

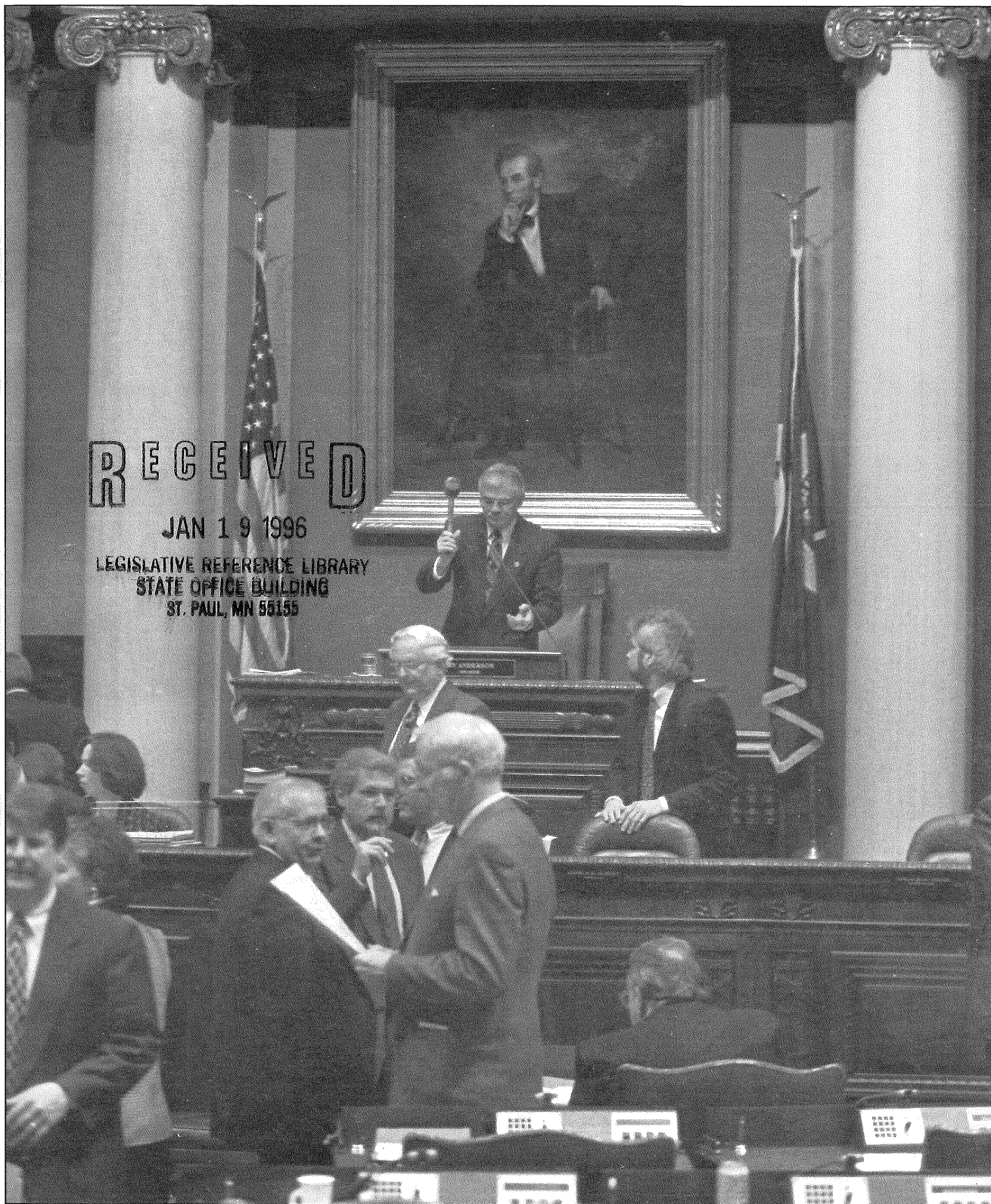
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SESSION WEEKLY

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SESSION WEEKLY

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On the cover: House Speaker Irv Anderson called the House of Representatives to order Jan. 16, the opening day of the 1996 Legislative Session at the State Capitol in St. Paul.

— Photo by Andrew Von Bank

Highlights

State of the State . . .

Carlson wants legislative and education reform

With three years remaining in his second term, Gov. Arne Carlson is pursuing aggressive changes that would significantly alter Minnesota's political landscape.

Carlson, in his State of the State Address, called for new efforts to fight crime and new solutions to problems in public education. And he demanded sweeping reforms of the Minnesota Legislature.

Public confidence in state government has been shaken by recent "headline stories of unethical conduct," Carlson said in a Jan. 16 speech delivered at a Minnesota Chamber of Commerce event in Bloomington. "In order for us to be credible reformers, we must first fix our own system."

To do that, the governor is calling for the creation of a smaller, less-costly unicameral Legislature to replace a two-house body that is the fifth largest in the country, and for limits on the number of terms legislators can serve.

"Term limits will inject new blood, new vitality into a system that is too often controlled by the vested and the entrenched," Carlson said. Currently, 21 states have some form of term limits for state elected officials.

Carlson wants per diem payments to be limited to only the days when the Legislature is in session. He wants voters to get the chance to approve a proposed initiative and referendum amendment, which would let the public propose new laws and decide issues at the polls. And he wants to end the practice of exempting the Legislature from various laws including Affirmative Action and pay-equity requirements.

While the image of the Legislature may need repair, in Carlson's eyes, the public remains confident in the state's fiscal management practices. An estimated \$824 million budget surplus — and the promise to conserve those funds — only serves to bolster that confidence, according to the governor.

Carlson's proposals would spend \$160 million of the surplus funds on his priority projects, including crime prevention, youth programs, and education reform.

Of the remaining funds, the governor aims to add to the budget reserve created in 1995 to deal with expected federal cutbacks and to save about \$500 million in a special account.

Carlson's plans for reforming the state's education system reach far beyond a simple boost with surplus funds. The centerpiece of

his education proposals is a plan to allow parents to use public money to send their children to private schools.

In his speech, Carlson called for the Legislature to set up pilot projects in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Brooklyn Center, and a rural city to test the school voucher system.

"With choice, we not only get more freedom, we get more competition," Carlson said. "And we want to promote competition between schools. The truth is that competition spurs excellence."

Carlson also will seek the Legislature's approval of a plan that would reward parents for saving for their children's college education. The proposal would allow parents to deposit up to \$4,000 each year into tax-free savings accounts.

And the governor said he will push to initiate merit pay for teachers and to loosen teacher tenure — measures he argues will spur better teacher performance and help keep the best teachers in the classroom.

To fight crime, Carlson is offering his "Safe Streets Initiative," a program that would send police on neighborhood sweeps to strictly enforce all laws, including truancy and traffic violations.

The sweeps, he said, will allow police to check for outstanding warrants and generate intelligence on suspected criminals.

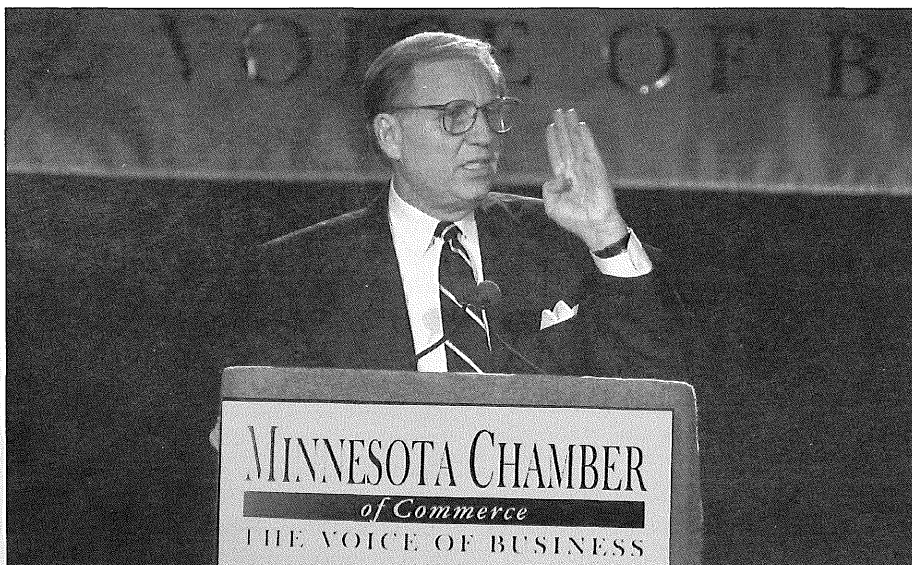
"To the criminals who prey on our citizens we say this: Get out of Minnesota now or you will pay the price," Carlson said. "Stay and you will do time."

Carlson also wants to devote more resources to crime prevention, including some \$20 million he is proposing be spent on after-school enrichment programs.

The governor's speech drew mixed reactions from House caucus leaders.

House Majority Leader Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) took issue with several remarks, particularly the school vouchers proposal.

"I think the idea of education reform should be focused on our public schools, not on taking from our public schools and giving it to private schools," Carruthers said.



Gov. Arne Carlson presented his State of the State Address as part of the annual Minnesota Chamber of Commerce fundraiser Jan. 16. Carlson called for new efforts to fight crime and new solutions to problems in public education. He also detailed sweeping reforms for the Minnesota Legislature.

But House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said he sensed a toughness in Carlson that will be needed to effect significant change.

"He was tough on the Legislature and rightfully so," he said.

— Nick Healy



BUDGET

Carlson's budget proposal

Gov. Arne Carlson's proposal to use \$500 million of the budget surplus for a school cash flow account raised some concerns among members of the House Taxes Committee Jan. 17.

In its November 1995 revenue forecast, the Department of Finance projected there will be \$824 million more in state coffers at the end of fiscal year 1997 than was projected at the end of last session.

Commissioner of Finance Laura King outlined for the committee the governor's plan for the surplus. That plan, as outlined in Gov. Carlson's State of the State address Jan. 16, includes:

- \$24 million in tax cuts;
- \$140 million for state budget reserves;
- \$160 million for youth, public safety, higher education, technology, and economic development projects; and
- \$500 million for a school cash flow account.

The school account would eliminate the short-term borrowing that school districts often engage in to cover low cash points while they await state aid payments. In a budget-saving strategy known as the K-12 property tax levy recognition shift, the state began delaying some state aid payments to schools in the 1980s.

Currently, interest and issuance costs of short-term borrowing costs schools — and thus, taxpayers — at least \$3 million annually. The school cash flow account would allow schools speedy access to state cash advances free of most interest and issuance charges. King said the plan would save taxpayers at least \$3 million and earn an estimated \$20 million in interest over the biennium. That money would be earmarked for science, math, library, and technology grants in public schools, she said.

But several committee members said they feared the provision would encourage overspending by some districts.

"The school districts are being relieved of paying some portion of debt . . . this proposal

basically eliminates that concern for them," Rep. Ron Abrams (IR-Minnetonka) told King. "Doesn't it seem to you that you're establishing an incentive for districts to run a deficit?"

Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) said the cash account proposal could invite financial troubles at the district level by keeping school boards from holding discussions with taxpayers on short-term borrowing.

He also suggested one district's fiscal mismanagement could have a negative impact on another district that had a surplus.

King said the plan encourages — not discourages — sound fiscal management and taxpayer savings.

"The school district that has built a budget it can't afford will not be advantaged by this because we would be able to see whether they are borrowing for cash or whether they are borrowing because they built a budget they can't afford," she said. "We're allowing [districts] to avoid issuance costs and that's a real public expense savings."

King also said districts will only be able to get the level of aid they are currently entitled to under state guidelines.

Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope), who chairs the Taxes Committee, asked King if anyone has studied short-term borrowing habits of school districts in depth under the current system or the governor's proposed cash flow account.

"The question is does either one of these particular policies encourage [short-term borrowing]. If they do, we should be concerned about that," she said.



BUSINESS

Boosting Minnesota business

The new Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development introduced himself and a plan to spark statewide economic growth to members of the House International Trade and Economic Development Committee Jan. 17.

Jay Novak, a former Twin Cities business journalist, laid out the following proposals for committee members:

- phase out the 4.5 percent sales tax on replacement equipment for businesses;
- establish a one-stop site for businesses to obtain permits, licenses, and other information;
- remove barriers to tourism, such as stricter requirements on outstate motor coaches; and
- continue funding the Economic Recovery Fund at \$6 million for 1996-97. The fund is the chief tool used for relocating busi-

nesses to Minnesota through economic incentives.

"Our legislative agenda is not large, but it certainly is important to us," said Novak.

Important to helping Minnesota companies get ahead is scrapping the tax on equipment purchased to replace aging equipment, he said. Gov. Arne Carlson said, during his State of the State address, that he supports phasing out the replacement tax.

Currently, Minnesota businesses are not taxed when they initially purchase equipment. They are taxed 4.5 percent on any new or used replacement equipment, however.

"We think it's a bad tax because it puts an unnecessary expense on companies . . . to determine what is new equipment and what is old equipment," he said. "It also penalizes capital-intensive industries and those are the kind that do well even when the economy is not doing so well."

Phasing out the replacement equipment tax would cost the state around \$54 million over the next three years, Novak estimated.

A one-stop permitting site would allow businesses and potential businesses to gather licenses, permits, and information on environmental or construction rules without getting sent to a handful of departments or agencies, Novak said.

Breaking down barriers to tourism, a \$6.8 billion state industry, is also a must for an economically thriving state, he said. Specifically, that means equalizing weight limits for motor coaches and buses based both in and out of Minnesota, Novak said. Currently, motor coaches that enter Minnesota from other states face stricter weight limits than those based in Minnesota, he told the committee.

"We have some evidence that tour buses are routing around our state," he said.

Committee members, expressing concern over the motor coach issue, raised questions about whether certain airline pricing strategies are also barriers to Minnesota tourism.

Reps. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) and Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) said some of their constituents, including several travel agents, have said it's often cheaper to fly into or out of the Eau Claire airport than Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

"If access to and from Minnesota is in some way restricted by pricing, that could be an economic development issue," said Wagenius, who asked Novak to look into the issue.

Novak and Steve Markuson, director of the Minnesota Office of Tourism, said they didn't think there was a need to investigate the issue because they have not seen a pattern of widely varying prices between the two air-

ports. Novak suggested contacting local airlines to look into the matter.

But he and Markuson emphasized the need to deal with the motor coach issue, especially in light of their plan to greatly expand efforts to market Minnesota domestically and internationally.

Markuson said there are plans under way to lure Japanese, European, and other international travelers to Minnesota. He said Northwest Airlines recent announcement of a non-stop flight from the Twin Cities to Beijing is one big step in the right direction.

"Our single biggest impediment to our ability to grow international tourism is the lack of non-stop air service to those markets," he said.



CRIME

Expunging criminal records

A bill to make it more difficult for people to conceal an arrest or conviction record is moving through the House.

People petition the courts to have their records expunged for a variety of reasons — some were arrested but never charged, others were charged but found not guilty. There are also cases where an individual who was found guilty wants the record sealed for personal or employment reasons.

Law enforcement agencies and prosecutors generally oppose the practice because it takes records and information out of the system that could provide leads in current and future criminal investigations.

Under the bill (HF2215) expungement would be defined as sealing a record and opening it only under a court order or statutory authority. It would not include the complete destruction of arrest or conviction records or their return to the defendant.

Currently, there is no definition on the books and the bill tries to address some existing case law that allows judges to return records to defendants or have them destroyed.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), was heard in the House Judiciary Committee Jan. 17 and was held over for further discussion.

Carruthers, a prosecutor, called himself a "conservative" on expungements and said that while it may not be constitutionally possible to prohibit expungements, it is possible to limit them.

His bill would set out a uniform procedure for people who petition to have their records sealed. Currently, procedures differ depending on the judicial district.



Forty-year House veteran Rep. Willard Munger blows out the candles at a Jan. 18 gathering in the House chamber celebrating his 85th birthday. The event was attended by Munger's friends, colleagues, and politicians past and present. At right is Diane Jensen of Clean Water Action Alliance, who served as emcee for the salute. Behind is Speaker Irv Anderson.

Friends, colleagues honor Munger

A collection of Minnesota political figures, including congressmen, former governors, high-ranking state officials, and members of the Legislature gathered in the House chamber Jan. 18 to celebrate Rep. Willard Munger's 85th birthday.

Munger, a Duluth DFLer serving his 40th year in the House, was praised for his legislative record, which shows him to be a leader in environmental protection.

"Willard Munger is certainly a Minnesota original, a natural resource himself," said U.S. Rep. Bruce Vento. "... He reminds us again and again of our stewardship responsibilities."

Munger was first elected to the House in 1954 and has been re-elected 19 times since then. His only absence came for two years after he lost a bid for the state Senate in the 1960s.

For 21 years he has served as chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee, and he has played a major role in the development of landmark environmental legislation.

Vento, Sen. Paul Wellstone, Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe, and House Speaker Irv Anderson were among the DFLers who recalled Munger's accomplishments and feisty character.

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum and Senate Minority Leader Dean Johnson offered praise from the other side of the aisle.

"When all is said and done, it is not how we cast our votes but how our colleagues respect us," Johnson said. "... We respect you greatly."

Lt. Gov. Joanne Benson read a proclamation from Gov. Arne Carlson declaring Jan. 18 Willard Munger Day in the state and announced that the Minnesota Natural Resources Coalition has created a new honor called the Willard M. Munger Environmentalist of the Year Award.

Munger accepted the honors with characteristic wit.

"I feel a little bit guilty for receiving all this praise for what little I've done," he said humbly. "But let me tell you something — I like it."

Under the bill, an individual would have to:

- file a petition under oath and pay the regular civil filing fee;
- provide not only their full legal name but aliases as well;

- provide all addresses from the date of the offense or alleged offense to the date of the petition;
- explain why they want their records expunged and specifically if it is to help them obtain a job or a license. Many professions



Wetlands revisited

The House Environment and Natural Resources Committee jumped back into last year's wetlands debate at their Jan. 17 meeting, hearing both support for and opposition to changes in current law.

HF787, which would have given counties more authority to develop wetlands, came close but failed to become law last year. House and Senate conferees have been reappointed to reach an agreement on the proposal, sponsored by Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), to present to both legislative chambers.

Reps. Jim Girard (R-Lynd) and Munger also have introduced new bills this session that would amend the current Wetlands Conservation Act (**HF2166** and **HF2006**, respectively).

The two camps that have emerged in the wetlands debate were evident at the Jan. 17 meeting, echoing many of the same sentiments expressed last session.

Many in wetland-rich counties argue restrictions impede even minimal development and road repair — factors vital to tax rates and revenue. Others, including several members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, say easing restrictions to help wetland-rich counties could doom metro-area wetlands to extinction.

Lake County Commissioner Sharon Hahn showed committee members a map of her county, where wetlands comprise much of the land. She said current law hurts her area.

"We do acknowledge the importance of wetlands," she said. "But the impact of this bill on our county is detrimental. . . . I am one of the people who will not be able to afford to live in our county if the taxes go much higher."

Hahn said the restrictions on development have forced taxes to go up. Under current law, wetlands must be replaced on a two-for-one basis, except in areas that still have at least 80 percent of the wetlands which existed when Europeans arrived in Minnesota. Those areas are allowed to replace wetlands on a one-for-one basis.

Because Lake County's presettlement wetland composition was 98 percent, the current law requires it to maintain a level of wetland composition that hurts development, Hahn said.

The committee also was updated by Gov. Arne Carlson's staff, the Board of Water and Soil Resources, and the Department of Natural Resources on a roundtable conference on

rely on criminal history checks such as teachers, child care workers, and police officers. And, those checks also are necessary when applying for some licenses such as gambling, insurance sales, and liquor licenses;

- explain, in the case of a conviction, what steps he or she has taken toward rehabilitation since the crime;
- provide a complete criminal conviction record including all convictions for misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors, and felonies in Minnesota as well as all comparable convictions across the country and the world; and
- include information on all prior requests for expungement in Minnesota, the United States, or the world; whether granted or not.

The bill goes on to set a new standard that expungement would be granted "only upon clear and convincing evidence that it would yield a benefit to the petitioner commensurate with the disadvantages to the public . . ."

Sealed records would only be opened by court order or with statutory authority and the bill spells out several specific circumstances. For instance, records could be opened for a criminal investigation, prosecution, and to evaluate a police officer job applicant or other public safety employee.

In addition, the bill would repeal a law that states a person convicted of a felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor before they were 21 may have their record sealed under certain circumstances.

Nancy McLean, an assistant Hennepin County attorney, told the Judiciary Committee that her office sees about 100 motions for expungement each year.

"Some we agree with. Some we disagree with," McLean said, adding that her office always challenges a motion to expunge a record if it involves a conviction.

It is important for various law enforcement and other agencies to have access to criminal records to do their jobs, she said, adding that expungement can unfairly leave the appearance that nothing ever happened.

"The Carruthers bill puts all the information out front. . . . It is only fair to look at the whole picture" before a record is sealed.

The bill also would change current law which allows an arrested person who is not convicted the absolute right to have their records, fingerprints, mug shots, and other physical evidence, such as DNA samples, returned to them.

Under the legislation, judges would have the discretion on whether or not to return the record and, in the case of fingerprints and

DNA samples, there would be no discretion. They would automatically stay in the criminal justice system.

Originally, the bill did not specify DNA samples. Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) raised the issue pointing out that DNA samples are important to law enforcement agencies across the United States in catching criminals.

"I want that DNA database accessible to the whole country . . . our borders are wide open," Bishop said. The bill was amended to address his concern.

Proof of insurance

Currently, Minnesota motorists cited for failing to provide proof of insurance when stopped by police have 10 days to come up with the proof or face a minimum 30-day license suspension and a misdemeanor conviction.

Under a bill approved Jan. 17 by the House Judiciary Committee, citizens in this predicament would have until the day of their first court appearance to provide proof. Often, a first court appearance is scheduled 10 to 21 days after a ticket is issued.

Proof of insurance usually consists of a letter or policy card provided by an insurance agent.

House sponsor Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) explained that the law, as currently written, confuses drivers because their tickets record both the date of the offense and the date of their court appearance. Trouble is, they wait until the court hearing to present proof and miss the 10-day deadline.

Pugh said there are more than 1,000 cases each year that result in license suspensions when the drivers actually have proof of insurance but present it too late.

Currently, some judges dismiss a license suspension if a driver shows up to the first court appearance with proof of insurance. Others, however, will follow the letter of the law and stand by the minimum 30-day suspension simply because drivers missed the 10-day deadline.

Under the law, if a person is stopped without proof of insurance and indeed has none, the license suspension will stay in effect for 30 days and at least until they can prove they have purchased insurance.

The bill **HF1224** is expected to be incorporated into the 1996 omnibus crime bill.

wetlands law held two weeks ago in St. Cloud.

That conference was sponsored by the Department of Administration and attended by the above groups and members of local governments and the public. Some concerns raised at the conference included:

- streamlining the process of getting approval for altering a wetland;
- follow-up to ensure accountability should local governments be granted the authority to develop their own wetland conservation plans; and
- making it easier for local communities to circumvent current restrictions under some circumstances when repairing public roads.

Several committee members said easing restrictions to help wetland-rich counties could hurt urban counties where wetlands are more scarce.

"I've watched one of the last wetlands in St. Paul be destroyed so that six houses could be built up on the east side of Phalen Lake," said Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul). "And I watched my city government, my county government, the Board of Water and Soil Resources and DNR and the Army Corps of Engineers say, 'Oh well, it's only half of an acre.' So quite frankly I don't trust either the state or the local government to protect the wetlands."

Reps. Trimble and Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) said any proposal to change the Wetlands Conservation Act should include a requirement that state agencies like the Department of Transportation replace wetlands they drain within the same geographic area — not elsewhere. Current statute says replacement must occur, but does not say where the wetlands must be replaced.

"In the metro area when a state agency takes wetlands, I want those wetlands replaced not in northern Minnesota but in the watershed in which they were taken," Wagenius said.

Both sides agreed whatever bill emerges this session should not be a one-size-fits-all plan and should take into account different values for wetlands in different regions.



ETHICS

Decision to censure

Despite calls for his resignation and a resolution to expel him from the Minnesota House of Representatives, Rep. Bob Johnson (DFL-Bemidji) will retain his seat representing District 4A.

The 50-year-old lawmaker's fate was among the first orders of business during the opening day of the 1996 Legislative Session, Jan. 16.

Johnson, a lawmaker since 1986, was convicted of three drunken-driving arrests that occurred within a six-week period during the fall of 1995.

House members voted 82-50 to censure Johnson, requiring that he publicly apologize on the House floor, perform 120 hours of community service, submit to weekly random tests for alcohol and other addictive substances, and reimburse the state for salary paid to him while he was in jail or under house arrest for his drunken-driving convictions.

If a random test result is positive, Johnson would automatically face a full House vote on his expulsion.

Part of the censure resolution also recommended Johnson resign by 11:59 p.m. Jan. 16. The lawmaker, who previously had been removed as chair of the House Labor-Management Relations Committee and relieved of his duties as assistant majority leader, refused.

An earlier vote to expel him failed 76-56. Under Minnesota's constitution, a two-thirds majority vote (90 members) is needed to expel a representative.

Johnson, who has said he will not seek reelection, apologized on the House floor. "... I am deeply sorry for what my actions have done in terms of the institution of the House of Representatives. To citizens of this state, I again say I am sorry. I will, by my actions, continue to work very hard at being the person that I am today. ..."

Those asking for Johnson's expulsion argued that even though he suffers from the disease of alcoholism, he still is responsible for his conduct. Conduct, they said, that includes breaking the law, endangering lives while driving drunk, and abusing the power of his office.

Censuring, said Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) "looks to me to be a slap on the hand. ... The entire state is looking at us right now."

Those against expulsion argued that while

Johnson's conduct was both illegal and outrageous, it was the result of a three-month relapse after many years of sobriety. Expulsion, they said, was unnecessary because he already has been justly punished by the criminal justice system and has sought treatment for his problem.

"Whichever one of you is without sin, you throw the first stone," said Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids), whose district neighbors Johnson's.

No member of either the House or Senate has ever been expelled.



HEALTH

Is MinnesotaCare working?

MinnesotaCare, a state program to provide subsidized health coverage to uninsured Minnesotans, appears to be reaching the people it was intended to reach.

Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee's MinnesotaCare Finance Division received the results of a MinnesotaCare survey conducted by the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health Institute for Health Services Research.

Uninsured Minnesotans who have incomes up to about 275 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible for MinnesotaCare. Premiums for most participants are based on a sliding scale and vary with family size and income.

Initially, when MinnesotaCare was launched in 1992, enrollment was restricted to children and families with children. Beginning in October 1994, eligibility was expanded to include single adults and families without children.

The main finding of the survey, according to Dr. Nicole Lurie, the report's author: It looks like MinnesotaCare is "hitting its target."

"The bottom line is that this is all very positive news," Lurie told a Jan. 16 meeting of the MinnesotaCare Finance Division.

The report, requested by the Minnesota Health Care Commission and the Minnesota Department of Health, surveyed 800 people enrolled in MinnesotaCare, half from the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area and half from greater Minnesota. Only families with children were surveyed.

Among the report's findings:

- A majority of respondents believed that MinnesotaCare charges a fair price for its benefits (97 percent either agreed or strongly agreed); that being on the program is as good as having private insurance

(77 percent); and that MinnesotaCare covers everything they need (80 percent).

- Only 19 percent of respondents said they felt embarrassed to be on MinnesotaCare. In contrast, 96 percent said they felt good about contributing to the cost of their health insurance, and 86 percent believed they were treated "just like anyone else" as MinnesotaCare clients.
- Eighty-one percent of respondents reported that it was "very easy" for them to find physicians who accepted MinnesotaCare clients. Forty-nine percent said it was very easy to find dentists, and 84 percent said it was very easy to find pharmacists to participate in the program.
- Forty-seven percent of those participating in the survey believed that MinnesotaCare had no effect on their health. However, 62 percent believed that they were in better health because of MinnesotaCare; 66 percent believed that if MinnesotaCare were abolished, their health would suffer; and 84 percent said they were able to get health care as MinnesotaCare clients that they would not otherwise have gotten.

• A surprising finding of the survey, according to Lurie, was the number of transitions to and from MinnesotaCare over an 18-month period. The survey found that 36 percent of respondents made at least one switch from MinnesotaCare to either medical assistance, a private insurer, or no insurance at all; another 21 percent made two transitions during that period.

"My guess is that the administrative costs of doing this are fairly substantial," Lurie told the committee. She recommended that the state look into ways to avoid such transitions, possibly requiring MinnesotaCare participants to stay in the program for a fixed period of time.

The survey also found that, contrary to the fears of some MinnesotaCare opponents, most participants did not have other health care options when they enrolled in MinnesotaCare. More than 88 percent said they had no access to employment-based health insurance, and most of those with access to such benefits couldn't afford it.



Rep. Becky Lourey listened to Gov. Arne Carlson's State of the State address on the radio in her office instead of attending the speech delivered at a Minnesota Chamber of Commerce event in Bloomington Jan. 16.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education bonding

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) will ask the Legislature to approve more than \$140 million in bonding requests this session.

In a presentation Jan. 17 before the House Education Committee's Higher Education Finance Division, John Mulder, chair of the facilities committee of the MnSCU Board of Trustees, outlined MnSCU's intended uses for the money and its priorities if lawmakers don't provide full funding of its requests.

MnSCU is seeking \$70 million in bonds intended for Higher Education Asset Preservation (HEAPR) projects and another \$71 million for capital projects.

MnSCU classifies HEAPR projects as those that involve "life safety issues," infrastructure repairs and upgrades, hazardous waste abatement, and some remodeling in preparation for upgrading of buildings or facilities.

Gov. Arne Carlson is recommending that \$24 million be approved for HEAPR projects and \$30 million for capital projects.

In 1994, before Minnesota's three college systems were combined into MnSCU, higher education requested \$283 million in bonds and received \$140 million. The merger of the three systems took effect last July.

MnSCU's first priority is \$35.6 million in individual HEAPR projects that individually cost less than \$1 million, according to Elaine Bellevue, associate vice chancellor of MnSCU.

MnSCU assigned second-priority status to

15 HEAPR projects including:

- \$7 million for upgrading the high-voltage system and expansion of utility tunnels at St. Cloud State University;
- \$4.5 million for relocation of the energy plant and loading dock at Anoka-Ramsey Community College;
- \$4.33 million for replacement of the energy plant at Minneapolis Community College; and
- \$3.4 million for land acquisition at the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses of Metro State University.

Eight other capital projects were assigned third-priority status by MnSCU including:

- \$30 million for construction of a new library at St. Cloud State University, the only capital project included in the governor's higher education bonding recommendation;
- \$10.43 million for remodeling and construction of student services, food service, additional instructional space and a new science building and remodeling of the business and technology building at Anoka-Ramsey Community College;
- \$9.75 million for construction of a new classroom and laboratory building at Inver Hills Community College.
- \$4.5 million for construction of new student housing at Fond du Lac Community Technical College.

MnSCU assigned fourth-priority status to \$2 million for predesign work throughout its entire system, which includes 62 campuses around the state.

The committee took no action on MnSCU's requests.

INSURANCE

Replacing life insurance

Consumers would see new protection from unscrupulous insurance sales tactics under a bill approved Jan. 17 by a House panel.

Predatory sales agents target consumers — in many cases senior citizens — in a practice called churning, which sometimes leaves individuals stripped of their savings and life insurance.

Here's one way it works: A person with a policy of small cash-value is approached by an agent who promises additional life insurance coverage at little or no cost.

What the consumer doesn't know is that the new policy, in some cases, will be paid for by borrowing against the value of the old policy. That eats away at the policy's cash value and the death benefit.

When the cash value of the older policy runs dry, the consumer may be forced to pay large premiums or risk having the coverage lapse. In the end, the consumer can lose his or her savings and the insurance as well.

The bill (**HF623**) aims to provide consumers with information about the potential risks involved in replacing an existing life insurance policy or annuity contract.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm), would require life insurers to find out, before selling a new policy, if it would replace existing coverage.

If so, the insurance agent or company would be required to give the consumer a form discussing the possible disadvantages of replacing existing coverage.

Both the customer and the agent would be required to sign the form. The agent also would have to send the company holding the

existing policy notice of the proposed replacement.

Replacing existing insurance can be beneficial to consumers in some cases, according to Tomassoni.

But "every now and then, an insurance agent does something he shouldn't do," he added. "... I really and truly think [the bill] is good consumer protection."

After stalling on the House floor during the 1995 session, Tomassoni's bill was revived in the House Insurance Subcommittee. The measure now heads to the full Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Positive contributions

While consumers may consider insurance a necessary burden on their personal budgets, industry insiders say insurance makes a positive contribution to the economic health of the state.

And there's no denying insurance is big business in Minnesota.

During a Jan. 17 meeting of the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee, officials from the Insurance Federation of Minnesota detailed the industry's impact on the state economy.

More than 64,000 Minnesotans are employed in some capacity in the insurance industry, according to Pam Weisenberger, manager of marketing research for Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance Company.

That includes employees in every county of the state and a combined total of nearly 50,000 insurance employees in Hennepin and Ramsey counties.

The statewide industry 1994 payroll was \$2.1 billion. Insurance employees earned an

average salary of \$35,225 in 1993, well above the state average income of \$25,711.

The insurance industry also pours big money into state coffers, according to Weisenberger. For example, the industry paid \$143 million in premium taxes during fiscal year 1995 and \$26 million in 1994 property taxes.

Also, the state's industry doled out \$6.4 billion in insurance benefits during 1994.

And there's no denying insurance is big business in Minnesota. More than 64,000 Minnesotans are employed in some capacity in the insurance industry, according to Pam Weisenberger, manager of marketing research for Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Dates and deadlines

Jan. 16 — Opening day of the 1996 Legislative Session. Both House and Senate convene at noon.

Feb. 9 — First committee deadline. For continued consideration, a bill must clear all policy committees in its house of origin by this date.

Feb. 16 — Second committee deadline. For continued consideration, a bill must clear all policy committees in the other legislative body by this date.

Feb. 23 — Third committee deadline. For continued consideration in the House and Senate, all bills with a fiscal impact and omnibus appropriation bills must clear their policy committees and be sent to the Ways and Means Committee (the Finance Committee in the Senate), the Taxes Committee, or the Floor.

May 20 — Mandated date to adjourn. Minnesota's constitution prescribes that the Legislature shall not meet after the Monday following the third Saturday in May. But, since the 1996 Legislative Session is convening about a month and a half earlier than a typical second-year-of-the-biennium session, some expect adjournment before the Passover/Easter holiday the first week of April.



Cal Tuma, 2, and his dad, Rep. John Tuma, read a book at his chamber desk on the opening day of the 1996 Legislative Session.

A closer look . . .

How long should mom and baby be hospitalized?

After 16 hours of labor and only three hours of sleep in two days, all Amy Klobuchar wanted to do was rest.

She and her husband, John, had prepared themselves well for the birth of their first child, Abigail. They attended every baby class available at Abbott Northwestern Hospital before the big day: a 20-hour birthing class, an infant care class, and a breast feeding class.

Nothing, however, prepared them for the insurance industry.

"When you've had three hours sleep, your baby is sick, and you're supposed to return [to the hospital] to give breast milk for the baby's health every three hours, insurance should not be dictating a departure 24 hours after birth," said Amy Klobuchar.

It wasn't too long ago that a mother and her newborn remained hospitalized for a week after delivery. As the years have gone by, however, the hospital stay has shortened. Today, 24 hours is often considered sufficient.

That has some new parents, doctors, and now lawmakers worried about the health of both newborns and their mothers.

The shortened recovery time has little to do with today's mothers and babies rebounding more quickly and more to do with today's insurance companies cutting costs, medical professionals tell lawmakers.

Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) agrees.

Continuing a national trend, he is sponsoring a bill to mandate that Minnesota insurance companies give mothers and their newborns the option of staying in the hospital a little longer.

It narrowly passed the House Health and Human Services Committee Jan. 18 by a 10-8 vote. It now travels to the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

HF2008 would require insurance companies to cover a minimum of 48 hours of inpatient care following an uncomplicated vaginal delivery and at least 96 hours of inpatient care following an uncomplicated cesarean section. Under both scenarios the extended time would apply to both the mother and the newborn if the physician, in consultation with the mother, determines it to be medically necessary. The bill doesn't require a mother to stay two days or four days, but gives her the option to do so depending on the method and difficulty of the delivery.

Should a mother leave the hospital before 48 hours have elapsed, the bill says her insurance company must provide coverage for the option of one home visit by a registered nurse. Services provided by the nurse would include parent education, training in breast and bottle feeding, and conducting any necessary and appropriate clinical tests.

The bill is opposed by some lawmakers and insurance officials who call it a mandate.

They argue the Legislature has no business mandating what health plans must cover.

Insurance company officials, for their part, maintain the question of "how long" is a misunderstanding between themselves and doctors. Mothers and babies, they say, already are free to stay longer than 24 hours if the doctor maintains it is medically necessary and the patient meets certain criteria.

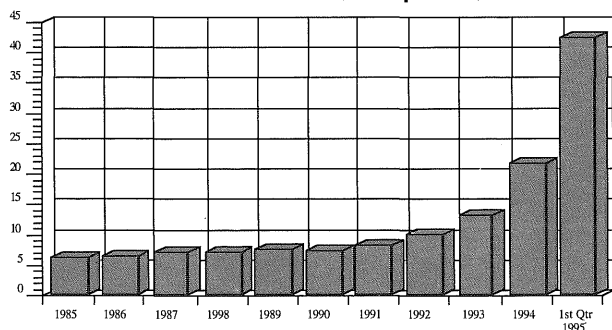
But as testimony before a joint House panel in November indicates, doctors are aware of unwritten rules and hidden pressures. If a physician too often has a mother and newborn stay hospitalized an extra day, he or she could face elimination from the health plan's list of approved health care providers.

And, if an insurance company disagrees with a doctor who allows a mother or infant to stay an extra day, the company could refuse to reimburse the hospital and doctors, leaving the birth mother to pay the bill.

A national trend

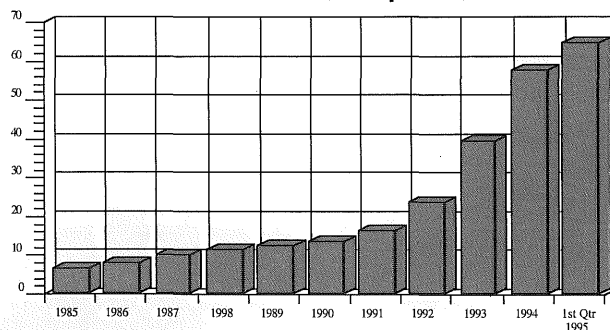
Minnesota is one of about 25 states with pending legislation on maternity stays, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. The organization, along with the American Academy of Pediatrics, recommends a hospital stay of 48 hours for uncomplicated vaginal deliveries and 96 hours for uncomplicated cesarean deliveries, excluding the day of delivery.

**Percent of maternal one-day hospital stays
uncomplicated vaginal deliveries
1985 to 1995 (first quarter)**



For the past decade, mothers and their newborn babies have been spending less and less time in the hospital after delivery. In 1985 only 6.2 percent of women using a Twin Cities metropolitan hospital stayed one day after an uncomplicated vaginal delivery. During the first quarter of 1995 that number had jumped to 42.5 percent, according to a recently released study by the Minnesota Hospital and Healthcare Partnership.

**Percent of maternal three-day hospital stays
uncomplicated cesarean-section deliveries
1985 to 1995 (first quarter)**



Currently, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends four days of hospital recovery after a mother gives birth by an uncomplicated cesarean section. But, many Twin Cities women are leaving the hospital earlier. In 1985 only 6.6 percent of women using a Twin Cities metropolitan hospital stayed three days after a cesarean section. During the first quarter of 1995 that number jumped to 64.7 percent.

Source: Minnesota Hospital and Healthcare Partnership.



Following a national trend, Rep. Joe Opatz is sponsoring a bill to mandate that Minnesota insurance companies give mothers and their newborns the option of staying in the hospital a little longer. It narrowly passed the House Health and Human Services Committee Jan. 18 by a 10-8 vote.

Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and North Carolina all passed laws in 1995 requiring some version of the 48/96-hour hospital stay and New Mexico's insurance commissioner instituted new regulations to accomplish the same goal. There also is a bill in Congress to enact a similar federal law.

Despite the trauma and stress the Klobuchars faced after the birth of their child, they believe their situation was not "one of the bad ones."

"The bad ones are the cases where the baby goes home sick. The bad ones are where the parents didn't have the time or money to learn parenting skills before they left. The bad ones are the ones where the parents can't afford \$50 a night for a room just so they can keep the baby supplied with breast milk. Those are the bad ones," the mother told lawmakers earlier this winter during a hearing on the Opatz bill.

Klobuchar, like many women across the state, could not stay in the hospital more than 24 hours after delivery unless she had complications. Exhaustion and pain are not necessarily considered complications in the mother. And in a newborn, some common problems, such as jaundice and dehydration, often don't show up until after the second or third day, according to medical professionals.

In the Klobuchars' case, their baby could not swallow, and therefore, could not eat normally, causing her doctors concern. The baby was allowed to stay hospitalized for several days of tests. The birth mother, however, had to check out.

Klobuchar had to find a rental room nearby and forgo sleep so her husband could wheel her back to the hospital every three hours to provide Abigail the breast milk doctors said

was important.

Last spring, Opatz's wife, Pamela, and newborn son, Simon, were released 24 hours after delivery. Less than a day later, Simon was taken to the emergency room for dehydration and jaundice.

Simon would have greatly benefited from another day in the hospital, Opatz told a joint hearing of the House Health and Human Services Committee and the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee's Subcommittee on Insurance Nov. 16, 1995.

The pendulum has swung away from the health of the baby and mother to insurance company concerns, Opatz said.

"Confusion"

Lois Wattman of Allina Health System, which operates the Medica health plan, said Medica does not have a 24-hour policy but acknowledged there is a great deal of confusion concerning hospital stays for mothers and newborns.

"This is a physician's decision to make," she said.

In an effort to clear up continued confusion, her company sent out a letter to its providers noting that "if you determine that a patient meeting these criteria is not ready to be discharged, simply document the reason for continued inpatient care in the chart."

Medica, Wattman said, does compile information about its doctors, but the company does not keep track of which doctors increase the length of stay for new mothers and their babies.

"We're not counting" she said.

And patients won't necessarily be left with unreimbursed medical expenses. Providers are reimbursed for second, third, and even

more days of inpatient care when a physician deems them necessary. And, Wattman added, home visits are covered.

Opatz asked Wattman where the confusion comes from because his wife and son used Medica insurance and were in an Allina hospital.

The people who are confused are your own employees, Opatz said. "Your written policy may be one thing but the de facto policy may be another."

Legislating medical care?

While lawmakers agree the issue is important, some say it's simply legislating medical coverage.

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) said any problem on hospital stays should be worked out voluntarily between doctors and insurance companies.

"Mandates . . . will relate to a direct cost for you and I," Haas told committee members Jan. 18. Once the state begins mandating certain coverage, where does it stop? he asked.

Rep. Roger Cooper (DFL-Bird Island) said the bill wasn't a mandate but a "physician-patient decision" that puts the health of the patient before the cost concerns of a health plan.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), the only doctor in the House, said "I don't think there is a problem." He said he has delivered 1,500 babies and never had a problem with an insurance company not paying for an additional day.

Some argue Mulder may be the exception.

Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) concurred with testimony by some physicians who maintained that health plans eliminate doctors who cost them too much money. She said she knows of doctors who have been eliminated.

Other medical professionals disagreed the bill imposed a mandate.

"This isn't legislating medical care," said Kathryn Moore, managing director for government relations with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

"The legislation is a valid response by government to a problem that couldn't be resolved," she said, adding that her organization tried to meet with insurance officials and called for a time-out last year on early hospital discharges for moms and babies. "We got nowhere. . . . Insurance companies have refused to abide by established medical guidelines and physician decisions."

Some doctors have argued that going to the Legislature is better than going to the courts. Still others say the legislation is only making a tiny dent because it doesn't deal with the

real problem of how cost-cutting affects the physician/patient relationship. Insurance companies will continue to profile doctors to keep track of their costs, they say. Doctors know they're being profiled and fear being eliminated from health plans as providers.

"It's a sad state of affairs that we find ourselves coming to the Legislature," said Dr. Janette H. Strathy of Park Nicollet Clinic.

Hospital stays used to be four days. Doctors grumbled when it went to three and two, but "it's this leap from 48 to 24 hours [without any data] that has made us nervous," Strathy told lawmakers.

Early discharge can inhibit doctors from detecting health problems in newborns and contributes to re-admitting them a day or two after discharge with jaundice, infections, respiratory difficulty, and dehydration.

And, Strathy said, new mothers need an adequate education and time to rest, espe-

cially if there are more children and no support at home.

Many doctors, she said, are concerned about being dropped as providers by health plans and are encouraged to discharge after 24 hours.

The state needs legislation to encourage uniform standards on the length of hospital stays and the coverage of home visits, she said. That would help alleviate the problem of doctors pressured to discharge after 24 hours.

The trend to shorten hospital stays for moms and newborns began in the 1970s. It was done to provide a more family-centered, home-like birth experience. But now, things have gone too far, she said.

In California, some mothers and newborns are sent home eight to 18 hours after delivery and it's not driven by health data but by insurance costs, Strathy said.

In a statement by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, doctors said their concerns are "heightened by reports of insurers proposing 12 hour stays following uncomplicated vaginal delivery and 48 hour stays following uncomplicated cesarean delivery, and by indications that some insurers are considering six-hour stays for routine deliveries."

Doctors, Strathy said, need the ability to implement the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines.

One of the guidelines states: "Family members or other support person(s) should be available to the mother for the first few days following discharge."

That, however, lawmakers noted, is not something they can legislate.

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

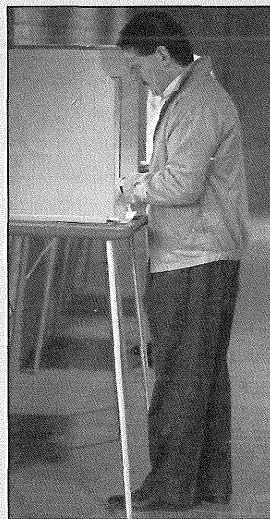
Republican hopefuls eyeing the White House are preparing for Feb. 12, when the Iowa caucuses will kick off the tallying of delegates leading to the endorsement of a challenger to President Clinton. On Feb. 20, voters in New Hampshire will go to the polls. Candidates have been campaigning vigorously in both states, hoping for an early leg up in the primary season.

Minnesota, however, will have no such primary.

Lawmakers put the kibosh on the 1996 presidential primary last session, saying that it would have been an unfunded mandate on local municipalities, since the Office of the Secretary of State didn't receive funds to reimburse cities and towns for local election costs. The primary was estimated to have cost \$3.1 million.

Minnesota's last presidential primary was in 1992 (the first since 1956) and attracted 10 percent of the state's eligible

It's a fact!



Lawmakers put the kibosh on the 1996 presidential primary last session, saying that it would have been an unfunded mandate on local municipalities.

voters. Among Democrats, Clinton edged former California Gov. Jerry Brown by a 33-32 percent margin. In the Republican primary, President Bush trounced Pat Buchanan 67-25 percent.

Lawmakers tried to quash that election as well, passing a bill in 1992 that would have delayed the presidential primary until 1996. Local governments objected to the cost and the fact that voters had to declare a party preference before voting.

Gov. Arne Carlson promptly vetoed the bill, saying an election would attract more Minnesotans than the caucus system, in which only 1 to 3 percent of voters typically participate. The state Senate later voted to override the veto, but the House fell 13 votes short, and the primary went on as scheduled.

Barring any future legislative action, the next presidential primary in Minnesota is scheduled for the year 2000.

Youth in Government . . .

High school students learn the legislative process

Ten years ago, a representative from Warren, Minn., proposed legislation that would have required all Minnesota public officials to confess their "sins and iniquities" to a Catholic priest.

"The purpose of this act is to make aware to public officials all of their sins and iniquities deemed inappropriate by the appropriate board," the bill read.

For those unschooled in determining "inappropriate" behavior, the bill offered this elaboration: "Sins and iniquities shall be defined as those acts contrary to the original Ten Commandments as defined by the presiding pope of the Catholic Church."

If you don't remember that particular bill, and the controversy it undoubtedly generated, it's because you weren't following the workings of the Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government Model Legislature, where the "bill" was actually offered.

The Model Legislature completed its 42nd session earlier this month, with more than 1,000 high school students from across the state participating.

"It's such a growth experience for these students," said Teresa Kittridge, who serves on the Model Legislature's Board of Management. "The exciting thing is that it's not only about the legislative process — there's a little bit of everything."

This year, Kittridge said, the program's judicial arm was greatly expanded; in addition to filling roles from all three branches of government, students also act as lobbyists and journalists during the "session," which lasts for a weekend each January.

When the Youth in Government program first began in Minnesota 50 years ago, it was



Members of a mock House of Representatives participating in the 1996 YMCA Youth in Government program held up their name plates in hopes of being recognized for debate. More than 1,000 high school students from across the state gathered Jan. 4-7 to learn about the three branches of Minnesota government.

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

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

Here's a sampling of some of the other mock legislation debated a decade ago by the youthful lawmakers:

- A bill that would have made it illegal to appear on any public walkway in Minnesota with untied shoelaces. (A shoelace was defined as "the string that holds a shoe on your foot"; Velcro straps and buckles were exempt.)

- Legislation that would have directed state officials to pay Hibbing, Minn., native Bob Dylan \$5,000 to write a new state song. (The bill didn't discuss what would happen if Dylan declined the state's munificent offer.)
- In a foreshadowing of the Minnesota North Stars' departure, a bill that would have allowed a professional sports team to leave Minnesota only if attendance and income fell below pre-determined levels, or if two-thirds of the state Senate voted to allow it.
- And, in a graphic demonstration of democracy in action, the same Model Legislature that discussed mandatory Catholic confessions for public officials also debated whether to legalize prostitution in Minnesota.

—Betsy Gerboth

Frequently called numbers

Secretary of the Senate	
231 Capitol	296-2344
Voice mail/order bills	296-2343
Chief Clerk of the House	
211 Capitol	296-2314
Index, Senate	
110 Capitol	296-2887
Index, House	
211 Capitol	296-6646
Information, Senate	
231 Capitol	296-0504
Information, House	
175 State Office Building	296-2146
Committee Hotline, Senate	296-8088

Committee Hotline, House		296-9283
Sergeant at Arms, Senate		
Senate Chamber		296-7159
Sergeant at Arms, House		
45 State Office Building		296-4860
Counsel and Research, Senate		
G-17 Capitol		296-4791
Research, House		
600 State Office Building		296-6753
Legislative Reference Library		
645 State Office Building		296-3398

Revisor of Statutes	
700 State Office Building	296-2868
Governor's Office	
130 Capitol	296-3391
Attorney General's Office	
102 Capitol	296-6196
Secretary of State's Office	
180 State Office Building	296-2803
Capitol Security	
B-4 Capitol	296-6741
Emergency	
TDD* Senate	296-0250
TDD* House ..	296-9896 or 1-800-657-3550

Minnesota House of Representatives 1995-96

Unofficial list as of January 17, 1996

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

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

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

Bill Introductions

HF2000-HF2429

Tuesday, January 16

HF2000—Luther (DFL) Judiciary

Custodial parents authorized to name designated parents, and forms and procedures provided.

HF2001—Wenzel (DFL) Health & Human Services

Partial-birth abortions prohibited, and definitions and penalties provided.

HF2002—Solberg (DFL) Transportation & Transit

Trunk Highway No. 210 in Aitkin county designated as Dale Wayrynen Memorial Highway.

HF2003—Broecker (R) Health & Human Services

Minors prohibited from receiving a tattoo, and consent requirement provided.

HF2004—McGuire (DFL) Judiciary

Seatbelt use evidence deemed admissible in civil action litigation.

HF2005—Broecker (R) Taxes

Property tax penalty distribution provided.

HF2006—Munger (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources

Wetland replacement, protection, and management provisions modified.

HF2007—Delmont (DFL) Health & Human Services

Detoxification transportation funding grant restriction removed.

HF2008—Opatz (DFL) Health & Human Services

Childbirth and postpartum care health insurance benefits regulated providing a minimum of 48 to 96 hours of inpatient care following delivery.

HF2009—Van Engen (R) Judiciary

Convicted offenders ordered to pay restitution as a condition of probation to remain on probation until restitution has been fully paid.

HF2010—Luther (DFL) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Initiative and referendum implementation act adopted, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2011—Skoglund (DFL) Judiciary

DWI; qualifying conditions of impairment extended for snowmobiling, motorboating, hunting, driving, and flying while intoxicated to include being under the influence of noncontrolled drugs.

HF2012—Leppik (R) Transportation & Transit

Drivers' license suspension effective date provisions modified, and authority restricted to suspend drivers' license for petty misdemeanor traffic violations.

HF2013—Delmont (DFL) Health & Human Services

Medical assistance recipient screening requirements modified.

HF2014—Workman (R) Environment & Natural Resources

Toxics in products law repealed.

HF2015—McGuire (DFL) Judiciary

Data access regulated related to state agency litigation.

HF2016—McGuire (DFL) Judiciary

Birth information provided to adopted persons.

HF2017—Farrell (DFL) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Nonbinding ballot questions placed on ballots.

HF2018—Clark (DFL) Health & Human Services

Health coverage board and health coverage program created, health care trust fund established, statewide and regional health care budgets established, health care commission abolished, and money appropriated.

HF2019—Sykora (R) Education

University of Minnesota Board of Regents student member term limits set.

HF2020—Vickerman (R) Governmental Operations

Unicameral legislature provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2021—Broecker (R) Governmental Operations

Teacher retirement association retired member authorized delayed application for disability benefits.

HF2022—Cooper (DFL) Taxes

Hospital and health care provider tax rates reduced.

HF2023—Clark (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources

Toxic waste reduction provided in environmental high impact areas, risk assessments required, technical assistance provided, and rule-making authorized.

HF2024—Koppendraye (R) Education

University of Minnesota constitutional autonomy repealed, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2025—Lourey (DFL) Education

School transportation state aid provided.

HF2026—Macklin (R) Taxes

Property tax classifications and class rates modified, income-adjusted homestead credit provided, state aids restructured, local government aid formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF2027—Warkentin (R) Taxes

Senior citizens provided reduced property tax class rate for certain housing.

HF2028—Koppendraye (R) Governmental Operations

Asian-Pacific Minnesotans council membership increased to include a Taiwanese-American member.

HF2029—Skoglund (DFL) Judiciary

Sex offender Registration Act expanded to include child pornography offenses.

HF2030—Seagren (R)

Education

Integration; state education transportation aid provided for metropolitan area school districts, and money appropriated.

HF2031—Ness (R)

Agriculture

Food sales license exemption provided for sales at county or community fairs, and farmers' markets.

HF2032—Koppendrayner (R)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Closed armory disposition procedures established, and report required.

HF2033—Wenzel (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Constitutional standard established relating to abortion, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2034—Luther (DFL)

Judiciary

Intentional discharge of a firearm under dangerous circumstances penalty increased, and transit vehicle crime scope expanded.

HF2035—Dempsey (R)

Environment & Natural Resources

Red Wing sewer overflow grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2036—Kahn (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Public assistance benefits reduced related to use of funds at gambling establishments.

HF2037—Kelley (DFL)

Economic Development, Infrastructure, & Regulation Finance

Metropolitan regionwide public safety radio communication system construction initiated, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2038—Clark (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Peace or health officer authority clarified related to transportation of intoxicated persons to treatment facilities.

HF2039—Clark (DFL)

Housing

Cities required to notify mortgage holders and neighborhood associations of intent to secure vacant buildings, and definitions provided.

HF2040—Clark (DFL)

Housing

Eviction of tenants authorized for unlawful purchase of controlled substances on leased premises, motor vehicle registration data re-

quest fees waived, and eviction proceeding standard of proof provisions modified.

HF2041—Wejcman (DFL)

Judiciary

Peace officer community policing training required.

HF2042—Kahn (DFL)

Judiciary

Human Rights Act modified related to athletic programs.

HF2043—Kahn (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Public pension plan economic interest statements filed with the ethical practices board.

HF2044—Skoglund (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Group life and health insurance retroactive termination restricted.

HF2045—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Sex offender Registration Act expanded to include child pornography offenses, sex offender release notification required, and sex offender end-of-confinement review committee established.

HF2046—Anderson, R. (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Children's safe house programs similar to the McGruff program allowed.

HF2047—Anderson, R. (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Fair campaign practices code established, and penalties provided.

HF2048—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary Finance

Community crime prevention block club programs appropriated money.

HF2049—Kelley (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Residential human service program location requirement exceptions eliminated.

HF2050—Johnson, A. (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Spring Lake Park fire department fire-prevention personnel employment and pension benefits provided.

HF2051—Johnson, A. (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Motor vehicle emission inspections reduced and methods provided.

HF2052—Daggett (R)

Environment & Natural Resources

Youth small game license reciprocity provided with North Dakota, and license provisions modified.

HF2053—Solberg (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 1, Aitkin, fund transfer provided.

HF2054—Bettermann (R)

Labor-Management Relations

Prevailing wage hours of labor, wage rate, contract requirement, and minimum labor standard provisions modified.

HF2055—Delmont (DFL)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Intrastate telecommunications carrier and local telephone company customer notification provided prior to carrier change.

HF2056—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

DWI; qualifying conditions of impairment extended for snowmobiling, motorboating, hunting, and flying while intoxicated to include being under the influence of noncontrolled drugs.

HF2057—Carlson, L. (DFL)

Education

Alternative education program learning year pupil unit funding provided.

HF2058—Carlson, L. (DFL)

Education

College savings bond program established.

HF2059—Kelley (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Veterinary practice act provisions modified.

HF2060—Huntley (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Contact lens prescription and dispensing requirements established, and penalties provided.

HF2061—Weaver (R)

Judiciary

Burglary crime sentencing provisions clarified related to first-time burglary of a dwelling.

HF2062—Weaver (R)

Judiciary

Welfare fraud law expanded to include reporting violations while receiving assistance greater than lawfully allowed, and penalties provided.

HF2063—Opatz (DFL)

Education

State college and university rulemaking and administrative procedures modified.

HF2064—Weaver (R)**Judiciary**

Controlled substance crime restitution awards provided to government entities.

HF2065—Hackbarth (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Used motor oil and filter law repealed.

HF2066—Wejcman (DFL)**Judiciary**

Juvenile delinquency petition filing provisions modified.

HF2067—Cooper (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

State-funded abortion right prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2068—Hackbarth (R)**Transportation & Transit**

County Road No. 7 in Anoka county designated as the POW/MIA Memorial Highway.

HF2069—Wejcman (DFL)**Judiciary**

Adoption placement notification provided to parents, adoption background checks required, and adoption record provisions modified.

HF2070—Lieder (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

County state-aid highway fund distribution formula modified, gasoline and special fuel tax rate increased, and motor vehicle sales tax allocation provided to the transit assistance fund.

HF2071—Sykora (R)**Governmental Operations**

State lottery prohibited from using any obscene, indecent, or immoral materials.

HF2072—Workman (R)**Transportation & Transit**

Southwest metro transit commission established and granted public transit powers.

HF2073—Sykora (R)**Education**

Compensatory education revenue program modified.

HF2074—Seagren (R)**Education**

Interracial contact and disadvantaged student grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF2075—Sykora (R)**Education**

Desegregation and integration direction provided to state board of education.

HF2076—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Health facility complaints office responsibilities modified and guidelines established.

HF2077—Carlson, L. (DFL)**Education**

Magnet school facility approved cost provisions modified.

HF2078—Greenfield (DFL)**Judiciary**

Health care provider identification number requirements modified, group purchaser nonpublic data provisions modified, and Office of Mental Health Practice information exchange procedures established.

HF2079—Macklin (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

New Market bond issuance authorized pending local approval.

HF2080—Frerichs (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Trout and salmon, migratory waterfowl, and pheasant stamp issuance fees modified.

HF2081—Greiling (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

School superintendents exempted from compensation limits.

HF2082—Osskopp (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Lake City and Plainview motor vehicle deputy registrar offices established.

HF2083—Koppendrayner (R)**Education**

School voucher program established, charter school provisions modified, open enrollment provisions modified, graduation option accelerated, site management provided, and money appropriated.

HF2084—Koppendrayner (R)**Education**

School voucher program established, and money appropriated.

HF2085—Rhodes (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

St. Louis Park fire and police department employees excluded from civil service.

HF2086—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Code grabbing device possession provided criminal penalty.

HF2087—Winter (DFL)**Education**

Southwest Technical College wind power generating facility construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2088—Winter (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Speed limits raised on highways, speed violation penalty provisions modified, and speed limits designated for fuel conservation purposes.

HF2089—Davids (R)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Automobile glass companies prohibited from waiving insurance deductibles, or providing rebates or other incentives.

HF2090—Davids (R)**Education**

Elementary school construction debt service aid provided.

HF2091—Davids (R)**Education**

Independent School District No. 238, Mabel-Canton, provided debt service aid.

HF2092—Davids (R)**Transportation & Transit**

Trunk Highway No. 52 in Fillmore county designated as the Amish Buggy Byway.

HF2093—Davids (R)**Education**

Independent School District Nos. 228, Harmony, and 233, Preston-Fountain, debt service aid grant extended.

HF2094—Koppendrayner (R)**Education**

Education board graduation rule single state-wide assessment provided.

HF2095—Rest (DFL)**Taxes**

Revenue department administrative and policy tax and fee provisions modified.

HF2096—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Nursing facility reimbursement rates modified.

HF2097—Greiling (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association pension service credit purchase deadline modified.

HF2098—Pellow (R)**Transportation & Transit**

Single license plate display authorized on certain collector vehicles.

HF2099—Tompkins (R)

Transportation & Transit

Motor vehicle sales tax revenue allocation provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2100—Haas (R)

Health & Human Services

Medical savings accounts established for medical assistance recipients.

HF2101—Jefferson (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Mail balloting allowed in additional cities and towns.

HF2102—Rest (DFL)

Taxes

Revenue department technical tax bill providing administrative changes, corrections and clarifications.

HF2103—Bertram (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Firefighter relief association consolidation and defined benefit relief association conversion authorized.

HF2104—Bertram (DFL)

Taxes

Used farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently.

HF2105—Swenson, H. (R)

Economic Development, Infrastructure, & Regulation Finance

Sibley County Courthouse restoration provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2106—Wejcman (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Uncertified boarding care facility rate increases authorized.

HF2107—Davids (R)

Governmental Operations

Legislative Coordinating Commission duties modified, and state agency head and state employee salaries modified.

HF2108—Van Engen (R)

Health & Human Services

Tuberculosis; isolation and detention provided for persons with active tuberculosis, standards and procedures provided, and reporting required.

HF2109—Bradley (R)

Health & Human Services

Nursing home receivership provisions modified.

HF2110—Haas (R)

Health & Human Services

Health department disease prevention division authorized to use unmarked vehicles.

HF2111—Boudreau (R)

Health & Human Services

Managed care organization provisions modified, children's camp health provisions modified, alcohol and drug counselor licensing provisions modified, and hotel, motel, and food and beverage establishment regulatory provisions modified.

HF2112—Bishop (R)

Environment & Natural Resources

Sewage treatment system license regulation provisions modified, and municipal individual sewage treatment system loan program established.

HF2113—Girard (R)

International Trade & Economic Development

Businesses receiving state or local government assistance job increase provisions repealed.

HF2114—McElroy (R)

Transportation & Transit

Driver's license coding provisions modified.

HF2115—Harder (R)

Agriculture

Rural finance agency program net worth definitions modified.

HF2116—Harder (R)

Agriculture

Plant pest, fertilizer, and lime provisions modified, and aquatic pest control applicator license requirement provisions modified.

HF2117—Koppendrayner (R)

Education

Charter school law expanded, school board contracting authorized, statewide education information system established, school year defined, teacher contract provisions modified, and performance-based compensation aid provided.

HF2118—Ness (R)

Education

Education technology clearinghouse and upgrade system provided, and money appropriated.

HF2119—Boudreau (R)

Health & Human Services

Rice County hospital district reorganization, administration, and operation provided.

HF2120—Boudreau (R)

Transportation & Transit

Intrastate motor vehicle operators with hearing disabilities granted waiver for vehicle operation.

HF2121—Schumacher (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 485, Royalton, debt service equalization aid provided, and money appropriated.

HF2122—Dawkins (DFL)

Judiciary

Previous revisor instruction scope limited.

HF2123—Van Engen (R)

Governmental Operations

Willmar Regional Treatment Center employee authorized retirement service credit purchase.

HF2124—Swenson, D. (R)

Health & Human Services

Child support enforcement welfare reform provisions modified.

HF2125—Boudreau (R)

Environment & Natural Resources

Obsolete air quality and wastewater treatment rules repealed.

HF2126—Gunther (R)

Agriculture

Consolidated food licensing law provisions modified.

HF2127—Lynch (R)

Health & Human Services

Deaf and hard of hearing services act provisions modified and repealed.

HF2128—Murphy (DFL)

Judiciary

Juvenile detention in jails and lockups beyond 24 hours authorized in certain cases.

HF2129—Clark (DFL)

Housing

Housing Finance Agency single family housing requirement technical changes provided.

HF2130—Rhodes (R)

Judiciary

Bias offense victim civil cause of action provided, and parental liability imposed.

HF2131—Seagren (R)

Governmental Operations

Handicapped accessible parking space location requirements prescribed.

HF2132—Anderson, B. (R)

Education

Independent School District No. 877, Buffalo, authorized to begin school year before Labor Day.

HF2133—Seagren (R)

Education

Education provisions modified related to endowment earnings payment, aid adjustment, open enrollment, charter schools, transportation, alternative attendance programs, bonding, and libraries.

HF2134—Osskopp (R)

Labor-Management Relations

Teachers and public school bus drivers deemed essential employees.

HF2135—Kelso (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Teachers retirement association service credit provided for leaves of absence.

HF2136—Brown (DFL)

Judiciary

Firefighter and emergency medical personnel assault crime provided felony penalty.

HF2137—Jennings (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Women veterans honorary plaque placement authorized on capitol grounds.

HF2138—Pellow (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Metropolitan Council abolished.

HF2139—Luther (DFL)

Taxes

Motor vehicle sales tax exemption provided for transfer of vehicles to foster children.

HF2140—Pellow (R)

Transportation & Transit

Highway Helper program abolished and prohibited.

HF2141—Johnson, A. (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Motorboat operation age requirement established and exception provided.

HF2142—Rhodes (R)

Labor-Management Relations

Workers' compensation mandatory coverage requirement ownership interest provisions modified.

HF2143—Lieder (DFL)

Economic Development, Infrastructure, & Regulation Finance

Trunk highway and local bridge replacement, rehabilitation, and repair provided, and bond issuance authorized.

HF2144—Jennings (DFL)

Taxes

Property tax valuation notice mailing required 30 days prior to local board of review meetings.

HF2145—Jennings (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Persian gulf war veterans honorary plaque placement authorized on capitol grounds.

HF2146—Bettermann (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Local government employee compensation regulated, and reporting requirements provided.

HF2147—Wagenius (DFL)

Education

Full-day kindergarten authorized and funded, first-grade preparedness program established, and money appropriated.

HF2148—Bishop (R)

Judiciary

Community criminal justice intervention development grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF2149—Perl (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Pollution Control Agency board membership to include a representative of organized labor.

HF2150—Holsten (R)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Stillwater authorized to issue an on-sale intoxicating liquor license.

HF2151—Girard (R)

Labor-Management Relations

Prevailing wage payment requirements eliminated related to public employment contracts.

HF2152—Lieder (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Highway service sign program provisions modified, county state-aid highway funding provisions modified, and traffic regulations modified related to turns at intersections with red arrows

HF2153—Delmont (DFL)

Education

Education record transmission from nonpublic schools provided.

HF2154—Delmont (DFL)

Housing

Manufactured home park owner land possession recovery provisions modified.

HF2155—Macklin (R)

Judiciary

Registered property application and record conditions provided, probate and trust provisions modified, and curative provisions applied.

HF2156—Johnson, A. (DFL)

Education

Education bill providing clarification of education finance and school transportation statutes, and revenue calculation, and technical college and school district relationship provisions repealed.

HF2157—Orfield (DFL)

Housing

Comprehensive choice housing system provided in the metropolitan area.

HF2158—Sykora (R)

Health & Human Services

Foster care payment and placement provisions clarified, and adoption assistance provisions modified.

HF2159—Bettermann (R)

Judiciary

Attorney fees and damage awards limited related to harassment claims against the state.

HF2160—Bertram (DFL)

Judiciary

Nonprofit firefighting corporations provided municipal tort claim protection.

HF2161—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Sentencing Guidelines Commission duties clarified.

HF2162—Davids (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Local government employee salary limit provisions modified.

HF2163—Cooper (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Motor carrier driver medical waiver provisions modified, and electronic filing of financial responsibility forms authorized.

HF2164—Clark (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Special transportation services coordination task force established.

HF2165—Murphy (DFL)

Judiciary

Term employee defined for workers' compensation purposes.

HF2166—Girard (R)

Environment & Natural Resources

Wetland protection and management provisions modified.

HF2167—Johnson, V. (R)

Environment & Natural Resources

State boundary line correction provisions modified, trust land sale provisions modified, natural resources commissioner authorized to pay

certain real estate taxes and transfer improvements on state-owned land, and money appropriated.

HF2168—Knight (R)

Governmental Operations

Public pension coverage exclusion provided for certain local government associations.

HF2169—Koppendrayner (R)

Education

Graduation rule adoption process clarified.

HF2170—Koppendrayner (R)

Education

Education board eliminated, state education advisory council established, and duties transferred.

HF2171—Ozment (R)

Environment & Natural Resources

Pollution Control Agency board and commissioner powers clarified.

HF2172—Peterson (DFL)

Education

Learning year program pupil units established.

HF2173—Greiling (DFL)

Judiciary

Child support obligor to file for termination of child support order when granted child custody, and court notification required.

HF2174—Bettermann (R)

Education

Education investment fund established, and income tax incentives provided for education savings.

HF2175—Bettermann (R)

Education

Minnesota school-to-work student organization act adopted, and money appropriated.

HF2176—Brown (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Horse racing card club operation authorized.

HF2177—Bradley (R)

Health & Human Services

Health care medical aid program consolidation provided.

HF2178—Bishop (R)

Transportation & Transit

Speed limits raised, fines provided for certain speeding violations, and lane use provisions specified.

HF2179—Rostberg (R)

Taxes

Property tax valuation exclusion provided for certain improvements to homestead property.

HF2180—Rostberg (R)

Taxes

Municipal property tax abatement authorized for certain improvements made to commercial property.

HF2181—Rostberg (R)

Health & Human Services

Vital record issuance fees modified.

HF2182—Rostberg (R)

Judiciary

Juvenile court delinquency jurisdiction expanded to include juveniles accused of certain misdemeanor offenses.

HF2183—Holsten (R)

Environment & Natural Resources

Deer taking permitted with certain handguns.

HF2184—Holsten (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Fin

Stillwater flood/retaining wall project funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2185—Luther (DFL)

Judiciary

Community crime prevention block club programs appropriated money.

HF2186—Sviggum (R)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Term limits imposed on legislative and executive offices, biennial legislative sessions, unicameral legislature, and initiative and referendum provided, legislative procedures modified, and constitutional amendments proposed.

HF2187—Van Engen (R)

Health & Human Services

Publicly funded abortion provisions restricted, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2188—Workman (R)

Transportation & Transit

Motor carrier truck length and combination provisions modified.

HF2189—Haas (R)

Health & Human Services

Minnesota managed care organization act adopted.

HF2190—Cooper (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Health plan company regulatory reform provisions repealed.

HF2191—Haas (R)

Health & Human Services

Human services benefits denied to persons with prior felony convictions.

HF2192—Entenza (DFL)

Education

Assistive technology device purchase from school districts authorized for the purpose of increasing, maintaining, or improving the functional capabilities of children with disabilities.

HF2193—Entenza (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Spanish Speaking Affairs Council name changed to council on affairs of Chicano/Latino people, and composition and powers modified.

HF2194—Weaver (R)

Environment & Natural Resources

Environmental regulatory innovations act adopted.

HF2195—Van Dellen (R)

Health & Human Services

MinnesotaCare, general assistance, and general assistance medical care program eligibility requirements modified.

HF2196—Van Dellen (R)

Health & Human Services

Managed health care organization contract requirements provided.

HF2197—Sviggum (R)

Ethics

Economic development department permitted to receive donations for economic development training.

HF2198—Rostberg (R)

Judiciary

Theft crimes provided mandatory minimum fines.

HF2199—Sviggum (R)

Judiciary

Controlled substance importation across state lines punishable by life imprisonment.

HF2200—Sviggum (R)

Agriculture

Adulterated dairy products law violation penalties modified, dairy assistance program authorized, milk standards for manufacturing modified, and money appropriated.

HF2201—Carlson, S. (R)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Tax reform act provisions repealed.

HF2202—Sviggum (R)

Governmental Operations

Legislative commissions on planning and fiscal policy, economic status of women, health care access, and the Electric Energy Task Force abolished, and appropriations reduced.

HF2203—Bradley (R)

Health & Human Services

Human services medical and general assistance technical modifications provided.

HF2204—Dawkins (DFL)

Judiciary

Prostitution nuisance civil cause of action provided.

HF2205—Johnson, A. (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Premium gasoline exempted from oxygenation requirement.

HF2206—Pelowski (DFL)

Education

Higher education mandates removed and increased accountability and performance required for funding.

HF2207—Trimble (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Midwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste provisions modified.

HF2208—Pellow (R)

Transportation & Transit

Motor vehicles with salvage certificates of title inspection requirement removed.

HF2209—Wagenius (DFL)

Judiciary

Mediated relative care provided in certain child protection cases, child custody provisions modified, and adoption agreement provisions modified.

HF2210—Bettermann (R)

Labor-Management Relations

State employee discharge provided for sex offense conviction.

HF2211—Rostberg (R)

Health & Human Services

Human services facilities serving adults with a history of physical or sexual aggression subject to local zoning restrictions.

HF2212—Rostberg (R)

Governmental Operations

Deceased volunteer firefighter survivor benefits provided to family.

HF2213—Solberg (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Higher education labor agreements ratified and salary provisions modified.

HF2214—Van Dellen (R)

Transportation & Transit

Littering from motor vehicle offenses provided minimum fines, and citizen enforcement authorized.

HF2215—Carruthers (DFL)

Judiciary

Arrest or conviction record expungement process established.

HF2216—Carlson, L. (DFL)

Education

Higher education mandates removed and increased accountability and performance required for funding.

HF2217—Anderson, R. (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Welfare reform provided with work requirements, benefit caps, and fraud penalties.

HF2218—Kahn (DFL)

Governmental Operations

State agency performance report requirements modified, legislative authority required for capital improvements, leased space requirements modified, resource recovery goals increased, and collection requirements modified.

HF2219—Trimble (DFL)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Public Utilities Commission authorized to levy civil penalties for violations by public utilities and telecommunications companies.

HF2220—Trimble (DFL)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Ground voltage task force member provided immunity from a civil action.

HF2221—Pugh (DFL)

Judiciary

Human rights department determination deadline modified.

HF2222—Delmont (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Economic security department technical and administrative changes provided.

HF2223—Leighton (DFL)

Labor-Management Relations

Employment and training service areas established.

HF2224—Tomassoni (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Employee relations department technical corrections bill, civil service position selection process established, department of employee relations data practices modified, and accrued vacation leave donation to sick leave accounts allowed.

HF2225—Tunheim (DFL)

Education

Disabled children provided assistive technology assessments.

HF2226—Trimble (DFL)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Electric utilities required to disclose the components of their resource portfolios to their retail customers.

HF2227—Trimble (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Natural and scenic area acquisition grant limits modified.

HF2228—Boudreau (R)

Governmental Operations

Public officials required to be physically present to vote.

HF2229—Cooper (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Minnesota emergency management act of 1996 adopted modifying the civil defense act.

HF2230—Jennings (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Midgrade gasoline defined.

HF2231—Orfield (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Statewide comprehensive land use planning coordination provided, and money appropriated.

HF2232—Orfield (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Metropolitan Council made an elective body and provided public campaign financing, and penalties provided.

HF2233—Entenza (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Commerce commissioner enforcement authority modified, and cosmetology salon and school inspections, data disclosure, residential building contractors, and abstractor bond requirements regulated, and securities registrations regulated.

HF2234—Orfield (DFL)

Taxes

Homestead property value included in the areawide tax base.

HF2235—Van Engen (R)

Health & Human Services

Abortion informed consent required and civil cause of action provided.

HF2236—Entenza (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Commerce commissioner enforcement powers regulated.

HF2237—Clark (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medical Assistance nursing facility rate reduction exception established for a certain facility.

HF2238—Rostberg (R)
Governmental Operations
Legislature reduced in size to 50 senators and 100 representatives.

HF2239—Boudreau (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Morristown allowed to maintain and pay for certain electrical power outside of the city.

HF2240—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Kinship caregiver support program established, report required, and money appropriated.

HF2241—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Kinship caregiver support program established, and report required.

HF2242—Wejcman (DFL)
Housing
Mortgagee authorized to provide a resident caretaker for a premises.

HF2243—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Animal lots bound by local zoning authorities.

HF2244—Bettermann (R)
Rules & Legislative Administration
Unclassified legislative employees provided salary limits.

HF2245—Greenfield (DFL)
Housing
Housing with services for persons 55 years of age or older provided registration requirement.

HF2246—Winter (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 918, Chandler-Lake Wilson, aid and levy adjustment modified.

HF2247—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Human services department lien and claims procedures provided.

HF2248—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Human services program licensure provisions modified.

HF2249—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle provided driver's license suspension penalty.

HF2250—Swenson, D. (R)
Transportation & Transit
Automobile theft prevention program established, advisory council created, and funding provided.

HF2251—Stanek (R)
Education
After-school enrichment programs established, grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF2252—Stanek (R)
Taxes
Special homestead classification for the disabled eligibility expanded.

HF2253—Bettermann (R)
Health & Human Services
Chiropractor examiner board membership requirements modified.

HF2254—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Public safety commissioner required to develop grant programs to fund law enforcement and community crime prevention initiatives.

HF2255—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Aiding an offender to escape crime inapplicability provision repealed.

HF2256—Warkentin (R)
International Trade & Economic Development
Trade and economic development department bill, tourism director classification modified, business finance program provisions modified, and main street program and rural development board abolished.

HF2257—Clark (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Lead abatement related unfunded mandates removed.

HF2258—Molnau (R)
Transportation & Transit
Vietnam veteran special motorcycle license plate issuance authorized.

HF2259—Wagenius (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Waste Management Act provisions modified.

HF2260—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Human waste discharge into surface waters prohibited.

HF2261—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Antifreeze in wastewater treatment systems prohibition exception provided.

HF2262—Dempsey (R)
Transportation & Transit
Transportation bill providing land acquisition, metropolitan transit policies, highway speed limits, motor carrier regulation, and money appropriated.

HF2263—Winter (DFL)
Taxes
State and local fiscal system study authorized, and money appropriated.

Thursday, January 18

HF2264—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
State park additions and deletions provided.

HF2265—Kinkel (DFL)
Education
Extracurricular school activity option provided for non-attending students.

HF2266—Leppik (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Payroll service companies regulated.

HF2267—Carruthers (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Metropolitan Council right-of-way acquisition loan fund uses modified.

HF2268—Dawkins (DFL)
Housing
Community housing rehabilitation and affordable rental investment programs provided, local project approval required, homeless assistance provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2269—Broecker (R)
Education
Assurance of mastery program instruction areas modified.

HF2270—Broecker (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Insurance assigned claim plan participation standards modified.

HF2271—Mulder (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Gas-fired waste combustor operation authorized and installation date provisions modified.

HF2272—Dauner (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Teacher retirement association reemployed annuitant granted earnings limitation exemption.

HF2273—Goodno (R)
Governmental Operations
Gambling control board bingo rule provisions modified.

HF2274—Davids (R)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Property-casualty insurance agent termination prohibited due to low premium volume of business.

HF2275—McCollum (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Fair campaign practices act violation provisions and candidate requirements modified.

HF2276—McCollum (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Water and soil resources board authority modified related to acceptance and administration of grants, gifts, and donations.

HF2277—Kinkel (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 309, Park Rapids, referendum revenue subtraction adjustment provided.

HF2278—Kinkel (DFL)

Education

State College and University Board of Trustees composition modified and responsibilities specified.

HF2279—Kalis (DFL)

Education

Independent School District Nos. 219, Elmore, and 837, Medelia, revenue restoration provided.

HF2280—McCollum (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Veterans Homes Board of directors duties eliminated.

HF2281—Munger (DFL)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Electric energy policy task force report due date modified.

HF2282—Winter (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) resources program provisions modified.

HF2283—Osskopp (R)

International Trade & Economic Development

Local economic development authority powers and local conflict of interest provisions modified.

HF2284—Johnson, A. (DFL)

Judiciary

Child support and maintenance overpayment reductions regulated.

HF2285—Garcia (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Metropolitan Airports Commission noise mitigation spending requirements clarified and extended.

HF2286—Koppendrayner (R)

Governmental Operations

Casino operation by certain counties authorized, permitted gambling games specified, and penalties provided.

HF2287—Koppendrayner (R)

Governmental Operations

Indian gaming regulatory act compact expiration date provided.

HF2288—Cooper (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Community-based services for persons with mental retardation contractual alternative payment demonstration project provided.

HF2289—Hackbarth (R)

Transportation & Transit

Municipalities allowed to set speed limits on streets and roads without regard to building density.

HF2290—Jennings (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 2144, Chisago Lakes, fund transfer authorized.

HF2291—Marko (DFL)

Taxes

Tax increment financing district agricultural or open land limitations modified.

HF2292—Schumacher (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

State patrol authorized to operate white patrol vehicles.

HF2293—Larsen (R)

Education

Education referendum allowance reduction discontinued.

HF2294—Opatz (DFL)

International Trade & Economic Development

Minnesota Business Finance Inc. asset and liability transfer authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2295—Wagenius (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Pollution Control Agency operating budget reduction provided for failing to meet pollution reduction goals.

HF2296—Kraus (R)

Governmental Operations

Compensation council membership requirements modified.

HF2297—Seagren (R)

Education

Parent educator license issuance provided.

HF2298—Marko (DFL)

Ways & Means

Independent School District No. 2134, United South Central, election law waiver granted, and government innovation and cooperation board exemption effective period extended.

HF2299—Rukavina (DFL)

Taxes

Taconite tax relief area commercial-industrial property increased assessment allocation provided.

HF2300—Winter (DFL)

Agriculture

Corporate farm ownership limitations modified for limited liability companies, pension or investment funds, and limited partnerships.

HF2301—Jefferson (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Cosmetology school internships authorized.

HF2302—Marko (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Game and fish license sales subagent application requirements modified.

HF2303—Greenfield (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Human services and health care provider criminal background check provisions reconciled.

HF2304—Onnen (R)

Health & Human Services

Health insurance benefit minimum copayment required.

HF2305—Stanek (R)

Transportation & Transit

Driver's license applicant proof of identity required.

HF2306—Cooper (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Ambulance service licensing procedures modified.

HF2307—Wolf (R)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Precious metal retail sales information disclosure required, and definitions provided.

HF2308—Perlt (DFL)

Governmental Operations

State employee combined charitable campaign participation condition provided.

HF2309—Cooper (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Emergency medical service regulatory board deemed a health related licensing board.

HF2310—Cooper (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Emergency medical services regulatory board membership increased.

HF2311—Carruthers (DFL)

**Economic Development, Infrastructure,
& Regulation Finance**

Brooklyn Center; Brookdale area water ponding project improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2312—Cooper (DFL)

Health & Human Services

MinnesotaCare program eligibility expanded.

HF2313—Kalis (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Trunk Highway No. 22 between Mankato and Mapleton designated as Victory Drive.

HF2314—Leppik (R)

Health & Human Services

Physicians allowed to prescribe and administer controlled substances in cases of intractable pain.

HF2315—Macklin (R)

Judiciary

Marriage dissolution document acknowledgment requirement eliminated.

HF2316—Dorn (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Lottery retailers permitted to sell tickets at multiple locations, and bond posting requirement eliminated.

HF2317—Skoglund (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Metropolitan Council regional park acquisition and betterment provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2318—Dorn (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Lawful gambling expenditure and report provisions modified, enforcement powers provided, and compensation restrictions modified.

HF2319—Perlt (DFL)

Labor-Management Relations

Re-employment insurance technical and administrative provisions modified.

HF2320—Kalis (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Cambridge State Bank; payment provided for judgement against the state, and money appropriated.

HF2321—Orenstein (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport free parking privileges prohibited.

HF2322—Mariani (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Transportation Regulation Board authorized to issue charter carrier permits for operation within a single city.

HF2323—Kelley (DFL)

Taxes

Cooperative property used for residential nonhomestead or seasonal residential recreational purposes allowed separate assessment and valuation.

HF2324—Entenza (DFL)

Judiciary

Child support and maintenance provided by civil support, and procedures and enforcement mechanisms provided.

HF2325—Pawlenty (R)

Judiciary

Repeat domestic assault crime provided mandatory minimum penalty.

HF2326—Pawlenty (R)

Judiciary

Peace officer child photography authorized circumstances modified.

HF2327—Brown (DFL)

Taxes

Morris tax increment financing provision corrected.

HF2328—McCollum (DFL)

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs
& Elections**

Armory Building Commission fund use for construction authorized, and membership appointment and armory siting provisions modified.

HF2329—Carruthers (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Public assistance benefit electronic transfer prohibited at terminals in gambling establishments.

HF2330—Opatz (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

St. Cloud area planning organization to assess and report on regional land use planning.

HF2331—Murphy (DFL)

Taxes

Hermantown local sales tax imposed.

HF2332—Trimble (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Public waters work permit requirements modified.

HF2333—Knight (R)

Governmental Operations

Public pension plans subject to requirements of the Federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act.

HF2334—Worke (R)

Transportation & Transit

Single license plate issuance and display required on motor vehicles.

HF2335—Knoblach (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Stearns County; Quarry county park development and improvement authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2336—Cooper (DFL)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Willmar authorized to enter into a joint venture with the Kandiyohi cooperative electric power association for the provision of electric power.

HF2337—McGuire (DFL)

Judiciary

Health record access provisions modified.

HF2338—Lourey (DFL)

Education

Sandstone Elementary School renovated for use as a multiagency family services resource and learning center, and money appropriated.

HF2339—Lourey (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Senior Nutrition Fund use flexibility provided to area aging agencies, and money appropriated.

HF2340—Lourey (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Speech-language pathologists and audiologists required to register with the Health Department, and penalties provided.

HF2341—Tunheim (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Lake Bronson State Park Interpretive Center construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2342—Tunheim (DFL)

**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs
& Elections**

Voters allowed to vote for candidates of more than one political party in the state partisan primary election.

HF2343—Van Engen (R)

Environment & Natural Resources

Kandiyohi County; Prairie Woods environmental learning center construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2344—Long (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Life and health insurance coverage underwriting regulated for victims of domestic abuse.

HF2345—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Education
Education funding stabilization account established, and education appropriation caps removed.

HF2346—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Education
Referendum allowance reduction provisions modified.

HF2347—Peterson (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 129, Montevideo, adult farm management program grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF2348—Osskopp (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Goodhue Pioneer Trail land acquisition and construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2349—Tunheim (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Speed limits raised on highways, speed violation penalty provisions modified, and speed limits designated for fuel conservation purposes.

HF2350—Ness (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Administrative rule periodic repeal provided.

HF2351—Kahn (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Mississippi River project permit issuance restrictions provided.

HF2352—Peterson (DFL)
Economic Development, Infrastructure, & Regulation Finance
Montevideo; Milwaukee Road train depot restoration provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2353—Cooper (DFL)
Education
Independent School District Nos. 631, Belview, 648, Danube, 654, Renville, and 655, Sacred Heart, enhanced pairing agreement modified.

HF2354—Tomassoni (DFL)
Taxes
Senior citizen's property tax deferral program established.

HF2355—Long (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipalities authorized to determine if property taxes are paid on a parcel of land prior to issuance of permits.

HF2356—Cooper (DFL)
Agriculture
Food sales licensing requirement exemption provided.

HF2357—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Child visitation order specificity required, visitation dispute resolution programs established, penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

HF2358—Dawkins (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Peace Corps and VISTA volunteer special license plate issuance authorized and fee disposition provided.

HF2359—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Medical malpractice action limitations provisions modified.

HF2360—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Intensive juvenile monitoring pilot program established, juvenile supervision by college students provided, and money appropriated.

HF2361—Kalis (DFL)
Housing
Rental security deposit interest rate maintained at four percent.

HF2362—Solberg (DFL)
Economic Development, Infrastructure, & Regulation Finance
Housing Finance Agency appropriated money for publicly owned housing grants, and bonds issued.

HF2363—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Criminal justice agencies defined, adult and juvenile criminal history data sharing authorized, juvenile court data transmission required, and Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to administer computerized juvenile criminal record system.

HF2364—Kalis (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Auction sign 24-hour advance placement authorized on highway right-of-way.

HF2365—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Open burning restrictions and timber sales provisions modified, and penalties provided.

HF2366—Pawlenty (R)
Health & Human Services
Jobs opportunity program established for the purpose of employing public assistance recipients.

HF2367—Knight (R)
Governmental Operations
State Board of Investment members and staff investment decision restrictions provided.

HF2368—Jefferson (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Child health and welfare hold procedures modified, shelter care agency responsibilities clarified, adoption waiting period imposed, and advocate participation authorized.

HF2369—Osthoff (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Financial institution consumer credit regulation and technical corrections provided.

HF2370—Jefferson (DFL)
Judiciary
Hennepin County board authorized to appoint an employee of the county humane society as a peace officer.

HF2371—Jefferson (DFL)
Judiciary
Martin Luther King nonviolent institutional child development pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF2372—Leppik (R)
Judiciary
Parental right termination grounds modified.

HF2373—Jaros (DFL)
Housing
Duluth housing replacement districts established.

HF2374—Gunther (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Watonswan River designated as a canoe and boating river.

HF2375—Rest (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipalities required to show need for local public improvements, and report fee limitation imposed.

HF2376—Milbert (DFL)
Judiciary
Family group conferencing pilot project established in the First Judicial District, and money appropriated.

HF2377—Delmont (DFL)
Ways & Means
Obsolete laws repealed.

HF2378—Osthoff (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Omnibus insurance regulation bill.

HF2379—Jennings (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Ecologically harmful exotic plant and animal control and management provisions modified.

HF2380—Tunheim (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Motorcycle safety fund administration and instruction requirements specified.

HF2381—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Mesabi trail system completion authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2382—Garcia (DFL)
Taxes
Valuation deferral provided for certain improvements to homestead property.

HF2383—Wenzel (DFL)
Taxes
Little Falls authorized to impose a tax on the gross receipts from certain food sales.

HF2384—Rukavina (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Telecommunications carrier toll charges prohibited for calls made within the same area code.

HF2385—Carruthers (DFL)
Judiciary
Alternative dispute resolution evidentiary privilege established.

HF2386—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Criminal justice agency defined, and detention information system access provisions modified.

HF2387—Osthoff (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Driver's license application acceptance agent approval required.

HF2388—Rukavina (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Employer wage payment requirements modified.

HF2389—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health plan companies required to offer at least one point-of-service product in each market of operation.

HF2390—Van Engen (R)
Judiciary
DWI; prior driving while intoxicated violations involving snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and

motorboats included as prior offenses for purposes of license revocation for a driving while intoxicated offense involving a motor vehicle.

HF2391—Jennings (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Petroleum tank release cleanup reimbursement regulated, and commerce commissioner enforcement authority provided.

HF2392—Finseth (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Thief River Falls on-sale intoxicating liquor license provisions repealed.

HF2393—Ness (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Environmental regulatory innovations act adopted.

HF2394—Tomassoni (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Prostate cancer periodic screening health insurance coverage required.

HF2395—Entenza (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Commercial heating, ventilating, and cooling system contractor and residential mechanical contractor licensure required, and money appropriated.

HF2396—Pugh (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Dakota County authorized to implement an enhanced automation pilot system to educate recipients on health care options, and money appropriated.

HF2397—Boudreau (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Wild animal shining restrictions modified.

HF2398—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Marriage dissolution income withholding, visitation expeditors, maintenance, and support provisions modified.

HF2399—Jefferson (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Dangerous dog regulation provisions modified.

HF2400—Solberg (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Retired public employee insurance payment provisions modified.

HF2401—Solberg (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Itasca County exempted from bidding requirements related to the sale of Itasca County Medical Center.

HF2402—Osthoff (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle registration tax exemption abolished for representatives of foreign powers, special license plate issuance authorized, disability license plate restrictions removed, fleet registration provisions modified, technical changes.

HF2403—Kelso (DFL)
Taxes
Scott County facility admissions tax repealed.

HF2404—Swenson, D. (R)
Judiciary
Crime of violence designation to include drive-by shootings.

HF2405—Swenson, D. (R)
Judiciary
DWI; driving while intoxicated consecutive sentencing provisions clarified.

HF2406—Swenson, D. (R)
Judiciary
DWI; underage drinking offense provisions modified.

HF2407—Leppik (R)
Judiciary
Child protection open hearing guidelines established by the state court administrator.

HF2408—McGuire (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Automobile theft prevention program established, and money appropriated.

HF2409—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Victims of violence state goals established.

HF2410—Hasskamp (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk Highway No. 10 near Elk River designated as POW/MIA Memorial Highway, Trunk Highway No. 115 designated as Veterans Memorial Highway, and a portion of Old County Road 21 designated as John Riley Memorial Drive.

HF2411—Johnson, V. (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Trespassing on private land for outdoor recreation prohibited.

HF2412—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
City hospital appropriated money for remodeling, and bonds issued.

HF2413—Jennings (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Cemetery account and record examination provisions clarified.

HF2414—Rest (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
County commissioners removed from municipal boards.

HF2415—Rest (DFL)
Housing
Municipal single-family housing bonding authority procedures modified.

HF2416—Entenza (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
No-fault automobile insurance benefit calculation provisions modified.

HF2417—Jefferson (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Police and fire amortization aid reallocated to the Minneapolis and St. Paul teachers retirement association funds, and benefit computation provisions modified.

HF2418—Anderson, R. (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Welfare reform bill providing overpayment recovery, family investment plan modifications, employment and training services modifications, and GAMC eligibility modifications.

HF2419—Brown (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Biomass fuel energy generation mandate provisions clarified.

HF2420—Huntley (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Duluth sanitary sewer system inflow and infiltration prevention program authorized.

HF2421—Opatz (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Government innovation and cooperation board purchase of development rights pilot program established, and money appropriated.

HF2422—Johnson, V. (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Firefighters exempted from certain requirements related to employment as fireworks operators.

HF2423—Van Dellen (R)
Ways & Means
Local government mandate costs shared by the state, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2424—Huntley (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Duluth special service districts established.

HF2425—Carruthers (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Statutory city elected office vacancy procedures established.

HF2426—Greiling (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Ethical practices board fair campaign practices provisions modified.

HF2427—Tunheim (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Safety cable use authorized on trailers and semi-trailers.

HF2428—Bakk (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Occupational safety and health exemptions eliminated.

HF2429—Perl (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Sprinkler system maintenance permitted by licensed plumbers.

Twenty-two years after the U.S. Congress forced American motorists to ease up on their accelerators, Minnesota is one of a number of states this year that will discuss whether to dump the 55 mph speed limit.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) has introduced legislation this session (HF2178) that he says will more realistically reflect the driving habits, and the speed, of most Minnesota drivers. Last week, a state task force recommended raising speed limits in the state in a proposal that was similar to the Bishop plan.

The proposal comes in the wake of the federal government's lifting of the 55 mph cap. States now are free to set their own speed limits, and some already have approved faster speeds. (Among them: Montana, which has dumped speed limits entirely in some rural sections, earning those roads the nickname "Montanabahn.")

Among the provisions of Bishop's legislation:

- Speed limits on rural interstate highways, now at 65 mph, would increase to 70 mph.
- Speed limits on urban interstates, now at 55 mph, would increase to 65 mph.
- On four-lane divided state and county

Do you know?

highways, speed limits would jump from 55 mph to 65 mph.

- Speed limits on two-lane state highways, now at 55 mph, would increase to 65 mph during the day and 60 mph at night. Drivers on two-lane highways, where the most traffic accidents occur, also would be required to turn on their headlights at all times, day and night.

Bishop also is proposing higher fines for speeding: The minimum fine for violations in excess of 15 mph over the limit would increase to \$100, with a maximum of \$200.

At least two other proposals, HF2088



Will the 55 mph speed limit be lifted? There's legislation to do so and a state task force has called for higher limits.

sponsored by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), and HF2262, sponsored by Rep. Don Frerichs (R-Rochester), also have been introduced.

The national 55 mph speed limit was enacted during the Arab oil embargo of the early 1970s in an effort to conserve fuel. It became effective on all major highway systems nationwide by March 1974.

As a result, according to a 1984 study by the National Research Council, total U.S. travel declined in 1974 for the first time since 1946.

The study also found that 9,100 fewer people died in U.S. motor vehicle accidents in 1974. Gradually, as the fuel shortage receded, safety became the principal reason to retain the 55 mph limit.

Even though most drivers obediently slowed down when the national limit first went into effect, they gradually increased their speed over the next decade: The average speed on rural interstates climbed from 57.6 mph in 1974 to 59.1 mph in 1983, still far below the 1973 average of 65 mph.

The limit also was found to save energy. In 1984, 167,000 barrels of petroleum per day were saved because of reduced speeds.

Coming Up Next Week . . . January 22 - 26, 1996

Committee Schedule

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

MONDAY, Jan. 22

8 a.m.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Continuation of Jan. 17th agenda regarding update of 1995 Legislative Session implementation of welfare. TEFRA. Alternate payment system for nursing facilities.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HF2156 (Johnson, A.) Department of Children technical bill.

HF2133 (Seagren) Department of Children policy bill.

Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement

15 State Capitol
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: Consideration of proposed principles of pension policy. Other business.

University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

Agenda: Capital budget presentation, Minnesota Department of Agriculture; Lake Superior Center; Science Museum of Minnesota.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

Agenda: General overview of departmental initiatives, Gene Hugoson, commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Update on manure lagoon and feed lot policy in Minnesota, Dave Nelson, Feed Lot Division, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: HF2161 (Skoglund) Clarifying the duty of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission.

HF2000 (Luther) Authorizing a parent to name a designated parent.

HF2034 (Luther) Increasing the penalty for intentionally discharging a firearm under dangerous circumstances.

HF2215 (Carruthers) Expungement of criminal records.

HF2155 (Macklin) Real property.

Other bills to be announced.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Department of Public Service Report on universal service. Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and Minnesota Department of Public Service Agency reorganization report. Review of Public Service Department interim activities relating to electric industry restructuring. Review of PUC interim activities.

HFXXXX (Kelley) Telecommunications.

HFXXXX (Munger) Extending deadline for Electric Energy Task Force report.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Statewide Systems Project. Minnesota Assist review.

12:30 p.m.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: SF381 (Betzold); HF185 (McCollum) Relating to military affairs; providing greater flexibility in appointment of members of the armory building commission, etc.

SF382 (Betzold); HF206 (Osthoff) Relating to military affairs; authorizing the adjutant general to assign certain retired officers to temporary active duty, etc.

SF380 (Betzold); HF208 (Osthoff) Relating to military affairs; clarifying certain powers and duties of the governor; etc.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

4 p.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: To be announced.

7 p.m.

Joint Senate JUDICIARY/House Subcommittee on Civil Law/JUDICIARY

15 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Tom Pugh

Sen. Randy Kelly

Agenda: Reporter Shield Law review.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: Speed limit bills.

TUESDAY, Jan. 23

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: HF2206 (Pelowski) Higher Education Mandates Reduction bill.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Supreme court (legal aid). Appeals court. District court. Tax court. Board of Judicial standards. POST Board. Ombudsman for Corrections. Ombudsman for Victim Services. Private Detectives Board. Sentencing Guidelines Commission. Public defense. Public safety. Department of Corrections. Public testimony. Uncompleted agenda items will carry over to Thursday, Jan. 25, 1996. (If any representative or member of the public has an issue or initiative involving an agency listed above, he or she will be afforded time at this hearing.)

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

Agenda: Capital budget presentation, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; Office of Environmental Assistance; Board of Water & Soil Resources.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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

Agenda: Briefing on pension investment performance analysis, Mike Stolte, Asset Allocation, Inc.

TAXES

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

Agenda: HFXXXX (Wagenius) SCORE tax.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Tour
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Tour of Children's Museum downtown St. Paul. (Departure in front of the State Office Building. Approximate return 2:45 p.m.)

**COMMERCE, TOURISM &
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Sarna

Agenda: HF1998 (Bishop) Relating to trusts; enacting the Uniform Prudent Investor Act. HF1965 (Leighton) Relating to real estate; making permanent the provision authorizing companies and agents to execute certificates of release of mortgage.

HF2150 (Holsten) Relating to liquor; authorizing the city of Stillwater to issue one additional on-sale license.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: To be announced.

1:30 p.m.

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

118 State Capitol
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Public testimony on TEFRA and PCA programs.

2:30 p.m.

Subcommittee on Data Practices/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire

Agenda: HFXXXX (Skoglund) Law enforcement data on pawnshops.

HF1907 (Mares) Limiting the designation and release of education data as directory information.

3 p.m.

**RULES &
LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

Agenda: To be announced.

6 p.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: HF2206 (Pelowski) Higher Education Mandates Reduction bill.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 24

8 a.m.

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

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Continuation of briefing on Department of Human Services. Capital bonding request from Department of Human Services.

**Higher Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: To be announced.

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: Review governor's bonding recommendations.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

Agenda: Capital budget presentation, Department of Natural Resources.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF2112 (Bishop) Waste water treatment.

HF2149 (Perlt) PCA Board member.

HFXXXX (Jennings) Exotic species recodification.

HF2260 (Ozment) Human waste.

HF2261 (Ozment) Antifreeze.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS &
INSURANCE**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Minnesota bankers.

HF2008 (Opatz) 24-hour maternity stay.

(This bill will be heard if referred from Health & Human Services.)

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: HF2029 (Skoglund) Sex offender registration.

HFXXXX (Skoglund) Indecent exposure.

HFXXXX (Skoglund) Juvenile monitoring pilot program.

Other bills to be announced.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: General budget overview. Information Policy Office mandated report. Year 2000 report.

11 a.m.

**Subcommittee on Financial Institutions/
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS &
INSURANCE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Don Ostrom

Agenda: HFXXXX (Osthoff) Financial Institutions Department Bill.

**Subcommittee on Insurance/
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS &
INSURANCE**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Lourey

Agenda: HF872 (Huntley) Long-term care insurance sales regulated, and technical modifications provided.

12:30 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: I-35 Corridor Coalition. Transportation funding.

1 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: HF2256 (Warkentin) Economic development, Office of Tourism. Other bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

Agenda: Victim Services Program oversight.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: To be announced.

4 p.m.

University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: To be announced.

THURSDAY, Jan. 25

8 a.m.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Continuation of Jan. 23 agenda.

Subcommittee on Higher Education Mandates/EDUCATION

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: To be announced.

Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/ EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chrs. Reps. David Tomassoni,
Matt Entenza

Agenda: Teacher licensure issues.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

Agenda: Capital budget presentation, Department of Natural Resources.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: HF2213 (Solberg) Ratification of employment contracts.

HF140 (Kahn) State treasurer office eliminated and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF87 (Greiling) State treasurer office eliminated and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF338 (Knoblach) Office of the State Treasurer eliminated and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1043 (McElroy) Office of the State Treasurer abolished and constitutional amendment proposed.

TAXES

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

Agenda: HF2095 (Rest) Department of Revenue technical bill.

HF2102 (Rest) Department of Revenue policy bill.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Presentation on debt capacity and debt service, Department of Finance.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Sarna

Agenda: HF2233 (Entenza) Relating to commerce; changing the enforcement authority to the commissioner.

HF2236 (Entenza) Relating to commerce; regulating the enforcement powers of the commissioner.

HF2391 (Jennings) PETRO fund technical corrections.

Elections Division/

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: HF343 (McCollum) Recall provided for elected state officers and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2059 (Kelley) Veterinary Practice Act provision modified.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

After Session

AGRICULTURE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

Agenda: To be announced.

Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

Agenda: To be announced.

Subcommittee on DWI/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza

Agenda: HF2056 (Skoglund) Extending the qualifying conditions of impairment for snowmobiling, motorboating, hunting, driving, and flying while intoxicated to include being under the influence of noncontrolled drugs.

Other bills to be announced.

FRIDAY, Jan. 26

8 a.m.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Continuation of Department of Human Services budget.

Joint Higher Education Finance Division and University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel,
Becky Kelso

Agenda: To be announced.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF2207 (Trimble) Low level radioactive waste.

HFXXXX (Peterson, D.) State parks boundaries.

HF2243 (Ozment) Animal lots.

More bills may be added.

Gambling Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: Report of Advisory Council on Gambling.

HFXXXX (Dorn) Lawful Gambling Control Board technical bill.

HFXXXX (Dorn) Relating to the Minnesota State Lottery; concerning lottery retailer contracts and bonding requirements.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

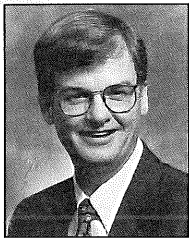
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: To be announced.

New members . . .

Grocer Gunther treats constituents like customers

Customers are customers whether they're paying state taxes or for a gallon of milk in a grocery store.



Rep. Bob Gunther

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) knows that better than most.

The first term lawmaker, elected Aug. 1, 1995, in a special election, owns three grocery stores (with his brothers) and employs 130 people. He knows that

both government and businesses exist to provide a service and a product.

Should a retailer fail, customers take their business to another grocer; politicians are beholden to constituents who could vote someone else into office.

The 52-year-old wasn't prompted by one particular issue to run for the House seat in District 26A, which is the first public office he has held. Active in Republican politics since his youth, Gunther decided last summer that the timing was right: Former Rep. Gene Hugoson (R-Granada), a nine-year legislative veteran, resigned to become commissioner of the state Department of Agriculture; Gunther's only child, Betsy, was away at college; and his brothers decided they could run the stores without him during the legislative session.

Gunther describes himself as a fiscal conservative and he, like many of his constituents, would like to keep more of his income and pay fewer taxes.

"People should have more control over the dollars they send to government. . . . They can spend their own money better than the government."

Gunther noted that his father paid 23 percent of his income in state, federal, and local taxes. Gunther now pays 48 percent. He is concerned that his daughter's generation will someday pay as much as 74 percent of their income in taxes.

The grocer, who also operates Fairmont's taxi service, learned the value of a dollar early.

He held his first job at Gunther's grocery store when he was five years old. He sorted refundable pop bottles for a nickel an hour.

Now as a state lawmaker, Gunther lists government reform and improving the state's business climate as his top concerns.

He believes that government should be more decentralized so that the level of government closest to the people, such as the county or city government, would have more say in how services are provided and how the state is run.

For instance, he said, who is better equipped to decide who should be eligible for MinnesotaCare — county social service agency officials who know the people involved or lawmakers in St. Paul?

Promoting jobs and creating a strong economy also are high on his list.

He doesn't favor increasing the minimum wage, believing instead that it should be dictated by the market. This is especially true, he said, since Minnesota adjoins such "business friendly" states as Iowa, the Dakotas, and Wisconsin.

Currently in Fairmont, very few work for minimum wage because the market pays more.

If the state had increased the minimum wage as proposed in recent legislative ses-

sions, Minnesota would have lost jobs to border states because its minimum wage is lower, Gunther said. "Jobs can cross borders very fast."

Gunther represents portions of the counties of Martin, Blue Earth, and Watonwan. Two of those counties are losing population — a total of 6,500 people between 1980 and now. That, he said, decreases the labor force for business and can deter expansion.

In addition, there are 1,500 people on welfare which hurts the labor force, Gunther said. The state, he believes, needs to keep finding ways to reform welfare to make sure those who can work do so without harming those who truly cannot.

Another way to help Minnesota's business climate would be to lower taxes paid by businesses such as workers' compensation and commercial/industrial property taxes. Minnesota businesses bear the fifth highest tax burden in the country, Gunther said. "That doesn't exactly put up a green light on our borders."

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

District 26A

Population: 32,676

Distribution: 47.83 percent urban; 52.17 rural

County: Blue Earth, Martin, Watonwan

Largest city: Fairmont

Location: south central Minnesota

Unemployment rate: 4.46 percent

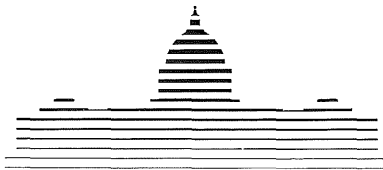
Residents living below poverty level: 11.5 percent

1994 gubernatorial election results:

Carlson/Benson 57.34 percent

Marty/Larson 37.28 percent

Other: 5.38 percent



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

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

MINNESOTA INDEX

1996 Legislative Session, state officials

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House special elections since 1971 won by Republicans	20 of 25
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Annual salary of New Hampshire House members	\$100
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Sources: National Conference of State Legislatures; The Book of the States, 1994-95, Council of State Governments; Legislative Reference Library; House Public Information Office.



For more information . . .

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