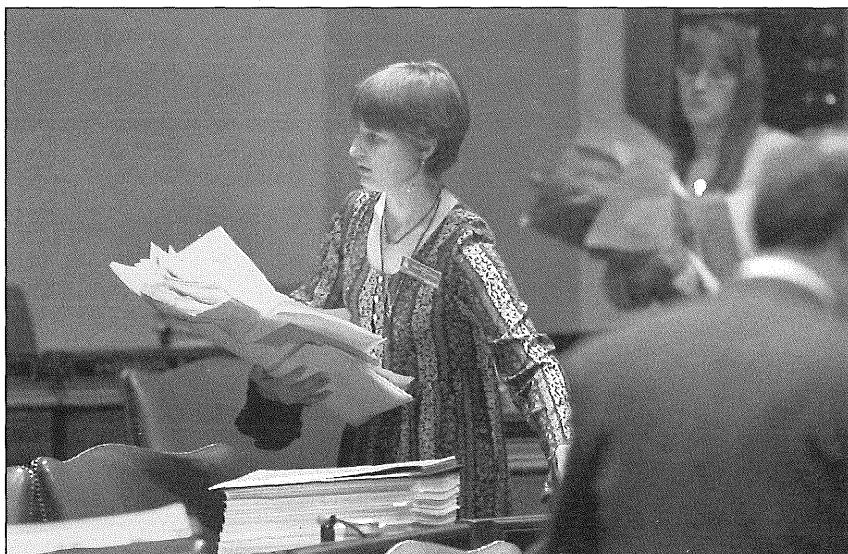
A bill that would have given counties more authority to develop wetlands protected by state law was passed by the House May 25 on a 74-55 vote.

However, the bill died when the Senate, on a procedural vote to bring the bill before members for debate, rejected the bill.



## BONDING

*Editor's note: The bonding bill was passed by the Legislature May 25. A summary of that bill appears on page 5.*



Autumn Hickenbotham, a House page, helps to clear the mountains of paper off the desks of representatives following the May 19 floor session.



# Vetoed Bills 1995

(as of May 24, 1995)

## Private traffic escorts

A bill to allow private escort services to perform traffic control duties for oversized loads on Minnesota roads has been vetoed by the governor.

Such duties can now be performed only by police officers or members of the Minnesota State Patrol.

House sponsor Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) has said that private security company employees have been controlling traffic for years, and cited funeral processions as an example.

But Carlson said it was a safety issue.

"This bill will endanger public safety," Gov. Arne Carlson wrote in his veto message. He noted state troopers and local police are trained to direct traffic, have medical training, and can issue tickets to those who disobey their traffic instructions.

"Private escort services simply are not capable of providing such an important and comprehensive series of safety measures," he wrote.

The bill brings to an even 100 the number of bills Carlson has vetoed during his tenure — the most of any governor in state history.

The proposal was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy).

HF1485\*/SF1171/CH117

## Running for office

A bill that would have allowed any public employee to stay on the job while running for political office was vetoed by the governor.

Under current law, state employees have such a right.

But at least 18 counties require their employees to take a leave of absence after filing to run for an elective office. House sponsor Rep. Don Ostrom (DFL-Mankato) has said that is unfair.

During committee testimony, witnesses explained that such a policy discourages many from running for elective office.

Brad Peterson, the current sheriff of Blue Earth County, successfully ran for office despite being forced to take an unpaid leave from his former county job. It cost him \$7,000 in lost wages and an additional \$1,500 to keep his health insurance active.

The bill also would have provided job security for those public employees who chose to take a leave of absence to run for office. It would have given all public employees the

right to an unpaid leave of absence upon becoming a candidate for any elected political office.

Such rights are now granted to state employees.

Gov. Arne Carlson called the bill "unacceptable." By giving all public employees the benefit of a leave of absence it provides a "significant advantage over private employees when running for elective office," he said.

Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the proposal in the Senate.

HF624\*/SF493/CH138

## Plate impoundment

A bill designed to keep more chronic DWI offenders off the roads was vetoed by the governor, who called the proposal an "unfunded mandate to the Department of Public Safety."

Under current law, when a person's driver's license is suspended for a third DWI offense in five years (or a fourth within 15 years), his or her license plates also are impounded for as long as the offender's driver's license is suspended. For a third-time offender, that's a minimum of one year.

But chronic DWI offenders are smart, House sponsor Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) has said. Once their plates are impounded, they often begin to drive their girlfriend's or their spouse's car.

Should they get caught under the influence in someone else's car, those license plates are then impounded. But all the car owner has to do is sign a statement that he or she was unaware of the DWI violation and new plates are issued — free of charge.

The vetoed bill still would have given the plates back to the car owner (if the car was reported missing), but the plates would have been coded with specific letters, so that law enforcement officials would know the car had been involved in a prior DWI offense. The plates would have remained on the car for a minimum of one year.

The coded plates would have provided law enforcement officers with a "reasonable suspicion" to pull the car over should the driver not be the registered owner of the car. From the patrol vehicle, an officer can check the car's registration and the license status of the car owner, which contains a description of the owner. If the driver doesn't match the description, the officer would have cause to stop the car.

Gov. Arne Carlson said the goals of the bill were laudable, but the cost to the Department of Public Safety would have been \$124,000 per year. The department estimated the bill would have called for three new employees to process 10,000 plates per year.

Carlson said it was "unfortunate" the bill did not provide the necessary funding.

Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

HF416/SF308\*/CH157

## State employee suggestions

A bill that would have included a note with the paycheck of each state employee requesting suggestions on how to improve state government was vetoed by the governor.

Under the bill, any suggestions would have been forwarded to the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Governmental Operations and Veterans Committee.

House sponsor Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) has said the suggestion program would have been an easy way to identify greater efficiencies in government.

"Let's ask employees, 'What do we ask you to do that really doesn't matter?'" she said.

The governor disagreed.

"This picayune bill is entirely unnecessary," Gov. Arne Carlson said. "Bills of this nature, mandating the exact steps as to how an employee makes a suggestion on how to improve service, are senseless."

"It has been a policy of my administration to actively solicit employee input and involve them in the operation of their agencies. However, this legislation would require that suggestions go directly to legislative oversight committees, not the people responsible for responding and acting upon the suggestion in a timely fashion."

Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

HF1524/SF1402\*/CH160

## Pension enhancement

Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed a bill May 18 that would have increased a St. Paul teachers pension benefit.

The bill would have modified the post-retirement benefit increase for those enrolled in the St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association (StPTRFA). It would have awarded to those individuals lump sum post-retirement adjustments which do not de-

pend on investment performance.

Carlson said he vetoed the bill because the St. Paul teacher's retirement plan is not adequately funded and cannot afford to make benefit improvements.

"The status of the plan has improved, but not enough to change my position on this matter," Carlson wrote in his veto message.

Also, the state pays \$500,000 each year to help improve the plan's funding, he wrote.

"It was not my expectation the StPTRFA would then give this state aid away in post-retirement benefit increases," Carlson said in his veto message.

In 1992, Carlson vetoed a bill that would have awarded a similar increased pension benefit to those teachers. He said at that time the fund was not sound enough to offer additional benefits.

In addition to the St. Paul provision, the bill made various changes and adjustments to local public employee pension plans.

The bill was sponsored in the House by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) and in the Senate by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls).

HF493\*/SF803/CH172

## Pumped hydropower

A bill that would have provided a financial incentive for a power company to solve a water problem at the Hill Annex Mine State Park was vetoed by the governor.

At the state park in Calumet, Minn., (northwest of Grand Rapids), tour buses travel to the bottom of a 500-foot-deep pit, which continually fills with water, Bill Morrissey of the DNR has explained.

The DNR spent \$150,000 last year pumping water out of the pit.

The bill would have directed the Department of Finance to extend a 1.5 cents per kilowatt hour subsidy to a facility that uses "pumped hydropower" to drain the water late at night when demand for electricity is low, then release it in a different direction to generate power during the day when demand for electricity is high.

The bill also would have changed language in the guidelines for the legislative Electric Energy Task Force to add "closed system pumped hydropower" to the list of preferred electric energy generation sources.

In his veto letter, Gov. Arne Carlson said that he didn't consider pumped hydropower as an "energy conscious and environmentally sound" source of power.

The governor said closed system pumped hydropower "is a means of generating electricity that consumes more energy than it

produces and clearly does not rank among the energy alternatives that we have encouraged the public and private sectors to develop."

He disapproved of subsidizing pumped hydropower projects, saying that it could cost taxpayers \$5 million per year beginning in 1998.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) and Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls) sponsored the bill.

HF248/SF375\*/CH173

## Tax redistribution

Gov. Arne Carlson has vetoed a controversial metropolitan area tax-sharing proposal stating: "Past legislatures have wisely rejected the concept of pooling residential property taxes."

The bill would have shifted a portion of the tax dollars from some wealthy suburbs to less fortunate inner-ring suburbs and the core cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The bill promised to reduce property taxes in 85 percent of the metro area, but taxes would likely increase in the remaining 15 percent of the region.

It would have created a pool of funds for metropolitan redistribution drawn from the growth in property tax revenue generated on the value of homes greater than \$200,000.

House sponsor Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) aimed to achieve greater equity in basic public services provided in metropolitan area communities, ease competition for tax base, and make land-use planning more possible. He predicted that \$12 million would be redistributed, under the bill.

Carlson gave a variety of reasons for vetoing the bill in his veto message May 19. Among them: "First, this pooling approach sets many communities up for a property tax increase. Clearly, taking money from some suburban communities reduces their revenue. . . . Second, this bill worsens an already grossly unfair, inequitable property tax system. It punishes communities which are successful and rewards others for being inefficient. . . ."

This is the third consecutive year Orfield has pushed legislation to give wealthier suburbs a greater role in sharing the social burden faced by central cities and aging suburbs.

His bills in each of the previous two years focused on housing in the metro area. Carlson vetoed those as well.

Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

HF431\*/SF277/CH197

## Driver's license refund

The governor has vetoed a bill that would have given Minnesotans a refund on their \$18.50 fee for a driver's license if they waited more than six weeks for it.

"This bill is a knee-jerk, quick-fix reaction to the contract problems the Driver and Vehicle Services Division experienced last summer in converting from the old manner of distributing licenses to a computer-based imaging system," Gov. Arne Carlson said in his May 22 veto message.

Many consumers waited months to receive their new driver's license — equipped with a new design and tamperproof security feature — in the mail.

"It would be easy to assert that the department made a mistake and should therefore pay. But that would be fallacious," Carlson said.

Katherine Burke Moore, who heads the Driver and Vehicle Services Division of the Department of Public Safety, has said the problem arose after the department found a new vendor to create the licenses. That company, Deluxe Corp. of Shoreview, Minn., did not have enough time to work the considerable kinks out of its system before it began distributing new licenses, she said.

"The basic assumption that the Department of Public Safety receives all of the \$18.50 cost of a driver's license — and thus should refund the money — is simply wrong," Carlson stated.

First, \$3.50 goes to Deputy Registrars across the state who work in individual county license bureaus. The department receives \$11.85 to fund various programs such as driver training, driver exams, and the upkeep of accident records. And the remainder goes to the Trunk Highway Fund to improve highways.

"This is the same as cutting the Legislature's overall budget because one subcommittee made a process error," Carlson said in his veto message. "It is unreasonable and unacceptable to put the state at such a large financial risk. It would also harm too many good programs."

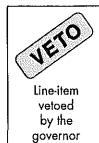
The bill's refund provision also would have applied to driver's instruction permits — which Minnesotans use as special licenses while learning to drive — and identification cards, which do not function as driver's license but serve as official identification cards because they display the holder's photograph.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) and Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing), made an exception for receiving the refund if the delay was

due to a work stoppage, a requirement of a federal law, or a court order imposed after July 1, 1995.

HF797/SF537\*/CH196

## Welfare line-item vetoed



Although Gov. Arne Carlson signed most of the 1995 welfare reform bill May 18, he line-item vetoed a food stamp outreach program and a cash assistance program for single adults totaling nearly \$6.6 million.

The governor cut a \$6.42 million component of the bill that would have replaced the state's Work Readiness program for single, able-bodied adults with a one-month per year payment to individuals of \$203. The replacement program, which Carlson called an "ineffective use of taxpayer dollars," was to have been called the Temporary County Assistance Program. (Art. 6, Sec. 16, Subd. 2)

The new law does repeal Work Readiness, which offered cash assistance and job services to employable people who qualify for General Assistance.

Carlson, an opponent of Work Readiness, wrote in his veto message: "This new program seems to be a revamped version of the Work Readiness program which I eliminated in my budget recommendations to the Legislature. As I have stated consistently since the beginning of the 1995 Legislative Session, we must eliminate welfare for able bodied adults without children. We cannot afford to carry

those who should carry their own weight."

The governor also vetoed a \$150,000 appropriation for a food stamp outreach program that would have informed people about filing for food stamps. (Art. 2, Sec. 48, Subd. 2)

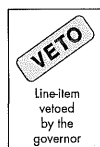
"Outreach programs of this type have been implemented with very little additional effect in the past, and I do not feel that it is appropriate to use taxpayer dollars with the sole intent of expanding enrollment in welfare entitlement programs," said Carlson in his veto message.

Overall, the new welfare reform law requires some new Minnesota welfare recipients to take part in a tough new jobs program and mandates that some teen-aged moms on welfare live at home beginning Oct. 1, 1995. (See related story page 36)

(See also Jan. 13, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 6; Jan. 20, 1995, *Session Weekly*, pages 6-7; Feb. 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 10; and Feb. 17, 1995, *Session Weekly*, pages 8-9; Feb. 24, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 9; and May 12, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 7)

HF5\*/SF1/CH178

## Environment funds pared



The governor signed the environmental and natural resources finance bill May 24 but line-item vetoed five items totaling \$445,000.

The following appropriations were deleted, with no explanations offered by the governor:

- \$150,000 for the Beaver Damage Control Joint Powers Board in northern Minnesota; (Beaver dams in ditches, rivers, and coulees have created flooding in the flat terrain up north)
- \$100,000 for operational costs at Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area near Aitkin, Minn.;
- \$100,000 to create the Passing On the Farm Center at the Southwest Technical College in Granite Falls, Minn. The center was to have expanded an existing local program that assists families and others who are in the process of transferring the farm from one generation to the next. The dollars would have made the project statewide in scope and brought it under the state's umbrella. In the past, the project has received funding from the Southwestern Minnesota Initiative Fund, Sisters of Notre Dame, and several other organizations and was limited to southwestern Minnesota;
- \$75,000 in 1996 "to preserve and enhance" oak savannah stands in St. Paul and Ramsey County; and
- \$20,000 in 1996 for staff and research support for the Livestock Processing Markets Task Force.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Chuck Brown (DFL-Appleton) and Sen. Steve Morse (DFL-Dakota)

HF1857/SF106\*/CH220

# Final Action\*

## Now it's up to the governor

Exactly 3,787 bills were introduced by the Legislature during the regular session — 1,999 by the House and 1,788 by the Senate. Of those, 265 bills (and three resolutions) were passed by both bodies during the 1995 Session and sent to the governor.

So what happened to the other 3,522? Some were duplicates, some were folded into other bills, but most are in limbo, awaiting legislative action when the next regular session begins on Jan. 16, 1996.

And what happened to the 265 bills (and three resolutions) that have been sent to the governor? Most were signed into law, but here's a quick review of the governor's veto authority during the first year of the biennium.

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
  - veto the bill;
  - line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
  - do nothing, which results in the bill becoming law in the first year of the biennium.
- The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

But the important thing to remember in the first year of the biennium is this: the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill.

If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law without his signature. (Sundays aren't counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

(For bills passed in the Special Session, however, the governor has 14 days from "presentment" to veto them — the same rules that apply in the second year of a biennium. If the governor takes no action on a bill during this time, the bill is vetoed in what is commonly referred to as a "pocket veto.")

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he/she objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. So the Legislature, either next year or if it is called into special session before then, could vote to override the governor's veto.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Art. IV, Sec. 23).

So what happens to the bills that weren't approved by the Legislature this year?

Bills that were awaiting floor action on the General Orders Calendar now return to the last committee they were acted upon, where they will stay unless acted upon by the 1996 Legislature. This rule also applies to any bill up for consideration on the Consent Calendar, Calendar, or Special Orders.

For appointed conference committees that have not submitted a report upon adjournment, the bill returns to the body it originally came from and is laid on the table. The conference committee is then disbanded.

Bills that are passed by one body and not the other remain alive for the second year of the biennium. The house that approved the bill in the first year need not repass the bill in the second.

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

Bills vetoed by the governor are returned to the body where the bill originated and laid on the table.

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

After each session, a comprehensive summary of all bills that were signed into law or vetoed is published. You can get a copy of *New Laws 1995* by calling or writing the House Public Information Office, 175 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155-1298; (612) 296-2146, 1-800-657-3550.

*Editor's note: The following chart includes the 265 bills (and three resolutions) that passed both the House and the Senate and have been or will be sent on to the governor for consideration. Final action as of May 24 is yet incomplete on just over 47 of the bills.*

*Here are details concerning some of the terms used in the process.*

### Governor's options

#### • enactment

The date the governor signed the bill into law.

#### • line-item veto (liv)

The power or action of the governor to reject individual items within an appropriations bill while approving the rest of the bill.

#### • veto

The governor did not approve the bill.

#### • \*

An asterisk marks the version of the bill the House and Senate approved and sent on to the governor.

### Effective dates

Each act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day it becomes effective, unless the act specifies a different time. Examples:

#### • Aug. 1, 1995

Each act the governor signs into law, except those that make appropriations, take effect on Aug. 1 following its final enactment, unless the act specifies a different date.

#### • upon local approval (ula)

A special law requiring approval from the local government unit it affects becomes effective the day after the local government unit's governing body files a certificate with the secretary of state, unless the act specifies a later date.

#### • July 1, 1995

An appropriations act, or an act spending money, takes effect at the beginning of the first day of July following its final enactment, unless the act specifies a different date.

#### • day after enactment (dae)

The act becomes effective on the day after the governor signs it.

#### • Various

Different parts of the act have different effective dates.

#### • with exceptions (we)

Act includes other effective dates.

#### • with qualifications (wq)

Act adds conditions to the effective date.

\*Unofficial listing



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R — Resolution	wq — with qualifications	liv — line item veto
CH — Chapter	ula — upon local approval	

HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Waiting Governor's action	Effective date
None		66	Moe	Balanced federal budget	Res. 1	1/20/95			
None		1670	Kroening	Omnibus jobs, housing, and economic development appropriations	224			x	
				AGRICULTURE					
202	Brown	106*	Morse	Omnibus environment and natural resources appropriations	220	5/24/95	liv		Various
337	Otremba	739*	Scheevel	Elk crop damage compensation procedures modified	33	4/5/95			8/1/95
1082*	Olson, E.	1407	Hottinger	Cooperative optional voting systems provided	150	5/10/95			5/11/95
1176	Peterson	1043*	Berg	Farmed cervidae provisions modified	39	4/12/95			8/1/95
1332	Cooper	839*	Dille	Pesticide dealer and applicator requirements modified	95	4/26/95			4/27/95
1377*	Dehler	1270	Dille	Agricultural chemical response reimbursement procedures clarified	182	5/18/95			8/1/95
1478*	Otremba	1159	Sams	Ag. commissioner notification of farming operation rule changes required	233			x	
1669	Winter	1551*	Johnson, J.B.	Family farm co-op agricultural wind energy resource development loans provided	245			x	
				CAPITAL INVESTMENT					
1614	Rest	1393*	Pogemiller	Public bond issuance conditions and requirements provided	256			x	
				COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS					
340*	Pugh	305	Chandler	Motor vehicle sales dealership establishment and relocation regulated	107	5/1/95			8/1/95
399*	Perlt	559	Finn	Corporate purchase right authority clarified, filings reg., service of process provided	128	5/5/95			Various
457*	Perlt	469	Solon	Mortgage loan negotiator and mortgage broker regulatory provisions modified	68	4/20/95			4/21/95
536*	Entenza	1263	Limmer	Residential building contractor license requirements modified, garage defined	169	5/17/95			Various
554*	Entenza	620	Oliver	Securities broker-dealer, agent, or invest. advisor licensee enforcement actions reg.	11	3/17/95			3/18/95
564*	Mahon	748	Riveness	Peace officers granted notary public powers for admin. of oaths for prob. cause info	37	4/12/95			8/1/95
661	Murphy	446*	Solon	Restraint of trade sales discrimination low price markup provisions repealed	73	4/19/95			4/20/95
809	Entenza	579*	Chandler	Charitable organizations regulated and money appropriated	235			x	
990*	Entenza	1479	Anderson	Disabled and handicapped assistive device warranties provided	193	5/19/95			8/1/95
1048*	Entenza	846	Neuville	Videotape captioning for deaf or hearing-impaired persons required	143	5/10/95			8/1/95
1052*	Entenza	565	Betzold	Federal Lien Registration Act provisions modified	144	5/10/95			5/11/95
1064	Johnson, R.	529*	Kroening	Automatic sprinkler installation required in certain existing high-rise buildings	217			x	
1091*	Entenza	1337	Hottinger	Transient merchant sales of baby food & health items regulated	64	4/19/95			8/1/95
1132*	Jennings	936	Solon	Relating to brewers with retail on-sale licenses, home brewing, and liquor licenses	198	5/22/95			Various
1185	Smith	732*	Betzold	UCC revised art. 8 enacted regulating investment securities	194	5/22/95			8/1/95
1371*	Opatz	1272	Metzen	Investment securities order flow direction payment disclosure required	148	5/10/95			5/11/95
1469	Bradley	870*	Hanson	Elevator safety provisions modified	166	5/15/95			8/1/95
1645*	Olson, M.	1390	Ourada	Wood types specified for exterior deck, patio, and balcony construction applications	100	4/28/95			3/20/95
1666	Bertram	1170*	Metzen	Geoscientist licensure required by Board of Architecture	206	5/22/95			7/1/95 wq
1747	Jaros	838*	Solon	Barber services performed for charity provided exemption from registration	59	4/18/95			8/1/95
887*	Rice	764	Kelly	St. Paul teacher training institute city authority expanded	22	3/27/95			8/1/95
				EDUCATION					
146	Hasskamp	188*	Samuelson	Brainerd Tech. College appropriation use authorized for athletic facility relocation	208	5/24/95			5/25/95
679	Winter	566*	Vickerman	Ind. School Dist. No. 518, Worthington, residential program operation ext. provided	76	4/21/95			4/22/95
702*	Lieder	522	Stumpf	School safety patrols authorized to include nonpupil adults as members	103	5/1/95			8/1/95
				ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE					
1194*	Rukavina	947	Krentz	Regional arts council appropriations allocated	126	5/5/95			8/1/95
				ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES					
2*	Johnson, A.	27	Metzen	Motor vehicle emission inspection requirement waived in certain cases	204	5/22/95			Various
31	Munger	44*	Novak	Legislative electric energy task force initial report deadline ext. provided	4	2/22/95			2/23/95
54*	Bakk	279	Johnson, D.J.	Const. officers to assert state's ownership, control over certain waters, public lands	124	†			5/12/95
120	Tunheim	155*	Stumpf	Great horned owl trapping by turkey farmers authorized	188	†			5/19/95
121*	Johnson, V.	310	Morse	Blufflands trail system in Winona County extension authorized	26	3/29/95			8/1/95
316	Bakk	133*	Johnson, D.J.	Cook and St. Louis county tax-forfeited land sales authorized	77	4/21/95			4/22/95
321*	Jennings	174	Lessard	Deer; program for those under 16 to take deer of either sex continued	32	4/5/95			8/1/95
345	Cooper	239*	Johnson, D.E.	Kandiyohi County tax-forfeited land sale authorized	62	4/18/95			4/19/95
474	Commers	243*	Wiener	Dakota County authorized to sell certain tax-forfeited land to Eagan	159	5/11/95			5/12/95
479*	Bakk	548	Morse	State park additions and state wayside deletions provided	215	5/24/95			8/1/95
485	Winter	445*	Lesewski	Waste combustor operation permitted by MPCA in certain cases	87	4/24/95			4/25/95
503	Bishop	273*	Price	Water supply systems, wastewater treatment facilities classified; operators cert.	180	5/18/95			7/1/95
672	Wagenius	462*	Johnson, J.B.	Waste Management Act provisions modified	247			x	
714	Clark	574*	Finn	Geographic place names — potentially offensive titles changed	53	4/18/95			4/19/95
782*	Munger	427	Solon	Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, bond compliance with revenue code	41	4/18/95			8/1/95

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HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Waiting Governor's action	Effective date
806	Macklin	680*	Pariseau	Scott County authorized to purchase trust fund land from DNR	88	4/24/95			8/1/95
812*	Ozment	710	Frederickson	DNR authorized emergency equipment material and use expanded	36	4/12/95			8/1/95
985	Johnson, R.	830*	Finn	Akeley land conveyance from DNR commissioner required	108	5/1/95			Various
1018*	Trimble	1067	Laidig	Chlorofluorocarbon state recycling regulations to comply with federal law	147	5/10/95			8/1/95
1055*	Dauner	898	Price	Relating to the Water & Soil Resources Board	199	5/22/95			8/1/95
1063*	Huntley	858	Solon	Duluth storm water infiltration and inflow prevention demo. project authorized	90	4/25/95			4/26/95
1101*	Trimble	1405	Frederickson	Water resources protection laws provided technical corrections	218	5/24/95			5/25/95
1238*	Trimble	897	Price	Metro area surface and groundwater mgmt. planning, dev., review, reporting provided	184	5/18/94			8/1/95 we
1255	Weaver	644*	Merriam	Anoka land sale provisions modified	84	4/24/95			4/25/95
1256*	Kelley	890	Johnson, J.B.	Adoption of federal energy standards for various items	161	5/11/95			8/1/95
1307*	Ostrom	867	Hottinger	Ice fishing houses identified by owners driver's license numbers	65	4/19/95			8/1/95
1320*	Leighton	1073	Chandler	Hazardous waste abandonment cause of action provided	119	5/5/95			5/6/95
1423	Hausman	1122*	Lessard	Drycleaner environmental response and reimbursement law adopted	252			x	
1425*	Bakk	1250	Johnson, D.I.	Tax-forfeited timber payment terms modified	121	5/5/95			5/6/95
1441	Solberg	1023*	Lessard	Tax-forfeited land sale notice require. modified, county road use leasing modified	83	4/21/95			8/1/95
1457*	Olson, E.	1583	Moe	Becker County state land sale by DNR commissioner authorized	93	4/26/95			4/27/95
1479*	Long	1314	Mondale	Environmental improvement pilot program established	168	5/17/95			8/1/95 wq
1539	Ness	1280*	Dille	Meeker County tax-forfeited land sale authorized	243			x	
1582	Rukavina	1444*	Solon	Fillmore, Koochiching, and St. Louis county tax-forfeited land sales authorized	238			x	
1767	Paulsen	127*	Terwilliger	Eden Prairie tax-forfeited land conveyance from Hennepin County authorized	249			x	
				ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE					
1014	Hausman	1076*	Johnson, J.B.	Wind energy conversion system siting regulated and rulemaking authorized	203	5/22/95			8/1/95
				FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE					
68*	Simoneau	68	Solon	Group life insurance policy proceeds alternative payment methods required	116	5/3/95			1/1/96
96*	Bishop	164	Hottinger	Health carrier subrogation rights restricted	219	5/24/95			1/1/96
217*	Simoneau	139	Solon	Life ins. living benefits settlements reg., NAIC viatical settle. model act adopt. prov.	151	5/10/95			1/1/96
278	Weaver	259*	Merriam	Genetic discrimination act adopted	251			x	
350	Pugh	34*	Wiener	Medicare supplement plans to provide coverage (equip., supplies) for diabetes	52	4/19/95			1/1/96 wq
365*	Jennings	457	Chandler	No-fault auto insurance taxi coverage priorities regulated	227			x	
570	Davids	318*	Lesewski	Crop hail insurance rate changed	24	3/27/95			8/1/95
673*	Huntley	1026	Oliver	Risk-based capital for insurers regulated, and NAIC model act adopted	253			x	
677	Tamassoni	440*	Hottinger	Insurance coverage regulated	258			x	
687	Lourey	474*	Johnson, J.B.	Medicare supplement policy reinstatement regulated	75	4/21/95			8/1/95
747	Paulsen	1033*	Oliver	Department of Commerce insurance solvency provisions modified	214	5/24/95			8/1/95
751*	Davids	649	Chandler	Insurance agent life and health policy quotas prohibited	152	5/10/95			8/1/95
877*	Simoneau	949	Solon	Auto insurance premium reduction provided for vehicles with anti-theft devices	115	5/3/95			1/1/96
1130	Simoneau	893*	Price	MN comprehensive health insurance assoc. benefits modified	96	4/26/95			8/1/95
1178	Simoneau	1204*	Betzold	No-fault auto insurance rental vehicle coverage to include loaner vehicles	225			x	
1184	Jennings	1134*	Solon	Omnibus financial institutions technical corrections bill	202	5/24/95			Various
1308	McCollum	973*	Metzen	Rental vehicle automobile insurance rate provisions modified	140	5/8/95			8/1/95
1573*	Kelley	1469	Metzen	Omnibus financial institution regulatory bill	171	5/17/95			8/1/95
1617	Pugh	1404*	Solon	Reinsurance intermediaries regulation and fund investment provided	163	5/15/95			8/1/95
				GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS					
103	Osthoff	141*	Sams	Sch. bd. mbrshp. plans, election expense allocation, materials, terms, changed	8	3/2/95			Various
185	McCollum	381*	Betzold	Armory construction fund use authorized; bldg. commission member appt. flexible	210			x	
229	Schumacher	182*	Vickerman	Town supervisor office vacancy filling procedure clarified	21	3/27/95			3/28/95
647	Jefferson	181*	Cohen	Employees provided time off to vote in legislative special elections	20	3/27/95			3/28/95
1148	Dehler	1099*	Bertram	Election judges permitted to serve outside of counties in which they reside	34	4/10/95			8/1/95
				GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS					
83	Kinkel	91*	Finn	Compulsive gambling treatment provider eligibility provision modified	86	4/24/95			4/25/95
98*	Kahn	134	Metzen	Gambling advisory council provided alternate member	2	2/17/95			2/18/95
139	Pawenty	204*	Chandler	Tenth Amendment; federal government mandate reporting and analysis required	57	4/18/95			8/1/95
265*	Dorn	619	Berg	Lawful purpose and bingo expenditures regulated, tolerating references eliminated	261			x	
266*	Rest	180	Reichgott Junge	Surviving spouse benefit expenditures auth. for kid's med. or dent. treatment	133	†			8/1/95
282*	Perlt	237	Price	Vacation leave donations provided for a Dept. of Admin. employee	35	4/12/95			4/13/95
493*	Jefferson	803	Pogemiller	Local police, fire, teacher, and public employee pension plans modified	172		5/18/95		
617*	Johnson, R.	561	Stumpf	Public pension plans modified; survivor benefits; administrative changes	141	5/10/95			7/1/95

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624*	Ostrom	493	Hottinger	Public employees running for elective office provided leave of absence	138		5/9/95		
695	Solberg	557*	Flynn	Higher education employee labor contracts ratified	239			x	
1001	Rukavina	1678*	Merriam	Omnibus legislative and state government appropriations	254			x	
1040*	Kahn	806	Morse	Public employee pension plan benefits and related modifications provided	262			x	
1468*	Swiggum	1268	Belanger	Governor authorized to declare an inability to discharge duties of the office	98	4/28/95			8/1/95
1524	Wejcman	1402*	Anderson	State employees requested to give input on improving govt. efficiency	160		5/12/95		
1542	Orenstein	1246*	Riveness	State government department and agencies reorganized	248			x	
1556	Milbert	1118*	Betzold	Revisor's bill correcting statutes and other laws	186	5/18/95			8/1/95
1626*	Bishop	1572	Riveness	Public fund investment in certain assets prohibited	122	5/5/95			5/6/95
				GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS/State Government Finance Division					
355	Girard	335*	Frederickson	Appropriations; earlier appropriations supplemented	48	4/18/95			4/19/95
				HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES					
HF5*	Anderson, R.	SF1	Samuelson	Welfare provisions reformed and modified, money appropriated	178	5/18/95	liv		Various
33	Dawkins	16*	Betzold	Neuroleptic medication administration, prescription provisions modified	189	5/19/95			8/1/95
226*	Kelley	73	Piper	Med. Practice Bd. to receive reports of ins. settlements from all persons reg. by bd.	44	4/19/95			8/1/95
228*	Mulder	72	Piper	Advisory councils: physical therapy, physician asst. and others reinstated	43	†			4/21/95
231*	Kelley	95	Piper	Discipline procedures modified for physicians; lic. requirements modified	18	3/27/95			8/1/95 we
331*	Clark	309	Berglin	Patient bill of rights privacy provisions modified	136	5/8/95			8/1/95
432	Sykora	342*	Spear	Child abuse investigation liability provisions modified	187	5/18/95			8/1/95
446*	Leppik	307	Sams	Acupuncture practitioner licensure by BMP established; rules, penalties provided	177	5/17/95			7/1/95
452	Kelley	258*	Piper	Physician assistants registered by Board of Medical Practice, and rules provided	205	5/22/95			Various
598	Greenfield	512*	Spear	Vulnerable Adults Reporting Act modified, and penalties provided	229			x	
612*	Cooper	543	Sams	Prescription drug prescribers provided equal treatment	69	4/19/95			8/1/95
694*	Huntley	608	Solon	Human services child care programs and county contribution provisions modified	139	5/8/95			7/1/95
724	Kelley	1055*	Piper	Social worker home care provider, nursing home, hosp. licensure requirements mod.	63	4/19/95			8/1/95
744	Tomassoni	577*	Janezich	Nursing home administrator provisions modified	81	4/21/95			8/1/95
765	Delmont	299*	Larson	Visually handicapped reference changed to visually disabled	82	4/21/95			4/22/95
813*	Brown	974	Berg	Int. care facilities for those with mental retardation temp. payment. rate est.	114	5/3/95			8/1/95
843*	Laurey	613	Anderson	Dental hospitalization and anesthesia coverage for dental procedures required	91	4/25/95			8/1/95
983	Laurey	992*	Kiscaden	Maternal aid child health advisory task force reinstatement provided	246			x	
1003*	Huntley	1075	Piper	X-ray equip. operator exam & certification req., & advisory comm. established	146	5/10/95			8/1/95
1037*	Huntley	425	Betzold	Rule enforcement & fee provisions modified relating to Dept. of Health services	165	5/15/95			Various
1077	Cooper	845*	Berglin	MnCare; ISN requirements established, penalties provided, money appropriated	234			x	
1246*	Greiling	532	Kiscaden	Regulations relating to child care operations and family day care programs	158	5/11/95			7/1/95
1363*	Pelowski	1336	Vickerman	Drug regulations modified to allow dispensation by M.D. in bordering state	66	4/19/95			8/1/95
1442*	Greenfield	1417	Vickerman	Chemical dependency counselor licensure required and penalties provided	164	5/15/95			5/16/95 we
1450*	Bishop	1220	Reichgott Junge	Living will to include provisions for organ donations, power of attorney provided	211				8/1/95
1522	Delmont	999*	Riveness	Human service provider billing prompt payment required	241			x	
1588	Greenfield	1110*	Samuelson	Omnibus Health and Human Service Bill	207	5/22/95			Various
1602*	Greenfield	1420	Piper	Mobile health care providers defined and regulated	135	5/8/95			8/1/95
1742*	Long	1590	Piper	Breast cancer insurance coverage required	183	5/18/95			5/19/95
				HOUSING					
323*	Dawkins	249	Johnson, J.B.	Landlord is cust. of record on util. accts. in single-metered multi-unit res. bldgs.	192	5/19/95			8/1/95
506	Clark	801*	Berglin	Lead abatement provisions modified and recodified and money appropriated	213			x	
565*	Moriani	501	Pappas	Metropolitan Council federal sec. 8 housing program operation authorized	112	5/3/95			5/4/95
726	McElroy	323*	Anderson	Manufactured home park retaliatory conduct provisions clarified	13	3/20/95			8/1/95
749*	Trimble	350	Anderson	Transitional housing services eligibility provisions to incl follow-up support services	14	3/22/95			8/1/95
				INTERNATIONAL TRADE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
873	Jaros	759*	Novak	Advantage Minn., Inc., economic development corporate structure modified	232			x	
1211*	Lieder	982	Moe	Public contractor performance bond posting requirements modified	200	5/22/95			5/23/95
				JUDICIARY					
32*	Jaros	29	Solon	Retired court administrators authorized to solemnize marriages	129	5/5/95			8/1/95
74	Johnson, A.	64*	Betzold	Foster care facilities for delinq. kids local gov. notification required prior to licensing	12	3/20/95			8/1/95
110	Dorn	320*	Hottinger	Assault in the fifth degree probable cause arrests allowed in school zones	55	4/18/95			8/1/95 wq
125*	Bishop	197	Beckman	Inmate name change restrictions imposed	16	3/27/95			8/1/95
129	Bishop	229*	Kiscaden	Medical examiner data shared with state or federal agencies investigating a death	29	3/31/95			4/1/95
145	Brown	1255*	Limmer	Correctional officer defensive use of force authorized in certain correctional facilities	70	4/19/95			8/1/95

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HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Waiting Governor's action	Effective date
262	Leighton	75*	Betzold	Mechanics' lien notice filing requirements modified	5	2/24/95			8/1/95
344*	Leighton	303	Finn	Common Interest Ownership Act modified	92	4/25/95			Various
367*	Macklin	293	Betzold	Municipal subcontractor prompt payment provided	31	4/5/95			Various
377*	Entenza	390	Cohen	DWI; vehicle forfeiture penalties for failure to appear at trial for offenses	97	4/28/95			4/29/95
423	Van Engen	399*	Knutson	DWI; snowmobile, motorboat and all-terrain vehicle forfeiture provided	230			x	
529*	Pugh	431	Reichgott Junge	Eminent domain notice of pendency provisions modified	106	5/1/95			5/2/95
544*	Hasskamp	520	Krentz	Informal probate guide prepared by state court administrator	78	4/21/95			4/22/95
628*	Bishop	733	Kiscaden	Parental right termination	242			x	
651*	Macklin	591	Finn	Uniform Probate Code provisions modified; deposit box search authority expanded	130	5/5/95			1/1/96
735	Entenza	214*	Spear	Concealing ID crime exception provided based on religious beliefs, cultural practices	30	4/5/95			8/1/95
900	Broecker	144*	Hanson	Disabled parking certificate holder data access limited and use provisions modified	85	4/24/95			8/1/95
927*	Bishop	864	Kiscaden	Domestic abuse hearing requirement eliminated in certain cases	142	5/10/95			8/1/95
966	Entenza	217*	Cohen	Child support and enforcement provisions modified	257			x	
980*	Skoglund	1564	Anderson	Mini-omnibus crime bill	244			x	
1008*	Bradley	606	Kiscaden	Child support, custody & visitation proceeding education program established	127	5/5/95			8/1/95
1075	Vickerman	521*	Berglin	State adoption exchange prompt listing required for all children freed from adoption	61	4/19/95			8/1/95
1105*	Leighton	626	Krentz	Parentage Act; biological father pre-sumptions in paternity cases modified	216	5/24/95			5/25/95
1338	Rest	1042*	Reichgott Junge	Partnership name and filing requirements modified	58	4/19/95			8/1/95 we
1399*	Skoglund	1274	Salon	Police horse assault penalties provided	179	5/17/95			5/18/95
1463	Leighton	77*	Betzold	Motor vehicle warranty action limitations clarified	49	4/19/95			4/20/95
1473	McGuire	1279*	Finn	Omnibus data classification, access, and privacy bill	259			x	
LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS									
244*	Johnson, R.	306	Lesewski	Gov's workforce development council est. to replace gov's Job Training Council	131	5/5/95			Various
398	Caruthers	255*	Hanson	Elevator mechanic registration and regulation required, money appropriated	221			x	
642*	Winter	1020	Novak	Omnibus workers' comp. bill, insurance regulation and benefits modified	231			x	
733*	Bakk	1547	Lesewski	High pressure pipe installation licensure requirements modified, penalties provided	123	5/5/95			8/1/95
1145	Perlt	1060*	Chandler	Dept. of Economic Security re-employment insurance provisions modified	54	4/18/95			4/19/95; 1/1/96 (Sec. 1)
1437*	Goodno	1152	Anderson	Food processing ind. employee recruitment disclosure required, penalties provided	154	5/10/95			8/1/95
LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS									
1700*	Murphy	1653	Beckman	Metropolitan government obsolete references removed and language clarified	226			x	
37*	Laurey	49	Chmielewski	Glen or Kimberly in Aitkin Co. allowed alternate annual meeting day	10	3/17/95			8/1/95
305*	Cooper	265	Sams	Local government financial audit provisions clarified	27	3/29/95			3/30/95
362*	Bertram	266	Bertram	Town boards authorized to establish petty cash imprest fund for claims payment	15	3/22/95			8/1/95
450	Pelowski	257*	Morse	Soil and water conservation district supervisors authorized to hold certain offices	222	5/24/95			1/1/95 retro.
533*	Bertram	420	Bertram	Eden Valley annexed to Paynesville area hospital district	110	5/3/95			Various
585	Orfield	281*	Flynn	Metro area government obsolete references removed and language clarified	236			x	
597	Kelley	467*	Mondale	Metro. public safety radio communications systems coord., consolidation provided	195	5/22/95			8/1/95
606	Solberg	526*	Lessard	Nashauk area ambulance district local approval requirements modified	181	5/18/95	†		5/19/95
611	Leppik	371*	Olson	I-394 construction; omnibus transportation bill	265			x	
670*	Pelowski	494	Morse	Winona Co. authorized to negotiate, contract with dev. achievement center	67	4/19/95			4/20/95
715*	Schumacher	453	Janezich	Town board adoption of recorded town road map damages paid to property owners	45	4/18/95			4/19/95
823*	Abrams	726	Mondale	Hospital financing through bond issuance authorized for certain cities, counties	80	4/21/95			4/22/95
833*	Long	841	Mondale	Metropolitan comprehensive municipal planning provisions modified	176	5/17/95			8/1/95
838*	Bishop	713	Kiscaden	Olmsted Co. authorized to create a nonprofit to own, operate a hosp., med. ctr.	102	4/28/95			Upon local approval
859*	Clark	833	Flynn	Cities authorized to conduct private sales of unclaimed property thru nonprofit orgs.	79	4/21/95			8/1/95
866*	Osskopp	683	Murphy	Home rule charter, grants to nonprofit community food shelves	109	5/3/95			5/4/95
1039	Milbert	856*	Wiener	Dakota Co. administrator assigned county board clerk duties	60	4/18/95			Upon local approval
1047	Bakk	1520*	Lessard	Landfarming contaminated soil reporting to unincorp. twshps. requirements modified	250			x	
1060*	Pugh	810	Metzen	South St. Paul fire & police dept. employees excluded from civil service	113	5/3/95			Upon local approval
1156	Long	1019*	Mondale	Metropolitan livable communities act adopted	255			x	
1159*	Jefferson	1056	Koenig	Municipalities authorized to create trust or escrow accounts to cover losses	170	5/17/95			1/1/96
1291	Anderson, B.	1112*	Ourada	Sherburne County ditch conveyance to Elk River provided	175	5/17/95			Upon local approval
1378	Garcia	1144*	Flynn	Minneapolis parking and traffic control authority delegation	94	4/26/95			Upon local approval
1460*	Grelling	1374	Marty	City budget report date modified, and budget publication requirements eliminated	134	5/8/95			8/1/95
1553	Kelley	1209*	Betzold	Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office provisions modified	89	4/24/95			Upon local approval
1641*	Macklin	1396	Knutson	Counties, cities, towns to supply copies of adopted ordinances to co. law libraries	105	5/1/95			8/1/95
1678*	Finseth	1472	Stumpf	Red Lake Co. authorized to charge Polk Co. an outlet fee for drainage system use	162	5/11/95			5/12/95



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1709*	Workman	1523	Oliver	Chanhausen playground equipment bid specification provisions modified	153	5/10/95			Upon local approval
				REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY					
164*	Jefferson	65	Kelly	Public utilities area development rate plans modified	9	3/10/95			3/11/95
137*	Jacobs	213	Johnson, D.J.	Electric utility competitive rate sunset provision repealed	6	3/1/95			3/2/95
150*	Jennings	220	Solon	Temporary on-sale intox. liquor license term increase, no. restriction provided	42	4/18/95			4/19/95
248	Solberg	375*	Lessard	Electric Energy Task Force to consider new alternative energy sources	173		5/18/95		
354*	Vickerman	807	Novak	Small gas utility franchise rate regulation exempt. provided for incidental utility serv.	125	5/5/95			8/1/95
435*	Tunheim	275	Novak	Gas utility performance-based gas purchasing regulation authorized	17	3/27/95			3/28/95
528*	Mariani	545	Wiener	TACIP cellular phone user fee imposed; equipment eligibility restricted	201	5/22/95			8/1/95
620	Olson, E.	752*	Novak	Telephone company alternative regulation provided for limited periods	156	5/10/95			8/1/95 wq
957*	Goodno	777	Vickerman	President & Congress memorialized to abandon proposed sale of WAPA.	Res. 2	4/19/95			
1093	Lynch	910*	Morfy	TACIP board eliminated, duties transferred to Depts. of Pub. and Human Svcs.	190	5/19/95			7/1/95
1252	Vickerman	1051*	Frederickson	Cellular phone service providers required to notify users of 911 call procedures	149	5/11/95			8/1/95
1290	Delmont	734*	Chandler	Emergency 911 telephone system regulated	209			x	
1356	Kelley	1173*	Chandler	Telephone company local exchange service territory sales regulated	191	5/19/95			8/1/95
1433	Vickerman	1176*	Frederickson	Sleepy Eye steam heat system discontinuation notice requirement exemption	51	4/18/95			4/19/95
				RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION					
113	Milbert	74*	Reichgott Junge	Revisor's bill correcting oversights, inconsistencies, ambiguities, tech. errors	185	5/18/95			Various
1920	Skoglund	1705*	Flynn	Revisor's bill	263			x	
				TAXES					
45*	Rest	87	Price	Technical tax corrections bill, providing clarification and administrative changes	1	2/14/95			Various
47*	Wagenius	94	Morse	Solid waste generator assessment provisions modified, terminology clarified	111	5/3/95			1/1/96
431*	Orfield	277	Novak	Homestead property incl. in areawide tax base; areawide tax rate application prov.	197		5/19/95		
567*	Dawkins	983	Kiscaden	Hosp., health care provider tax data disclosure to state, federal departments	38	4/12/95			4/13/95
1808	Rest	1543*	Pogemiller	Bonding authority allocation procedures modified	167	5/15/95			Various
				TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT					
6	Anderson, B.	50*	Ourada	Betty Adkins Bridge designated in Elk River, connecting Wright and Sherburne cos.	19	3/27/95			8/1/95
29*	Tunheim	42	Vickerman	Recreational vehicle combination sunset provision repealed	3	2/22/95			2/23/95
52	Bertram	33*	Bertram	Drivers' license, state ID card holders allowed headwear in photos in some cases	7	3/1/95			8/1/95
95*	Lieder	132	Bertram	Driveway headwalls in highway rights-of-way prohibited, penalty provided	23	3/27/95			8/1/95
153	Tompkins	145*	Hanson	Motor vehicle registration tax overpayment refund time limit established	28	3/29/95			8/1/95 wq
175	Knoblach	194*	Bertram	Bridge of Hope designated on trunk hwy. 15 crossing Miss. River near St. Cloud	50	4/18/95			8/1/95
216*	Huntley	426	Janezich	Motor vehicle registration fleet definition modified	46	4/18/95			8/1/95
273*	Pellow	455	Runbeck	Collector motor vehicle license plate transfer, reissue auth.; fees imposed	132	5/8/95			8/1/95
383*	Marko	340	Ourada	Motor vehicle head, tail lamp violations, trailer brake, inspection report, lic. plate	120	5/5/95			8/1/95
416	Skoglund	308*	Morfy	License plate issuance provided to certain persons subject to an impoundment order	157		5/10/95		
464*	Mahon	341	Ourada	License plate impoundment limited to self-propelled motor vehicles	99	4/28/95			8/1/95
568*	Frerichs	528	Johnston	Eye protection required for motorcycle riders	40	4/19/95			8/1/95
586*	Bertram	553	Bertram	Impound lots authorized to sell, dispose of unauthorized, abandoned, junk vehicles	137	5/8/95			8/1/95
654*	Lieder	534	Murphy	Town board authority clarified to alter or vacate town roads dedicated by plat	25	3/29/95			8/1/95
821*	Mahon	700	Murphy	Amtrak; Congress memorialized to fund Amtrack railroad system to assure MN serv.	Res. 3	4/28/95			
831	Perlt	348*	Johnston	Motor vehicle deputy registrar appointment authority clarified	71	4/19/95			8/1/95
901*	Swenson, D.	1129	Runbeck	DWI laws included in drivers' ed programs, license exams and driver's manual	104	5/1/95			7/1/95
971	Tunheim	172*	Lessard	Manufacturer motor vehicle test license plate reg. fee and tax provided.	74	4/19/95			4/20/95
1011*	McElroy	1015	Neuville	Radar speed measuring equip. jamming device sale, use and possession prohibited	118	5/3/95			8/1/95
1065*	Rukavina	859	Chmielewski	St. Louis Co. road & bridge fund accounting & expenditure requirements modified	47	4/18/95			Upon local approval
1134	Schumacher	687*	Krentz	Relating to bicycles and pedestrians on roadways	72	4/20/95			8/1/95 wq
1153*	Schumacher	1097	Bertram	Paratransit operation outside of service area authorized for cities and counties	101	4/28/95			4/29/95
1174*	Marko	1091	Kramer	Regulation of special transportation providers	155	5/10/95			8/1/95
1207*	Winter	571	Murphy	Vehicle combination authorized length increase provided	223	5/24/95			5/25/95
1342	Wagenius	979*	Johnston	Hazardous material transporters regulated	260			x	
1390	Broecker	264*	Lesewski	Commercial drivers license disqualification contested case hearing process repeal	56	4/19/95			8/1/95
1402*	Seagren	1163	Belanger	Original license plate issuance provided for certain motor vehicles	145	5/10/95			8/1/95
1434	Dauner	965*	Langseth	Straw wide load transportation permit issuance provided	174	5/16/95			8/1/95 wq
1485*	Mariani	1171	Vickerman	Protective agent security guards permitted to perform certain traffic control duties	117		5/4/95		

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**Governor's signature**

## Governor's veto

### Waiting Governor's action

**Effective date**

[illegible]

# Bill Introductions

SS: HF1-HF5

HF1939-HF1999

## Friday, May 19

### HF1939—Trimble (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources

Motor vehicle paint, thinner, and reducer sale regulation provided, and penalties and remedies provided.

**HF1940—Brown (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Property annexation election by local governments provided, orderly annexation procedures modified, ordinance annexation conditions modified, and local government joint planning board creation authorized.

**HF1941—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Preferred provider arrangements act; health insurance preferred provider arrangements regulation provided and rulemaking authorized.

**HF1942—Pelowski (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
InterLATA telecommunications; president and Congress memorialized to remove barriers to competitive interLATA telecommunications services.

**HF1943—Olson, M. (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Laws appropriating sums greater than a certain amount prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1944—Olson, M. (IR)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
State equal representation rules of procedure required, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1945—Olson, M. (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Alcohol consumption in licensed drinking establishment prohibited for 5 years following DWI violation, driver's license identifying code provided, and penalties provided.

**HF1946—Knoblach (IR)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
State agencies required to publish solicitation notice within 60 days of new rulemaking authority effective date.

**HF1947—Knoblach (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Work readiness and general assistance 60 day state residency for eligibility requirement provided.

**HF1948—Perlt (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Tenant compensation paid by real estate licensees for referrals regulation provided.

**HF1949—Goodno (IR)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Electric utilities authorized to provide electric service to its own property and facilities.

**HF1950—Stanek (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Newborn infant hearing loss screening test requirement provided and advisory committee created.

**HF1951—Dempsey (IR)**  
**Economic Development, Infrastructure, & Regulation Finance**  
Le Duc mansion in Hastings refurbishment provided, and bond issuance authorized.

**HF1952—Marko (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Crime victim submission of reparation claim under revenue recapture act authorized, and consumer credit agency restitution orders reports provided.

## Monday, May 22

**HF1953—Pellow (IR)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
New motor vehicle warranty regulation provided, and salvage and rebuilt motor vehicles warranty termination and cancellation restricted.

**HF1954—Johnson, V. (IR)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs, & Elections**  
Animal seizure and disposition procedure clarified.

**HF1955—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Uniform Victims of Crime Act reparation article enacted.

**HF1956—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Uniform criminal history records act adopted.

**HF1957—Knoblach (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Early retirement and voluntary terminations savings obtained by finance commissioner.

**HF1958—Knoblach (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
State-owned lands study by administration commissioner required.

**HF1959—Knoblach (IR)**  
**Taxes**  
Apartment, commercial industrial, and certain other property tax class rates reduced.

**HF1960—Clark (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Alternative, cost-effective, and insured treatments for illness and disease promotion methods study required by health and commerce commissioners.

**HF1961—Haas (IR)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Fiscal year for cities, counties, and towns designated.

**HF1962—Bishop (IR)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Municipality acquisition of right to furnish electric service by power of eminent domain restriction removed.

**HF1963—Bertram (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Annuity contract investments for state university and community college board employees' retirement funds provided.

**HF1964—Hackbarth (IR)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Turkey stamp required for hunting and fee established.

**HF1965—Leighton (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Real estate companies and agents certificates of mortgage release execution permanency provided.

**HF1966—Brown (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Public utilities commission environmental cost determination requirement repealed.

**HF1967—Knoblach (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Gambling activities by persons under age 21 prohibited.

**HF1968—Macklin (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Uniform health care information act adopted.

**HF1969—Olson, M. (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Medical care savings account act adopted and MinnesotaCare program abolished.

**HF1970—Olson, M. (IR)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
Non-economic detriment automobile insurance claims amount limited to claimant's liability coverage limits.

**HF1971—Rostberg (IR)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Non-partisan legislature study required by the Legislative Coordinating Commission.

**HF1972—Knoblach (IR)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Non-partisan legislature study required by the Legislative Coordinating Commission.

**HF1973—Sykora (IR)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Non-partisan Legislature study required by the Legislative Coordinating Commission.

**HF1974—Anderson, B. (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Legislature bound by the same bidding, contract, and accounting laws imposed on state executive agencies.

**HF1975—Van Engen (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Consent of both husband and wife required for marriage dissolution except in cases of domestic abuse.

**HF1976—Warkentin (IR)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Lottery publications, prize announcement signs, electronic messages, and on-line lottery tickets inclusion of certain information required.

**HF1977—Krinkie (IR)**  
**Taxes**  
Property tax class rates reduced.

**HF1978—Olson, M. (IR)**  
**Education**  
School district noncompliance with unfunded state mandates permitted.

**HF1979—Schumacher (DFL)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Non-partisan Legislature study required by the Legislative Coordinating Commission.

**HF1980—Olson, M. (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Death penalty authorized for first degree murder, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1981—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Lake Superior Center Authority bond issuance authorized for facility construction, and money appropriated.

**HF1982—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Trust funds established for certain funds received by contractors for construction labor, services, and materials.

**HF1983—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
Credit union word use regulated and penalties prescribed.

**HF1984—Leighton (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Corrugated paper product disposal prohibited.

**HF1985—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
Horse racing additional wagering provided.

**HF1986—Simoneau (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Court transmission of minor child settlement funds to state board of investment authorized.

**HF1987—Jaros (DFL)**  
**Education**  
University of Minnesota constitutional autonomy repealed, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1988—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Uniform disposition of community property rights at death act adopted.

**HF1989—Goodno (IR)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Economic impact statements provided on legislative bills regulating business activities.

**HF1990—Orfield (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Uniform Statutory Will Act adopted.

**HF1991—Van Engen (IR)**  
**Judiciary**  
Uniform information practices code adopted, government data practices act repealed, and penalties prescribed.

**HF1992—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Nursing facility operating cost limits with geographic location nonvariance established.

**HF1993—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Rural city revitalization aid provided and city aid distribution modified.

**HF1994—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Corporation net earnings regulated and private inurement prohibited.

**HF1995—Leighton (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Uniform Status of Children of Assisted Conception Act adopted.

**HF1996—Seagren (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Medical care Savings Account Act adopted.

**HF1997—Seagren (IR)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Medical insurance savings accounts study required by commerce commissioner.

**HF1998—Bishop (IR)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Uniform prudent investor act adopted as proposed by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

**HF1999—Mahon (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Charitable and endorsement solicitors disclosure of volunteer or paid status and other certain information required, solicited party cancellation right provided, and penalties prescribed.

## Special Session Bills

**Thursday, May 25**

**SSHf1 Kalis (DFL)**  
Omnibus bonding bill and money appropriated.

**SSHf2 Tunheim (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Public waters and wetlands provisions modified.

**SSHf3 Munger (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Wetland replacement, protection, and management provisions modified.

**SSHf4 Johnson A. (DFL)**  
Omnibus K-12 education finance appropriations bill.

**SSHf5 Tunheim (DFL)**  
Public waters and wetlands provisions modified.



# Minnesota House of Representatives 1995-96

Unofficial list as of April 12, 1995

District/Member/Party			Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (612) 296-
		Room*				Room*	
45A	Abrams, Ron (IR)	209	9934	50B	Lynch, Teresa (IR)	295	5369
10A	Anderson, Bob (DFL)	437	4946	37B	Macklin, Bill (IR)	349	6926
19B	Anderson, Bruce (IR)	281	5063	40A	Mahon, Mark P. (DFL)	401	7158
3A	Anderson, Irv (DFL)	463	4936	55A	Mares, Harry (IR)	239	5363
6A	Bakk, Thomas (DFL)	429	2190	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	403	9714
14B	Bertram, Jeff (DFL)	571	4373	57B	Marko, Sharon (DFL)	507	3135
10B	Bettermann, Hilda (IR)	243	4317	55B	McCollum, Betty (DFL)	501	1188
30B	Bishop, Dave (IR)	343	0573	36B	McElroy, Dan (IR)	259	4212
25B	Boudreau, Lynda (IR)	327	8237	54A	McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	567	4342
30A	Bradley, Fran (IR)	241	9249	39B	Milbert, Bob (DFL)	579	4192
53B	Broecker, Sherry (IR)	321	7153	35A	Molnau, Carol (IR)	287	8872
13A	Brown, Chuck (DFL)	597	4929	21B	Mulder, Richard (IR)	387	4336
46B	Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	379	4255	7A	Munger, Willard (DFL)	479	4282
47B	Carruthers, Phil (DFL)	459	3709	8A	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	557	2676
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	503	0294	20A	Ness, Robert "Bob" (IR)	335	4344
38A	Commers, Tim (IR)	217	3533	2B	Olson, Edgar (DFL)	565	4265
15B	Cooper, Roger (DFL)	549	4346	19A	Olson, Mark (IR)	223	4237
11A	Daggett, Roxann (IR)	225	4293	20B	Onnen, Tony (IR)	273	1534
9B	Dauner, Marvin (DFL)	581	6829	16A	Opatz, Joe (DFL)	423	6612
31B	Davids, Gregory M. (IR)	371	9278	64B	Orenstein, Howard (DFL)	529	4199
65A	Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	409	5158	60B	Orfield, Myron (DFL)	521	9281
14A	Dehler, Steve (IR)	203	7808	29B	Osskopp, Mike (IR)	329	9236
51A	Delmont, Mike (DFL)	575	4226	66A	Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	585	4224
29A	Dempsey, Jerry (IR)	251	8635	24B	Ostrom, Don (DFL)	433	7065
24A	Dorn, John (DFL)	533	3248	11B	Otremba, Ken (DFL)	545	3201
64A	Entenza, Matt (DFL)	531	8799	37A	Ozment, Dennis (IR)	283	4306
42A	Erhardt, Ron (IR)	237	4363	42B	Paulsen, Erik (IR)	221	7449
67A	Farrell, Jim (DFL)	491	4277	38B	Pawlenty, Tim (IR)	231	4128
1B	Finseth, Tim (IR)	377	9918	52B	Pellow, Richard (IR)	233	0141
31A	Frerichs, Don L. (IR)	247	4378	32A	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	517	8637
63B	Garcia, Edwina (DFL)	411	5375	57A	Perlt, Walter E. (DFL)	473	7807
21A	Girard, Jim (IR)	213	5374	13B	Peterson, Doug (DFL)	523	4228
9A	Goodno, Kevin (IR)	369	5515	39A	Pugh, Thomas (DFL)	583	6828
62A	Greenfield, Lee (DFL)	375	0173	46A	Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	443	4176
54B	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	553	5387	44B	Rhodes, Jim (IR)	309	9889
48A	Haas, Bill (IR)	201	5513	58A	Rice, James I. (DFL)	381	4262
50A	Hackbarth, Tom (IR)	313	2439	18A	Rostberg, Jim (IR)	323	5364
22B	Harder, Elaine (IR)	277	5373	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	471	0170
12A	Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)	451	4333	59A	Sarna, John J. (DFL)	563	4219
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	449	3824	17B	Schumacher, Leslie (DFL)	413	5377
56A	Holsten, Mark (IR)	345	3018	41A	Seagren, Alice (IR)	315	7803
26A	Hugoson, Gene (IR)	289	3240	52A	Simoneau, Wayne (DFL)	365	4331
6B	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	569	2228	62B	Skoglund, Wesley J. "Wes" (DFL)	477	4330
7B	Jaros, Mike (DFL)	559	4246	34A	Smith, Steve (IR)	353	9188
58B	Jefferson, Richard H. (DFL)	577	8659	3B	Solberg, Loren (DFL)	445	2365
18B	Jennings, Loren (DFL)	537	0518	33B	Stanek, Rich (IR)	351	5502
48B	Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)	539	5510	28B	Sviggum, Steven A. (IR)	267	2273
4A	Johnson, Bob (DFL)	551	5516	51B	Swenson, Doug (IR)	255	4124
32B	Johnson, Virgil J. (IR)	207	1069	23B	Swenson, Howard (IR)	331	8634
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	367	4257	43B	Sykora, Barbara (IR)	357	4315
26B	Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	543	4240	5B	Tomassoni, David (DFL)	593	0172
44A	Kelley, Steve (DFL)	417	3964	36A	Tompkins, Eileen (IR)	245	5506
35B	Kelso, Becky (DFL)	415	1072	67B	Trimble, Steve (DFL)	485	4201
4B	Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony" (DFL)	453	2451	25A	Tuma, John (IR)	301	4229
40B	Knight, Kevin (IR)	307	4218	1A	Tunheim, Jim (DFL)	509	9635
16B	Knoblach, Jim (IR)	215	6316	34B	Van Dellen, H. Todd (IR)	291	5511
17A	Koppendrayner, LeRoy (IR)	389	6746	15A	Van Engen, Tom (IR)	359	6206
27A	Kraus, Ron (IR)	279	8216	23A	Vickerman, Barb (IR)	211	9303
53A	Krinkie, Phil (IR)	303	2907	63A	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	439	4200
56B	Larsen, Peg (IR)	311	4244	49B	Warkentin, Eldon H. (IR)	253	4231
27B	Leighton, Robert (DFL)	527	4193	49A	Weaver, Charlie (IR)	261	1729
45B	Leppik, Peggy (IR)	393	7026	61B	Wejcman, Linda (DFL)	431	7152
2A	Lieder, Bernie (DFL)	515	5091	12B	Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	487	4247
33A	Lindner, Arlon (IR)	227	7806	22A	Winter, Ted (DFL)	407	5505
60A	Long, Dee (DFL)	591	0171	41B	Wolf, Ken (IR)	317	5185
8B	Lourey, Becky (DFL)	421	4308	28A	Worke, Gary D. (IR)	229	5368
47A	Luther, Darlene (DFL)	525	3751	43A	Workman, Tom (IR)	337	5066

Note: Room numbers are still subject to change.

\*All rooms are in the State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

# Minnesota Senate 1995-96

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-
66 Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)	G-27 Cap.	5537	33 Limmer, Warren (IR)	132D SOB	2159
26 Beckman, Tracy L. (DFL)	306 Cap.	5713	54 Marty, John (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5645
41 Belanger, William V., Jr. (IR)	113 SOB	5975	49 Merriam, Gene (DFL)	122 Cap.	4154
13 Berg, Charles A. (DFL)	328 Cap.	5094	39 Metzzen, James P. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4370
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	4261	2 Moe, Roger D. (DFL)	208 Cap.	2577
14 Bertram Sr., Joe (DFL)	323 Cap.	2084	44 Mondale, Ted A. (DFL)	226 Cap.	7-8065
48 Betzold, Don (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	2556	32 Morse, Steven (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5649
55 Chandler, Kevin M. (DFL)	111 Cap.	9307	29 Murphy, Steve L. (DFL)	301 Cap.	4264
8 Chmielewski, Florian W. (DFL)	325 Cap.	4182	25 Neuville, Thomas M. (IR)	123 SOB	1279
64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	5931	52 Novak, Steven G. (DFL)	322 Cap.	4334
28 Day, Dick (IR)	105 SOB	9457	43 Oliver, Edward C. (IR)	121 SOB	4837
20 Dille, Steve (IR)	103 SOB	4131	34 Olson, Gen (IR)	119 SOB	1282
4 Finn, Harold R. "Skip" (DFL)	306 Cap.	6128	19 Ourada, Mark (IR)	145 SOB	5981
62 Flynn, Carol (DFL)	G-29 Cap.	4274	65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	G-27 Cap.	1802
23 Frederickson, Dennis R. (IR)	139 SOB	8138	37 Pariseau, Pat (IR)	109 SOB	5252
50 Hanson, Paula E. (DFL)	328 Cap.	3219	27 Piper, Pat (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	9248
24 Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	G-29 Cap.	6153	59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809
5 Janezich, Jerry R. (DFL)	328 Cap.	8017	57 Price, Leonard R. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7-8060
15 Johnson, Dean E. (IR)	147 SOB	3826	63 Ranum, Jane B. (DFL)	325 Cap.	7-8061
6 Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL)	205 Cap.	8881	46 Reichgott Junge, Ember D. (DFL)	205 Cap.	2889
18 Johnson, Janet B. (DFL)	322 Cap.	5419	40 Riveness, Phil J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	7-8062
35 Johnston, Terry D. (IR)	117 SOB	4123	45 Robertson, Martha R. (IR)	125 SOB	4314
67 Kelly, Randy C. (DFL)	122 Cap.	5285	53 Runbeck, Linda (IR)	107 SOB	1253
30 Kiscaden, Sheila M. (IR)	143 SOB	4848	11 Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	7-8063
16 Kleis, David (IR)	151 SOB	6455	12 Samuelson, Don (DFL)	124 Cap.	4875
36 Knutson, David L. (IR)	133 SOB	4120	31 Scheevel, Kenric J. (IR)	129 SOB	3903
47 Kramer, Don (IR)	131 SOB	8869	7 Solon, Sam G. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188
51 Krentz, Jane (DFL)	235 Cap.	7061	60 Spear, Allan H. (DFL)	G-27 Cap.	4191
58 Kroening, Carl W. (DFL)	124 Cap.	4302	17 Stevens, Dan (IR)	127 SOB	8075
56 Laidig, Gary W. (IR)	141 SOB	4351	1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	3205	42 Terwilliger, Roy W. (IR)	115 SOB	6238
10 Larson, Cal (IR)	153 SOB	5655	22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650
21 Lesewski, Arlene J. (IR)	135 SOB	4125	38 Wiener, Deanna (DFL)	303 Cap.	7-8073
3 Lessard, Bob (DFL)	111 Cap.	4136			

\*Capitol or State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

## Minnesota House and Senate Membership

1 A • Jim Tunheim-DFL B • Tim Finseth-IR Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-DFL	15 A • Tom Van Engen B • Roger Cooper-DFL Sen. Dean E. Johnson-IR	29 A • Jerry Dempsey-IR B • Mike Osskopp-IR Sen. Steve L. Murphy-DFL	43 A • Tom Workman-IR B • Barbara Sykora-IR Sen. Edward C. Oliver-IR	57 A • Walter E. Perit-DFL B • Sharon Marko-DFL Sen. Leonard R. Price-DFL
2 A • Bernie Lieder-DFL B • Edgar Olson-DFL Sen. Roger D. Moe-DFL	16 A • Joe Opatz-DFL B • Jim Knoblach-IR Sen. David Kleis-IR	30 A • Fran Bradley-IR B • Dave Bishop-IR Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-IR	44 A • Steve Kelley-DFL B • Jim Rhodes-IR Sen. Ted A. Mondale-DFL	58 A • James I. Rice-DFL B • Richard H. Jefferson-DFL Sen. Carl W. Kroening-DFL
3 A • Irv Anderson-DFL B • Loren Solberg-DFL Sen. Bob Lessard-DFL	17 A • LeRoy Koppendrayner-IR B • Leslie Schumacher-DFL Sen. Dan Stevens-IR	31 A • Don L. Frerichs-IR B • Gregory M. Davids-IR Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel-IR	45 A • Ron Abrams-IR B • Peggy Leppik-IR Sen. Martha R. Robertson-IR	59 A • John J. Sarna-DFL B • Phyllis Kahn-DFL Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-DFL
4 A • Bob Johnson-DFL B • Anthony G. "Tony" Kinkel-DFL Sen. Harold R. "Skip" Finn-DFL	18 A • Jim Rostberg-IR B • Loren Jennings-DFL Sen. Janet B. Johnson-DFL	32 A • Gene Pelowski Jr.-DFL B • Virgil J. Johnson-IR Sen. Steven Morse-DFL	46 A • Ann H. Rest-DFL B • Lyndon R. Carlson-DFL Sen. Ember D. Reichgott Junge-DFL	60 A • Dee Long-DFL B • Myron Orfield-DFL Sen. Allan H. Spear-DFL
5 A • Tom Rukavina-DFL B • David Tomassoni-DFL Sen. Jerry R. Janezich-DFL	19 A • Mark Olson-IR B • Bruce Anderson-IR Sen. Mark Ourada-IR	33 A • Arlon Lindner-IR B • Rich Stanek-IR Sen. Warren Limmer-IR	47 A • Darlene Luther-DFL B • Phil Carruthers-DFL Sen. Don Kramer-IR	61 A • Karen Clark-DFL B • Linda Wejman-DFL Sen. Linda Berglin-DFL
6 A • Thomas Bakke-DFL B • Thomas Huntley-DFL Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-DFL	20 A • Robert Ness-IR B • Tony Onnen-IR Sen. Steve Dille-IR	34 A • Steven Smith-IR B • H. Todd Van Dellen-IR Sen. Gen Olson-IR	48 A • Bill Haas-IR B • Alice M. Johnson-DFL Sen. Don Betzold-DFL	62 A • Lee Greenfield-DFL B • Wesley J. "Wes" Skoglund-DFL Sen. Carol Flynn-DFL
7 A • Willard Munger-DFL B • Mike Jaros-DFL Sen. Sam G. Solon-DFL	21 A • Jim Girard-IR B • Richard Mulder-IR Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski-IR	35 A • Carol Molnar-IR B • Becky Kelso-DFL Sen. Terry D. Johnston-IR	49 A • Charlie Weaver-IR B • Eldon H. Warkentin-IR Sen. Gene Merriam-DFL	63 A • Jean Wagenius-DFL B • Edwina Garcia-DFL Sen. Jane B. Ranum-DFL
8 A • Mary Murphy-DFL B • Becky Louray-DFL Sen. Florian W. Chmielewski-DFL	22 A • Ted Winter-DFL B • Elaine Harder-IR Sen. Jim Vickerman-DFL	36 A • Eileen Tompkins-IR B • Dan McElroy-IR Sen. David L. Knutson-IR	50 A • Tom Hackbarth-IR B • Teresa Lynch-IR Sen. Paula E. Hanson-DFL	64 A • Matt Entenza-DFL B • Howard Orenstein-DFL Sen. Richard J. Cohen-DFL
9 A • Kevin Goodno-IR B • Marvin Dauner-DFL Sen. Keith Langseth-DFL	23 A • Barb Vickerman-IR B • Howard Swenson-IR Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-IR	37 A • Dennis Ozment-IR B • Bill MacKlin-IR Sen. Pat Pariseau-IR	51 A • Mike Delmont-DFL B • Doug Swenson-IR Sen. Jane Krentz-DFL	65 A • Andy Dawkins-DFL B • Carlos Mariani-DFL Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-DFL
10 A • Bob Anderson-DFL B • Hilda Bettermann-IR Sen. Cal Larson-IR	24 A • John Dorn-DFL B • Don Ostrom-DFL Sen. John C. Hottinger-DFL	38 A • Tim Commers-IR B • Tim Pawlenty-IR Sen. Deanna Wiener-DFL	52 A • Wayne Simoneau-DFL B • Richard Pellow-IR Sen. Steven G. Novak-DFL	66 A • Tom Osthoff-DFL B • Alice Hausman-DFL Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-DFL
11 A • Roxann Daggett-IR B • Ken Otrema-DFL Sen. Dallas C. Sams-DFL	25 A • John Tuma-IR B • Lynda Boudreau-IR Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-IR	39 A • Thomas Pugh-DFL B • Bob Milbert-DFL Sen. James P. Metzzen-DFL	53 A • Phil Krinkie-IR B • Sherry Broecker-IR Sen. Linda Runbeck-IR	67 A • Jim Farrell-DFL B • Steve Trimble-DFL Sen. Randy C. Kelly-DFL
12 A • Kris Hasskamp-DFL B • Stephen G. Wenzel-DFL Sen. Don Samuelson-DFL	26 A • Gene Hugoson-IR B • Henry J. Kalis-DFL Sen. Tracy L. Beckman-DFL	40 A • Mark P. Mahon-DFL B • Kevin Knight-DFL Sen. Phil J. Riveness-DFL	54 A • Mary Jo McGuire-DFL B • Mindy Greiling-DFL Sen. John Marty-DFL	
13 A • Chuck Brown-DFL B • Doug Peterson-DFL Sen. Charles A. Berg-DFL	27 A • Ron Kraus-IR B • Robert Leighton Jr.-DFL Sen. Pat Piper-DFL	41 A • Alice Seagren-IR B • Ken Wolf-IR Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-IR	55 A • Harry Mares-IR B • Betty McCollum-DFL Sen. Kevin M. Chandler-DFL	
14 A • Steve Dehler-IR B • Jeff Bertram-DFL Sen. Joe Bertram Sr.-DFL	28 A • Gary D. Worke-IR B • Steven A. Sviggum-IR Sen. Dick Day-IR	42 A • Ron Erhardt-IR B • Erik Paulsen-IR Sen. Roy W. Terwilliger-IR	56 A • Mark Holsten-IR B • Peg Larsen-IR Sen. Gary W. Laidig-IR	

Unofficial list as of April 11, 1995

## Order Form

A publication summarizing the new laws of 1995 will provide brief summaries of the bills that were passed by both the House and the Senate and signed by the governor during the current legislative session. The publication will be ready soon after the session ends. Copies will be mailed to those who order them.

Do you want to receive a copy of the 1995 new laws publication? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please place this form (with the mailing label on the back) in an envelope. Mail it by June 10, 1995, to: *Session Weekly*, House Public Information Office, 175 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.

### 1995 *Session Weekly* Readership Survey

Please take a moment to tell us what you think about the *Session Weekly*. Your opinions will help us plan for next year.

1. How often do you read the *Session Weekly*? (Please check one)

☐ Once a month ☐ Twice a month ☐ Three times a month ☐ Every week

2. On which day of the week does the *Session Weekly* usually reach your mailbox? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which parts of the *Session Weekly* do you most often read? (Please check all that apply.)

☐ Highlights ☐ Informational material (lists, etc.) ☐ Features ☐ Minnesota Index  
☐ Bill Introductions ☐ Committee Schedule ☐ Do You Know? It's a Fact! ☐ Member profiles

4. Due to a staff reduction, we were unable to provide you with bill tracking sections this year. Would you like to see them restored next year?



Committee, Floor  
& Final Action

☐ Yes ☐ No



Cumulative listing of  
latest action on bills

☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. In the last few issues of *Session Weekly*, we have printed unofficial listings of 1995 House files that have been incorporated into other bills. Do you find this information useful? ☐ Yes ☐ No

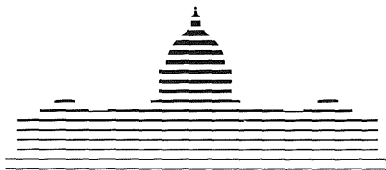
6. On a scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high), rate the following aspects of the *Session Weekly*? (Circle one number in each set)

Writing	Difficult to understand 1	2	OK 3	4	Easy to understand 5
Story Length	Too short 1	2	Too long 3	4	Just right 5
Readability (type size)	Too small 1	2	Too large 3	4	Just right 5
Photographs	Poor 1	2	Average 3	4	Excellent 5
Layout	Poor 1	2	Average 3	4	Excellent 5

7. What do you like about the *Session Weekly*? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Do you have any suggestions for improving the *Session Weekly*? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. We plan to include a Q & A column next year when space allows. If you have a question about the Minnesota House of Representatives or the legislative process, please write it here. \_\_\_\_\_



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

Speaker of the House: Irv Anderson  
Majority Leader: Phil Carruthers  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### 1995 Legislative Session

Number of legislative days used .....	65
Maximum number of days Legislature can meet in regular session every two years .....	120
Number of House Files introduced .....	1,999
in 1993 .....	1,801
Number of Senate Files introduced .....	1,788
in 1993 .....	1,675
Number of bills that reached the governor's desk, regular session .....	265
Resolutions adopted .....	3
Number of pages in the Health and Human Services appropriations bill, 1995 .....	499
In 1991 .....	532
House bills incorporated into the 1995 judiciary finance bill, as passed by the House .....	55
Special sessions called by governors since statehood .....	35
Number called by Gov. Arne Carlson .....	3
Number called by former Gov. Al Quie, most of any governor .....	7
Longest special session, in number of calendar days, 1971 .....	159
Special sessions that have lasted only one day .....	12
Greatest time span between special sessions, in years (1881-1902) .....	21
Special sessions called to address taxes .....	10
Number called due to hostilities between settlers and Indians .....	1
Total Gov. Arne Carlson vetoes, 1991-May 24, 1995 .....	109
Vetoes by Gov. Al Quie, second-most prolific vetoing governor .....	31
Full bills passed by the 1995 Legislature and vetoed by the governor, through May 24, 1995 .....	8
Number of additional bills that were line-item vetoed, through May 24, 1995 .....	2
Total dollar amount of those line-item vetoed appropriations, in millions .....	\$7.04
Veto override attempts since 1939 .....	22
Successful veto override attempts since 1939 .....	4
Number of House attempts, 1995 .....	0
Number of vetoes, all governors, 1939-1990 .....	206
Date the Legislature will reconvene in 1996 .....	Jan. 16

Sources: Legislative Reference Library; House of Representatives Public Information Office.



### For more information . . .

For general information, call:  
**House Information Office**  
(612) 296-2146 or  
1-800-657-3550

To obtain a copy of a bill, call:  
**Chief Clerk's Office**  
(612) 296-2314

To find out about bill introductions or  
the status of a specific bill, call:  
**House Index Office**  
(612) 296-6646

For up-to-date recorded message  
giving committee meeting times and  
agendas, call:  
**House Calls (612) 296-9283**



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To ask questions or leave messages, call:  
**TDD Line (612) 296-9896 or**  
**1-800-657-3550**