Week at a glance

DW1 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 7

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 9

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 11

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

Inside

Highlights……………………………………… 3
Feature: Internet access………………………….. 15
New members: Osskopp, Entenza ………………….. 18,19
Bill Introductions (HF401 - HF530) ………………….. 20
Committee Schedule (Feb. 13 - 17)………………… 24

On the cover: Ionic columns adorn the State Office Building. — Photo by Tom Olmscheid
‘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.

“15. Dakota County Administrator

Commenting on the bill, 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.

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

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 point 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 (IR-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.”

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.

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, 1966. 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.

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 DWI laws during a Feb. 8 hearing.

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.

School buses for sale

With many school districts facing transportation budget troubles, the state may let gymn 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 on their publications. HF326 now goes before the full House for its consideration.

February 10, 1995 / SESSION WEEKLY
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 floodplain 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-

Enabling 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 HF 132, 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
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.
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 requires 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.
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 burden 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 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."
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 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.

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 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.

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.

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The merger is slated for July 1. The Higher Education Board created to oversee the sys-
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 the 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.

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 lately 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 another 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.

February 10, 1995 / SESSION WEEKLY
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, Via Ti Care Ltd., that aims to provide fair deals for the terminally ill.

If enacted into law, the bill would take effect July to December 1994, ridership increased approximately 24,000 people with disabilities around the Metropolitan 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 busing 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.

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.
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 Cooperation, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85 State Office Building .......................... 297-3697</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCC Central Accounting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>198 State Office Building .......................... 296-8890</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Claims (Joint Subcommittee on Claims)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>198 State Office Building .......................... 296-0099</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Oversight Office/Subcommittee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70 State Office Building .......................... 296-0098</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative Advisory Commission (LAC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Floor, Centennial Office Building 658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 ..... 297-7881</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audit Commission/Office of Legislative Auditor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Floor, Centennial Office Building 658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 ..... 296-4708</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative Commission on Children, Youth &amp; Their Families</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60 State Office Building .......................... 282-6289</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85 State Office Building .......................... 296-8590</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative Commission on Employee Relations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85 State Office Building .......................... 296-2963</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative Commission on Health Care Access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>375 State Office Building .......................... 296-0173*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-9 Capitol .......................... 296-4261*</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>375 State Office Building .......................... 296-0173*</td>
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<tr>
<td>G-9 Capitol .......................... 296-4261*</td>
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Frequently called numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secretary of the Senate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>231 Capitol .................. 296-2344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice mail/order bills .......................... 296-2343</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chief Clerk of the House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>211 Capitol .................. 296-2314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index, Senate .................. 296-2887</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index, House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>211 Capitol .................. 296-6646</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information, Senate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>231 Capitol .................. 296-0504</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information, House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>175 State Office Building .......................... 296-2146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Hotline, Senate .......................... 296-8088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Hotline, House .......................... 296-9283</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sergeant at Arms, Senate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senate Chamber .......................... 296-7159</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45 State Office Building .......................... 296-4860</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65 State Office Building .......................... 296-2406</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Legislative Commission on Pensions &amp; Retirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55 State Office Building .......................... 296-2750</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative Commission on Planning &amp; Fiscal Policy</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 State Office Building .......................... 296-0134</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules (LCRAR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85 State Office Building .......................... 297-3604</td>
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<th>Legislative Water Commission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300 Centennial Office Building, Third Floor, Southwest 658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 ..... 297-7905</td>
</tr>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iron Range Resources &amp; Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 441, Highway 53 Eveleth 55734 .................. 218-749-7721</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mississippi River Parkway Commission</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pioneer Building, Suite 1513 336 Robert St., St. Paul 55101 ..... 224-9903</td>
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<tr>
<th>Electric Energy Task Force</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Great Lakes Commission</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>569 State Office Building .......................... 296-2228*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Advisory Council on Metropolitan Airport Planning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G-24 State Capitol .......................... 296-3205*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>517 State Office Building .......................... 296-5091*</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counsel and Research, Senate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G-17 Capitol .......................... 296-4791</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research, House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>600 State Office Building .......................... 296-6753</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative Reference Library</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>645 State Office Building .......................... 296-3398</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revisor of Statutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>700 State Office Building .......................... 296-2868</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governor’s Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>130 Capitol .......................... 296-3391</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attorney General’s Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>102 Capitol .......................... 296-6196</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secretary of State’s Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>180 State Office Building .......................... 296-3266</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capitol Security</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B-4 Capitol .......................... 296-6741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency .......................... 296-2100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDD* Senate .......................... 296-0250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDD* House 296-9896 or 1-800-657-3550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

February 10, 1995 / SESSION WEEKLY 13
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13065 Orono Parkway
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Chisholm City Hall
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2366 Rayburn House
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FAX: (202) 225-1593
If you can get to the Internet, you can get to us

The 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 health care. "It has always been such a maze. But this is a godsend."

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 summaries of all the new 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.
Like bringing electricity to farms in Greater Minnesota

Internet access . . .

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 outstate 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.
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 Telecom 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 article 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 (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, and login: gopher. Or, via dial access, 612-626-2400, access-consultant.micro.umn.edu, and login: gopher.

Q: How can I connect to the Minnesota Legislature through 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 Minnesota 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.

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.

February 10, 1995 / SESSION WEEKLY 17
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. 

"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 has also 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, Osskopp said.

"I 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, Jennifer, 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..............................35.65 percent
Clinton/Gore..............................33.05 percent
Perot/Stockdale...........................28.80 percent
Other:.................................2.50 percent

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Minnesota State Agencies

Human Services .................. 296-6117
Economic Security ............ 296-3711
Labor and Industry ............ 296-6107
Military Affairs ............... 282-4662
Natural Resources .............. 296-6177
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
Entenza focuses on ‘education, education, education’

Involvement in neighborhood politics provided the springboard for Rep. Matt Entenza’s (DFL-St. Paul) legislative candidacy.

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 Specktor

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.

NOTES
**Bill Introductions**

**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—Otrema (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—Oskopp (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 women shelters, battered woman definition modified, and appeals and payment requests directed to Department of Human Services commissioner.

**HF418—Hackworth (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—Oskopp (IR) Financial Institutions & Insurance**
Comprehensive Health Insurance Association lifetime benefit limit increased.

**HF423—Van Engen (IR) Judiciary**
DUI, 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—McCullum (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.


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.


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—Knoblach (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.


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.


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—Wejcman (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—Knobloch (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 combuster 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 arrangements disclosure required.

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—Wejcman (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—Koppendrayer (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—Koppendrayer (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 provided 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.
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, Electricity 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).

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown
Agenda: Minnesota Department of Agriculture budget presentation, Elton Redalen, commissioner; William Oemichen, deputy commissioner.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Continuation of the Governor’s budget recommendations for Minnesota Department 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 committee 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 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: HF358 (Wolf) Public Utilities Commission rehearing application time limit provisions 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 incidental utility service. HF374 (Dempsey) Large electric power generating plant certificate of need proceeding 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/Join 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 districts 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

4 p.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: HF146 (Hasskamp) Brainerd Technical College appropriation use authorized for athletic facility relocation. Stanley Edin, president, Brainerd and Staples Regional Technical College. Sally Ille, president, 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

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

9:30 a.m.

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.

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. 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 FINANCE
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown
Agenda: Office of Environmental Assistance budget presentation, Ed Garvey, director.

February 10, 1995 / SESSION WEEKLY 25
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

HF260 (Munger) Western Lake Superior sanitary district bonding authority allocation provided.

INSURANCE

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

Baseline 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) Driver's 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: Working Group Task Force on Legislative Commissions/WAYS & MEANS

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

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 (Opitz) 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.)
The House meets in Session.

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. Alicejohnson
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 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 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
Galactons 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.