

SESSION WEEKLY

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Minnesota House of Representatives • January 10, 1997 • Volume 14, Number 1

Welcome . . .

Welcome to the 80th Session of the Minnesota Legislature.

For the 14th consecutive year, the *Session Weekly* will bring you highlights of committee and floor action from the Minnesota House of Representatives. Each week of coverage begins and ends on Thursday afternoons.

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

The section entitled "Bill Introductions" provides you with a continuing list of all the bills that are introduced in the House. Each entry includes the House File number, chief author's name, the name of the committee to which it was first referred, and a brief description of the content of the bill.

Early issues will carry a variety of informational articles about the Legislature and state government that will help you follow the legislative process. Other features will bring you insights into the history and "color" of the Legislature. We'll introduce you to the newest members of the House, beginning this week with Reps. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) and Marty Seifert (R-Marshall). We'll also profile the House leadership team. This week's issue features House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center).

Past subscribers may notice that the *Session Weekly* looks a little different this year. We've dropped the three-hole punch and made the cover more closely resemble a magazine, at no additional cost to state taxpayers. We continue to use soy ink and 100 percent recycled paper with 20 percent post-consumer content. Those with Internet connections will soon be able to view the *Session Weekly* on the Legislature's World Wide Web site (at URL: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>), where a wealth of government information can now be found.

We hope you like our legislative newsmagazine. Please contact us if you have any suggestions for improving the *Session Weekly*, want answers to general questions, or need further help in following the Legislature. The House Public Information Office is in Room 175 of the State Office Building and the phone numbers are (612) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550. You can reach us by e-mail at session@house.leg.state.mn.us.

— The staff

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On the cover: Newly elected House Speaker Phil Carruthers showed off his big desk on the House floor to his sons, Rory, *left*, and Alex, *right*. Carruthers was elected speaker Jan. 7, the first day of the 1997 Legislative Session, by a vote of 70-64.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank

Highlights

1997-98 Legislature . . .

Gavel sounds on opening of 80th Legislative Session

Even if there were no surprises at the opening of the 80th Legislative Session of the Minnesota House of Representatives, the visuals were top-notch. It's only natural to juxtapose the scene with the way it looked a hundred years ago, which allows the observer to come face-to-face with tradition. All legislators promised to uphold the United States and Minnesota constitutions and to faithfully discharge the duties of their offices. Their families and friends looked on proudly — for the most part. Various toddlers who refused to acknowledge the solemnity of the occasion had to be escorted off the floor.

As expected, Rep. Phil Carruthers, (DFL-Brooklyn Center) was elected Speaker of the House by a 70-64 party-line vote. Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) collected all 64 Republican votes.

In nominating speeches, supporters praised Carruthers' desire to put the interests of the people of Minnesota above partisan politics; his willingness to learn about districts outside his own; the energy he brings to the office; his history as a friend to education and to rural Minnesota; his desire to reach out to diverse groups; and his abilities to compro-

mise and to listen. Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) lauded the new speaker's record as majority leader, a position Carruthers held for the past three sessions, and for understanding the "importance of uniting forces, forgetting differences, and working for the benefit of all people of Minnesota."

During his acceptance speech, Carruthers acknowledged the new and returning members of the House, his family, and the "outstanding service" to the people of Minnesota by his predecessor, Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls). He said he hoped to continue the excellent relationship he shares with Minority Leader Sviggum. Carruthers noted that both political parties are strongly represented in Minnesota government, which indicates they "both deserve to serve the state of Minnesota."

While Minnesota can feel proud of its record as a national leader in terms of its economy, standard of living, and educational system, the Legislature has to change its recent course in order to continue that tradition, Carruthers said. "During the last session, we got so wrapped up in partisan fighting, we forgot why the citizens sent us here,"



Rep. Tim Pawlenty holds his 6-month-old daughter, Mara, as he scans some paperwork prior to the sounding of the gavel on the first day of the 1997 Legislative Session.

he said. "The people of Minnesota expect us to use good judgment. We must remember the voters' message regarding divided government. They want us to work together, Democrats and Republicans."

While the opening ceremony may have seemed standard to some participants, it seemed very new to Marjoleim DeConinck, an 18-year-old exchange student from Belgium who came as a guest of Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope). "It's so interesting to see how it all works. It's very different from my expectations. I've never been so involved with politics in my life," she said, adding that she suspects the process she witnessed in the Minnesota House of Representatives is very different from that in Belgium, with its parliament and monarchy.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), now entering her 13th term, also noted something new. "When I started in 1972, there were six women — total — in both Houses. Today women make up about a third of the House



Rep. Rob Leighton takes the oath of office as his wife, Shawn, and sister, Kristin, hold his twin sons Taylor, left, and Tanner, right, during opening day ceremonies of the 1997 Legislative Session. First-term Rep. Joe Mullery, right, is Leighton's seatmate.



Steven Entenza, the 5-year-old son of Rep. Matt Entenza, uses a pair of binoculars from the House floor to get a closer look at the opening ceremonies of the 1997 Legislative Session.

members. You can clearly see the tenor has changed. That's a big difference."

One floor below, in the Capitol Rotunda, about 100 people protested against anticipated cuts in welfare benefits, given the recent passage of federal legislation. Members of the Minnesota Welfare Rights Coalition held signs that read: "Workfare isn't fair" and "No welfare cuts." Just outside the House chamber door, Jeff Hilgert held a sign that read: "Cut welfare for the rich, not the poor." "Do I really have to tell you all the ways the government subsidizes rich people?" he asked, naming tax breaks to corporations and wealthy individuals as examples. He added that several legislators shook his hand, but "they're all pretty busy today."

Before the gavel sounded and the newly elected Minnesota House of Representatives began the day's business, a moment of silence was observed for former Rep. Jim Rice (DFL-Mpls), a tireless proponent of labor and the arts who served 13 terms in the House. Rice died of natural causes on his 71st birthday last October following a party held in his honor at the Capitol.

— Celeste Riley



Elizabeth and Adam Giorgi, the niece and nephew of Rep. Tom Bakk, worked at his desk in the House chamber during opening ceremonies of the 1997 Legislative Session.



Kristin Workman studied some of the paperwork on her father's House chamber desk as her sister, Meredith, listened to speeches during the opening day of the 1997 Legislative Session. The girls are the daughters of Rep. Tom Workman.



Rep. Ann Rest carried her restless grandson, Jakob Asplund, from the House chamber after being sworn into office.

'Mild-mannered' Carruthers strives for consensus

Colleagues and Capitol reporters rarely describe new House Speaker Phil Carruthers in flashy terms. The 43-year-old representative from Brooklyn Center has been called mild-mannered, deliberate, a policy wonk, and a detail man. So what explains his steady rise into the leadership of the Minnesota House of Representatives?

"I like to try to build a consensus," Carruthers said.

Consensus-building may not be flashy, but it has made the new speaker a lot of friends on both sides of the aisle.

"I have the highest respect for Phil both as a legislator and as a person," said Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka). "He is a worthy ally and opponent. The best part about him is that you can engage him in battle and still go out . . . afterward."

Carruthers has promised to bring a new openness and spirit of cooperation to the speaker's post. "I want to increase participa-

committees to recommend assignments. This made the selection process more open and less personal than before. And in an unusual show of bipartisanship, the new speaker honored all of the Republican minority's committee requests. Official publications now even list a "lead Republican" for each committee.

"The overall level of cooperation is the best since I've been here," said Weaver. But that doesn't mean that Republicans regard Carruthers as a pushover, Weaver said. "We, as a caucus, do not take him lightly. He is even-tempered but not a wimp. He will be every bit as tough as [former Speaker] Irv Anderson, but with a different style."

Carruthers said he also wants to improve the Legislature's communication and outreach to the general public. "That means a lot of press contact and being open and accessible," he said. "It also means appearing on various public affairs broadcasts — cable

Anthony Village. Alex Carruthers first worked for Minneapolis-based Honeywell and later joined the University of Minnesota faculty. Marie Carruthers, Phil's mother, worked at a public library. The couple is now retired and lives in the Highland Park area of St. Paul.

Since receiving his law degree from the University of Minnesota, Carruthers enjoyed a successful career as an attorney, serving as a prosecutor for several western metro suburbs. He is divorced and has two children, Rory, 5 and Alex, 7.

To escape the rigors of Minnesota politics Carruthers turns to nature. "I enjoy all sorts of outdoor activities," he said. "Fishing, bird watching, camping, and playing sports with my sons."

Carruthers was first elected to the Legislature in 1986, participating in that year's DFL takeover of the House. In 1993, he became DFL majority leader.

In his 10 years in the Legislature, Carruthers has championed good-government reforms and people-protecting new laws. He said roughly 70 of his bills and amendments have become law. Measures he has pushed for include: Tougher sanctions against drunken driving, improvements to Minnesota's open meeting law, better protection for foster children, and consumer protection from fly-by-night roofing contractors.

The speaker plans to push for reform on a number of other issues this session including:

- Property Taxes: "We have an opportunity, given the budget surplus, to use transition dollars to phase in some changes to make property taxes more equitable."
- Welfare: Carruthers supports Governor Arne Carlson's proposal for a bipartisan task force to respond to the challenges posed by recent federal welfare reform legislation.
- Education: "We need to provide more accountability in public education and restore the funding that has been cut."
- Higher Education: "... An area that has been slighted in the budget process and that is vital to the strength of our state."

Another issue Carruthers anticipates coming forward, but clearly doesn't relish, is a proposed new stadium for the Minnesota Twins. "I'm sure that the stadium will come up, but I think it is important that it not dominate the session," he said.

— Steve Compton



Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice Sandra Gardebring administered the oath of office to new House Speaker Phil Carruthers Jan. 7.

tion by House members and get more members involved in decisions," he said.

The speaker offered a preview of this new style of leadership in the way he made committee appointments for the session. Past speakers often doled out committee assignments behind closed doors as political favors or punishments. In contrast, Carruthers appointed a 12-member DFL committee on

television, radio, and Almanac (a weekly public television news magazine program)."

The new speaker remembers listening to President John F. Kennedy's inaugural address when he was 7 years old and living with his parents in Canada. "Kennedy's call to public service inspired me," he said.

The following year his physicist father moved the family to Minnesota, settling in St.

Latest election brings greater diversity to the House

The Minnesota House of Representatives convened Jan. 7 with the balance of power virtually unchanged by the 1996 general election. The Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (DFL) retained its majority and gained a single seat, leaving Republicans on the short end of a 70-64 partisan split. Nearly 95 percent of incumbents were re-elected.

Republicans usurped four vacant seats in far western Minnesota previously held by DFLers, but lost four incumbents in suburban districts north of the Twin Cities. A fifth incumbent Republican was ousted in District 15A, adding one to the DFL caucus strength.

But the overall numbers don't reflect the increased diversity of the House. A record number of women (39) took the oath of office. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) is the first blind person to serve as a Minnesota state legislator. (*see related story, page 12*) Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley) is the first Asian Indian ever elected to office in Minnesota (and just the fourth person of Indian ethnicity elected to state or federal office

occupation among lawmakers. Business ranked second, with 21 lawmakers. In 1995, both occupations tied for first with 20 members each. Of the 22 members who listed educator as their primary occupation, 15 are DFLers and seven are Republicans. Of the 21 members who listed business as their primary occupation, 16 are Republicans and five are DFLers.

The number of farmers in the House continues to decline. For the third straight biennium, the House will convene with a new low for the number of farmers.

Members listing farming as their primary occupation slipped to 11 — down from 14 in 1995. That makes farming the fifth most common occupation in the House, where it also ranked two years ago. A decade ago the House convened with 27 farmers.

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

As in previous years, the top five — educator, business, legislator, attorney, and farmer — remain quite a distance from sixth place, now held by consultants (6).

Lawmakers truly do come from all walks of life. Free-lance artist, accountant, physician, motivational speaker, and custom picture framer are among other diverse occupations listed.

The educational level of members continues its upward trend, with 74 percent of all House members holding at least a four-year college degree. That's up from 67 percent in 1995.

A total of 43 members hold a graduate degree, up from 37 in 1995, and 32 in 1993. Those with some graduate work rose to 16, up from 14 in 1995.

Currently, the largest class of lawmakers is composed of the 29 beginning their second term; 21 of the second-termers are Republicans and eight are DFLers. The next largest class is composed of the 25 members in their third term; 17 are Republicans and eight are DFLers.

Ranking third in size are those members entering their first term with 22 members. Twelve of the 22 are DFLers and 10 are Republicans.

Over 70 percent of House members (72.3) have served less than 10 years in the House. Of those, Republicans outnumber DFLers by a 3-2 margin.

Of the 37 members who have served more than 10 years, 32 of them are DFLers; five are Republicans. To date, no current Republican member has served more than 18 years in the House. Ten DFLers have served at least 20 years.

At 48.3, the average age of House members continues to rise. Since 1975, when the average stood at 40.8 years, the age has steadily increased to its present level. In 1995, the average age was 47.9 years; in 1991, 47.1.

In 1975, half the House members were no older than 38. Today, 102 members are over 40. Currently, the youngest House member is 22, and the oldest is 85.

— John Tschida



First-term Rep. Torrey Westrom, *second from left*, became the first blind person to be sworn into the Minnesota Legislature Jan. 7.

nationwide).

Twenty-two House lawmakers are newcomers to the Capitol, while another two — Reps. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton) and Kathleen Sekhon (DFL-Anoka) — reclaimed seats they lost in the 1994 election.

Also unchanged are the most common occupations listed by state lawmakers.

A total of 22 members listed educator as their primary job, making it the top-ranked

In third place this year are full-time legislators with 18 members, down from 19 in 1995. Of those, 15 are DFLers and three are Republicans.

Next, come attorneys with 17 members — down from 18 in 1995 — when the occupation also ranked fourth. There are actually 21 House members who have graduated from law school, but four lawmakers list other jobs as their primary occupation.

1997 House Profile

Membership				
	1997	1995	1993*	1991**
DFL	70	71	86	79
R	64	63	47	53
Men	95	102	101	103
Women	39	32	32	29

Age				
	1997	1995	1993*	1991**
21-30	5	6	5	6
31-40	27	24	28	23
41-50	45	51	50	44
51-60	43	34	34	26
61-70	11	16	15	12
over 71	3	3	1	1†
Average age	48.3	47.9	47.7	47†

†-Ages not available for 20 members

Education				
	1997	1995	1993*	1991**
High School	5	5	6	7
Some College	19	24	20	18
4-yr. Undergraduate Degree	40	41	47	45
Some Graduate Work	16	14	16	17
Graduate Degree	43	37	32	29
Technical College	10	11	6	6
2-yr. Undergraduate Degree	1	—	—	3
No listing	—	2	6	7

* The 1993 session began with 133 members due to one resignation.

** The 1991 session began with 132 members due to two resignations.

Note: Statistics are effective as of Jan. 1 of each year.

Current Term				
	1997	1995	1993*	1991**
1	22	26	33	21
2	29	29	16	15
3	25	16	11	27
4	14	11	25	12
5	7	20	8	16
6	14	7	13	9
7	6	4	3	9
8	3	2	6	6
9	1	3	6	5
10	3	5	3	10
11	3	3	7	1
12	2	6	1	—
13	4	1	—	—
Other	(21) 1	(20) 1	(19) 1	(18) 1

Occupation				
	1997	1995	1993*	1991**
Educator	22	20	20	19
Business	21	20	14	20
Legislator	18	19	17	19
Attorney	17	18	16	18
Farming	11	14	16	20
Consultant	6	6	8	7
Homemaker	5	3	3	7
Communications	4	3	—	—
Government	3	3	—	4
Insurance	3	3	3	—
Retail	3	3	2	—
Retired	3	3	3	—
Real Estate	2	2	2	3
Trades	2	4	3	4
Other	14	13	27	11

Orientation retreat . . .

New legislators meet on ethics, lawmaking process

Minnesota's newest lawmakers were back in the classroom last month for a two-day introduction to life at the Legislature. The orientation retreat was held Dec. 11-13, 1996, at Riverwood Conference Center near Monticello, Minn.

The purpose of the conference was to help 22 newly elected lawmakers (and two returning members) make a smooth transition to the role of being a state legislator. The program included guest speakers, panel discussions, legislative workshops, and staff presentations.

Guest speakers included Dr. Robert Terry, head of the Terry Group and former professor of ethics and public policy at the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

While not directly quoting Sophocles, who said "Nobody has a more sacred obligation to obey the law than those who make the law," Terry's message was clear: "The integrity of the office is so strong that if you mess up, everybody loses," he said. Public leaders,



he added, should be honest, forward-looking, and inspiring. Such characteristics, or lack thereof, affect the ever-changing barometer of the public's trust in government. Citizens, Terry said, also demand respect. They want to be heard and taken seriously. Other leadership traits of top concern, revealed by a survey of 17,000 people, included optimism and trust. Wrap all those ethical standards into one package, and you have the basis for sound public policy.

"These are values that need to be in place for making and keeping decisions over time," Terry said.

Other speakers included John Brandl, pro-

all of Minnesota, and not just the parochial interests of an individual legislative district.

Several legislative departments explained their role in the process for new members, and Chief Clerk of the House Ed Burdick led a nuts and bolts seminar on how a bill becomes a law.

Legislators also had a chance to "Meet the Press," with a panel discussion featuring Bill Werner, *left, in the above photo*, of radio's Minnesota News Network, Gene Lahammer, *right*, former political writer for the Associated Press, and Dennis Stauffer, *center*, former political reporter for KARE-11 News.

fessor at the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, whose message was based on 12 years of legislative experience — eight as a Minnesota House member and four as a state senator. He encouraged lawmakers to remember they represent

Meet the newly elected 1997 House members



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*2246 Lincoln St. N.E. 55418 (612) 788-4923
Business: St. Paul
1536 Hewitt Ave. 55104 (612) 641-2444
Born: 11/24/46. **Married:** spouse Christine Jax, 1 child, 3 stepchildren. **Occupation:** Professor of Law. **Education:** BS, English, Mankato State University; MA, education, St. Thomas University; JD, Hamline University; LL.M., New York University. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



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Family: 2 children. **Occupation:** Educator. **Education:** BA, education/art, Gustavus Adolphus College. **Elected:** 1992. **Term:** 2nd (non-consecutive).



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Born: 6/12/69. **Single.** **Occupation:** Business. **Education:** BA, political science, St. Olaf College; JD, University of Minnesota Law School. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



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7901 Computer Ave. 55435 (612) 832-3154
Family: 3 children. **Occupation:** Legislator/Homemaker/Market Research. **Education:** BA, drama, Stanford University; MFA, theatre, Wayne State University. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



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Business: Finlayson
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Born: 11/2/38. **Married:** spouse Laurie, 5 children.
Occupation: Business. **Education:** BS, psychology,
 Purdue University; MA, English, Purdue University.
Elected: 1996. **Term:** 1st.



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Born: 11/12/43. **Married:** spouse Patricia, 3 children.
Occupation: Lutheran Pastor/Agency Manager. **Education:**
 BA, Mankato State University; MDiv, Luther Seminary.
Elected: 1996. **Term:** 1st.



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Education: BA, religion, Gustavus Adolphus College; MS,
 education (college student personnel administration),
 Indiana University-Bloomington. **Elected:** 1996.
Term: 1st.



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Born: 1/11/58. **Single. Occupation:** Farmer. **Education:**
 AA, Rochester Community College/University Wisconsin-
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 science, University of Minnesota-St. Paul. **Elected:** 1996.
Term: 1st.



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 Thomas College. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



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 Communications. **Education:** broadcasting, Brown Insti-
 tute. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



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Married: spouse Susan Askelin, 2 children. **Occupation:**
 Program Coordinator. **Education:** BA, education, College
 of St. Scholastica; graduate work, public administration,
 Hamline University. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



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Born: 3/17/49. **Married:** spouse Nancy, 3 children. **Occupation:** Business. **Education:** BA, business management, graduate work, Metropolitan State University. **Elected:** 1996.
Term: 1st.



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 *1142 Marnie Court 55119 (612) 738-7099
Business: same.
Born: 11/23/62. **Married:** Brien, 1 child. **Occupation:** Consultant. **Education:** BS, recreational administration, Arizona State University. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



Rifenberg, Michelle (R) 32B
 215 State Office Building 296-1069
E-mail: rep.michelle.rifenberg@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: La Crescent
 *407 N. Fourth St. 55947 (507) 895-6390
Born: 1/30/57. **Married:** spouse Robert, 1 child. **Occupation:** Homemaker. **Education:** BS, biology, Viterbo College. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



Stang, Doug (R) 14B
 223 State Office Building 296-4373
E-mail: rep.doug.stang@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Cold Spring
 *Box 435 56320 (320) 243-7033
Born: 5/4/74. **Single.** **Occupation:** Legislator. **Education:** BA, government, St. John's University. **Elected:** 1996.
Term: 1st.



Seifert, Marty (R) 21A
 213 State Office Building 296-5374
E-mail: rep.marty.seifert@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Marshall
 *401 Mason St. 56258 (507) 537-9794
Business: Marshall
 401 S. Saratoga St. 56258 (507) 537-6920
Single. **Occupation:** Teacher. **Education:** BA, political science, Southwest State University-Marshall. **Elected:** 1996.
Term: 1st.



Tingelstad, Kathy (R) 50B
 295 State Office Building 296-5369
E-mail: rep.kathy.tingelstad@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Andover
 *13636 Marigold St. N.W. 55304 (612) 421-2000
Business: same.
Born: 3/21/58. **Married:** spouse Merle, 2 children. **Occupation:** Business. **Education:** BA, communications, University of Minnesota; MBA Certificate, organization management, University of St. Thomas. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



Sekhon, Kathleen (DFL) 50A
 *451 State Office Building 296-2439
E-mail: rep.kathleen.sekhon@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Anoka
 6619 189th Lane N.W. 55303 (612) 753-2796
Born: 5/19/48. **Married:** spouse David, 3 children. **Occupation:** Educator. **Education:** BS, elementary education, University of Minnesota-Duluth. **Elected:** 1992. **Term:** 2nd (non-consecutive).



Westfall, Robert L. "Bob" (R) 9B
 225 State Office Building 296-6829
E-mail: rep.bob.westfall@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Rothsay
 *Route 2, Box 42 56579 (218) 867-2621
Business: same.
Born: 3/6/35. **Married:** spouse Darlene, 4 children. **Occupation:** Farmer. **Education:** High School. **Elected:** 1996.
Term: 1st.



Skare, Gail (DFL) 4A
 431 State Office Building 296-5516
E-mail: rep.gail.skare@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Bemidji
 *3003 Cedar Lane N.W. 56601 (218) 751-2092
Born: 4/29/39. **Married:** spouse Elmo, 5 children. **Occupation:** Homemaker. **Education:** Bemidji State University. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.



Westrom, Torrey (R) 13A
 273 State Office Building 296-4929
E-mail: rep.torrey.westrom@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Elbow Lake
 *118 First Ave. 56531 (218) 685-6266
Business: same.
Single. **Occupation:** Business. **Education:** BA, political science, Bemidji State University. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 1st.

New members . . .

Seifert brings humility, common sense to Capitol

After waving in 16 parades in four months and hand-shaking at a pork feed, chicken feed, beef feed, and even a smelt feed, Marty



Rep. Marty Seifert

Seifert of Marshall, Minn., can call himself a newly elected member of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

The freshman who represents District 21A isn't complaining — those venues are among the best ways to meet

voters in southwestern Minnesota.

Seifert, a 24-year-old high school social studies teacher, said he'll reserve complaints for the Legislature — particularly on issues such as the state's handling of schools.

Unlike a majority of House lawmakers who are educators (15 of 22 are DFLers), Seifert ran as a Republican and considers himself the voice of many rank-and-file teachers who choose not to get involved in the legislative process or a teachers' union. They spend their time working hard to reach their students and want St. Paul to relinquish some control over their classrooms, he said.

"Bureaucratic and messy," are the words he chooses to describe the state's new graduation standards for high school students. The standards call for passing basic skills tests in math, reading, and writing before a diploma is issued. They also call for success in what is called the "Profile of Learning," a broad analysis of each student's overall performance in a variety of other subjects such as geography and science.

The standards only serve to give state officials a "reason to run around the state and say they're doing good," Seifert said, adding that decision makers in St. Paul need to stop shoving mandates at local schools.

Although not the youngest member of the Minnesota Legislature, Seifert did hear comments about his age on the campaign trail. Some asked how a 24-year-old who hasn't had time to learn about life could be entrusted to know anything about running the state.

But Seifert, who replaces retiring eight-year veteran Jim Girard, had a ready response. Sure, other people may have "lots of big degrees, lots of important jobs, but that doesn't stand up to an ounce of common sense."

He said he plans to remain teaching at Marshall Senior High School when he is not in session at the Legislature. Although he refused to discuss his candidacy with his students during the campaign (to avoid any appearance of impropriety) and even imposed a "gag rule" in his classroom, he knows he had an impact. "Some kids who had never even picked up a newspaper were reading and paying more attention to news and current events," he said.

Seifert's students are still a little amazed that one of their teachers is a lawmaker. He said his successful campaign taught students a valuable lesson: "Hard work and integrity matter."

He learned that lesson from his parents, Norbert and Rita. "If everyone lived their

lives the way my parents do, we wouldn't have the problems we do."

His parents, he said, don't believe in tooting their own horn but in getting involved in the community, whether that means mowing the church lawn or sewing clothes for the needy. Seifert himself grew up on a farm.

"I was born into a family that . . . would [make people] think I should be a hillbilly," he said. One of six boys, his mother is a former school teacher; his father, a hog and grain farmer.

Seifert grew up reading discarded encyclopedias and almanacs from garage sales and later collected antique farm machinery and seed corn bags.

When his time in the Legislature is said and done, Seifert said he wants to be remembered as a promoter of southwestern Minnesota who stood up for the district rather than "feathering his own nest."

"I have to practice what I preach to my kids," he said.

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

District 21A

1996 population: 33,377

Largest city: Marshall

Counties: Lyon, Redwood, Yellow Medicine

Location: southwestern Minnesota

Top concern: "Getting our money's worth out of state government. We see a lot of money going to St. Paul but don't see much in return. People feel like the Twin Cities don't even know we exist out here."

— Rep. Marty Seifert



Opening day at the Legislature is reserved for pomp and ceremony, but good humor is often in large supply as well. In seconding the nomination of Edward Burdick for Chief Clerk of the House on Jan. 7, House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said he didn't want to draw undue attention to Burdick's age as he enters his 55th year in service to the Minnesota Legislature. Still,

Sviggum drew chuckles by pointing out that in 1941 Joe DiMaggio had not completed his record hitting streak, and Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), the House's elder statesman, hadn't begun the first of his 21 non-consecutive terms in the House.

If legislators succeed in reforming Minnesota's complex property tax code, Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) could well be sporting a new look by the end of the session. At the Taxes Committee's initial meeting Jan. 9, representatives got a crash course on

Minnesota's taxation system and heard Dawkins, with his flowing locks tied back into a neat ponytail, reiterate his pledge to let his hair grow until the property tax is no longer the state's number one source of revenue.

"I think we can accomplish that this session," Dawkins said, grinning.

"But will you lose your strength if we do?" Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), who chairs the committee, asked.

"I hope not," Dawkins answered.

Westrom wants more jobs, better use of dollars

The Capitol building isn't as big as it once was, at least in the eyes of one lawmaker. And legislators don't seem so "super human" anymore.



Rep. Torrey Westrom

It's not that newly elected Rep. Torrey Westrom has grown cynical. He's grown up.

When he first visited the State Capitol as a young teen, Westrom sat in the gallery high above the House floor and

watched the players below.

"I thought maybe I could be one of those pages on the floor but never a lawmaker," he said. "They seemed intangible."

The 23-year-old Republican from Elbow Lake, Minn., was mistaken. Today he represents District 13A in west central Minnesota, a seat formerly held for 12 years by DFL Rep. Chuck Brown of Appleton, Minn.

Much has been said and written about Westrom because he is believed to be the first blind House member in state history.

"I am a representative. Blindness is an incidental," he said.

Westrom, blinded at 14 by a car accident on his parents' dairy farm, understands that he is expected to be a role model for people with blindness. But he hopes people see him as a lawmaker first. "Everybody is a role

model . . . It goes with all legislators."

Unknown to Westrom until recently, a role model helped pave the newcomer's way into politics. Minnesota was home to Thomas Schall, a blind U.S. House and Senate member from 1915 to 1935.

Schall, a lawyer, came from western Minnesota. With the help of his wife, who read to him regularly, and with the use of a guide dog, Schall was able to keep up his law practice, which eventually led to a lengthy political life. He helped pass legislation allowing guide dogs on public transportation and in public places.

Westrom, a graduate in political science from Bemidji State University, won't be using a dog during the legislative session. Already, he has been studying the hallways, stairwells, and nooks and crannies of the State Office Building and the Capitol. During session, he will have his own legislative assistant to help read written materials to him.

But the issues on Westrom's mind don't necessarily focus on blindness. Instead, he wants to save taxpayer dollars and create jobs in rural Minnesota.

He is concerned about cuts to the base funding of local schools and wants to attract jobs to rural Minnesota that involve the private sector — not a state jobs program.

Westrom also is concerned about prison reform. In his district sits Appleton, home to

the state's only privately run prison. It costs that prison about half of what it costs the state to incarcerate an inmate.

Unlike some lawmakers, no particular issue drew Westrom into the race for a House seat. "So many areas seemed ridiculous," he said, such as "Why is the government even talking about building a stadium . . . and Why require truckers to keep log books when no one can verify them anyway?"

Westrom's love for political debate and dialogue prompted him to run. The trick to good lawmaking, he said, is "to put people at ease . . . [about whether] you know what you're talking about."

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

District 13A

1996 Population: 32,755

Largest city: Morris

Counties: Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens, Swift, Traverse

Location: west central Minnesota

Top concern: "Declining population. It spills over to fewer kids in the schools, fewer families spending money in main street businesses. It's a spiraling downturn effect and calls for the need for economic development in the area and good paying jobs."

— Rep. Torrey Westrom

Congress has granted President Clinton a new power, but it's one Minnesota governors have enjoyed for more than a century.

Republicans in the 104th Congress kept a 1994 campaign promise to pass the line-item veto, and the president signed the measure into law last year.

Minnesota is one of 43 states where governors have line-item veto authority. In most states, including this one, that authority is limited to spending bills.

An amendment to the state constitution granted Minnesota governors line-item veto authority in 1876. Voters at the polls for a presidential election that year

Do you know?

ratified the amendment by a margin of roughly 10-to-1. John S. Pillsbury, Minnesota's eighth governor, was the first to have use of the line-item veto.

At the same time Minnesotans were embracing the line-item veto, a proposal to give the president similar authority was sputtering.

President Ulysses S. Grant in 1876 offered the first proposal to give the president line-item veto power. Grant's proposal failed, and, since then, more than 200 bills and proposed constitu-

tional amendments with similar goals met with defeat in Congress.

But a new federal law effective Jan. 1, 1997, provides the president line-item veto authority with respect to appropriations and limited tax benefits.

Proponents of the line-item veto long have argued that it reduces wasteful spending, mainly the so-called "pork barrel" projects considered to be devices for lawmakers to bolster support in their home districts.

Opponents claim the line-item veto threatens the balance of power by shifting authority away from the legislative branch to the executive branch.

Minnesota House of Representatives 1997 Members

Unofficial list as of January 7, 1997

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

Minnesota Senate 1997 Members

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-
66 Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5537	8 Lourey, Becky (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	0293
26 Beckman, Tracy L. (DFL)	124G Cap.	5713	54 Marty, John (DFL)	326 Cap.	5645
41 Belanger Jr., William V. (R)	113 SOB	5975	39 Metzzen, James P. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4370
13 Berg, Charles A. (Ind.)	G-95 SOB	5094	2 Moe, Roger D. (DFL)	208 Cap.	2577
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261	32 Morse, Steven (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5649
48 Betzold, Don (DFL)	306 Cap.	2556	29 Murphy, Steve (DFL)	301 Cap.	4264
64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	5931	25 Neuville, Thomas M. (R)	123 SOB	1279
28 Day, Dick (R)	117 SOB	9457	52 Novak, Steven G. (DFL)	322 Cap.	4334
20 Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131	43 Oliver, Edward C. (R)	121 SOB	4837
14 Fischbach, Michelle L. (R)	151 SOB	2084	34 Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282
62 Flynn, Carol (DFL)	120 Cap.	4274	19 Ourada, Mark (R)	145 SOB	5981
49 Foley, Leo T. (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	4154	65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802
23 Frederickson, Dennis R. (R)	139 SOB	8138	37 Pariseau, Pat (R)	109 SOB	5252
50 Hanson, Paula E. (DFL)	328 Cap.	3219	27 Piper, Pat (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	9248
58 Higgins, Linda I. (DFL)	227 Cap.	9246	59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809
24 Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	120 Cap.	6153	57 Price, Leonard R. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7-8060
5 Janezich, Jerry R. (DFL)	328 Cap.	8017	63 Ranum, Jane B. (DFL)	306 Cap.	7-8061
40 Johnson, Dave (DFL)	111 Cap.	9261	45 Robertson, Martha R. (R)	125 SOB	4314
15 Johnson, Dean E. (R)	147 SOB	3826	35 Robling, Claire A. (R)	132D SOB	4123
6 Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL)	205 Cap.	8881	53 Runbeck, Linda (R)	107 SOB	1253
18 Johnson, Janet B. (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5419	11 Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	328 Cap.	7-8063
46 Junge, Ember Reichgott (DFL)	205 Cap.	2889	12 Samuelson, Don (DFL)	124 Cap.	4875
44 Kelley, Steve (DFL)	321 Cap.	7-8065	31 Scheevel, Kenric J. (R)	129 SOB	3903
67 Kelly, Randy C. (DFL)	323 Cap.	5285	47 Scheid, Linda (DFL)	317 Cap.	8869
30 Kiscaden, Sheila M. (R)	135 SOB	4848	7 Solon, Sam G. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188
16 Kleis, Dave (R)	143 SOB	6455	60 Spear, Allan H. (DFL)	120 Cap.	4191
36 Knutson, David L. (R)	133 SOB	4120	17 Stevens, Dan (R)	105 SOB	8075
51 Krentz, Jane (DFL)	235 Cap.	7061	1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660
56 Laidig, Gary W. (R)	141 SOB	4351	4 Ten Eyck, David J. (DFL)	G-24F Cap.	4913
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205	42 Terwilliger, Roy (R)	115 SOB	6238
10 Larson, Cal (R)	153 SOB	5655	22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650
21 Lesewski, Arlene J. (R)	131 SOB	4125	38 Wiener, Deanna L. (DFL)	303 Cap.	7-8073
3 Lessard, Bob (DFL)	111 Cap.	4136	55 Wiger, Charles W. (DFL)	325 Cap.	6820
33 Limmer, Warren (R)	127 SOB	2159			

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

Minnesota House and Senate Membership

1 A • Rep. Jim Tunheim-DFL B • Rep. Tim Finseth-R Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-DFL	15 A • Rep. Al Juhnke-DFL B • Rep. Gary W. Kubby-DFL Sen. Dean E. Johnson-R	29 A • Rep. Jerry Dempsey-R B • Rep. Mike Oskopp-R Sen. Steve Murphy-DFL	43 A • Rep. Tom Workman-R B • Rep. Barbara Sykora-R Sen. Edward C. Oliver-R	57 A • Rep. Nora Slawik-DFL B • Rep. Sharon Marko-DFL Sen. Leonard R. Price-DFL
2 A • Rep. Bernie Lieder-DFL B • Rep. Edgar Olson-DFL Sen. Roger D. Moe-DFL	16 A • Rep. Joe Opatz-DFL B • Rep. Jim Knoblich-R Sen. Dave Kleis-R	30 A • Rep. Fran Bradley-R B • Rep. Dave Bishop-R Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-R	44 A • Rep. Betty Follard-DFL B • Rep. Jim Rhodes-R Sen. Steve Kelley-DFL	58 A • Rep. Joe Mullery-DFL B • Rep. Richard H. Jefferson-DFL Sen. Linda I. Higgins-DFL
3 A • Rep. Irv Anderson-DFL B • Rep. Loren Solberg-DFL Sen. Bob Lessard-DFL	17 A • Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayner-R B • Rep. Leslie Schumacher-DFL Sen. Dan Stevens-R	31 A • Rep. William Kuisle-R B • Rep. Gregory M. Davids-R Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel-R	45 A • Rep. Ron Abrams-R B • Rep. Peggy Leppik-R Sen. Martha R. Robertson-R	59 A • Rep. Len Biernal-DFL B • Rep. Phyllis Kahn-DFL Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-DFL
4 A • Rep. Gail Skare-DFL B • Rep. Anthony G. "Tony" Kinkel-DFL Sen. David J. Ten Eyck-DFL	18 A • Rep. Jim Rostberg-R B • Rep. Loren Jennings-DFL Sen. Janet B. Johnson-DFL	32 A • Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-DFL B • Rep. Michelle Rifenberg-R Sen. Steven Morse-DFL	46 A • Rep. Ann H. Rest-DFL B • Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson-DFL Sen. Ember Reichgott Junge-DFL	60 A • Rep. Dee Long-DFL B • Rep. Myron Orfield-DFL Sen. Allan H. Spear-DFL
5 A • Rep. Tom Rukavina-DFL B • Rep. David Tomassoni-DFL Sen. Jerry R. Janezich-DFL	19 A • Rep. Mark Olson-R B • Rep. Bruce Anderson-R Sen. Mark Ourada-R	33 A • Rep. Arlon Lindner-R B • Rep. Rich Slanek-R Sen. Warren Limmer-R	47 A • Rep. Darlene Luther-DFL B • Rep. Phil Carruthers-DFL Sen. Linda Scheid-DFL	61 A • Rep. Karen Clark-DFL B • Rep. Alice Hausman-DFL Sen. Linda Berglin-DFL
6 A • Rep. Thomas Bakk-DFL B • Rep. Thomas Huntley-DFL Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-DFL	20 A • Rep. Robert "Bob" Ness-R B • Rep. Tony Kielkucki-R Sen. Steve Dille-R	34 A • Rep. Steve Smith-R B • Rep. H. Todd Van Dellen-R Sen. Gen Olson-R	48 A • Rep. Bill Haas-R B • Rep. Alice M. Johnson-DFL Sen. Don Betzold-DFL	62 A • Rep. Lee Greenfield-DFL B • Rep. Wesley J. "Wes" Skoglund-DFL Sen. Carol Flynn-DFL
7 A • Rep. Willard Munger-DFL B • Rep. Mike Jaros-DFL Sen. Sam G. Solon-DFL	21 A • Rep. Marty Seifert-R B • Rep. Richard Mulder-R Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski-R	35 A • Rep. Carol Molnar-R B • Rep. Becky Kelso-DFL Sen. Claire A. Robling-R	49 A • Rep. Charlie Weaver-R B • Rep. Luanne Koskinen-DFL Sen. Leo T. Foley-DFL	63 A • Rep. Jean Wagenius-DFL B • Rep. Edwina Garcia-DFL Sen. Jane B. Ranum-DFL
8 A • Rep. Mary Murphy-DFL B • Rep. Bill Hilly-DFL Sen. Becky Lourey-DFL	22 A • Rep. Ted Winter-DFL B • Rep. Elaine Harder-R Sen. Jim Vickerman-DFL	36 A • Rep. Eileen Tompkins-R B • Rep. Dan McElroy-R Sen. David L. Knutson-R	50 A • Rep. Kathleen Sekhon-DFL B • Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-R Sen. Paula E. Hanson-DFL	64 A • Rep. Matt Entenza-DFL B • Rep. Michael Paymar-DFL Sen. Richard J. Cohen-DFL
9 A • Rep. Kevin Goodno-R B • Rep. Robert L. "Bob" Westfall-R Sen. Keith Langseth-DFL	23 A • Rep. Barb Vickerman-R B • Rep. Howard Swenson-R Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-R	37 A • Rep. Dennis Ozment-R B • Rep. Bill Macklin-R Sen. Pat Pariseau-R	51 A • Rep. Mike Delmont-DFL B • Rep. Doug Swenson-R Sen. Jane Krentz-DFL	65 A • Rep. Andy Dawkins-DFL B • Rep. Carlos Mariani-DFL Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-DFL
10 A • Rep. Bud Nornes-R B • Rep. Hilda Bettermann-R Sen. Cal Larson-R	24 A • Rep. John Dorn-DFL B • Rep. Ruth Johnson-DFL Sen. John C. Hottinger-DFL	38 A • Rep. Tim Commers-R B • Rep. Tim Pawlenty-R Sen. Deanna L. Wiener-DFL	52 A • Rep. Satveer Chaudhary-DFL B • Rep. Geri Evans-DFL Sen. Steven G. Novak-DFL	66 A • Rep. Tom Oshoff-DFL B • Rep. Alice Hausman-DFL Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-DFL
11 A • Rep. Roxann Daggett-R B • Rep. Ken Otremba-DFL Sen. Dallas C. Sams-DFL	25 A • Rep. John Tuma-R B • Rep. Lynda Boudreau-R Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-R	39 A • Rep. Thomas Pugh-DFL B • Rep. Bob Milbert-DFL Sen. James P. Metzzen-DFL	53 A • Rep. Phil Krinkle-R B • Rep. Sherry Broecker-R Sen. Linda Runbeck-R	67 A • Rep. Jim Farrell-DFL B • Rep. Steve Trimble-DFL Sen. Randy C. Kelly-DFL
12 A • Rep. Kris Hasskamp-DFL B • Rep. Stephen G. Wenzel-DFL Sen. Don Samuelson-DFL	26 A • Rep. Bob Gunther-R B • Rep. Henry J. Kalis-DFL Sen. Tracy L. Beckman-DFL	40 A • Rep. Mark P. Mahon-DFL B • Rep. Kevin Knight-R Sen. Dave Johnson-DFL	54 A • Rep. Mary Jo McGuire-DFL B • Rep. Mindy Greiling-DFL Sen. John Marty-DFL	Unofficial list as of January 7, 1997
13 A • Rep. Torrey Westrom-R B • Rep. Doug Peterson-DFL Sen. Charles A. Berg-Ind.	27 A • Rep. Ron Kraus-R B • Rep. Robert Leighton-DFL Sen. Pat Piper-DFL	41 A • Rep. Alice Seagren-R B • Rep. Ken Wolf-R Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-R	55 A • Rep. Harry Mares-R B • Rep. Betty McCollum-DFL Sen. Charles W. Wiger-DFL	This document can be made available in alternative formats by calling the House at 612-296-2146 voice, 612-296-9896 TTY or the Senate at 612-296-0504 voice or 612-296-0250 TTY
14 A • Rep. Steve Dehler-R B • Rep. Doug Stang-R Sen. Michelle Fischbach L.-R	28 A • Rep. Doug Reuter-R B • Rep. Steven A. Sviggum-R Sen. Dick Day-R	42 A • Rep. Ron Erhardt-R B • Rep. Erik Paulsen-R Sen. Roy Terwilliger-R	56 A • Rep. Mark Holsten-R B • Rep. Peg Larsen-R Sen. Gary W. Laidig-R	

Name Pronunciation Guide

1997 Minnesota House of Representatives

Abrams, Ron		Johnson, Ruth		Ozment, Dennis	AHZ-ment
Anderson, Bruce		Juhnke, Al	JUNK-ee	Paulsen, Erik	
Anderson, Irv		Kahn, Phyllis		Pawlenty, Tim	paw-LENTY
Bakk, Thomas	BOCK	Kalis, Henry J.	KAH-liss	Paymar, Michael	
Bettermann, Hilda		Kelso, Becky		Pelowski Jr., Gene	
Biernat, Len	BEER-nat	Kielkucki, Tony	keel-COO-ski	Peterson, Doug	
Bishop, Dave		Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony"		Pugh, Thomas	PEW
Boudreau, Lynda	Boo-DROH	Knight, Kevin		Rest, Ann H.	
Bradley, Fran		Knoblach, Jim	NOB-lock	Reuter, Doug	ROOT-er
Broecker, Sherry	BROKE-er	Koppendrayner, LeRoy	COPE-en-dryer	Rhodes, Jim	
Carlson, Lyndon R.		Koskinen, Luanne		Rifenberg, Michelle	RIFF-en-berg
Carruthers, Phil	ka-RUH-thers	Kraus, Ron	CROUSE	Rostberg, Jim	
Chaudhary, Satveer		Krinkie, Phil		Rukavina, Tom	roo-ka-VEEN-a
	SUT-veer CHAW-dree	Kubly, Gary W.	KOO-blee	Schumacher, Leslie	SHOE-mocker
Clark, Karen		Kuisle, William	KWEEZ-lee	Seagren, Alice	
Commers, Tim	COMM-erz	Larsen, Peg		Seifert, Marty	SY-fert
Daggett, Roxann		Leighton, Rob	LAY-ton	Sekhon, Kathleen	SEEK-on
Davids, Gregory M.		Leppik, Peggy		Skare, Gail	SCAR-ee
Dawkins, Andy		Lieder, Bernie	LEED-er	Skoglund, Wes	SKOHG-lund
Dehler, Steve	DAY-ler	Lindner, Arlon		Slawik, Nora	SLAH-wick
Delmont, Mike		Long, Dee		Smith, Steve	
Dempsey, Jerry		Luther, Darlene		Solberg, Loren	
Dorn, John		Macklin, Bill		Stanek, Rich	
Entenza, Matt		Mahon, Mark P.	MAY-on	Stang, Doug	
Erhardt, Ron	AIR-hart	Mares, Harry	MAIRS	Sviggum, Steven A.	SWIG-um
Evans, Geri		Mariani, Carlos	mar-ee-AHN-ee	Swenson, Doug	
Farrell, Jim		Marko, Sharon		Swenson, Howard	
Finseth, Tim		McCollum, Betty	mah-CALL-um	Sykora, Barbara	sick-OR-ah
Folliard, Betty	FOLLY-ard	McElroy, Dan	MACK-el-roy	Tingelstad, Kathy	
Garcia, Edwina	gar-SEE-ah	McGuire, Mary Jo		Tomassoni, David	tom-a-SONY
Goodno, Kevin		Milbert, Bob		Tompkins, Eileen	
Greenfield, Lee		Molnau, Carol	MOLE-now	Trimble, Steve	
Greiling, Mindy	GRY-ling	Mulder, Richard		Tuma, John	TOO-ma
Gunther, Bob		Mullery, Joe		Tunheim, Jim	TON-hyme
Haas, Bill	HAHZ	Munger, Willard		Van Dellen, H. Todd	
Harder, Elaine		Murphy, Mary		Vickerman, Barb	
Hasskamp, Kris		Ness, Robert "Bob"		Wagenius, Jean	wa-GHEEN-yus
Hausman, Alice		Nornes, Bud	NOR-ness	Weaver, Charlie	
Hilty, Bill		Olson, Edgar		Wejcman, Linda	WAITS-man
Holsten, Mark		Olson, Mark		Wenzel, Stephen G.	WEN-zel
Huntley, Thomas		Opatz, Joe	OH-patz	Westfall, Robert L. (Bob)	
Jaros, Mike	YAHR-ohs	Orfield, Myron		Westrom, Torrey	
Jefferson, Richard H.		Osskopp, Mike	AHZ-cop	Winter, Ted	
Jennings, Loren		Osthoff, Tom	AHST-hoff	Wolf, Ken	
Johnson, Alice M.		Otremba, Ken	oh-TREM-ba	Workman, Tom	

Politics ever present at the Minnesota State Fair



Some 40 House members volunteered to greet the public and answer questions in the House of Representatives exhibit at the 1996 Minnesota State Fair.

While none rose to stir the crowds with a bit of fiery partisan oratory, the fair is a traditional hotbed of political activity. Politicians, in fact, were instrumental in founding the Great Minnesota Get Together.

Today's state fair stresses food, farms, and family entertainment, but in the territorial days the fair existed for a higher purpose: to attract more immigrants to the Minnesota area.

Territorial Governor Willis Gorman, in an 1855 message to the Legislature, noted that he had "received almost innumerable letters . . . desiring to know if our winters were not very long, and so exceedingly cold that stock freezes to death, and man hardly dare venture out of his domicile." The region's reputation for hostile temperatures had spread far and wide and it was scaring away the settlers.

At the time, the territory's population was thin, with many residents feeling the pull of the warm California coast. In such an environment, financiers and politicians were looking to boost the number of Minnesotans. They sought to do so by shattering the stereotype of the "frozen tundra" and promoting the area's fertile soil for prospective farmers.

Aiding in this marketing venture were budding agricultural societies, many of which were formed at the county level. Gorman himself served as president of the Minnesota Territorial Agricultural Society, founded in 1854. Its goal?

"Agriculture societies, along with agricultural fairs displaying grain and produce raised on native soil, were blatant advertisements for the natural resources of the Northwest," wrote Karal Ann Marling in *Blue Ribbon, A Social and Pictorial History of the Minnesota State Fair*.

And so the fair was born, small at first, and not on its current site in Falcon Heights, but the beginning of a healthy Minnesota tradition nonetheless.

The first fair

The Minnesota State Agricultural Society says the first territorial fair was held in Minneapolis in October 1855, and with it came a

fascination with mutant fruits and vegetables that still endures. On display for wide-eyed fairgoers were a 17-foot-high cornstalk, a 28-pound cabbage, and an 18-pound radish. Each such monstrosity seemed to prove that quality cultivation was possible west of the Great Lakes, despite the challenging winters.

Also on hand were hogs, bulls, sheep, horses, and poultry competing for top honors in their respective categories. A crowd of 2,500 watched a female equestrian contest, in which riders were judged not only on skill, but on poise and dress as well. There were needlework competitions, homemade carpets, and even a display of cheese. The ancestors of today's blue ribbon competitions were well under way.

Early fairs were held in subsequent years in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and even at Fort Snelling. The fair then traveled to Red Wing, Winona, Rochester, and even Owatonna over the next few decades while a behind-the-scenes war raged between Minneapolis and St. Paul. Each of the Twin Cities wanted to stand as the home of the state fair. St. Paul interests wanted it somewhere in the Midway area. Minneapolis wanted it stationed in what is now Minnehaha Park. Leading the charge for the Minneapolitans was William S. King,

\$100,000 for new buildings and cemented the site that the State Fair still calls home today.

Political roots

From the beginning, politicians and their oratory played a key role at the fair. Prominent figures such as Henry Sibley and Alexander Ramsey, the state's first two governors, respectively, were instrumental in making the fair a reality, and found themselves addressing large crowds at the fledgling annual events.

Other state and local officeholders delivered speeches in the fair's first years, but it wasn't long before those of national prominence were imported. Once statehood was achieved in 1858, Minnesota's role in national politics increased. In 1860, the year Abraham Lincoln carried the vote in Minnesota by a 2-to-1 margin, the Republicans tapped Congressman Cassius Clay from Kentucky. He rambled for two hours in a speech criticized for being "highfalutin . . . and inaudible," according to Marling.

Horace Greeley, the acid-tongued publisher of the *New York Tribune* (and later Democratic presidential candidate), came west in 1865 to address the fair crowd. His



As part of the House's 23rd year at the Minnesota State Fair, computer, publications, and a video helped educate the public about the House of Representatives.

a cattleman and one-time Congressman, who established his own local version of the fair during many of the years it was held away from his hometown.

Ultimately, the site of the Ramsey County Poor Farm was offered as a gift to the state Agriculture Society and a deal was struck. The Legislature was happy to see the geographic feud end, and in 1885 marked

two major speeches were well-attended and warmly received, and focused on farming and agriculture.

But it was in 1878 that the Minnesota State Fair landed a top political prize: the first visit by the President of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes.

1926 photograph by Paul Hamilton
Courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

And so began a series of presidents that would grace the state fair, continuing with Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, and Teddy Roosevelt. Not only sitting presidents but presidential hopefuls visited as well, including three-time loser William Jennings Bryan, who made the same number of visits to the fair around the turn of the century.

“No other fair has been as popular as the Minnesota Fair as a stopping place in presidential campaigns,” wrote Ray Spear and Harry Frost in *Minnesota State Fair: The History and Heritage of 100 Years*.

Roosevelt was actually the vice-president (with presidential aspirations) when he made the first of several visits to the fair in 1901. Here, on opening day, he delivered his famous line, “Speak softly, and carry a big stick” as part of a rousing lecture that came to be known as the Minnesota Speech. Four days later, President William McKinley was shot in Buffalo, N.Y., and Roosevelt became president. He would return in 1908, 1910, and 1912 to the fairgrounds.

In modern times, more than 50,000 fairgoers heard Dwight Eisenhower call Minnesota’s fair “the greatest” in 1947. “The General was smart,” the *Minneapolis Star* reported, “he talked just ten minutes by the clock.”

Bill Clinton was nowhere to be found, but Vice-President Al Gore rallied the Democratic faithful on Machinery Hill in 1996. Bob Dole skipped the fair, but was caught on film on Commonwealth Avenue in 1987, enjoying a cheese curd while visiting then-Sen. Rudy Boschwitz and his flavored milk stand.

Party presence

Aside from the big names at the top of the ballot, Minnesota’s two major political parties have also enjoyed a lengthy history on the fairgrounds. The Democratic-Farmer-Labor party originally set up shop across from the Administration Building in 1953, the same year that buses replaced streetcars in St. Paul. The GOP opened their headquarters near the St. Olaf Dining Hall six years later.

While their more famous national counterparts stood above large grandstand crowds, state politicians operated at street level, mingling one-on-one with fair patrons.

And since 1973, state House members have mixed with the public at an information booth in the Education Building. (The state Senate opened a similar booth in 1976.) Here, lawmakers have served as sounding boards and educators, listening to the questions and con-



1996 fairgoers had the opportunity to look up their legislative district as part of the House Fair exhibit.

cerns of the people. More recently, fairgoers have collectively registered their opinions for the benefit of lawmakers.

The House now administers an unofficial opinion poll at its booth, addressing issues that have been or may be discussed by the Legislature. During the 1996 fair, 6,540 fairgoers registered an opinion on tax, education, transportation and other policy areas. (See complete results on page 18.)

And so politics continues to be an integral part of the state fair, its presence as predictable as mini-donuts and the Midway. The fair itself, begun as a marketing tool to retain fleeing pioneers, stands today as one of the most successful in the nation, and hasn’t cost state taxpayers a dime since 1949. It is a public institution, one that local hero F. Scott Fitzgerald has called “the most magnificent in America.”

— John Tschida

The law and the Minnesota State Fair

- In 1885, the Legislature authorized the sale of the Ramsey County Poor Farm to the State Agricultural Society (for no fee) and marked \$100,000 for new buildings to be erected on the site. The land, in what is now Falcon Heights, became the permanent site of the state fair.
- In 1895, concerned that its image of families and fun was being tarnished, the Legislature outlawed gambling at the state fair.
- In 1909, a special House committee investigated the agricultural society in the wake of allegations made against the fair’s managers. Accounting practices were found to be irregular, but Gov. John Johnson cleared the board of any wrongdoing.
- In 1933, it became illegal to conduct any circus in any city or within a radius of six miles of any city 18 days prior to the opening of the Minnesota State Fair (or during the fair). The penalty for violation remains up to a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine.
- A 1945 law outlawing bingo led to the cancellation of all such games on the fairgrounds, beginning in 1947. (The 1945 state fair was canceled due to World War II. The 1946 fair was not held due to the polio epidemic.)
- In 1949, the fair received its last direct appropriation from the Legislature, a one-time payment of \$400,000 to replace the damaged Hippodrome. Total appropriations from the state, throughout fair history, reach \$3.5 million.
- In 1980, tattoo artist David Yerkew sued the fair under the First and Fourteenth Amendments, for denying his concession application for the third time. The fair said it was a health hazard, and was supported by U.S. District Court Judge Harry MacLaughlin, who ruled tattooing was not “sufficiently communicative” enough to deserve constitutional protection.

Minnesota House of Representatives

1996 Unofficial State Fair Poll Results

1. Should the state help finance the construction of a new outdoor baseball stadium to be built in the Twin Cities?

Yes 13.5% 885
 No 81% 5,295
 Other 5.5% 360

2. Should state education dollars, in the form of vouchers, be given directly to parents so they can choose which school — either public or private — their child attends?

Yes 38% 2,483
 No 54.9% 3,589
 Other 7.1% 468

3. Should the state constitution be amended to allow for a citizen-initiated recall of certain elected public officials?

Yes 64% 4,187
 No 20.8% 1,363
 Other 15.2% 990

4. In the past, Minnesota has provided its war veterans with special bonuses. Should the state constitution be amended to provide monetary bonuses for those who served in the Persian Gulf War?

Yes 51.3% 3,352
 No 32.7% 2,137
 Other 16% 1,051

5. Current law limits the amount of money an individual may contribute to a political candidate but not how much one may donate to a political party or caucus. Should there be limits placed on how much an individual can contribute to a political party?

Yes 65.5% 4,283
 No 27.3% 1,786
 Other 7.2% 471

6. Minnesota's state gas tax — now at 20 cents per gallon — has remained unchanged since 1988. Under the state's constitution, all such revenue goes to pay for road and bridge construction and repair. Would you support an increase in the gas tax?

Yes 38.1% 2,494
 No 55.2% 3,608
 Other 6.7% 438



More than 6,500 Minnesotans visited the 1996 House State Fair exhibit Aug. 22 through Sept. 2, taking part in an unofficial state fair opinion poll. The results were distributed to the media and all lawmakers.

7. Should there be tax incentives (such as tax-exempt bonds or IRA-type savings accounts) for parents to save money for their children's higher education needs?

Yes 85.8% 5,610
 No 9.4% 612
 Other 4.8% 318

8. Under current law, police officers cannot stop and ticket a motorist for failure to wear a seat belt. (There must be another moving violation before issuing such a citation.) Should police officers be allowed to stop a car to issue a ticket for failure to buckle up?

Yes 47% 3,072
 No 47.6% 3,114
 Other 5.4% 354

9. Should the state allow advertising on or inside school buses to help defray the school district's transportation costs?

Yes 32.1% 2,098
 No 60.4% 3,947
 Other 7.5% 495

10. In the past, lawmakers have debated whether the state should produce a non-partisan guide for voters containing short candidate biographies and other voter information. Would you support the use of state dollars for such a purpose?

Yes 45.2% 2,958
 No 45% 2,942
 Other 9.8% 640

1996 House members who volunteered at the House exhibit

- | | |
|--|--|
| Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) | Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-N. St. Paul) |
| Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) | Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Roseville) |
| Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) | Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) |
| Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) | Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake) |
| Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Hastings) | Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) |
| Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) | Rep. Ken Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie) |
| Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) | Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) |
| Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) | Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie) |
| Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmount) | Rep. Walter Perlt (DFL-Woodbury) |
| Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) | Rep. Tom Pugh (South St. Paul) |
| Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby-Ironton) | Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope) |
| Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) | Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park) |
| Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) | Rep. Jim Rostberg (R-Isanti) |
| Rep. Virgil Johnson (R-Caledonia) | Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton) |
| Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) | Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) |
| Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters) | Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake) |
| Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) | Rep. Barbara Sykora (R-Excelsior) |
| Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland) | Rep. Tom Van Engen (R-Spicer) |
| Rep. Arlon Lindner (R-Corcoran) | Rep. Eldon Warkentin (R-Coon Rapids) |
| Rep. Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington) | Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) |

1997 House Standing Committee Schedule

Committee

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

Agriculture

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

Capital Investment

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

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Tunheim 296-9635
Tues., Thurs. 200 12:30 p.m.

Economic Development & International Trade

Jaros 296-4246
Wed., 200 12:30 p.m.

Economic Development Finance Division

Trimble 296-4201
Mon., Wed., Thurs. 200 8 a.m.

Housing and Housing Finance Division

Clark 296-0294
Tues., Thurs. 500S 10 a.m.

Education

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

Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division

Kinkel 296-2451
Mon., Wed. 5 12:30 p.m.

Higher Education Finance Division

Pelowski 296-8637
Mon., Wed., Fri. 500N 8 a.m.

K-12 Education Finance Division

Kelso 296-1072
Mon., Wed., Fri. 5 8 a.m.

Environment & Natural Resources

Munger 296-4282
Mon., Wed. 5 10 a.m.

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Osthoff 296-4224
Mon.-Thurs. B 8 a.m.

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Anderson, I. 296-4936
Wed. 200 10 a.m.

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Milbert 296-4192
Mon. 300N 12:30 p.m.

Governmental Operations

Kahn 296-4257
Tues., Thurs. B 10 a.m.

State Government Finance Division

Rukavina 296-0170
Mon., Wed. 400S 10 a.m.

Health & Human Services

Dorn 296-3248
Tues., Thurs. 10 10 a.m.

Health & Human Services Finance Division

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

Judiciary

Skoglund 296-4330
Mon., Wed., Fri. B 10 a.m.

Civil & Family Law Division

Dawkins 296-5158
Wed. 400S 12:30 p.m.

Judiciary Finance Division

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

Labor-Management Relations

Jefferson 296-8659
Mon. 200 12:30 p.m.

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Rest 296-4176
Tues., Thurs. 10 12:30 p.m.

Regulated Industries & Energy

Jennings 296-0518
Tues. 5 12:30 p.m.

Rules & Legislative Administration

Winter 296-5505
Call of the chair

Taxes

Long 296-0171
Tues., Thurs., Fri. 200 10 a.m.

Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Division

Olson, E. 296-4265
Mon., Wed. 200 8 a.m.

Sales & Income Tax Division

Johnson, A. 296-5510
Tues., Thurs. 300S 8 a.m.

Transportation & Transit

Wagenius 296-4200
Mon., Wed 10 12:30 p.m.

Transportation & Transit Finance Division

Lieder 296-5091
Tues., Fri. 500S 8 a.m.

Ways & Means

Solberg 296-2365
Call of the chair

Minnesota House of Representatives 1997 Standing Committee Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8-9:45 a.m.	Economic Dev Fin Div Environment & Nat Res Fin Higher Education Fin Div K-12 Education Fin Div Property Tax & TIF Div	Trans & Transit Fin Div Environment & Nat Res Fin Sales & Income Tax Div Education Judiciary Fin Div	Economic Dev Fin Div Environment & Nat Res Fin Higher Education Fin Div K-12 Education Fin Div Property Tax & TIF Div	Economic Dev Fin Div Environment & Nat Res Fin Sales & Income Tax Div Education Judiciary Fin Div	Trans & Transit Fin Div Higher Education Fin Div K-12 Education Fin Div
10-11:45 a.m.	Health & Human Services Fin Div Judiciary Agriculture State Government Fin Div Environment & Natural Resources	Health & Human Services Governmental Operations Taxes Housing & Housing Fin Div	Health & Human Services Fin Div Judiciary Financial Institutions & Insurance State Government Fin Div Environment & Natural Resources	Health & Human Services Governmental Operations Taxes Housing & Housing Fin Div	Health & Human Services Fin Div Judiciary Taxes
12:30-2:15 p.m.	Fam & Early Childhood Ed Fin Div Gen Leg, Vets Affairs & Elections Transportation & Transit Labor-Management Relations	Cmrc, Trsm & Cnsmr Affrs Local Gov & Metro Affairs Capital Investment Regulated Industries & Energy	Fam & Early Childhood Ed Fin Economic Dev & Int'l Trade Transportation & Transit Civil & Family Law Div	Cmrc, Trsm & Cnsmr Affrs Local Gov & Metro Affairs Capital Investment	
2:30-4:15 p.m.	HOUSE IN SESSION			HOUSE IN SESSION	

Jan. 9, 1997

Ways & Means and Rules & Legislative Administration meet at the call of the Chair.

B-Basement Hearing Room

Full committees appear in bold type.

Bill Introductions

HF1-HF35

Thursday, Jan. 9

HF1—Johnson, A (DFL)

Education

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF2—Folliard (DFL)

Education

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF3—Kubly (DFL)

Education

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF4—Chaudhary (DFL)

Education

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF5—McGuire (DFL)

Judiciary

Stalking and harassment crime statutory elements clarified.

HF6—Wenzel (DFL)

Taxes

Commercial industrial first-tier property tax class rate reduced, and additional state aid provided.

HF7—Jefferson (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Hennepin County cash assistance vendor payments allowed when assistance recipients are charged with drug related offenses.

HF8—Dawkins (DFL)

Judiciary

District court referees authorized to solemnize marriages.

H. F. 9—Van Dellen (R)

Taxes

Charitable contribution income tax credit allowed.

HF10—Jaros (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism, & Consumer Affairs

Shopping cart child protective device requirement established.

HF11—Jaros (DFL)

Taxes

Vitamin and mineral supplement sales tax exemption provided.

HF12—Carlson (DFL)

Education

School district levy recognition eliminated, and money appropriated.

HF13—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Revisor's bill correcting miscellaneous oversights, inconsistencies, ambiguities, unintended results, and technical errors.

HF14—Jennings (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 2144, Chisago Lakes Area, debt service levy allocation provided.

HF15—Lieder (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Gasoline and special fuel tax rate increased, revenue dedicated to major projects account, and bond issuance authorized.

HF16—Sviggum (R)

Judiciary

Same-sex marriages recognized in other states deemed invalid in Minnesota.

HF17—Lieder (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Gasoline and special fuel tax rate increased, county state-aid screening board composition modified, motor vehicle sales tax receipt percentage allocated to transit assistance fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF18—Juhnke (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Willmar sales and excise tax increase authorized.

HF19—Lieder (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Trunk highway fund reimbursement provided for expenditures incurred by state patrol for provision of patrolling services in Minneapolis.

HF20—Lieder (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

State patrol operating appropriations to originate from state general fund, traffic and overweight vehicle fine deposit in general fund provided, and gasoline tax revenue nonhighway use study required.

HF21—Jefferson (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Minneapolis authorized to regulate possession and carrying of pistols within city limits.

H.F.22—Rukavina (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Police state aid allocation method modified, and money appropriated.

HF23—Smith (R)

Health & Human Services

Abortion; constitutional standard established relating to abortion, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF24—Weaver (R)

Judiciary

Life sentence provided for persons convicted of a third violent felony offense.

HF25—Stanek (R)

Judiciary

Omnibus crime prevention and judiciary finance appropriations bill.

HF26—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

School bus and public transit vehicle driver assault crime penalties increased.

HF27—Otremba (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Abortion informed consent required and civil cause of action provided.

HF28—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Interference with privacy in the presence of a minor under age 16 crime penalties increased.

HF29—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Probationers and parolees from other states residing in Minnesota without permission under the interstate compact provided criminal penalties.

HF30—Pawlenty (R)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Term limits imposed on legislative and executive offices and constitutional amendment proposed.

H.F.31—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Chronic misdemeanor offender arrest and detention allowed in lieu of citation and release.

HF32—Pawlenty (R)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Legislature to meet only in odd-numbered years, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF33—Koppendrayner (R)

Education

Omnibus K-12 policy and appropriations bill.

H.F.34—Haas (R)

Health & Human Services

Integrated Service Network Act modified, and health care services spending rate monitored.

HF35—Chaudhary (DFL)

Judiciary

Revisor's bill correcting erroneous, ambiguous, and omitted text and obsolete references, and making miscellaneous technical corrections.

Coming Up Next Week . . . Jan. 13 - 17, 1997

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

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10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: Presentation on current issues regarding University of Minnesota policies impacting agriculture and the rural economy.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Basement Hearing Room,

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Introduction of members and staff. Division organization and rules. Budget process overview for the Department of Human Services.

JUDICIARY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: HF5 (McGuire) Anti-stalking. HF35 (Chaudhary) Revisor's bill. HF13 (Skoglund) Corrections bill.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Division overview. Presentation on performance budgeting. Performance report review: Department of Military Affairs.

12:30 pm

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Overview of Department of Children, Families, and Learning by the Office of Community Services commissioner and assistant commissioner.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: Overview of state labor and employment laws.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: Minnesota in the Future presentation.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

3:30 p.m.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Room to be announced.

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF1 (Johnson, A.) Repeal of 1995 funding caps.

TUESDAY, Jan. 14

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: HF1 (Johnson, A.) Repeal of 1995 funding caps.

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Introduction of members, staff, agency and account representatives, and others who plan to initiate proposals for committee consideration. (All members, staff, and attendees should come prepared with family and hobby pictures as well as a statement of session committee goals.) Issues of concern for 1997. Reports due.

Transportation & Transit Finance Division/ TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: Informational and organizational meeting. Transportation implications of the growth option plan presentation by the Metropolitan Council.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room,

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Organizational and committee operation. Public testimony from environmental groups on environment finance issues.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room,

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Introductions and orientation.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: To be announced.

MONDAY, Jan. 13

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Organizational.

Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Organizational meeting: Introductions of members and staff. Review of committee procedures. Brief overviews: University of Minnesota, MnSCU, Minnesota Private College Council, and Minnesota Association of Private Postsecondary Schools (MAPPS).

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Continuation of overview of state and local education finance.

8:45 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Tour

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: Department of Natural Resources overview and tour. (Vans leaving in front of State Office Building steps at 8:45 a.m. Members with committee schedule conflicts can join tour with van leaving at 9:45 in front of State Office Building.)

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: Discussion of "Price of Government" law with presentation by the Department of Finance and the Department of Revenue and other groups.

12:30 pm

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry J. Kalis

Agenda: Overview of bonding and debt.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: Organizational meeting.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: Overview and introductions. Presentations by House Research, the Commissioner of Public Service, Executive Secretary of Public Utilities Commission, Attorney General's Office, and the Office of Technology.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 15

8 a.m.

**Economic Development Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: To be announced.

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

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: "Options for a Prescription Drug Program for Seniors" presentation. Budget process overview.

**Higher Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Presentation by the University of Minnesota.

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Presentation on state revenue forecast methodology by the Department of Finance. Youth Works four-year evaluation report, Rep. Andy Dawkins.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Tour

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: Overview and tour of the Pollution Control Agency. (Vans leaving in front of State

Office Building steps at 8:30 a.m. Members with committee schedule conflicts can join tour with van leaving at 9:45 in front of State Office Building.)

10 a.m.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: Overview by the Department of Commerce.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: "Recidivism of Adult Felons" presentation by the Office of the Legislative Auditor.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Performance report reviews: Department of Veterans Affairs. Department of Revenue.

12:30 p.m.

Civil and Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: Organizational meeting. Presentation on the potential recodification of the landlord-tenant law by the Revisor's Office.

**Family & Early Childhood Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: To be announced.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: Presentation on strategic plans for Minnesota: economic development and transportation.

1 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: Overview and legislative goals presented by Department of Trade and Economic Development; Minnesota Technologies Incorporated, Association of Community Development Corporations; the Natural Resource Research Institute; and the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute.

THURSDAY, Jan. 16

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Technology and use in student assessment and performance. Discussion of potential use of technology in measuring and documenting K-12 and college achievement. Presentation by Winona State University on

electronic portfolios.

**Economic Development Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: To be announced.

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Continuation of Jan. 14 agenda.

Sales & Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Public testimony from recreation, sports fishing and hunting groups on environment finance issues.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Presentation by the Office of the Legislative Auditor.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: Presentation by the Department of Revenue.

11:30 a.m.

The House meets in session.

FRIDAY, Jan. 17

8 a.m.

**Higher Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Presentations by Minnesota Private College Council, Minnesota Association of Private and Postsecondary Schools (MAPPS), and Mayo Medical School.

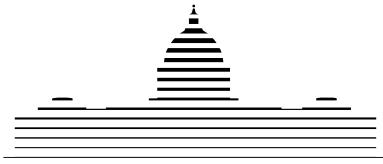
10:30 a.m.

JUDICIARY

Tour

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Tour of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Hearing on rule making exemption for uniform evidence collection and DNA analysis procedures and protocols.



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

Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota: Election 1996

DFL members	70
Republican members	64
Number of men	95
Number of women (record high)	39
DFL women	25
Republican women	14
Percent of first-term members who are women	37.5
Percent of all members who are women	29
Percent of House members who did not serve last session	18
Number of newly elected members	24
Newly elected Republican members	10
Newly elected DFL members	14
Percent of incumbents re-elected	94.8
Incumbents who lost, general election	5
Number of those who were Republicans	5
Open seats	18
Number of open seats previously held by a DFLer, now held by a Republican	4
Number of open seats previously held by a Republican, now held by a DFLer	0
Uncontested House races, 1996	8
Number of those in Republican districts	6
Percent of House members who have served less than 10 years	72
DFLers who have served at least 20 years	10
Republicans who have served at least 20 years	0
Change in House DFL Caucus membership from April 1996 level	+1
Change in Republican Caucus	-1
House Republican Caucus' cumulative loss of legislative experience	
since the end of the 1996 session, in years of service	75
DFL caucus loss, since end of 1994 session	80
Average age of a House member, in years, 1996	48.3
Most write-ins, District 31A	3,128
Members who have attended the University of Minnesota	50
Votes cast in Minnesota for the 1996 general election	2,211,161
As a percent of all eligible voters	64.81
Districts with a Reform Party candidate	14
Greatest percentage of votes garnered for Reform Party candidate, District 30B	22.4
Percentage of vote garnered by Green Party candidate in District 62A	24.6
Current House members who were alive during Woodrow Wilson's	
first term as President of the United States	1
Current House members born during the Nixon administration	4

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

For more information



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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ January 17, 1997 ♦ Volume 14, Number 2

MINNESOTA



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EIGHTIETH SESSION 1997-1998

Session Weekly is a non-partisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1997-98 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • January 17, 1997 • Volume 14, Number 2

Our policy . . .

As we end the second week of the 80th Legislative Session, our staff—the editors, writers, photographers, and administrative personnel—wishes to acknowledge our readers who look forward to receiving *Session Weekly*, and those who have taken the time to let us know in a personal way how much you enjoy it. We are very appreciative of your response. Comments and suggestions are welcome as we continue to keep you informed of legislative activity in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

In that context, we also reaffirm our mission and policy of providing you with a nonpartisan, independent overview of all phases of legislative action. On occasion, this space will be used to provide you with some introductory and objective insights, or even features on some interesting activities as an aside to the daily routine of reporting on the legislative process.

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—LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: The photo illustration depicts the 134 members of the Minnesota House of Representatives, who are at the Capitol in St. Paul for the 80th session of the Minnesota Legislature.

—Photo illustration by Andrew Von Bank

Highlights

House File 1 . . .

Top priority: elimination of K-12 spending caps

Legislation that would remove current statutory caps on K-12 education spending has received top billing in the House this year and is moving quickly toward passage.

The first bill introduced in the House during the 1997 session would remove education spending caps that are scheduled to cut \$337 million from public school funding during the 1998-99 biennium.

"People from one end of the state to the other have been asking us to restore the funding cuts that were in the bill passed in 1995," said Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), who is sponsor of the legislation. "House File 1 is a response to those requests."

Johnson's bill, backed by strong bipartisan support, easily won approval in the House Education Committee on Jan. 14 after meeting a similar response in the committee's K-12 Finance Division the previous day. The bill now awaits a hearing in the House Taxes Committee.

The **HF1** designation is reserved for legislation that House leadership deems to be a top priority for the biennium, and the designation is highly sought after by members of the body.

Recent measures to receive such distinction include a 1995 welfare reform bill and a 1993 measure to streamline the House committee structure. Other proposals receiving the designation include 1983 legislation seeking a Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment to the state constitution.

The House and Senate don't always agree on which legislation deserves top billing at the beginning of session. This year, Senate File 1 (**SF1**) is a bill that would provide a state response to recent federal welfare reforms.

The Senate companion to **HF1** has been introduced as **SF3**.

Current caps on education spending are the result of legislation passed during the 1995 special session. Under the law, school districts would see a reduction over the next biennium in the per-pupil funds they receive for all grade levels. Additional reductions would affect the formula used to calculate funding levels for secondary students.



Meg Moynihan, center, an 8th grade student at Highview Middle School in New Brighton, reminded members of the K-12 Education Finance Committee that her generation would be caring for their generation as she testified in support of a bill Jan. 13 that restores education funding cuts. Pictured from left to right: Del Kramer, principal of Chippewa Middle School; Dave Stimpson, chair of the Mounds View School Board; and Rep. Alice Johnson.

HF1 would scuttle all that and permit funding at current levels and using current formulas. The measure is moving on the fast track because supporters want it sent to the governor before the end of January.

"It's very important for my school district and for school districts across the state that this bill be passed and that it be passed early," said Jan Witthuhn, superintendent of the Mounds View School District.

Local officials want quick passage of Johnson's bill because budgeting for the 1997-98 academic year is already under way in many districts and will be starting soon in others.

With the caps in place, Mounds View schools — like those in many other districts — would have to absorb a significant reduction in funding. The district likely would have to endure teacher layoffs and widespread program reductions.

The bill would allow districts to plan their budgets on the assumption that they will receive at least the current level of funding. (Lawmakers are expected to pass legislation later in the session setting the actual amount appropriated to schools. Johnson's bill frees legislators to set education funding at any level they deem appropriate.)

As long as the caps are in place, districts must prepare for the worst, said Russell Smith, superintendent of the Cloquet School District. That means the district likely would embark on the process of cutting staff, including the issuance of layoff notices.

Smith reflected the view of the many district officials, school administrators, parents and others who urged the House education panels to pass **HF1**.

He detailed new and growing demands — such as ever-changing technology and state-wide testing for graduation standards — that promise to put a crunch on school resources.

"We wish we weren't here to talk about caps," Smith said. "In fact, we'd rather have a discussion regarding the things we need after the cuts are restored."

Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) questioned the wisdom of including caps in the 1995 law and wondered what effect the whole affair will have on the Legislature's credibility.

"What happens if we actually do have to cut the budget one of these years? Is anyone going to believe us out there?" Kinkel said. "... I'm happy we're doing this [removing the caps], but it never should have gotten to this point."

— Nick Healy



CRIME

Repeat offenders

Almost 60 percent of prisoners released in Minnesota are re-arrested for new felonies or gross misdemeanors within three years of their release. That's one of the findings of a recent study by the Legislative Auditor's office discussed Jan. 15 before the House Judiciary Committee.

The panel met with the study's authors, community members and crime prevention representatives to further examine the report's findings and consider action. "Does Minnesota's model work or doesn't it?" asked Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove).

The report's purpose was to determine the extent to which felons are arrested for new offenses; which types of criminals are most likely to offend again; and how other factors, such as personal characteristics, program participation and criminal history relate to the likelihood of recidivism. Among other factors the report studied are the race, age and marital status of prisoners.

The report studied 9,000 adult felons who had been released from prison or placed on probation in 1992. Ninety-two percent were male; 73 percent were less than 35 years old at the time of release, and 81 percent were either never married, divorced, or separated. About 58 percent were white; 29 percent, black; 8 percent, Native American; 4 percent, Hispanic; and 1 percent, other.

Among the report's other findings:

- Sex and homicide offenders were the least likely to be arrested for new crimes, while vehicle thieves were the most likely, along with property offenders in general. The report speculates that criminals typically commit fewer crimes as they grow older, and that some crimes are committed for which there is no arrest.
- Young offenders had higher re-arrest and conviction rates than others on probation. It found that overall, younger criminals are more likely to re-offend.
- Felons placed on probation for violent crimes, rather than sentenced to prison terms, were more likely than others on probation to commit additional violent crimes.

"It is unclear whether recidivism rates could be reduced through changes in sentencing, offender supervision, or rehabilitative programs. But, regardless of the correctional strategies selected, we think that reliable recidivism information should be collected and

reviewed on a regular basis," the report concludes.

"The report puts the points on the table for you to debate and discuss," said Joel Alter of the auditor's office, who reminded members: "Recidivism rates are not a perfect measure of how well our criminal justice system is working."

Lawmakers realize there are no simple solutions.

"I think the first concern now is whether we need to reinvent the wheel because of recidivism, or increase or change our efforts on the corrections and prevention sides," said Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley). "We need to invest in what works with new types of criminals, who are becoming younger and more violent. How do we address at-risk juveniles?"

Stopping stalking

The House Judiciary Committee approved legislation Jan. 14 to strengthen and clarify Minnesota's anti-stalking law.

The measure **HF5** would revise the 1993 anti-stalking statute that ran into a Minnesota Supreme Court challenge in September 1996. The law has been labeled unclear and because of a recent Supreme Court ruling, some suggest it offers victims no more protection from stalking than any law did prior to 1993.

Specifically, the Minnesota Supreme Court, in *State of Minnesota v. Orcello*, concluded that, as written, the law leaves prosecutors with the burden of proving a defendant had



North Minneapolis resident Mary Clark, a victim of stalking, testified before the House Judiciary Committee Jan. 13 in favor of a bill designed to make it easier to prosecute stalkers.

criminal intent when stalking a victim. That can be difficult because stalkers often claim affectionate or benign motives for their behavior.

To clear up the confusion, Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) has introduced a bill specifically stating that the prosecution "... is not required to prove that the actor intended to cause the victim to feel frightened, threatened, oppressed, persecuted, or intimidated . . ."

An amendment by committee chair Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) also changed the definition of "harass" under current law, which focuses on whether a "reasonable person" would feel intimidated.

"Harass," under the Skoglund amendment, would mean engaging in intentional conduct "which the actor knows or should know would cause the victim under the circumstances to feel frightened, threatened, oppressed, persecuted or intimidated." In other words, the amendment switches the focus to how the victim was made to feel, rather than how the perpetrator meant or intended the actions.

Not all committee members were satisfied that the bill answers all the questions raised by the Minnesota Supreme Court. Still other members maintained the 1993 anti-stalking law is still valuable, despite the *Orcello* ruling.

HF5 now moves to the House floor.



EDUCATION

Supporting Youth Works

Supporters of Minnesota's Youth Works say the program is so successful, the state should continue its investment.

Lawmakers in 1993 set up the Youth Works program, which allows Minnesotans who are at least 17 years old to earn grants for college or other post-secondary education while performing community service.

The 1993 law included a sunset provision to eliminate the program on June 30, 1998. But supporters of Youth Works are pushing to keep the program alive with continued state dollars.

The state set aside \$5 million for the program during the 1994-1995 biennium and \$3.7 million during the 1996-1997 biennium.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), who sponsored the original Youth Works legislation, testified before the K-12 Finance Division of the House Education Committee on Jan. 15 to urge continued support of the program.

Youth Works is a state-funded version of AmeriCorps, a federal community service

program created by President Clinton's National Service Trust Act.

Youth Works and AmeriCorps function under one administrative apparatus in Minnesota. The bulk of the funding for Youth Works-AmeriCorps comes from the federal government.

Full-time participants in the program receive a \$4,725 educational award upon completing 1,700 hours of service. Full-time participants also receive a monthly stipend for living expenses and other benefits such as child care.

Youth Works-AmeriCorps is now in its third year in Minnesota, and 475 people are currently enrolled in the program. About 350 people completed the program in its first year. That number jumped to 409 in the second year.

St. Paul resident Elise Nelson completed two years as a member of Youth Works-AmeriCorps and is now a team leader with Future Force, a group of program members who work with children in troubled St. Paul neighborhoods.

Nelson was out of work and receiving welfare when she became involved with Youth Works-AmeriCorps, and she credits the program with giving her life a new direction.

"I would much rather work and gain experience than sit at home, get a \$500 (welfare) check, and think about what I'm going to do with my life," she told committee members. "This has been a great help to me, and I can't say enough about it."

Nelson's story and others like it demonstrate the benefits of the program, according to supporters.

Mary Jo Richardson, who heads the Youth Works Team in the Department of Children, Families and Learning, said the state gets a good return on its investment. First, there are the immediate benefits of the work performed by program members and, later, the state enjoys further benefits because participants gain job skills and boost their lifelong earning potential.

Richardson expects Gov. Arne Carlson to recommend continued funding for Youth Works in his 1998-99 biennial budget.

The program seems to have impressed Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), who said Youth Works deserves continued bipartisan support.

"I think it's the model of the kind of program we want to have," he said.

Surplus for education?

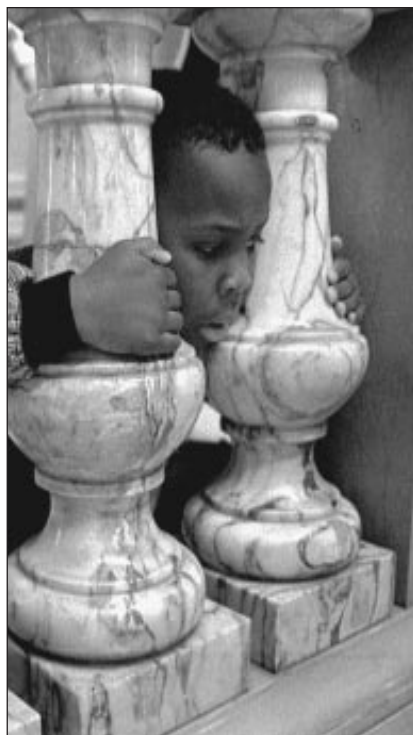
An education funding panel began the 1997 session by discussing the anticipated state budget surplus — how much it is and how much of it will be available for new proposals.

A November 1996 forecast predicts a surplus of \$1.4 billion in state coffers at the end of the 1998-1999 biennium. In recent weeks, the surplus and its potential use — anything from income tax rebates to property tax relief to construction of a new baseball stadium — have been the center of much attention. And the forecast surplus is expected to be a major topic of debate as lawmakers prepare the education budget for the next biennium.

The K-12 Finance Division of the House Education Committee on Jan. 8 considered the matter during the panel's first meeting under Chair Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee).

The panel did not delve into specific proposals for use of forecasted extra funds. Instead, lawmakers stuck to a rather general discussion of the state's education obligations and how they could affect the surplus.

The surplus is the result of many factors at work. On one hand, a robust state economy has resulted in higher revenue levels than expected, and, on the other hand, state spending on human services programs and in other areas has been lower than forecast.



Five-year-old Charles Lenz, Rochester, peers between two columns on the second-floor railing in the Capitol rotunda to get a good look at the Christian Home Education Orchestra, which performed there Jan. 15.

Kelso was quick to point out that the anticipated \$1.4 billion surplus is not all money in the bank. About \$522 million in surplus funds will be on hand at the close of the current fiscal year (June 30, 1997). The rest of the \$1.4 billion sum comes from forecasts of state revenue and expenditures during the next biennium.

"A very small change (in the economy) can change these figures massively — up or down," Kelso said.

Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayer (R-Princeton) said much of the surplus revenue could be consumed just to meet current education spending demands.

The predicted \$1.4 billion surplus presumes that caps on education spending during the next biennium will remain intact.

A 1995 education funding law enacted the caps as a method to control future education spending, but the present caps would cause significant cuts in the funding school districts now receive from the state for the next two years.

House leadership in both parties has expressed a will to remove the caps, and a bill (HF1) to do so already has been introduced.

If the caps are removed, about \$337 million would be subtracted from the forecast surplus.

Removal of the caps and other existing demands could gobble up much of the surplus "without doing anything new," Koppendrayer said.

An administration official said Gov. Arne Carlson considers the forecast surplus to be "one-time moneys" and that the governor will cast a cautious eye on proposals to use surplus revenues for ongoing programs.

"If we do that, we're going to be back here two years from now trying to get ourselves out of a dilemma that could have been avoided," said Ron Hackett, of the Department of Finance.

Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) said lawmakers should be equally cautious about using the forecast surplus to replace tax revenue.

"It would seem to me that we have to be looking very carefully at both our income and expenditures as we plan for the future," Johnson said.

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GOVERNMENT

Grading performance

Overall, Minnesota's Department of Military Affairs and Department of Revenue are doing quite well, thank you — although there's always room for improvement.

That was the message the Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division heard at meetings on Jan. 13 and Jan. 15, when representatives of the two agencies presented performance review reports.

Since 1993, 22 state agencies have been required to present reviews to the Office of the Legislative Auditor to give lawmakers a better idea of what taxpayers receive for their hard-earned dollars.

"The reports refocus the budget process from, 'How much?' to 'What are we getting,'" said Joel Alter of the auditor's office.

The story from Minnesota's Department of Military Affairs is one of mostly good news, agency representatives told the State Government Finance Division Jan. 13.

The department has done a remarkable job recruiting and retaining soldiers, said Brig. Gen. Gary LeBlanc, the National Guard's assistant adjutant commander. In addition, LeBlanc said, the Guard has increased its overall efficiency while at the same time enhancing the quality of life in the communities where it has a presence.

For example, LeBlanc said, some soldiers need a certain amount of training with heavy construction equipment, such as bulldozers and front-end loaders. Rather than just move a pile of dirt around, he explained, Guard soldiers will go into a community and build a ball field.

"Will you folks be bidding on the stadium here?" Rep. Kevin Knight (R-Bloomington) asked, provoking laughter in the chamber.

"No, I don't think so," LeBlanc said.

However, he said, the Guard continues to be plagued by a backlog of much-needed repairs to its armories around the state.

"We're falling behind in minor repairs to our facilities," which total more than 1.5 million square feet, LeBlanc told the committee. "For example, sidewalks and parking lots... aren't getting fixed." LeBlanc assured the committee that the department was actively pursuing solutions to the problem.

The Department of Revenue, said Deputy Commissioner Mathew Smith, has effectively achieved its goals and laid a firm foundation to ensure continued improvement. Those goals, he said, include:

- everyone paying exactly what is owed — no more, no less;
- satisfied customers;
- a fair, efficient, reliable, and understandable revenue system; and
- well-trained employees.

The revenue department collects nearly \$9 billion in taxes and operates on a budget of \$81 million.

The finance division will continue to hear agency performance reviews throughout January. Among the departments reporting will be the Departments of Finance, Employee Relations, and Veterans Affairs.



TAXES

The price we pay

The House Taxes Committee heard firsthand Jan. 14 how the state's "Price of Government" law works and — in the opinion of local government officials — how it doesn't.

"The Price of Government is difficult to visualize and confusing for city officials," said James Miller, executive director of the League of Minnesota Cities. "It is truly counterproductive."

The Price of Government law, enacted in March 1995, is aimed at recognizing and decreasing the financial burden on Minnesota taxpayers. Expressed as a percentage, it shows the maximum share of Minnesota personal income to be collected in taxes and other revenues to pay for state and local

government services. The resulting "Price of Government" is then used by lawmakers as a goal when assembling the state's budget.

According to the law, the governor recommends revenue targets for the next two biennia, which specify the division of the share between state and local government and detail the revenue mix, be it tax, fee or some other type. The Legislature must then adopt revenue targets by March 15. (Capital gains taxes are not included in the projection.)

The law also calls for a reduction in the Price of Government, or tax burden, from 18.2 percent of personal income in the 1996-97 biennium to 17.8 percent in the 1998-99 spending cycle. Moreover, according to an Aug. 9, 1996, letter written by Department of Revenue Commissioner Jim Girard to Minnesota mayors, the "adopted revenue targets incorporate a declining ratio for cities as a group..." to discourage local governments from raising taxes in their communities, lest they exceed the state targets.

Girard also wrote that the November 1996 budget forecast "set the stage for a new price of government resolution." That forecast revealed that given current state spending obligations, the state budget surplus will stand at \$1.4 billion at the end of the next biennium.

Girard told panel members he wrote the letter, and a Dec. 11 follow-up, as a reaction to what he called alarming increases in local tax levies.

Local government officials, though, disagreed with Girard. They said the increased local levies reflect the individual needs of the



Minnesota Attorney General Skip Humphrey, left, "Just Says No" to the offer of a cigarette from Joe Camel outside the House chamber prior to Gov. Arne Carlson's State of the State address Jan. 16. Joe Camel was part of a group protesting against a proposed 10-cent increase in the cigarette tax that would help build a new baseball stadium for the Minnesota Twins.

respective communities, something the Price of Government law fails to consider.

The Price of Government statistic, Miller said, has mutated from its initial role as a fiscal planning tool into a mechanism that prevents a municipality from spending money to meet the needs of its citizens.

"I think all of us would say... we agree with the purpose of the Price of Government," Miller said. "Our concern is with how it is applied."

Several other local government officials offered similar testimony. Lobbyists representing local and statewide business interests, who were also scheduled to address the committee, will be rescheduled for a later date, according to Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), committee chair.



Lobbyists, lawmakers, and legislative staff roasted Bill Marx, House fiscal analyst for the K-12 Education Finance Division, Jan. 13. Marx, who has been named the House's Chief Fiscal Analyst, served the committee for nearly 20 years. Some adorned themselves in Marx-like beards, since imitation is the most sincere form of flattery.

Minnesota's first legislators could not spend much time pondering their architecturally humble surroundings. They had to get things done before the dinner crowd arrived.

The 27 members of the Minnesota Territory's first Legislature convened Sept. 3, 1849, at the Central House, a hotel located on the corner of Second and Minnesota streets in St. Paul.

The hotel, a two-story log house with a frame addition to the back, was the only suitable location available for lawmakers to meet and tackle the task of organizing a government on the frontier.

And the early Minnesota legislators had to accept some inconveniences hard to imagine, considering the grandeur of today's State Capitol.

The 18 members of the House of Representatives met in the hotel dining room, where they had to conform to the kitchen's schedule.

After breakfast, the room was cleared, and the lawmakers' desks were moved in for the morning session. At about 11:30 a.m., House members hauled their small desks into a hotel office to make the room available for lunch to be served.

After lunch, House members again had the room to themselves, but they had to move out in time for supper.

The nine-member Council (now the

It's a fact!



Minnesota's second Capitol building at 10th and Wabasha streets in 1900.

Senate) met upstairs in what was called the ladies' parlor — a room used for business during the daylight hours and for lodging at night.

Upon completion of each day's work, the Council members' desks were moved to the side and straw ticks and blankets were placed on the open floor to serve as bedding for some of the lawmakers.

The territory's first Legislature included some impressive figures who would go on to lead prominent lives in Minnesota after statehood.

The group included William Marshall, a future Minnesota governor and Civil

War general, and Morton Wilkinson, who later served in the U.S. House and Senate.

Despite their surroundings, the first Legislature created the foundation of government in the Minnesota Territory, a vast piece of land stretching from the current state border in the east to the Missouri River in the west (running through present-day North Dakota and South Dakota).

Laws were passed to create counties and courts, establish a tax system, form public schools and set up the Minnesota Historical Society.

The first territorial Legislature also passed a resolution declaring St. Paul the temporary seat of government.

It wasn't until the meeting of the fifth territorial Legislature in 1854 that Minnesota had its first Capitol, a relatively grandiose building with chambers for both legislative branches, the Supreme Court, and the governor.

After Minnesota was granted statehood in 1858, the first Capitol was used until being destroyed by fire in 1881. A second Capitol was completed in 1883 and was almost immediately declared unsatisfactory. The third and current Capitol was completed in 1905.

Photo courtesy the Minnesota Legislative Manual 1973-74 and the Minnesota Historical Society

Legislature hears governor's vision for Minnesota

In what may be his last major appearance before the Legislature, Minnesota Gov. Arne H. Carlson delivered his 1997 State of the State address Jan. 16, asking lawmakers to roll up their sleeves, work together, and continue the pattern of solid economic growth and innovative social reform that, he said, is now well under way.

Carlson spoke before a joint session of the full Legislature in the House chamber. He hit on the areas of fiscal policy, education, health care, and job creation, as well as described his hopes for the future. The speech will air on C-SPAN soon.

Carlson — who will retire from public office at the end of his current term in 1998 — began his appearance by asking lawmakers to provide \$20 million in disaster aid for Minnesotans struggling to cope with this winter's heavy snowfall and brutal cold. State officials are pursuing federal relief, he added. Some Minnesota counties already have been declared disaster areas by the federal government.

"The state of the state is cold," Carlson said, explaining the need for the emergency legislation. "The reality is that there are calls for help . . . I do not want any official — state or local — to make any decision that places money over the safety or well-being of our people."

Moving into the text of his speech, Carlson recalled how, at the time of his initial State of the State appearance in 1991, Minnesota's budget ran \$1.8 billion in the red and state spending drastically exceeded revenue by nearly \$800,000 a day. Today, he continued, the budget is in the black, spending is under control, and the state has regained its AAA bond rating from two of the three credit agencies that assign them, with the third soon to come.

"Minnesota is ranked among the top five states in financial management, and I would argue that we're one of the top two," Carlson said, adding that he plans to propose a tax cut that will "return \$500 million to Minnesota taxpayers."

As part of his speech, Carlson listed many areas in which the state has become a national leader under his administration.

The package of reforms adopted in 1992, which later became known as MinnesotaCare, has provided health care for tens of thousands of low- and moderate-income people who otherwise would be uninsured. In fact, he continued, the 1994 expansion of the program provided it for thousands more. Many

he took office in 1991. Indeed, he said, Minnesota has added new jobs at a pace that far outstrips that of the country, especially in the manufacturing sector of the economy.

Carlson credited Minnesota's pro-business climate — driven by last year's comprehensive workers' compensation reform — with making job creation easier.

"That's what it's all about," Carlson said. "This is getting Minnesota back on the right track."

In outlining his agenda for his final term as governor, Carlson referred to Minnesota as a community, and he called on legislators to keep that in mind. Your job, he told them, is to balance the needs of your district with the needs of the state and work as a community for agreement in matters of public policy.

Carlson defined two areas as most in need of immediate legislative agreement: property tax reform and pay raises for state agency commissioners. The governor later included judges, constitutional officers, and legislators as deserving candidates for pay increases.

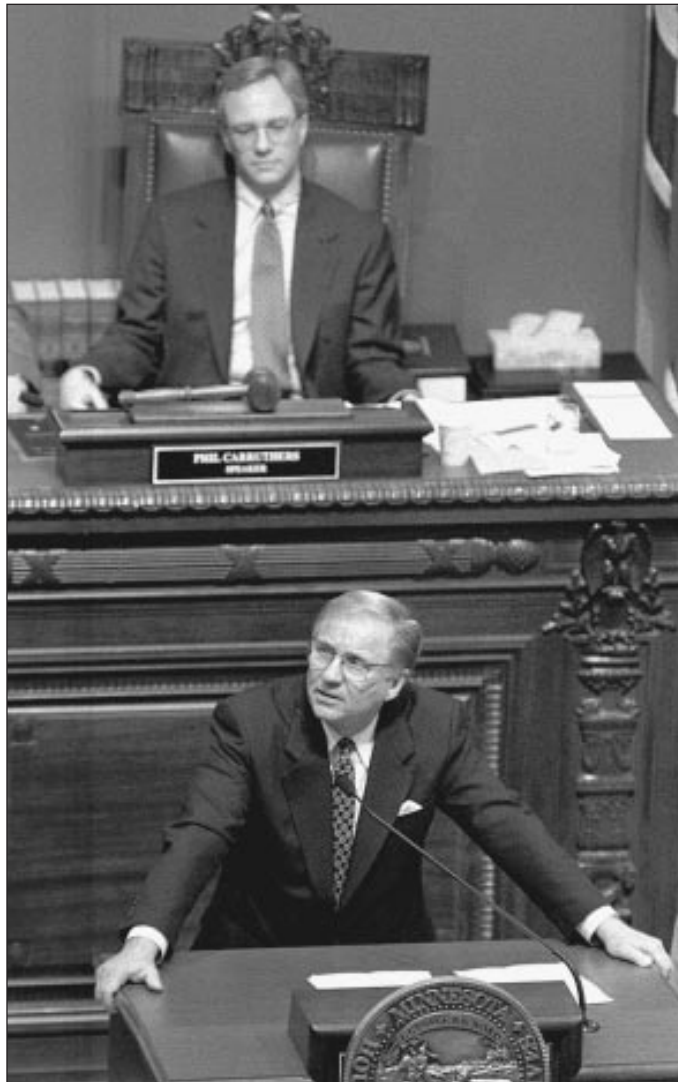
Property tax reform, Carlson said, means property tax relief, primarily in the commercial/industrial sector of the economy. Without such measures, he explained, Minnesota will see its bid to grow more jobs stymied.

Minnesota's future, the governor said, is tied to its children. Without them, there can be no future. Toward that end, Carlson proposed a new series of investments in pre-school programs and an increase in child care funding.

He also unveiled initiatives aimed at combating what many social scientists say is an emerging juvenile crime wave. The governor called for increased funding for courts and judges, beefed-up

penalties for drive-by shootings, sex crimes and stalking, and more aggressive police tactics, including street sweeps and community policing.

He also held up New York City's "Broken Windows" program, which is based on the



Gov. Arne Carlson delivered his State of the State address Jan. 16 in what may be his last major appearance as governor. He does not plan to seek re-election in 1998. Carlson pointed out that as part of his first State of the State Address, Minnesota's budget was in the red. Today, there's a \$1.4 billion surplus.

DFL legislators have expressed the desire to extend the scope of the program again during the current session; Carlson did not mention the idea during his speech.

The governor also took credit for creating more than 300,000 new jobs in the state since

premise that small gestures, such as repairing broken windows, ultimately translate into an increased pride in the community and a decrease in crime.

“I want the mayor of New York City, in his State of the City address, to be pointing to Minnesota and saying, ‘Why can’t we be as safe as Minnesota?’” Carlson said.

Carlson also made education reform — at every level— a centerpiece of his address.

With a nod to outgoing University of Minnesota President Nils Hasselmo and Hasselmo’s successor, Mark Yudoff, Carlson said education is intimately tied to job growth. Minnesota must continue to partner its institutions of higher education with industry. We must also, he said, reform our K-12 system. Too many children, he stated, cannot pass even the most basic skills tests.

“If our kids do not succeed in K-12,” Carlson said, “we, as a state, will not succeed.”

The governor also pointed out that a community is defined by its culture, which includes arts and sports. In addition to increases in funding for nonprofit arts organizations to allow for more touring around the state, the governor emphasized his desire for a new baseball stadium.

“Like the arts, sports give us a strong community . . . I do not want future generations to tune in the television or the radio to listen to the Memphis Twins,” Carlson said. “They are our Twins.”

Carlson pointed out that the Legislature has a long history of subsidizing private industry, including tax-increment financing and revenue bonds. He asked lawmakers to remember the Northwest Airlines package of several years ago and recalled several smaller efforts around the state, such as a potato plant in Park Rapids, an ice rink in Roseville, and direct financing of political campaigns.

In a pointed barb at stadium foes, Carlson said he did not want Minnesota’s future defined by critics.

“The only period in history that was ever built by critics,” he said, “was called the Dark Ages.”

— F.J. Gallagher

Feedback

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We thank you for your input.

The staff

Leaders react to governor’s address

The reaction of legislative leaders to Gov. Arne Carlson’s State of the State Address was often enthusiastic and always diplomatic — except when it came to one issue.

Which issue? The baseball stadium.

Carlson urged support for construction of a new baseball stadium to be financed through an additional 10-cent tax on every pack of cigarettes.

The governor detailed the many ways the state aids business — such as tax breaks and direct subsidies — and he characterized the proposed baseball stadium as a way to create employment and improve the quality of life in Minnesota.

House and Senate leaders were polite about the stadium issue, but they made it clear that public funding for the project will be a tough sell in the Legislature.

“My sense is that the citizens of this state are telling us not to put tax dollars into professional sports,” said House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon).

Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) said the 1997 Legislature faces issues, including welfare reform and education funding, that are more pressing than the stadium debate.

“The Legislature is not spending near as much time on the stadium issue as, perhaps, people are being led to believe,” he said.

Moe refrained from weighing in one way or the other on Carlson’s proposal to use a cigarette tax to pay for a stadium. Moe said he will not pass judgment until a comprehensive stadium proposal is released.

“I think it’s premature for me and any of my colleagues to make any comment until we get all the pieces of the financial puzzle,” he said.

House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) spoke only generally about the proposed stadium, acknowledging it only as “a very controversial issue.”

Carruthers stressed the many similarities between the governor’s agenda and that of the DFL. Those similarities, according to the speaker, include a desire to bolster public education, protect the environment, and support the arts.

“I was happy to hear the governor call for bipartisan cooperation,” Carruthers said. “I think that’s what we need as a state. I think there is a tremendous number of issues where there is going to be bipartisan cooperation.”

House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) also had little enthusiasm for the governor’s stadium proposal, but he did find some things he liked in the governor’s words.

“Overall, it was a good speech,” Winter said. “His heart is in the right place with education and welfare reform.”

The governor renewed his call for tax-free savings accounts to reward parents who put away money for their children’s college education. He also called on lawmakers to provide more money to improve technology in the schools.

Sviggum expressed support for the tax-free savings account program (dubbed “Edvest”) and other initiatives outlined in Carlson’s speech.

“Overall, there were no surprises, but it was consistent,” Sviggum said. “The governor stressed education, juvenile justice, and living within our means.”

Carlson also made repeated pleas to lawmakers and all Minnesotans to set aside parochial interests and work for the common good.

Senate Minority Leader Dean Johnson (R-Willmar), a Lutheran pastor, noticed “religious overtones” in the governor’s request that Minnesotans pull together.

“This was my ninth State of the State, and this was the best one that I’ve heard,” Johnson said.

—Nick Healy

Winter tills legislative soil to benefit Minnesota

The Minnesota House of Representatives' new majority leader, Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), sees a lot of similarity between his role as a party official and his full-time job running the family farm in the southwestern part of the state.

"Farmers have to collect a lot of information," about seed, fertilizers, equipment, and finances to be successful, Winter said, "but there comes a time when you have to get on the tractor seat and plant the corn . . . it's the same thing in the Legislature. Legislators gather a lot of information, but there comes a time when you have to do the deal. You have to put 67 votes up on the board to meet the needs of the people of Minnesota. As majority leader, it's my job to make sure we get that done."

For Winter, 47, now in his sixth term, that job promises to be no small task. Party leaders have set an ambitious agenda for the 80th Session of the Minnesota Legislature, including the removal of current spending caps that would cost Minnesota schools more than \$300 million in funding and reworking the property tax code, a primary source of education dollars. The House also must address changes in the welfare system, in addition to ongoing health care issues and a growing juvenile crime problem that, Winter said, has robbed people of their sense of security.

When the rural voters in District 22A first elected him in 1986, Winter said, nobody worried about becoming the victim of a drive-by shooting. Instead, most of his neighbors were too busy struggling with an expanding morass of debt, the result of skyrocketing interest rates that threatened to bankrupt their farms.

Long before he ever thought of running for office, Winter, along with several of his friends, decided that something had to be done about the burgeoning financial threat. He began organizing the community to take some political action, mobilizing the farmers around the state with the "Groundswell" movement.

Then Gov. Rudy Perpich showed up at one such event and Winter gave him a firsthand account of the farmers' plight. Perpich, who would soon be attending a conference of midwestern governors in Chicago, assured Winter that he would raise the matter there.

"I suggested to him that he should take some farmers with him and he agreed," Winter said, a broad grin playing across his face. A few days later, Winter and a couple of



House Majority Leader Ted Winter sees a lot of similarities between heading the party in the House and running a family farm. "There comes a time when you have to get on the tractor seat and plant the corn . . . it's the same thing in the Legislature. Legislators gather a lot of information, but there comes a time when you have to do the deal. You have to put 67 votes up on the board to meet the needs of the people of Minnesota."

friends, Larry Green and Milan Wiesneski, were on their way to Chicago.

At the conference, Winter listened to a number of plans aimed at helping the struggling farmers, most of which involved the creation of new paperwork. After hours of listening, he decided he had heard enough.

"I stood up and explained to them that the only way it looked like anything would change is if I go after one of their jobs and change things myself," he said. On the way home from a farm rally at the Capitol in St. Paul, Winter seriously discussed the idea of running for office with two friends, Andy Steensma and Norman DeBlicke. They decided then and there to do it and all three won election to the House. More than a decade later, Steensma and DeBlicke are no longer representatives, but Winter has emerged as one of the DFL's leading policymakers.

Assuming the mantle of House majority leader represents something of a fruition for the affable Winter. When the "Phonagate" scandal of March 1993 forced former Rep. Alan Welle (DFL-Willmar) to resign his majority leader post, House DFLers passed over Winter in favor of Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), whom many perceived to have a more aggressive style of leadership.

Winter maintains it is the political climate that has changed, not his leadership style. The partisanship of days gone by simply

doesn't play in today's era of narrow majorities, he said.

The new speaker of the House, Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) agreed with Winter's assessment. Winter, Carruthers said, is perfectly suited to lead in today's Legislature.

"Ted is action-oriented," Carruthers said. "He believes he's in the Legislature for a reason — to get things done. He's a good consensus builder who likes to involve and work with people. The members feel that he's fair, yet he's a strong advocate for his own and the party's position(s)."

Winter characterizes himself as one who leads by serving his fellow representatives, rather than forcing them to adhere to the leadership's agenda. A legislator, he explained, should always feel as if he or she has been heard, and although the job of majority leader is inherently partisan, perhaps his most important responsibility is to impart a sense of participation to the members, be they Republican or Democrat.

"My job is to communicate with people, to listen to them and to work with them — and that includes Republicans — and then to carry that into the arena," Winter said. "It's always been my strength to be a facilitator and to get things done . . . just like a farmer, you'll reap the harvest in the end."

— F.J. Gallagher

Minnesota House of Representatives

1997 Committee Assignments by Member

Abrams, Ron (R-Minnetonka) 45A Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance Division, Lead Republican Financial Institutions & Insurance Rules & Legislative Administration Taxes	Broecker, Sherry (R-Vadnais Heights) ... 53B Judiciary Judiciary Finance Division Transportation & Transit	Dawkins, Andy (DFL-St. Paul) 65A Civil & Family Law Division, Chair Judiciary Judiciary Finance Division Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division
Anderson, Bruce (R-Buffalo Township) 19B Education General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Governmental Operations State Government Finance Division Regulated Industries & Energy	Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL-Crystal) 46B Education, Chair Capital Investment, ex officio Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division Financial Institutions & Insurance Higher Education Finance Division K-12 Education Finance Division Ways & Means	Dehler, Steve (R-St. Joseph) 14A Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs, Lead Republican Education Higher Education Finance Division
Anderson, Irv (DFL-Int'l Falls) 3A Financial Institutions & Insurance, Chair Regulated Industries & Energy Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division Transportation & Transit	Carruthers, Phil (DFL-Brooklyn Center) 47B Rules & Legislative Administration Taxes Ways & Means	Delmont, Mike (DFL-Lexington) 51A Regulated Industries & Energy, Vice Chair Environment & Natural Resources Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division Health & Human Services
Bakk, Thomas (DFL-Cook) 6A Taxes, Vice Chair Environment & Natural Resources Environment & Natural Resources Finance Labor-Management Relations Sales & Income Tax Division	Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL-Fridley) 52A Civil & Family Law Division, Vice Chair Education Higher Education Finance Division Judiciary Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs	Dempsey, Jerry (R-Hastings) 29A Capital Investment, Lead Republican Economic Development & International Affairs Housing and Housing Finance Division Environment & Natural Resources
Bettermann, Hilda (R-Brandon) 10B Higher Education Finance Division, Lead Republican Capital Investment Education Labor-Management Relations Ways & Means	Clark, Karen (DFL-Mpls) 61A Housing & Housing Finance Division, Chair Capital Investment Economic Development & International Trade Economic Development Finance Division Financial Institutions & Insurance	Dorn, John (DFL-Mankato) 24A Health & Human Services, Chair Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Health & Human Services Finance Division Ways & Means
Biernat, Len (DFL-Mpls) 59A Judiciary, Vice Chair Civil & Family Law Division Education K-12 Education Finance Division	Commers, Tim (R-Eagan) 38A Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs, Lead Republican General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Taxes Sales & Income Tax Division	Entenza, Matt (DFL-St. Paul) 64A Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Education K-12 Education Finance Division Judiciary Civil & Family Law Division
Bishop, Dave (R-Rochester) 30B Judiciary, Lead Republican Capital Investment Civil & Family Law Division Ways & Means	Daggett, Roxann (R-Frazee) 11A Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Labor-Management Relations Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division	Erhardt, Ron (R-Edina) 42A Sales & Income Tax Division, Lead Republican Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Taxes
Boudreau, Lynda (R-Faribault) 25B Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division Financial Institutions & Insurance Health & Human Services	Dauids, Gregory M. (R-Preston) 31B Financial Institutions & Insurance, Lead Republican Capital Investment Environment & Natural Resources Finance	Evans, Geri (DFL-New Brighton) 52B Ways & Means, Vice Chair Economic Development & International Trade Housing & Housing Finance Division Education Judiciary
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Finseth, Tim (R-Angus) 1B Ways & Means, Lead Republican Environment & Natural Resources Environment & Natural Resources Finance Transportation & Transit	Hasskamp, Kris (DFL-Crosby) 12A Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs, Vice Chair General Legislation, Veteran Affairs & Elections Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division	Johnson, Ruth (DFL-St. Peter) 24B Higher Education Finance Division, Vice Chair Education Environment & Natural Resources Health & Human Services
Folliard, Betty (DFL-Hopkins) 44A General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections, Vice Chair Education Higher Education Finance Division Environment & Natural Resources	Hausman, Alice (DFL-St. Paul) 66B Environment & Natural Resources, Vice Chair Regulated Industries & Energy Transportation & Transit Transportation & Transit Finance Division	Juhnke, Al (DFL-Willmar) 15A Transportation & Transit, Vice Chair Agriculture Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Transportation & Transit Finance Division
Garcia, Edwina (DFL-Richfield) 63B Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division, Vice Chair Labor-Management Relations Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Taxes Sales & Income Tax Division	Hilty, Bill (DFL-Finlayson) 8B Governmental Operations, Vice Chair Labor-Management Relations Regulated Industries & Energy State Government Finance Division	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL-Mpls) 59B Governmental Operations, Chair Economic Development & International Trade Regulated Industries & Energy State Government Finance Division Ways & Means
Goodno, Kevin (R-Moorhead) 9A Health & Human Services Finance Division, Lead Republican Health & Human Services Labor-Management Relations Rules & Legislative Administration Ways & Means	Holsten, Mark (R-Stillwater) 56A Environment & Natural Resources Finance, Lead Republican Environment & Natural Resources Regulated Industries & Energy	Kalis, Henry J. (DFL-Wells) 26B Capital Investment, Chair Environment & Natural Resources Finance Ways & Means (Ex officio: all other tax and finance divisions)
Greenfield, Lee (DFL-Mpls) 62A Health & Human Services Finance Division, Chair Health & Human Services Rules & Legislative Administration Transportation & Transit	Huntley, Thomas (DFL-Duluth) 6B Economic Development & International Trade Health & Human Services Health & Human Services Finance Division Higher Education Finance Division	Kelso, Becky (DFL-Shakopee) 35B K-12 Education Finance Division, Chair Education Regulated Industries & Energy Rules & Legislative Administration Transportation & Transit
Greiling, Mindy (DFL-Roseville) 54B Education, Vice Chair General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections K-12 Education Finance Division Regulated Industries & Energy	Jaros, Mike (DFL-Duluth) 7B Economic Development & International Trade, Chair Agriculture Economic Development Finance Division Housing & Housing Finance Division	Kielkucki, Tony (R-Lester Prairie) 20B Agriculture Education K-12 Education Finance Division Labor-Management Relations
Gunther, Bob (R-Fairmont) 26A Economic Development Finance Division, Lead Republican Agriculture Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Economic Development & International Affairs	Jefferson, Richard H. (DFL-Mpls) 58B Labor-Management Relations, Chair Capital Investment Governmental Operations State Government Finance Division	Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony" (DFL-Park Rapids) 4B Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division, Chair Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Education Environment & Natural Resources Governmental Operations
Haas, Bill (R-Champlin) 48A General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Health & Human Services Health & Human Services Finance Division	Jennings, Loren (DFL-Harris) 18B Regulated Industries & Energy, Chair Health & Human Services Health & Human Services Finance Division Ways & Means	Knight, Kevin (R-Bloomington) 40B Governmental Operations, Lead Republican Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs State Government Finance Division Transportation & Transit
Harder, Elaine (R-Jackson) 22B Agriculture, Lead Republican Economic Development & International Affairs Taxes Sales & Income Tax Division	Johnson, Alice M. (DFL-Spring Lk. Pk.) 48B Sales & Income Tax Division, Chair Education K-12 Education Finance Division Taxes Transportation & Transit	Knoblach, Jim (R-St. Cloud) 16B Capital Investment Financial Institutions & Insurance General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Health & Human Services

<p>Koppendray, LeRoy (R-Princeton) 17A K-12 Education Finance Division, Lead Republican Education Governmental Operations Regulated Industries & Energy Ways & Means</p>	<p>Lieder, Bernie (DFL-Crookston)2A Transportation & Transit Finance Division, Chair Financial Institutions & Insurance Transportation & Transit</p>	<p>McCollum, Betty (DFL-North St. Paul) ... 55B Environment & Natural Resources Environment & Natural Resources Finance General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Health & Human Services Rules & Administrative Legislation</p>
<p>Koskinen, Luanne (DFL-Coon Rapids) .. 49B Labor-Management Relations, Vice Chair Health & Human Services Health & Human Services Finance Division Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs</p>	<p>Lindner, Arlon (R-Corcoran) 33A Capital Investment Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division Health & Human Services</p>	<p>McElroy, Dan (R-Burnsville) 36B Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division</p>
<p>Kraus, Ron (R-Albert Lea)..... 27A Agriculture Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division</p>	<p>Long, Dee (DFL-Mpls) 60A Taxes, Chair Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division Sales & Income Tax Division Rules & Legislative Administration Ways & Means</p>	<p>McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL-Falcon Heights) 54A Family & Early Childhood Education Division, Vice Chair Governmental Operations Judiciary Judiciary Finance Division</p>
<p>Krunkie, Phil (R-Shoreview) 53A State Government Finance Division, Lead Republican Economic Development & International Affairs Governmental Operations Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Ways & Means</p>	<p>Luther, Darlene (DFL-Brooklyn Park) 47A Capital Investment, Vice Chair Education Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division Governmental Operations State Government Finance Division</p>	<p>Milbert, Bob (DFL-South St. Paul) 39B General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections, Chair Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Environment & Natural Resources Taxes Sales & Income Tax Division</p>
<p>Kubly, Gary W. (DFL-Granite Falls)..... 15B Housing & Housing Finance Division, Vice Chair Agriculture Capital Investment Economic Development & International Trade</p>	<p>Macklin, Bill (R-Lakeville)..... 37B Taxes, Lead Republican Judiciary Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division Ways & Means</p>	<p>Molnau, Carol (R-Chaska) 35A Transportation & Transit Finance Division, Lead Republican Agriculture Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Transportation & Transit Ways & Means</p>
<p>Kuisle, William (R-Rochester) 31A Agriculture Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Transportation & Transit Transportation & Transit Finance Division</p>	<p>Mahon, Mark P. (DFL-Bloomington) 40A Transportation & Transit Finance Division, Vice Chair Financial Institutions & Insurance Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Transportation & Transit</p>	<p>Mulder, Richard (R-Ivanhoe) 21B Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division Financial Institutions & Insurance Health & Human Services Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs</p>
<p>Larsen, Peg (R-Lakeland) 56B Governmental Operations Judiciary Civil & Family Law Division Judiciary Finance Division</p>	<p>Mares, Harry (R-White Bear Lake) 55A Education K-12 Education Finance Division Governmental Operations</p>	<p>Mullery, Joe (DFL-Mpls) 58A Economic Development Finance Division, Vice Chair Economic Development & International Trade Governmental Operations Judiciary Labor-Management Relations</p>
<p>Leighton, Rob (DFL-Austin) 27B Civil & Family Law Division Education K-12 Higher Education Finance Division Judiciary Labor-Management Relations Rules & Legislative Administration</p>	<p>Mariani, Carlos (DFL-St. Paul) 65B Financial Institutions & Insurance, Vice Chair Capital Investment Economic Development and International Trade Housing & Housing Finance Division Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division</p>	<p>Munger, Willard (DFL-Duluth) 7A Environment & Natural Resources, Chair Capital Investment Environment & Natural Resources Finance Rules & Legislative Administration</p>
<p>Leppik, Peggy (R-Golden Valley) 45B Environment & Natural Resources, Lead Republican Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Education Higher Education Finance Division</p>	<p>Marko, Sharon (DFL-Newport) 57B Financial Institutions & Insurance Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Transportation & Transit Transportation & Transit Finance Division</p>	

Murphy, Mary (DFL-Hermantown) 8A Judiciary Finance Division, Chair Capital Investment Judiciary Civil & Family Law Division Labor-Management Relations	Otremba, Ken (DFL-Long Prairie) 11B Health & Human Services Finance Division, Vice Chair Agriculture Economic Development & International Trade Economic Development Finance Division Health & Human Services	Rest, Ann H. (DFL-New Hope) 46A Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs, Chair General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division
Ness, Robert "Bob" (R-Dassel) 20A Economic Development & International Affairs Education K-12 Education Finance Division Financial Institutions & Insurance	Ozment, Dennis (R-Rosemount) 37A Regulated Industries & Energy, Lead Republican Rules & Legislative Administration Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division	Reuter, Doug (R-Owatonna) 28A Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Economic Development & International Affairs Economic Development Finance Division Governmental Operations
Nornes, Bud (R-Fergus Falls) 10A Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Education Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division Environment & Natural Resources	Paulsen, Erik (R-Eden Prairie) 42B Education Higher Education Finance Division Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs	Rhodes, Jim (R-St. Louis Park) 44B Housing & Housing Finance Division, Lead Republican Capital Investment Transportation & Transit
Olson, Edgar (DFL-Fosston) 2B Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division, Chair Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Regulated Industries & Energy Taxes	Pawlenty, Tim (R-Eagan) 38B Rules & Legislative Administration, Vice Chair General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Judiciary Civil & Family Law Division	Rifenberg, Michelle (R-La Crescent) 32B Agriculture Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Economic Development & International Affairs Economic Development Finance Division Labor-Management Relations
Olson, Mark (R-Big Lake) 19A Education Housing & Housing Finance Division Judiciary Labor-Management Relations Regulated Industries & Energy	Paymar, Michael (DFL-St. Paul) 64B Judiciary Finance Division, Vice Chair Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Economic Development & International Trade Judiciary Labor-Management Relations	Rostberg, Jim (R-Isanti) 18A Capital Investment Economic Development & International Affairs Environment & Natural Resources General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Opatz, Joe (DFL-St. Cloud) 16A Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs, Vice Chair Capital Investment Education Higher Education Finance Division Health & Human Services	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL-Winona) 32A Higher Education Finance Division, Chair Education General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Regulated Industries & Energy Rules & Legislative Administration	Rukavina, Tom (DFL-Virginia) 5A State Government Finance Division, Chair Economic Development & International Trade Governmental Operations Labor-Management Relations Ways & Means
Orfield, Myron (DFL-Mpls) 60B Environment & Natural Resources Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division	Peterson, Doug (DFL-Madison) 13B Agriculture, Vice Chair Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Environment & Natural Resources Finance Rules & Legislative Administration Transportation & Transit	Schumacher, Leslie (DFL-Princeton) 17B K-12 Education Finance Division, Vice Chair Agriculture Education Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Transportation & Transit
Osskopp, Mike (R-Lake City) 29B Economic Development & International Affairs Governmental Operations State Government Finance Division Labor-Management Relations Regulated Industries & Energy	Pugh, Thomas (DFL-South St. Paul) 39A Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Judiciary Judiciary Finance Division Ways & Means	Seagren, Alice (R-Bloomington) 41A Education, Lead Republican Judiciary K-12 Education Finance Division
Osthoff, Tom (DFL-St. Paul) 66A Environment & Natural Resources Finance, Chair Environment & Natural Resources General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Governmental Operations		Seifert, Marty (R-Marshall) 21A Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division

Sekhon, Kathleen (DFL-Anoka) 50A Environment & Natural Resources Finance, Vice Chair Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Environment & Natural Resources Labor-Management Relations	Swenson, Howard (R-Nicollet) 23B Environment & Natural Resources Environment & Natural Resources Finance Transportation & Transit	Wagenius, Jean (DFL-Mpls) 63A Transportation & Transit, Chair Environment & Natural Resources Regulated Industries & Energy Transportation & Transit Finance Division
Skare, Gail (DFL-Bemidji) 4A Sales & Income Tax Division, Vice Chair Agriculture Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Taxes	Sykora, Barbara (R-Excelsior) 43B Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division, Lead Republican Education Housing & Housing Finance Division Rules & Legislative Administration	Weaver, Charlie (R-Anoka) 49A Education K-12 Education Finance Division Judiciary Civil & Family Law Division
Skoglund, Wes (DFL-Mpls) 62B Judiciary, Chair Civil & Family Law Division General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Judiciary Finance Division Ways & Means	Tingelstad, Kathy (R-Andover) 50B Environment & Natural Resources Health & Human Services	Wejcman, Linda (DFL-Mpls) 61B Economic Development & International Trade, Vice Chair General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Health & Human Services Health & Human Services Finance Division
Slawik, Nora (DFL-Maplewood) 57A Health & Human Services, Vice Chair Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division Ways & Means	Tomassoni, David (DFL-Chisholm) 5B Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Education K-12 Education Finance Division Financial Institutions & Insurance	Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL-Little Falls) 12B Agriculture, Chair Environment & Natural Resources Finance Financial Institutions & Insurance Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Smith, Steve (R-Mound) 34A Civil & Family Law Division, Lead Republican Capital Investment Judiciary	Tompkins, Eileen (R-Apple Valley) 36A Health & Human Services, Lead Republican Health & Human Services Finance Division Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs	Westfall, Robert L. "Bob" (R-Rothsay) 9B Environment & Natural Resources Environment & Natural Resources Finance General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Solberg, Loren (DFL-Bovey) 3B Ways & Means, Chair Capital Investment Economic Development Finance Division Judiciary (Ex officio: all other tax and finance divisions)	Trimble, Steve (DFL-St. Paul) 67B Economic Development Finance Division, Chair Agriculture Capital Investment Economic Development & International Trade Housing & Housing Finance Division	Westrom, Torrey (R-Elbow Lake) 13A Agriculture Financial Institutions & Insurance Transportation & Transit Transportation & Transit Finance Division
Stanek, Rich (R-Maple Grove) 33B Judiciary Judiciary Finance Division Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs	Tuma, John (R-Northfield) 25A Education Higher Education Finance Division Governmental Operations	Winter, Ted (DFL-Fulda) 22A Rules & Legislative Administration, Chair Agriculture Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division Ways & Means
Stang, Doug (R-Cold Spring) 14B Environment & Natural Resources Transportation & Transit Transportation & Transit Finance Division Ways & Means	Tunheim, Jim (DFL-Kennedy) 1A Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs, Chair Education K-12 Education Finance Division Financial Institutions & Insurance	Wolf, Ken (R-Burnsville) 41B Labor-Management Relations, Lead Republican Education K-12 Education Finance Division Regulated Industries & Energy
Sviggum, Steven A. (R-Kenyon) 28B Labor-Management Relations Rules & Legislative Administration Ways & Means	Van Dellen, H. Todd (R-Plymouth) 34B Economic Development & International Trade, Lead Republican Financial Institutions & Insurance Rules & Legislative Administration Taxes Sales & Income Tax Division	Workman, Tom (R-Chanhassen) 43A Transportation & Transit, Lead Republican Economic Development Finance Division Environment & Natural Resources Regulated Industries & Energy
Swenson, Doug (R-Forest Lake) 51B Judiciary Finance Division, Lead Republican Economic Development & International Affairs Judiciary Ways & Means	Vickerman, Barb (R-Redwood Falls) 23A General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections, Lead Republican Health & Human Services Health & Human Services Finance Division Regulated Industries & Energy	

Informing the public . . .

Legislative information is everywhere, for free

House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) has said improving the Legislature's communication and outreach to the general public is a priority issue. As it stands today, Minnesota is among the nation's leaders in making government information available in a host of formats. Whether in print or by telephone, computer, or television, nearly all of the Legislature's business is literally at your fingertips.

The Internet

Since 1994, anyone with a computer and a modem has had access to legislative information on the Internet. In January 1996, the Legislature debuted on the World Wide Web, which provides a user-friendly format that anyone without computer training can navigate.

The World Wide Web uses a simple "point-and-click" system, where users select a highlighted word or phrase such as "House committee schedules." Once selected, the computer automatically retrieves the requested information. It can then be viewed or saved to the user's own computer and printed.

To connect to the legislative "home page," simply point your web browser at:

<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

Here, anyone from Bird Island to Burundi can easily access information about members of the Legislature, Senate and House bills, *Minnesota Statutes*, daily and weekly schedules of committee activity, staff directories, House and Senate journals, and much more. There also are links to other important state and federal government sites on the Internet.

You can now view the *Session Weekly* on the Internet, with all photos and graphics intact, at: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/swkly.ssi>

The Legislature's World Wide Web page is a joint effort by the Minnesota House of Representatives, the Minnesota Senate, the Legislative Reference Library, and the Office of the Revisor of Statutes.

The goal of the service is to provide as much legislative information as possible in an easy-to-use format to increase citizen participation in the legislative process.

And the public is responding. During the peak of the 1996 Legislative Session, the Legislature's Web pages were accessed more



In recent years, the House has taken major steps to ensure that the public has even better access to the legislative process. The House debuted a World Wide Web page on the Internet in January 1996. That year also marked the first time House floor sessions and some committee meetings were broadcast on television.

more than 90,000 times per week. During the first week of the 1997 Legislative Session, that number already stood at 70,000.

E-mail

Anyone with e-mail can also receive daily and weekly committee schedules from both the House and the Senate without having to connect to the Internet to download them.

Previously available only to those visiting the Capitol or subscribing to the *Session Weekly*, the schedule now is sent daily to more than 500 e-mail subscribers.

To receive the House schedule, send a message to:

listserv@hsched.house.leg.state.mn.us

Leave the subject line blank and in the body of the message type: **subscribe h-schedules**

To receive the Senate schedule, send a message to: listserv@senate.leg.state.mn.us

Leave the subject line blank and in the body of the message type: **subscribe sen-schedules**

Television

Those without computers can also follow the Legislature in the privacy of their own home. Beginning in 1996, coverage of the House and Senate began airing in the Twin Cities area on KTCI-TV, Channel 17. Previously, coverage of floor sessions and com-

mittee hearings aired on metro-area cable Channel 6, and was available only to cable subscribers. Minnesota was the first state to make such extensive coverage available at no charge to viewers.

The number of potential viewers more than doubled, from 1.2 million to 2.5 million, and the calls to the House Television Services comment line increased dramatically: Thousands of callers registered their opinions on legislative matters. Beginning in mid-March, the House will broadcast its business via satellite statewide. Outstate residents should check with local cable operators for time and channel information, or the House Television Services Department's Web site at: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/htv/htv.ssi>

All televised floor sessions and committee hearings at the Minnesota Legislature are now closed-captioned for people with hearing impairments.

Two hearing rooms in the State Office Building are outfitted for television broadcast. Room 10, equipped with robotic cameras, is used for statewide broadcast of legislative proceedings. There is also an interactive television site in Room 5 of the State Office Building. Connected to more than 50 sites throughout Minnesota, the technology allows members of the public to testify before the Legislature while in locations such as Duluth or Marshall, saving time and money by avoiding a trip to St. Paul.

The old standbys

Of course there's always the printed word and the telephone. The House Public Information Office has a series of news, informational, and educational publications designed to make the legislative process understandable and accessible for citizens of all ages. For copies of publications, general legislative information, or to subscribe to the *Session Weekly* newsmagazine, call (612) 296-2146, or 1-800-657-3550.

For copies of pending bills, call the Chief Clerk's Office at (612) 296-2314. To discover the sponsor of a bill, or to find the status of pending legislation, call House Index at (612) 296-6646.

Finally, to hear a recorded message of the House's committee schedule, call (612) 296-9283.

Minor members storm Capitol, take reins of power

The YMCA Youth in Government program isn't just kid stuff. The 1,260 students in grades eight through 12 who reigned in the Capitol Jan. 9-12 weren't joking - not, at least, until joking was on the schedule.

Instead, the senators, representatives, officers, pages, governor, and media personnel were there to do business. "Part of our mission is to promote strong citizenship," said Orville Lindquist, state program director. "The idea is that when they're adults and go to the polls or read newspapers, they'll have an understanding of what's behind it, how the governmental process works, and how the media, lobbyists, and others influence the process. They'll know how they affect government and how government affects them."

Like their adult counterparts, the students spent the session meeting in committees and on the House and Senate floors, where they proposed, debated, and voted on legislation.

has existed nationally since 1936, Lindquist said.

Students began preparing months in advance, beginning with the materials prepared by the Youth in Government organization. Training sessions were held in September and October, when officers were elected. Lindquist said the program is funded through student fees — averaging \$280 per student — and from fund-raising and donations.

"The kids come from all over Minnesota. A lot of them have an interest in public affairs,"

things do work and that they can be part of it. It doesn't have to be over their heads."

Borkenhagen proposed a bill to make chain gangs part of the penal code. "I'd like to see stricter rules, so that criminals can see how an act will be punished. I think punishment, not just rehabilitation, should be part of the crime." While some of his fellow members had expressed opposition to the idea, Borkenhagen said he thought it had a good chance of passage.

Sarah Kampbell and Kellie Norman, both in 11th grade at Lakeville High School, returned this year for their third terms. They agreed that absent their Youth in Government experiences, they wouldn't know how much work it takes to pass laws. Kampbell had authored legislation to make vehicle maintenance a mandatory part of the high school curriculum. "People can't always make informed decisions. I've had so many problems with my car and been ripped off by mechanics," she said. How much chance did she think the bill had of passage? "None."

Norman wrote a bill that required parents who home-school their children to have at least a minimal level of post-secondary education. She was motivated by a family she knew in which the children's test scores dropped after they began school at home, she said. She was uncertain of its chances on the floor.

By the second day of session in the Humphrey House — made up of legislators in the ninth and 10th grades — the mood had become less business-like and the speaker continually demanded: "Will the undercurrent please cease!" But not everyone had lost their sense of commitment.

Weldon Green, a ninth-grader at Shakopee Junior High, listened as various bills came up for debate, including one to mandate counseling for divorcing couples. Others proposals included increasing the cigarette tax, providing vegetarian meals in school cafeterias, and suspending the drivers' licenses of parents who fail to pay child support.

Last year Green served as a page and hoped to come back next year as either a cabinet member or committee chair. "There were more controversial bills last year and it was more fun to debate. This has been pretty mundane," he said. "Tomorrow we can introduce joke bills. That will relieve the tension."

Peter Rodosovich, who served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from



Michelle Burque, a junior at Burnsville High School, and her teddy bear worked as a mock representative in the House chamber Jan. 10 as part of the annual Youth in Government program held at the State Capitol each session.

The program divides the students by grade and unit of government. Eighth graders serve as pages; ninth and 10th graders serve in their own three branches of government, and 11th and 12th graders in theirs. Their efforts this year were underlined by visits from Secretary of State Joan Grove, Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court A.M. "Sandy" Keith, St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman, and Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe.

The annual event was the 43rd of its kind and is sponsored by the YMCA. The program

Lindquist said. "There's also a social aspect to it. They have friends and relatives who have done it and had a wonderful experience."

Dan Borkenhagen, an 11th grader from White Bear Lake, heard about the program through friends and teachers and came back for a second visit this year. "I didn't know the parliamentary process before this and I think it's important to learn," he said. "It's not so much that I'm thinking of public service as a career, but I do want to keep up with the process. I think the program shows kids that

1982-1995, got his start in public service through the YMCA Youth in Government program. "That's what got me hooked and interested in government," he said. "I was the youth Senate committee chair, and later the youth lieutenant governor."

Today, Rodosovich is the State Executive Director of the Youth in Government pro-

gram. He said it's not unusual for the program to have a life-long impact on students. "This year I noticed that the numbers and interest in the program have increased. We added 125 more participants," he said. "The youth leadership was very strong, and they took their roles very seriously."

"I think it's great that the members of the

Minnesota House and Senate, the judiciary branch and constitutional officers were so supportive and allowed the kids to use the chambers and offices. It gives them a chance to feel what it's really like to make those kinds of decisions," he said.

— Celeste Riley

New members . . .

Education, environment top concerns for Tingelstad

First-termer Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover) is no stranger to elective politics. While in high school in the 1970s, Tingelstad served as an intern for former state Sen. Robert Stassen (R-South St. Paul) who, she said, encouraged her to run for office someday.



Rep. Kathy Tingelstad

For years, Tingelstad avoided the senator's advice, opting instead to become involved in a less conspicuous manner. Indeed, over the years, she's worked in different capacities for a variety of candidates, ultimately managing successful campaigns for former state Rep. Teresa Lynch (R-Andover). In addition, she worked as a legislative assistant in Washington, D.C., on Al Quie's staff prior to his becoming governor of Minnesota

"The other day I tried to figure out exactly how many envelopes I've stuffed for various campaigns through the years," she said, laughing, "and I couldn't do it. The closest I could come was that it was over 100,000."

Finally, this mother of two took Stassen's advice and launched a bid for an open seat on the Anoka County Board in 1993. In a field of 10 candidates, Tingelstad finished third — trailing by just two votes — in a race that saw the top two finishers go on to a run-off contest. The loss was a disappointment, Tingelstad said, but she vowed to try again when the time was right.

An opportunity presented itself when Lynch announced that she would not run for office in 1996. Tingelstad, with her family's approval and Lynch's encouragement, de-

cidated that she would run for state representative. At 38, Tingelstad is the youngest woman in the Republican Caucus and the second-youngest woman in the House.

The decision to campaign for office was by no means an easy one, Tingelstad said, because it meant selling her business, a successful marketing and communications firm she founded in 1985. In fact, the Small Business Administration recently awarded her as the Women in Business Advocate of the Year for 1996. But running for office was something she wanted to do.

"I always wanted to be a legislator," Tingelstad said, sitting in her second floor office in the State Office Building — the same one Lynch occupied during her eight-year tenure as a representative. "I want to make a difference. I have two young children and I'd like to make Minnesota a better place for them."

Perhaps the best way to accomplish that, Tingelstad said, is through adequately and equitably funded education, an issue she places high on her legislative agenda.

One of the primary mechanisms for funding education, she explained, is through property tax. In her heavily residential district, the tax base isn't as large as some of those that contain more businesses. Consequently, the funding allocated per pupil isn't as much as it is in other metro school districts.

"We need a more equitable formula," she said, adding that many voters in her district, with its growing population, share that sentiment. In fact, Tingelstad's district has one of the highest populations of young families in the state.

Environmental issues also are a priority for

Tingelstad. As a member of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee, Tingelstad hopes to continue work toward balancing the rights of landowners — whose property contains wetlands — with the need to preserve the environment.

Tingelstad also serves on the Health and Human Services Committee. "With welfare reform, there will be a lot of action on this committee this session," she said. She's up for it, she explained. "I was a volunteer lobbyist here in the 1980s — working on adoption issues. She also has authored four medical books.

Tingelstad, who holds an undergraduate degree in communications from the University of Minnesota and an MBA certificate from the University of St. Thomas, said she counts Stassen, Lynch, and Quie as perhaps her greatest political influences. Moreover, the insight gleaned from her years with Lynch means she's a step or two ahead of the average first-term legislator. In time, she continued, she'd like to work her way up to a leadership position.

— F.J. Gallagher

District 50B

1995 population: 37,063

Largest city: Andover

County: Anoka

Location: northern metro area

Top concern: "Education funding is a big issue in my district . . . we need more equitable funding. Property tax reform will help."

— Rep. Kathy Tingelstad

Bill Introductions

HF36-HF117

Monday, Jan. 13

HF36—Anderson, I. (DFL) Education

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF37—Mulder (R) Education

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF38—Tunheim (DFL) Education

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF39—Knoblach (R) Education

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF40—Leppik (R) Transportation & Transit

State identification card created for persons under the age of 21.

HF41—Seifert (R) Judiciary

Same-sex marriages not recognized or allowed.

HF42—Davids (R) Education

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

HF43—Sviggum (R) Taxes

High school league tournament admission sales tax exemption provided.

HF44—Sviggum (R) Judiciary

Joint and several liability apportionment regulated.

HF45—Sviggum (R) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Legislature to meet only in odd-numbered years, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF46—Sviggum (R) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Legislator election provided without political party designation.

HF47—Daggett (R) Judiciary

Domestic abuse definition modified for the purposes of evaluating the best interests of a child.

HF48—Holsten (R) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Ethics in government act modified to require payment of late filing fees and fines as a condition of eligibility for a public subsidy.

HF49—Swenson, D. (R) Judiciary

Medium security corrections facilities minimum capacity requirement imposed.

HF50—Jaros (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade

Trade and economic development officers to be placed in tourism offices.

HF51—Leppik (R) Judiciary

Real property and debt transfer notices required related to marriage dissolution.

HF52—Greiling (DFL) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

State treasurer office eliminated and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF53—Solberg (DFL) Education

Independent School District No. 2, Hill City, fund transfer authorized, and money appropriated.

HF54—Murphy (DFL) Governmental Operations

Member contribution refund repayment authorized for certain former pension plan members.

HF55—Sviggum (R) Health & Human Services

Nursing home minimum data set use and physician evaluation frequency provisions modified.

HF56—Kahn (DFL) Financial Institutions & Insurance

Minnesota electronic authentication act adopted; electronic signature and message transmission use, validity, and security provided, and penalties prescribed.

HF57—Sviggum (R) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Unicameral legislature provided with 135 members, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF58—McElroy (R) Health & Human Services

Birth parent adoption or placement notification required, grand-parent visitation provided, and adoption record privacy provisions modified.

HF59—Anderson, I. (DFL) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Unicameral legislature provided with 102 to 135 members, and constitutional amendment proposed.

Thursday, Jan. 16

HF60—Greiling (DFL) Judiciary

Hazing; civil cause of action provided against student organizations for damages relating to hazing.

HF61—Molnau (R) Agriculture

Agriculture department service contract and grant provisions modified.

HF62—Swenson, D. (R) Judiciary

DWI; maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered for operation of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and motorboats.

HF63—Harder (R) Education

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF64—Pawlentz (R) Judiciary

Biological specimens required from persons convicted of causing the death of someone while committing criminal sexual conduct prior to release from imprisonment.

HF65—Bishop (R) Judiciary

HIV; persons accused of certain crimes to be tested for the HIV virus at the victim's request.

HF66—Leppik (R) Environment & Natural Resources

Adopt-a-park program administrative rulemaking procedure exemption continued, and timber appraisal standard provisions modified.

HF67—Osskopp (R) Judiciary

DWI; maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered for operation of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, motorboats, and while hunting or handling explosives.

HF68—Erhardt (R)**Education**

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF69—Osskopp (R)**Judiciary**

Same-sex marriages not recognized or allowed.

HF70—Knoblach (R)**Health & Human Services**

Public assistance program residency requirement provisions modified.

HF71—Wolf (R)**Education**

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF72—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Physical therapy council, physician assistant advisory council, respiratory care practitioners' advisory council, and acupuncture advisory council expiration dates extended.

HF73—Rukavina (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Eveleth Police and Fire Trust Fund benefit increase provided.

HF74—Osthoff (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Absentee ballot voting provisions modified.

HF75—Koskinen (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Medical practices board disciplinary action provisions modified.

HF76—Dehler (R)**Education**

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF77—Murphy (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Partial-birth abortions prohibited and criminal penalties provided.

HF78—Rest (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

State primary election name changed, candidate party support required, primary election date changed, and election procedures, terms, and deadlines modified.

HF79—Sykora (R)**Education**

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF80—Nornes (R)**Education**

K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF81—Murphy (DFL)**Judiciary**

Corrections facilities multiple occupancy requirements modified.

HF82—Mares (R)**Education**

Independent School District No. 624, White Bear Lake, year-round school/extended week or day pilot program extended, evaluation required, and money appropriated.

HF83—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle crime penalties increased.

HF84—Carlson (DFL)**Education**

School boards permitted to begin the school year prior to Labor Day.

HF85—Anderson, I. (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

State primary election date changed, and candidate filing requirements modified.

HF86—Stanek (R)**Transportation & Transit**

Radio and stereo use restricted in motor vehicles, and penalties prescribed.

HF87—Stanek (R)**Judiciary**

Juveniles adjudicated delinquent for or convicted of illegal pistol possession provided minimum period of confinement.

HF88—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Sentencing guidelines application clarified.

HF89—Gunther (R)**Education**

Independent School District No. 837, Madelia, revenue restoration provided.

HF90—Lieder (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Commercial motor vehicle drivers working as relief, replacement, or emergency snow plow operators exempted from drug and alcohol testing requirement.

HF91—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Corrections facilities single and double bunking requirement repealed.

HF92—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Tattoo removal pilot grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF93—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Probationer or parolee concealment or harboring provided criminal penalties.

HF94—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Emergency telephone call disruption or interference provided criminal penalties.

HF95—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Sex offender federal prison release community notification plan and report required.

HF96—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Methcathinone classified as a schedule II controlled substance.

HF97—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Controlled substance crime sale amount aggregation authorized.

HF98—Stanek (R)**Judiciary**

Public safety department aircraft use authorized for general law enforcement purposes.

HF99—Clark (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Emergency human services grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF100—Wenzel (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Emergency snow removal funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF101—Swenson, D. (R)**Judiciary**

DWI; drivers license revocation and reinstatement provisions modified.

HF102—Seifert (R)**Governmental Operations**

Art in state buildings appropriations authorization removed.

HF103—Greiling (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

State treasurer office eliminated and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF104—Sviggum (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Legislative ethics committees and procedures established, former legislators prohibited from lobbying for one year after leaving office, and fair campaign practices advisory board established.

HF105—Olson, E. (DFL)
Ways & Means

Corrections, natural resources, and public safety departments appropriated money for payment of claims against the state.

HF106—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Governmental Operations

House of Representatives; evenly divided state House of Representatives provided.

HF107—Sviggum (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Metropolitan sports facilities commission abolished, met center sale required, metro dome ownership transfer provided, amateur sports commission youth sports funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF108—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education

Technical college employee retirement benefit protection provided.

HF109—Haas (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance

Minnesota employees insurance program terminated, transition provisions specified, and money appropriated.

HF110—Long (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families residency requirements established.

HF111—Jennings (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

State lottery proceed dedication to environment and natural resources trust fund duration extended indefinitely, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF112—Leppik (R)
Transportation & Transit

Passenger automobile depreciation provided for the purposes of registration tax, and motor fuel excise tax rate increased.

HF113—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

State lottery proceed dedication to environment and natural resources trust fund duration extended, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF114—Pawlenty (R)
Taxes

Dependent child income tax credit allowed.

HF115—Kinkel (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

Cass county tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF116—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary

Public assistance and housing agency data made available to law enforcement agencies.

HF117—Rest (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Tobacco retail license establishment required by local units of government, vendor compliance checks provided, and mandatory penalties provided for sales to minors.

New members . . .

Evans rekindles friendships, focuses on education

Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton) is a newcomer for a second time. She served in the House during the 1992-94 session in District 52B, which includes parts of the Twin Cities' northwest suburban area, and regained her seat this year.



Rep. Geri Evans

Evans said her attraction to public service may have originated during her childhood in Blue Earth, Minn. "I grew up in a home where people were always dropping over and talking all the issues — world affairs, religion — everything," she said. "And, even as a child and a female, my opinions were taken seriously. I didn't realize then how unique that was."

A former St. Anthony-New Brighton school board member, Evans said her first priority is quality in education. Part of her commitment comes from her firsthand experience with the difference schools and teachers can make.

Evans' son, Jim, now 32, has a hearing disability. "Back when he was in school, there weren't as many proactive programs as there are now. I had to do very heavy-duty advocacy to make sure he got the services he needed." It would have been easy for teachers to consider him learning disabled, Evans said. "We all have to continually check our assumptions. It's so important to treat all kids fairly. Many deaf people have been sent to institutions for the mentally retarded."

Today, Jim is a magna cum laude graduate of St. Cloud State University and works for Hennepin County as a senior financial worker. Evans' younger son, Andrew, 26, works in landscaping.

"What I want is for all kids to get a high-quality, well-rounded education," Evans said. "I'm motivated by my experiences on the school board, which I really enjoyed." The school board experience also led her to what became one of her favorite legislative accomplishments: keeping open an environmental center which was threatened with closure. Evans authored the bonding legislation, which

provided funds to renovate the Mounds View School District's Laurentian Environmental Center, she said.

"I've always been a negotiator and coalition-builder. I listen to diverse points of view." Evans said that the skills she developed in that position also are useful at the Legislature.

In her nonpolitical life she's an educational trainer and researcher, which, she said, means providing information and research for staff training and curriculum development for K-12 education and higher education organizations.

District 52B

1995 population: 33,290

Largest city: New Brighton

County: Ramsey

Location: northwestern Metro

Top concern: Adequate education funding. It's an important issue in every district. We did some polling in mine and it ranked highest. A related issue is environmentally safe schools, due to the air-quality problems experienced at Pike Lake Elementary school in New Brighton.

— Rep. Geri Evans

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
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Association of Minnesota Municipalities;
 Association of Small Cities; Coalition of
 Greater Minnesota Cities; League of
 Minnesota Cities; and Municipal Legislative
 Commission.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY
 5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: Presentations by industry advocates.
 Overview of the Gaming Commission.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 22

No committee meetings

THURSDAY, Jan. 23

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
 Finance Division/
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
 INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
 Tour
 Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: Site visit and briefing at the
 Minnesota Historical Society.

EDUCATION
 200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: Welfare reform: Impact of welfare
 reform on education and education's role in
 reform.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
 NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**
 Basement Hearing Room,
 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Agriculture issues and presentations
 from the Farm Bureau; and Farmer's Union.
 Presentation on ethanol by representatives of
 agriculture organizations.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES
 300S State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson
Agenda: Complete overview of Minnesota's
 sales tax, House Research. Discussion of Sales
 Tax Advisory Council recommendations.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
 Basement Hearing Room,
 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Overview of the Department of
 Administration and discussion of
 procurement of reform issues.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
 10 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. John Dorn
Agenda: Continuation of the overview of the
 Department of Health. Nursing home rates
 presentation by the Office of the Legislative
 Auditor.

TAXES
 200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: HF1 (Johnson, A.) Repeal of 1995
 K-12 education appropriation caps.

12:30 p.m.

**Joint
 CAPITAL INVESTMENT/
 Judiciary Finance Division/
 JUDICIARY**
 5 State Office Building
 Chrs. Rep. Henry Kalis and
 Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Rush City Prison: cost increases and
 redesign.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER
 AFFAIRS**
 200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim
Agenda: To be announced.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
 METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**
 10 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: Presentations of legislative agendas
 from the Metropolitan Council; the
 Metropolitan Airports Commission; the
 Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission;
 and the Metropolitan Mosquito Control
 District.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

FRIDAY, Jan. 24

8 a.m.

**Higher Education
 Finance Division/EDUCATION**
 500N State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Presentation from Minnesota State
 Colleges and Universities (MnSCU).

**K-12 Education Finance Division/
 EDUCATION**
 5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: HF12 (Carlson) School district levy
 recognition eliminated, and money
 appropriated.
 HF14 (Jennings) Independent School District
 No. 2144, Chisago Lakes Area, debt service
 levy allocation provided.

MONDAY, Jan. 20

Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday observed.
No House committee meetings scheduled.

TUESDAY, Jan. 21

9 a.m.

**Subcommittee on
 Rulemaking Exemptions/
 Legislative Coordinating Commission**
 300S State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik
Agenda: Public testimony and subcommittee
 action on the working draft (97-0381) dealing
 with rulemaking exemptions.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT
 500S State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: Overview of the Department of
 Finance, Commissioner Wayne Simoneau.
 Debt management guidelines presentation,
 Peter Sausen, Assistant Commissioner,
 Department of Finance.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER
 AFFAIRS**
 200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim
Agenda: Introductions: Commissioner David
 Gruenes, Dept of Commerce; Katie Engler,
 Staff Attorney, Secretary of State's Office;
 Doug Blanke, Consumer Policy Director,
 Attorney General's Office; lobbyists with
 committee concerns who were not
 introduced at Jan. 14 meeting. Subcommittee
 information and discussion.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
 METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**
 10 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: HF100 (Wenzel) Emergency snow
 removal.
 Presentation of legislative agendas by

**Transportation & Transit
Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: Transportation funding in Minnesota. "Recent history of Minnesota funding efforts" presentation by John Williams, House Research.

10:30 a.m.

JUDICIARY

Tour
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Tour of Stillwater and Oak Park Heights prisons.

House Ethics Committee

House leadership has announced the makeup of the House Ethics Committee and this time around there's a new bipartisan approach — the panel will have two equal co-chairs, one from each political party.

"I believe these changes will depoliticize the committee and make the ethics process more fair and workable," said House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) in a prepared statement. "That's important to assuring the citizens have confidence in the Legislature."

In past years, the chair of the Ethics Committee came from the majority party and the vice chair from the minority party, but there was no equal sharing of power.

Dividing the chairmanship means no single member will have the ability to control the committee's meetings, the speaker explained.

In all, the committee will be made up of four members and two alternates, down from 10 members and two alternates last year. As always, there will be equal numbers of DFLers and Republicans.

"This is a good first step in reforming the House ethics process," said Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) in a prepared statement.

Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) and Rep. Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) will serve as co-chairs. Also serving is Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) and Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park). Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) and Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) will serve as alternates.

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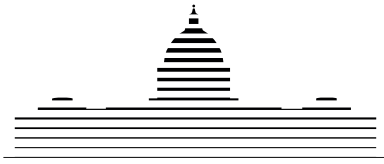
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References to the fabled "frozen tundra" of Lambeau Field, both printed and verbal, have been inescapable during the Green Bay Packers' successful drive toward Super Bowl XXXI. Cheesehead mania has even infected the hallowed halls of the Capitol, where Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) stood on the House floor Jan. 13 to address his colleagues. Sporting a Packer necktie and un-

furling a large Packer blanket, Mares, after giving a brief summary of the team's winning exploits, gave a rousing shout of "Go Packers!" The applause that followed was both muted and brief, perhaps because of lingering memories of yet another solitary, hapless playoff performance by the hometown Minnesota Vikings.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

Blizzards beyond budgets

Fed up with battling relentless blizzards that have left roads hidden under mounds of frozen white and snow drifts as high as rooftops, some Minnesota lawmakers are calling for reinforcements — millions worth.

Proposals in both the House and Senate ask for an extra \$20 million to \$25 million to help dig out Minnesota.

Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) is sponsoring the House bill (**HF100**) that seeks \$25 million.

According to the Senate bill: "The Legislature finds that the historic accumulation of snow, aggravated by drifting from high winds, and by severely cold temperatures have forced local units of government beyond their budgets for snow removal. Emergency financial assistance is necessary for the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens; for the ability of government, schools, hospitals, and businesses to function; and to help individuals to get access to and from their homes, work, schools, and markets."

The bill (**SF87**) is sponsored by Senate Minority Leader Dean Johnson and several other senators from southern and western Minnesota.

The Senate bill requests that \$20 million in fiscal year 1997 be given to the Department of Transportation which would distribute the money to counties that need help with their snow removal budgets.

"Southern and western Minnesota have been hit week after week by extremely devastating blizzards," said Johnson (R-Willmar) in a prepared statement. "Some areas have spent more than their annual snow removal budgets and are now depleting other program resources well into 1998."

Legislators aren't the only ones calling for help. Gov. Arne Carlson is behind the idea too. In his State of the State Address, Carlson, too, called for \$20 million to help plow roads and free up stranded folks in outstate Minnesota.

The governor, who has already asked the federal government for relief, said: "The state of the state is cold."

For more information



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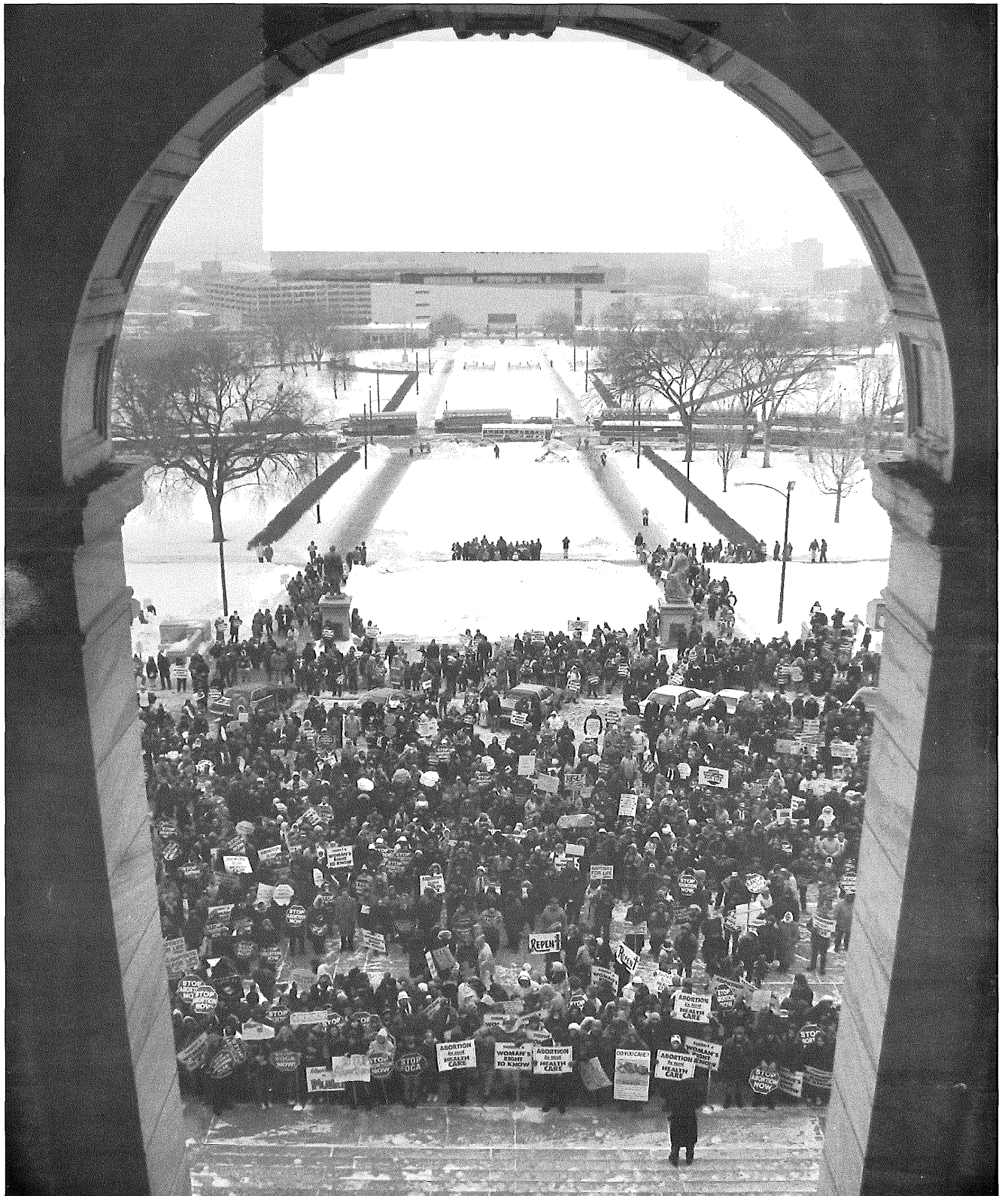


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SESSION WEEKLY

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One of the most exciting events experienced by some 2,000 Minnesotans earlier this week was the inauguration of the president of the United States in Washington, D.C. Attended by Minnesota Democrats and Republicans alike, an overall patriotic feeling prevailed throughout the city, as 500,000 people from across the country came to observe, show their support, and to share in this historic 53rd inaugural celebration; the last inaugural of the 20th century.

On Martin Luther King's Holiday, Jan. 20, from the U.S. Capitol Building steps, down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House and beyond, buildings, street lights, and people were arrayed with the colors of red, white, and blue. Some individuals, like a six-foot plus gentleman from Arkansas, or the Minnesota Ojibwe Indians added flair and class to the occasion. The Arkansan was a spectator who had about the same height and facial features of Abraham Lincoln, and he caused quite a positive stir as he moved through the throng adorned with top hat, morning coat, and beard.

The Mille Lacs Reservation band of dancers and drummers were featured near the front of the inauguration parade and were dressed in Ojibwe ceremonial wear. They and representatives of the Mille Lacs tribal council served as the official Minnesota entry in the parade.

The most impressive part of the three days was the somber tone and pomp of the inaugural ceremonies. Participants on the program represented U.S. citizens from all ethnic and religious groups. With a positive look toward the future, the president reflected on the hopes and dreams of Dr. King and committed himself to the task of bringing about unity in a land of new promise for all Americans.

The pre-inauguration festivities on the Mall and other areas of the city generated a prevailing feeling of celebration, high energy, and even thought-provoking reflection in seminars at the Holocaust Museum.

And Minnesota legislators and ordinary citizens played their part as well. Later at the Midwest Inaugural Ball in the Air and Space Museum, they were in abundance. Between separate visits to the Ball by the president and vice president, Minnesotans schmoozed, danced, and sang along with REO Speedwagon, Stevie Wonder, and other entertainers beneath Minnesota hero Charles Lindbergh's airplane, "The Spirit of Saint Louis," and the first airplane flown by the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk — both hanging from the museum's ceiling.

Another group of Minnesotans who represented the state during the inaugural ceremonies were 95 seventh-graders from West St. Paul's Frances M. Grass Junior High School. Sixty-one of the students, their chaperones, and three other Minnesotans were part of an unscheduled airline landing at the Madison, Wis., airport.

Eleven hours into trying to get home from the nation's capital, maybe the most memorable observation of the historic inaugural event was made in Madison by one of the seventh-graders who said: "I may be tired, but I still am really excited that I was a part of history. Now I know why it is important to learn about our state government. We need to know more about the people that get elected, and somehow get more involved."

-LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: Opponents of legalized abortion gathered at the Capitol Jan. 22 to mark the 24th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on *Roe v. Wade*, which gave women the legal right to abortion.

— Photo by Andrew Von Bank

Highlights

Stopping harassment . . .

House moves to strengthen unclear anti-stalking law

After an hour of debate, the House of Representatives passed a revised anti-stalking proposal Jan. 23 on a 124-3 vote. This time, the Legislature wants to make sure its intentions are clear and understood.

HF5 is a revision of the state's first and only anti-stalking law, passed in 1993. The effectiveness of that law was called into question by a Minnesota Supreme Court ruling in September 1996. A number of legislators, including the new bill's sponsor, Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights), expressed concern over the apparent lack of protection stalking victims may face in light of that ruling. For that reason, supporters sought quick legislative action.

statute has centered on whether it must be proven that an alleged stalker intended to harm or intimidate the victim.

Specifically, the Minnesota Supreme Court in *State of Minnesota v. Orcello* concluded that, as written, the law leaves prosecutors with the burden of proving a defendant had criminal intent when stalking a victim. That can be difficult because stalkers often claim affectionate or benign motives for their behavior.

To clear up the confusion, HF5 specifically states that the prosecution "... is not required to prove that the actor intended to cause the victim to feel frightened, threatened, oppressed, persecuted, or intimidated . . ."

how the victim was made to feel, rather than how the perpetrator meant or intended the actions.

Anti-stalking legislation has swept through legislatures nationwide since 1990, when California passed the nation's first state-level statute on stalking. Since then, 47 other states and the District of Columbia have passed versions of their own, according to a June 1996 report from the U.S. Department of Justice. Maine is the only state without a specific law, but uses a terrorizing statute to address stalking, the report states. Last September, President Bill Clinton signed legislation making interstate stalking and harassment a federal crime "regardless of whether the stalker has committed an act of violence or is the spouse or an intimate of the victim, and regardless of whether the victim had a court order of protection," according to the *New York Times*. It sets penalties from up to five years in prison for harassment to life in prison for bodily injury, the *Times* report said.

Perhaps because the laws are so new, statistics on stalking incidents are hard to come by. However, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension reports that in 1995 there were 495 stalking incidents reported by law enforcement agencies in the state. In 1996, there were 535. According to evidence compiled by U.S. Senator Bill Cohen (R-Maine) as many as 90 percent of women killed by their husbands or boyfriends were stalked before the attack, news reports have said.

Anti-stalking legislation has been challenged in many states on constitutional and other grounds. Some of the behaviors common to stalking, are, on their face, legal or seemingly harmless — such as sending letters, flowers, or sitting in one's car on a public street. That makes it difficult to prevent the law from being overly broad or violating the First Amendment right to free speech. The law also must avoid violating the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment, which requires that individuals receive fair notice of the types of conduct that are prohibited. Other issues regard freedom of



The House Jan. 23 passed a bill that tightens Minnesota's 1993 anti-stalking law. The Minnesota Supreme Court recently ruled that the 1993 law leaves prosecutors with the burden of proving a defendant had criminal intent when stalking a victim. To clear up the confusion, the new bill states that the prosecution "... is not required to prove that the actor intended to cause the victim to feel frightened, threatened, oppressed, persecuted, or intimidated . . ."

The new anti-stalking proposal is meant to clarify and remedy ambiguities in the 1993 law. It is also one of the first pieces of legislation to move through the 1997 Legislative Session.

"This is a very important piece of legislation," Rep. McGuire said, noting that many people have either been victims of or have known victims of stalkers.

The debate surrounding the Minnesota

The bill also would change the definition of "harass" under current law which focuses on whether a "reasonable person" would feel intimidated.

"Harass" would mean engaging in intentional conduct "which the actor knows or should know would cause the victim under the circumstances to feel frightened, threatened, oppressed, persecuted or intimidated." In other words, the bill switches the focus to

movement, an implied right under the Constitution, and vagueness.

If HF5 becomes law, Minnesota would be one of 16 states in which the law focuses on the effect the stalker's actions have on the victim, regardless of whether the actor's intentions can be proven.

Currently, the maximum penalty in Minnesota for the first stalking conviction, a gross misdemeanor, is up to a year imprisonment and a fine of \$3,000. Subsequent convictions are felonies that can result in up to 10 years in prison and fines of up to \$10,000. If a pattern of terror is established against a single person or household, a prison term of up to 10 years and a \$20,000 fine is possible. Nationwide, a stalking conviction typically results in a jail sentence of up to a year. Penalties of three to five years are common for felony convictions, the Justice Department report said.

After pointed debate on the broadness of the law, and its subsequent potential to be abused, McGuire successfully defended its ability to pass constitutional muster.

HF5 now moves to the Senate.

— Celeste Riley



BONDING

Better bond rating

Minnesota has a good chance of receiving a money-saving upgrade in its bond rating, according to the head of the Department of Finance.

Appearing before the House Capital Investment Committee Jan. 21, Commissioner Wayne Simoneau said the state is on track to be restored to the top rating by the last of the three major bond rating firms.

Simoneau and Gov. Arne Carlson recently met with officials from Standard & Poor's Ratings Group in hopes of seeing the state's AAA bond rating restored.

The state currently has a AA-plus rating from Standard & Poor's. The other major rating firms, Fitch Investors Service and Moody's Investor Service, both give Minnesota the AAA rating.

A better rating means lower interest on the general obligation bonds Minnesota sells to finance building projects throughout the state. Last year, the governor signed a bill authorizing \$485.3 million in public building and repair projects to be paid for with bond revenues.

Minnesota lost its AAA rating from Standard & Poor's in March 1982 and lost its top rating from Moody's in April 1982. Both

rating firms downgraded Minnesota to AA.

The state was not rated by Fitch until the late 1980s, when the firm gave Minnesota the AA-plus rating. Fitch upgraded Minnesota to AAA in 1993.

Moody's boosted the state's rating to AAA in May 1996. Carlson now lists restoration of the AAA rating from Standard & Poor's among his top priorities for the 1998-99 biennium.

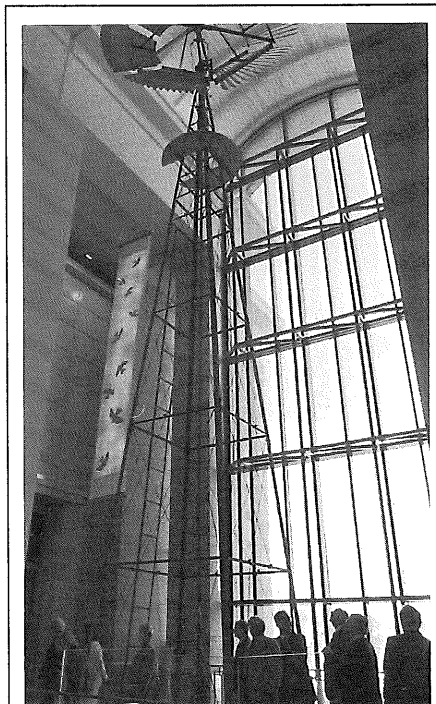
Simoneau said the Standard & Poor's upgrade could come as soon as this summer, as long as the Legislature "does not stray too far from [Carlson's] budget."

The governor's budget proposal will include measures that should please analysts at Standard & Poor's, according to Simoneau.

For instance, the governor's budget recommendations will call for an increase in the state budget reserve from the current \$260 million to about \$500 million, Simoneau said.

Peter Sausen, assistant commissioner of finance, told committee members that the rating firm will consider the overall financial management of the state and the state's economy, which has been flourishing.

Any new, open-ended spending requirements the Legislature creates will count against Minnesota in the effort to receive a bond rating upgrade, Sausen said.



Members of the Economic Development Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee stopped to look at a windmill during a tour of the Minnesota History Center Jan. 23.



CRIME

Prison problems

House members getting their first look at revamped plans for a new prison in Rush City, Minn., are concerned that the proposal runs far afield of the 1996 law authorizing construction of the facility.

Most inmates would share a cell at a new prison, under the revised plan for the facility presented at a joint meeting of the House Judiciary Finance Division and the Capital Investment Committee Jan. 23.

The Department of Corrections originally sought \$100 million to build a close-custody facility with six residential sections of 136 cells, providing space for 816 beds. The 1996 Legislature approved a plan to spend \$89 million for the new prison.

Subsequent cost estimates that predicted a significant overrun prompted the corrections department go back to the drawing board.

To stick with plans for six residential sections would have produced a price tag of roughly \$10 million more than was appropriated by the Legislature, according to Sally Grans, Rush City project manager.

The department is now pitching a plan that calls for four housing sections, with three of them double-bunked. The new plan would provide 952 beds.

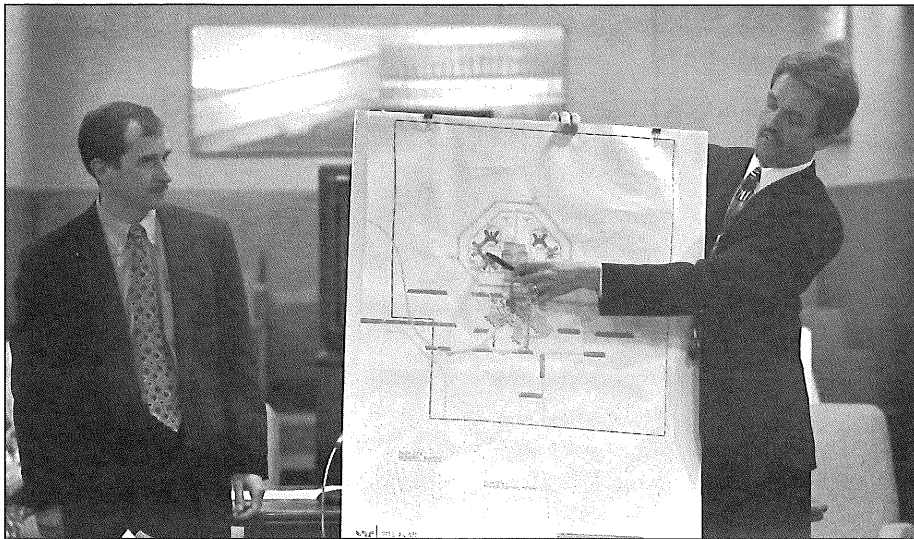
"We are trying to be responsive to the pressure I think we're all feeling to try to do more with less," said Dennis Benson, deputy commissioner for the department. "... We're here today with our hat in our hand to try to get this thing built to deal with our [inmate] population problem."

Proponents of double-bunkings succeeded in getting a provision into the 1996 law authorizing the development of an alternate plan including double-bunking in one of the so-called pods, or sections, where inmates will be housed.

But concerns are surfacing now about the extent of double-bunking called for in the revamped prison plan.

"It doesn't say, 'at least one pod.'" It says 'one,'" said Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey). "Clearly the law has to be changed before this can go ahead."

Benson tried to allay concerns about the large number of inmates who would be sharing cells. He described the state's experience with double-bunking at medium-security facilities and detailed the factors considered when selecting inmates for shared cells.



David Crist, *left*, and Dennis Benson, both from the Department of Corrections, present revamped design plans for a new state prison to be built in Rush City, Minn. The officials met with members of the House Capital Investment Committee and the Judiciary Finance Division Jan. 23.

Double-bunking is opposed by some who contend that it poses an increased risk to the safety of staff and inmates.

"This is a calculated risk business," Benson said. "We have a program that we think will address those kinds of concerns, and we're prepared to move ahead with it."

The Department of Corrections also is seeking a change in state law to allow double-bunking in the higher security prisons. Currently, double-bunking is allowed for up to half the population at medium-security facilities, such as Faribault, Lino Lakes, and Moose Lake.

The department wants to create a six-level custody system that uses numbers to indicate the level of security, one being the minimum and six being the maximum. Double-bunking would be allowed at level four and under.

Oak Park Heights, now considered maximum-security, would be level six. Stillwater and St. Cloud, both classified as close-custody facilities, would be level five. Rush City would be level 4.

Double-bunking would not be allowed at Oak Park Heights, Stillwater, and St. Cloud because of the age of those facilities and the size of the cells. Cells at Rush City are planned at 84.2 square feet. St. Cloud's cells are only 48 square feet, and Stillwater's are 60 square feet.

Benson said the new Rush City proposal has improved recreational and industrial space, providing for more programs important to controlling the inmate population.

"Virtually the only time we're going to have two people in the same cell is during sleeping hours," Benson said.

Still, not all members of the joint panel seemed ready to endorse the department's

plan.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) argued that Minnesota should not join other states in "a mood that is dangerous," whereby inmates are treated "like animals."

"I am concerned about double-bunking, and, frankly, I don't give a damn what other states are doing," he said.

Further discussion on the prison is expected at a later date this session.



EDUCATION

Removing the caps

The House Taxes Committee unanimously approved legislation Jan. 23 that would remove statutory caps now in place on K-12 education funding.

The caps, passed during a special session in 1995 and effective with the start of the 1998-99 biennium, would effectively cut education funding by \$337 million, primarily by reducing the per-pupil amount each school district receives from the state. Other reductions would alter the formula used by the state to calculate funding levels for secondary students.

Much — at times heated — discussion focused not on the removal of the caps, a move which has broad bipartisan support, but on an amendment to **HF1** to alter the complex formula that determines how much money each school district receives. The goal of the amendment, offered by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), was to hold the line on property taxes in those districts with excess levy referendums or high property taxes in place as a result of the caps. It was rejected on an 18-5 vote.

Many committee members agreed with Abrams' idea in principle, but said **HF1** was not the place to put it.

"I believe this [amendment] will endanger the passage of this legislation," bill sponsor Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) said. "The leadership has called for a clean bill."

Others said such tinkering could lead to similar tactics in the Senate, which could ultimately derail the legislation. It would be better to wait for the House's omnibus K-12 education or tax bills to make such a change, Johnson said.

Abrams, though, remained adamant that his amendment be adopted, and said that the future funding-formula changes might "slip through the cracks."

House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) reminded the committee that any changes to the bill would violate the letter, if not the spirit, of the House leadership's vow to present the governor with an unadorned **HF1**, and could make it harder to pass future legislation, such as welfare or property tax reform.

"Let's vote it down and move on," Winter said, calling for a roll-call vote on the amendment.

The committee referred **HF1** to the House Ways and Means Committee.



GOVERNMENT

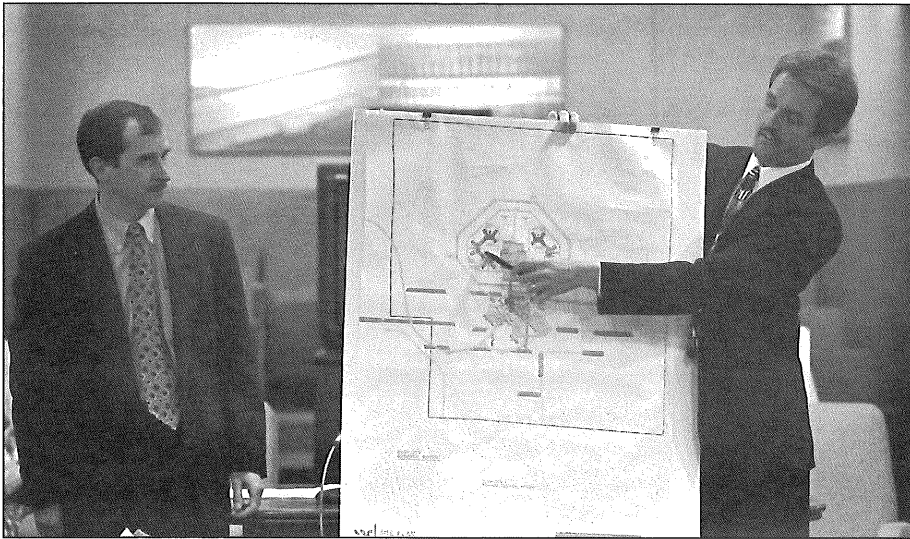
Emergency snow removal

This winter's severe weather has many Minnesota communities piling up record spending on snow plowing. Especially hard hit is southwestern Minnesota, where most counties and townships have already exhausted their 1997 snow removal budgets.

A proposal (**HF100**) sponsored by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) would appropriate \$20 million for those local governments most affected by winter storms and their aftermath. The bill was approved Jan. 21 by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

Gov. Arne Carlson expressed support for such a bill in his State of the State address. **HF100** originally asked for \$25 million but was amended to match Carlson's \$20 million proposal and a similar measure (**SF87**) introduced in the Senate.

The House bill provides that grants can be made to local units of government for: "snowplowing for emergencies because the snowplowing budget or other resources are



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The House bill provides that grants can be made to local units of government for: "snowplowing for emergencies because the snowplowing budget or other resources are

depleted; emergencies due to severe weather and its aftermath, which may include flooding, and which affects or threatens public safety; and required matching funds under 1997 federal weather-related disaster declarations."

Grants are divided into three categories by the bill. The commissioner of public safety would be authorized to make grants up to \$5,000 to counties, cities, and towns for severe weather-related matters. Grants of up to \$10,000 would require the approval of the governor. And for grants of more than \$10,000, the governor would have to consult with a legislative advisory commission. State agencies also would be eligible to apply for grants of more than \$10,000.

"The winter storm situation has been fast moving and accumulating," said Jim Franklin, director of the Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management. He told committee members that there have been seven Presidential declarations of emergency related to weather this winter. "The bill will allow us to evaluate the emergency requests we receive from local governments, take into account the federal aid available, and supplement that where appropriate."

Wenzel told the committee that Marshall, Minn., has experienced 10 major snow storms in five weeks. "The size of this problem puts us ahead of 1993 in precipitation," he said, referring to the year Minnesota experienced extensive spring flooding. "We are trying to get ahead of this and do some preventive measures."

Others admitted that the full effects of the storm have not yet been discovered.

"We don't have any hard data on the impact of the storms yet," said Joel Jamnik of the League of Minnesota Cities. "But we are hearing stories daily. There are constant reports of people digging out after being snowed in for several days. We had to issue warnings for snowmobilers to watch out for power lines. And those were not downed lines — they were in snow drifts up to the lines."

Jim Mulder of the Association of Minnesota Counties told the committee that there may be significant long-term damage from the severe winter weather that won't show up right away. "Continuous snow plowing is really hard on our roads," he said. "And we may see floods this spring like we've never seen before."

Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview) argued that HF100 should be tabled until a state-sponsored survey determines the exact extent of the need. His motion was defeated 14-2.

HF100 now moves to the House Judiciary Committee.

Snowmobiles . . .

Lawmakers react to snowmobile tragedies

A recent string of deadly snowmobile accidents has lawmakers looking for ways to improve safety without diminishing a popular and profitable winter sport.

The Jan. 18-19 weekend saw five snowmobilers and one pedestrian die in snowmobile accidents. The death toll is 24 so far this season, fast approaching last year's 26 snowmobiling fatalities.

Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison) plans to introduce a bill that would set new requirements for snowmobile safety training and provide funds for increased enforcement and trail improvements.

"I want to make this sport safe," Peterson said. "It's a very big industry, and it's something that wasn't there for tourism 10 years ago. That's great for northern Minnesota, but they still want a safe experience."

Peterson's proposal would require snowmobilers to complete safety training and receive a special driver's license endorsement, similar to requirements now in place for motorcycle riders.

The measure also would impose a \$10 annual surcharge on registration fees for snowmobiles with engines of 335 cubic centimeters or larger. Proceeds from that surcharge, which Peterson estimates would be about \$2 million per year, would be used to boost enforcement of safety laws, to improve snowmobile trails, and to support safety training.

Peterson also wants a requirement that snowmobilers carry liability insurance. (Current law does not require that snowmobiles be insured, nor does it require insurance for boats, personal water craft or all-terrain vehicles.)

"I recognize that it's a small minority who causes most of the accidents," Peterson said. "But we cannot permit unsafe conditions and unsafe operation to continue when the toll in human life is so high."

Many of the recent snowmobiling deaths are being attributed to high speeds or alcohol or a mix of both. Most notably, a 20-year-old Coon Rapids man now faces charges that on Jan. 18 he was driving his snowmobile drunk when it struck and killed 10-year-old Josh Renken as the boy walked along a road near his Big Lake, Minn., home.

"The bad actors — the ones drinking

and traveling at high speeds — need to know that's over," Peterson said. "We're not going to tolerate that recklessness."

Another lawmaker is taking a different approach to reducing alcohol-related fatalities involving snowmobiles, boats, or automobiles.

Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake) is sponsoring a bill (HF62) that would reduce the legal blood-alcohol limit from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent for drivers of all vehicles.

"I'm doing this for the purpose of trying to save some lives," Swenson said. "Deaths on the road and through the use of recreational vehicles have been a problem for a long time."

Swenson said his bill, which was introduced Jan. 16, is part of a Mothers Against Drunk Driving effort on the state and national level to enact tougher drunk driving laws.

"The [snowmobile] fatalities of last weekend are not a new phenomena," Swenson said. "I am not pleased that these tragedies have occurred, but I am pleased that they have increased public awareness and legislative interest in this issue."

There are currently more than 250,000 snowmobiles registered in Minnesota. Restrictions on who can operate a snowmobile are mostly limited to children under age 18.

Current law allows a child of any age to drive a snowmobile on private land as long as they are accompanied by an adult. Children 12 to 14 who complete a safety course can operate a snowmobile alone on private land. Children 14 and up who complete a safety course are unrestricted in their snowmobile travels.

State law sets a 50 mph speed limit for snowmobilers on public lands or lakes. Snowmobilers traveling in ditches on county roads must adhere to the speed limit on the adjacent road.

"If you're driving 55 to 65 on the highway and you can't keep up with the snowmobiles in the ditch, then you've got a problem," Peterson said.

— Nick Healy

Governor focuses on tax cuts, education spending

Gov. Arne Carlson doesn't promise a chicken in every pot in his biennial budget proposal, but he does want a computer in every classroom. That provision is a small part of the \$20.3 billion in state spending the governor is asking for in the 1998-99 spending cycle, a \$1.5 billion increase over the current biennium. Carlson said that his budget proposal will allow the state to achieve long-term fiscal stability, restore its AAA bond rating, and hold down the growth in state spending.

"A budget is usually seen as being about spending. But it is about much more than that," Carlson told a roomful of reporters, legislators, and onlookers Jan. 23 at the St. Paul World Trade Center. "We've worked over the last six years to bring Minnesota from a \$1.8 billion budget deficit to a \$1.4 billion surplus. This budget builds on that and reflects our priorities for bringing Minnesota into the 21st century."

In response to the governor's budget proposal, House Speaker Phil Carruthers and Majority Leader Ted Winter said there are many items that DFLers can support, although his proposals on education and property taxes are a cause for concern.

Carlson's administration forecasts a budget surplus of \$1.4 billion for the coming biennium. Based on this prediction, the governor wants to give taxpayers a one-time income tax rebate of \$261 million. Individual taxpayers would receive rebates of \$50 to \$248. He also proposes \$180 million in education tax credits and savings incentives, and \$94 million in business and other tax reductions to come out of the surplus.

Department of Finance Commissioner Wayne Simoneau noted that for the first time in 20 years, this budget achieves a structural balance. Spending for 1998-99 is projected to be less than the rate of growth in Minnesota's personal income. "In layman's terms, government should not grow at a rate faster than the taxpayer's ability to pay," he said.

The governor also wants to use \$261 mil-



House Speaker Phil Carruthers, right, took notes as Majority Leader Ted Winter, center, and Minority Leader Steve Sviggum, left, listened to Gov. Arne Carlson's state budget address Jan. 23 at the World Trade Center in St. Paul.

lion of the remaining unallocated surplus to double the state's budget reserve to an amount equal to 5 percent of the total budget. The reserve is used to prevent disruption of services or forced tax increases as a result of unanticipated revenue shortfalls. (The proposal currently pending in the Legislature (HF100) for \$20 million in emergency relief to communities impacted by this winter's severe storms would come from this fund.)

Carlson said that Standard & Poor's, a major financial rating agency, will upgrade Minnesota's bond rating if the Legislature adopts his budget parameters. (See related story, page 4.) In 1982, Minnesota's AAA credit rating was downgraded as a result of the state's fiscal difficulties. Since then, restoration of the state's financial condition has led two major rating agencies, Fitch Investors Service and Moody's Investor Service, to restore Minnesota's AAA bond rating.

The largest single item in the budget proposal is education. The governor calls for an increase of \$673 million, or 11.5 percent, in total education spending over the previous biennium.

Several of the governor's education reform ideas appear as budget initiatives. He asks for \$5 million to establish statewide testing for students in third, fifth, and eighth grade so that parents, school districts, and state officials could judge how well individual schools are performing. The governor proposes expanding the state's current education expense tax deduction by \$150 million to allow parents to receive tax credits for private school tuition, tutoring, summer school enrichment programs, home schooling expenses, and computer hardware and software purchases. A \$30 million initiative called EdVest would also allow families to establish tax-free savings accounts for higher education.

The budget seeks \$216 million for technology development including a specific initiative to link every public school to the Internet and increase the num-

ber of computers in classrooms. "We want every child to have access to computers and technology, just as we had access to textbooks," Carlson said.

Higher education also comes in for a substantial \$215 million increase in funding. \$132 million would go to the University of Minnesota and \$83 million to the Minnesota State Colleges and University system.

Other highlights of the governor's 1998-99 budget proposal include:

- A comprehensive restructuring of state welfare programs in response to the federal government's elimination of Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The major element in the governor's plan is the statewide implementation of the Minnesota Family Investment Program, a pilot program which ensures that work is rewarded. The budget also calls for a \$90 million increase in child care services, considered a key element in

- allowing parents currently receiving AFDC to go to work. (See related story, page XX.)
- \$3.4 billion for transportation including the largest road construction program in state history. \$890 million would go for state highway construction, \$10 million for metropolitan transit, and \$3 million for outstate Minnesota transit.
 - \$880 million, a 13 percent increase, is proposed for environmental and recreation programs including \$25 million to double ethanol fuel production subsidies, \$2.1 million for grooming and maintenance of local and state snowmobile trails and \$7.8 million for continuation of the Motor Vehicle Transfer fee for Superfund cleanup activities.
 - A mere \$26,942 increase in state aids and credits to local government. "I'll be blunt," Carlson said. "The formula for local aid is not equitable. Some local governments are getting 70-90 percent of their budgets from the state. That's like going to a restaurant, ordering a meal and sending the bill to another table."

The DFL leadership in the House of Representative agreed with some of the governor's proposals. "We strongly support welfare reform with an orientation on work," said House Speaker Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center). "We also applaud his increase in higher education funding and efforts to control growth in spending by state agencies."

Carruthers expressed concern that the governor's budget "offers little real increase for K-12 education and virtually freezes property tax relief. There is almost no increase in the general school aid formula."

Much of the governor's proposed increase in education funding really represents restoration of \$337 million in cuts in state aid, Carruthers noted. Another \$180 million is taken up by the Governor's proposed tax credits and deductions for private schools, summer camps and private computers, he added.

"It's a mixed message," Carruthers said. "We support a lot of what he's doing — but we want to strongly support education and job training. The best place we can put education dollars is the general per-pupil aid formula. At the same time, we recognize problems in schools cannot be addressed by dollars alone, but also requires accountability for the use of the tax dollar."

Winter (DFL-Fulda) said rural residents will likely be disappointed that the governor continues to stress income tax relief when rising property taxes are a much more urgent problem.

"He's proposing a one-time income tax giveaway when we really need property tax relief," Winter said.

Carruthers said House DFLers look forward to getting more precise details on the governor's budget next week. That will start the legislative budget making process, including multiple public hearings.

"I look forward to working with the governor on the budget," Carruthers said. "That will be the key to a successful and smooth legislative session."

— Steve Compton

It's a fact!

In Mexico, the press is notorious for its cozy relationship with politicians at all levels of government. The situation is so bad that in February 1996, President Ernesto Zedillo ordered all his ministers to stop paying journalists for favorable coverage.

Such practices fly in the face of Minnesota's proud reputation as a good government state. But history shows that not all local scribes were committed to reporting all the news from the statehouse that was fit to print. At least one appears to have received state dollars to color his prose.

In 1907, H. E. Samuelson was hired to serve as the House press gallery sergeant for the 1907 and 1909 legislative sessions. For his services, he drew a modest paycheck of \$5 per day. In current dollars, that's more than a \$24,000 annual salary.

Trouble was no press gallery existed, "and Mr. Samuelson did no work of any kind in connection with that position, except draw his salary," an outraged Carl J. Buell wrote in his text *The Minnesota Legislature of 1909*.

In fact, Samuelson was employed as a political reporter for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and specifically covered House activities for the newspaper during his tenure as press gallery sergeant.

"I think it is only fair to infer that he was given about a thousand dollars of the people's money to color his legislative correspondence," Buell wrote.

There is no mention of other newspapers or reporters who might have been entangled in a similar kickback scheme, but the problem certainly never grew to be of modern-day Mexican proportions. According to *Forbes* magazine, a highly placed Mexican source said that if the payment-for-coverage scam were to stop, "this loss of revenue may bankrupt some of the local newspapers."



Administrator for the House Judiciary Committee Greg Bergstrom, left, and Rep. Geri Evans look over the reference collection of guns at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Jan. 17 as part of a committee tour of the bureau.

Welfare changes . . .

State braces for law ending 'welfare as we know it'



Cindy Selmon of Minneapolis knows of people who use their monthly welfare check to buy crack and booze instead of feeding their children.

Kathy Munt of Rush City, Minn., knows of schoolmates who got pregnant so they could qualify for welfare and not have to work.

And Charles Lickteig of Stacy, Minn., knows of a family encouraging a tradition of welfare with each new generation.

These attitudes anger all three Minnesotans. It's because of abuses like these that the federal government scrapped the longstanding welfare system in August 1996. They, too, are on welfare and may soon lose their safety net.

Each will watch the 1997 Minnesota Legislature carefully as lawmakers grapple with a new federal law that "ends welfare as we know it" — just as President Bill Clinton promised. Welfare recipients know it will affect them; they're just not sure how and when.

For now, no one knows.

The only certainty is that lawmakers must react to major policy changes and limited dollars coming from the federal government. Debate on legislation outlining Minnesota's response to the tougher welfare restrictions is expected later this month.

The federal law does away with monthly welfare checks and food stamps for many legal immigrants and eliminates disability cash assistance for people with drug and alcohol addictions. It also eliminates cash assistance for children with certain behavioral disabilities and requires able-bodied adults, ages 18-50, who receive food stamps to work.

Perhaps the most significant change involves poor families with children. The law requires these parents to get a job and sets a five-year-lifetime limit on their welfare benefits. States that do not get these parents to work

will be penalized by the federal government.

While the federal law prescribes much of what states are required to do, it leaves each state to decide how to design its own welfare system.

For their part, states will decide who qualifies for welfare, what the income limits will be, how much cash assistance to dole out, and whether to spend state dollars to help legal immigrants and others whose benefits have been cut off by the federal law.

Minnesota, like all states, faces several challenges, most of which will cost money:

- creating jobs that pay a livable wage and match the skills of people on welfare;
- expanding job training programs;

- locating and paying for child care for all those welfare families now required to work; and
- creating a safety net for children in families whose parents refuse or can't find work, or whose welfare benefits run out.

The welfare alphabet

Unlike the old system, poor families no longer have a guarantee or entitlement to welfare.

Specifically, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) has been eliminated and replaced with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), which will send a block grant to each state.

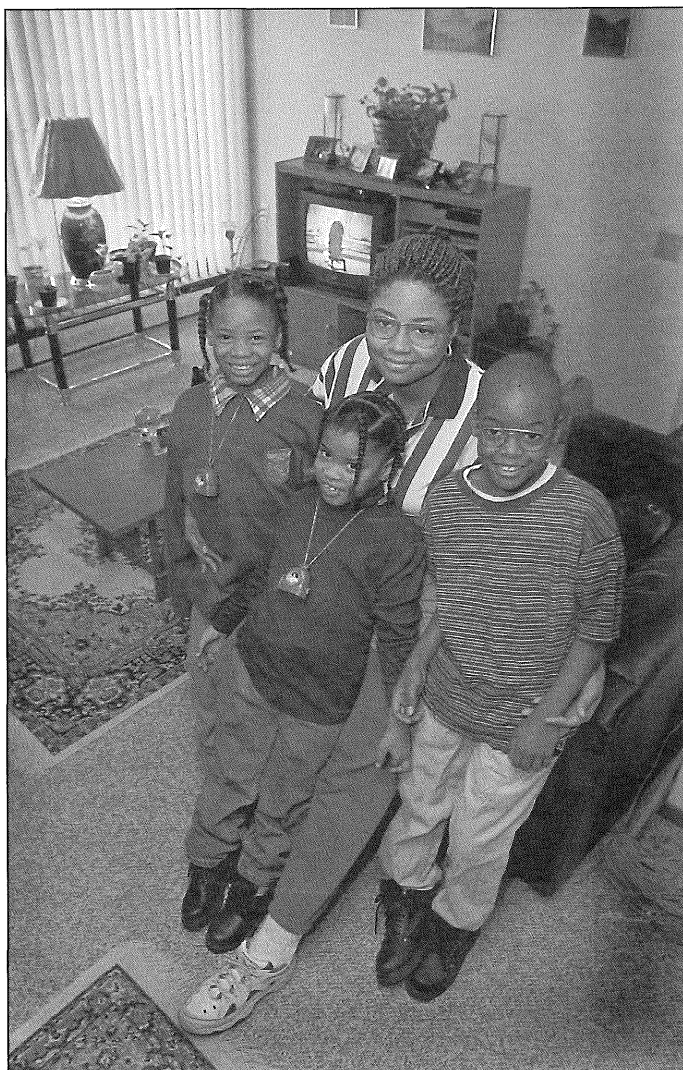
In all, the federal government will spend more than \$16 billion annually over the next six years. Minnesota expects to receive about \$268 million each year, which is about \$44 million more per year than it currently receives.

The federal money, however, comes with tough restrictions on who can receive the cash and for how long. Under the new rules, families receiving monthly welfare checks must find work within two years and there is a five-year lifetime limit on receiving help. States have the option of paying for more assistance after five years, but the dollars must come out of the state's own coffers.

States also have the option of limiting public assistance to fewer than five years and could deny benefits to children born or conceived while the parent is on welfare. It is unclear what Minnesota lawmakers will do.

Currently, a typical AFDC family in Minnesota — a mother with one child — receives \$437 per month on AFDC. A mother with two children receives \$532 per month. The monthly benefit has not changed since 1986. An estimated 160,000 people (108,000 of whom are children) receive AFDC benefits each month.

It's important to note,



Cindy Selmon, a Minneapolis mother on welfare worries that a new federal welfare law may force her to work instead of finish her nursing degree. Pictured from left to right are Selmon's three children: Brandy, 7; Jennifer, 5; and Johnathan, 8.

however, that more than 50 percent of the families who receive AFDC leave the program on their own in two years and do not return, according to Deborah Huskins, an assistant commissioner with the Department of Human Services.

The clock on the new federal five-year limit begins ticking when the state submits its plan to the federal government detailing how it will meet the new welfare restrictions and move folks into the job market. States have until July 1, 1997, to submit their plans. There are stiff cash penalties — in the form of reductions to a state's block grant — for failing to meet the deadline.

Currently, 13 percent of Minnesota's 52,000 AFDC families have been on welfare steadily for the past five years, according to the Department of Human Services.

States are under a great deal of pressure to move people off the welfare rolls. Beginning with fiscal year 1997, each state must show that 25 percent of families on welfare are working at least 20 hours per week. By fiscal year 2002, the requirement jumps to 50 percent working at least 30 hours per week. There are cash penalties for states that do not meet the percentages.

“People think everyone on welfare is just sitting at home and watching soaps, but we're not. . . I know I'm going to get off this stuff.”

—Cindy Selmon, welfare recipient

In Minnesota's case, however, state officials may get a break. Instead of moving 25 percent off the welfare rolls to work in the first year, officials here may only need to worry about 20 percent. That's because the state has seen a drop in welfare cases in recent years, and the federal government is willing to reward Minnesota for it.

Currently, about 13 percent of Minnesota AFDC families (6,800 cases) work but it is unclear if they work enough hours to meet the first-year, 20-hours-per-week requirement. Assuming they all do — which, officials warn is unlikely — another 6,200 cases would need to find work in the first year.

Reality check

The new work requirements have caused anxiety in some and disbelief in others. Some AFDC families are frantic, especially those who can't afford child care and those in school studying for a career. Others don't think the federal law is real.

“Some of the women just don't believe its going to happen. They don't believe the cuts are real. They figure the federal government will step in when the five-year limit hits,” said Lynn Shellenberger who runs a Twin Cities project called Sister to Sister, a mentoring program that brings together AFDC mothers and those previously on welfare.

If the new law is to work, said Shellenberger, a former welfare mom herself, government and the private sector need to come up with several million more dollars for job training and child care.

According to the Minnesota Department of Economic Security, the state has plenty of jobs available for welfare families joining the ranks of the employed. But, that news makes social workers shake their heads. The availability of jobs is only part of the problem. People on welfare need to be trained to take those jobs and too many of them don't pay a livable wage to support a family.

Currently, Minnesota pays about \$28 million per year specifically to train and find work for people on welfare, according to the Department of Human Services. It is unclear if, or by how much, that will increase under

the 1998-1999 budget. Gov. Arne Carlson has called for a new \$4 million program to provide an educational “pathway” to help people move from welfare to work.

In addition to job training, child care presents a big obstacle for many welfare families trying to find work. Ninety percent of Minnesota's welfare recipients are single parents.

Minnesota is expected to spend \$82 million during the 1996-1997 budgeting period on subsidized child care for both welfare parents and the working poor. Waiting lists for subsidized child care slots are long and will grow as thousands of families move into the job market.

Some estimates suggest Minnesota will need to double the amount it spends on subsidized child care. The governor has proposed a \$90 million increase over the next two years.

Minnesota currently subsidizes child care for 15,300 welfare children and some 17,000

children whose parents are considered working poor — low-income but not on public assistance, said Barbara Yates, an assistant commissioner with the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

The bottom line on child care, Yates said, is “we have some and we need more.”

She stressed that child care slots must be created in the evenings, on weekends, and during odd night shifts because that is when some welfare parents will find work.

Another unanswered question is whether the state will continue to provide child care to welfare parents who attend school instead of work. It is unclear if they will be able to continue their education or be forced to work.

“Child care is a main concern,” said Tabitha Carlson, a 25-year-old mother of two who relies on welfare to pay for child care while she studies social work at the University of St. Thomas.

“Under the new law, there could be a penalty for choosing to stay in school rather than going to work right away,” she said. That penalty could be no more subsidized child care.

But, Carlson said, she's got to find a way to finish no matter what obstacles the federal law throws at her. “I have a vision for myself and this (new law) is not going to stop me.”

Cindy Selmon, a welfare mom from Minneapolis, is studying to be a nurse at Minneapolis Community College and is juggling her three kids with her classes and a work study job. With a year of study remaining before graduation, she's worried the state will make her quit school and find a job.

“I gotta finish school or my family has little hope. . . The more I try, it seems the harder they make it for me,” she said, wishing the welfare system would judge cases on an individual basis.

“People think everyone on welfare is just sitting at home and watching soaps, but we're not. . . I know I'm going to get off this stuff,” she said.

Selmon, like many on welfare, wishes she just knew what was going to happen. “I need to know something. I need to know how to prepare.”

Immigrants

In all, the federal welfare law is expected to save the United States more than \$50 billion over the next six years and much of that savings — \$25 billion — targets one group of people.

Nationwide, more than two million legal immigrants use one of several welfare programs. Under the law, however, virtually all

public assistance is eliminated. Again, states are free to extend welfare to those legal immigrants scheduled to be cut off, but the state must use its own money.

Minnesota is home to immigrants from all over the globe. The top five countries of origin are: Laos, Vietnam, Korea, the former Soviet Union, and Mexico. Currently, 34,000 of the roughly 100,000 legal immigrants in Minnesota receive benefits from one program or another.

The food stamp program tops the list of federal welfare programs that are now off limits to many legal immigrants. In Minnesota, an estimated 16,000 noncitizens will lose their food stamps in 1997. The average person receives \$63 per month in food coupons.

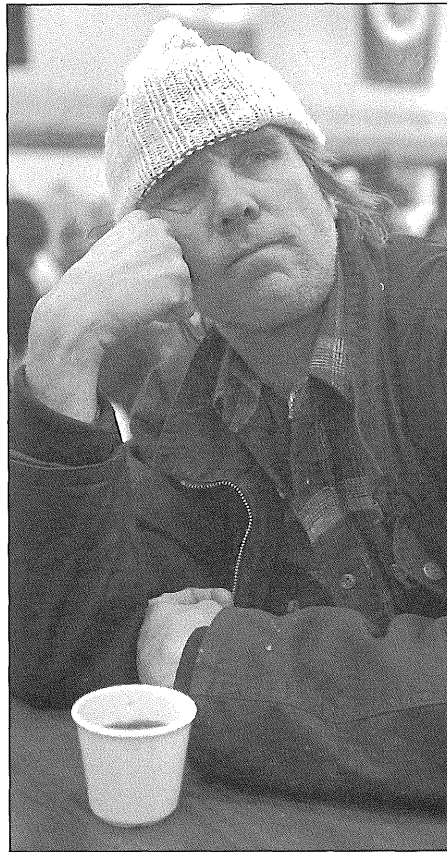
Also, many elderly and disabled immigrants will lose their Supplemental Security Income (SSI), a federal program begun in 1974 that provides cash help (an average of \$378 a month) to the needy who are aged, blind, or disabled. In Minnesota, 5,400 immigrants are expected to lose their SSI in August 1997.

There are some exceptions to the food stamp and SSI bans. For instance, legal immigrants who have worked 10 years in the United States will keep their benefits. New refugees also will be eligible for food stamps and SSI, but only for their first five years in the U.S. In contrast, refugees who have lived in this country for five years or more will lose the benefits.

In terms of the federal block grant that replaces AFDC, immigrant families with children who arrived after Aug. 22, 1996, (the day the federal law was signed), are now barred for five years from receiving any cash help. It is up to each state to determine whether immigrants already on U.S. soil at the time the law was signed should receive the benefit. If Minnesota decides they should, the law requires that the income of the immigrant's American sponsor be considered when determining eligibility.

The law also gives states the option of denying Medicaid coverage (known as Medical Assistance in Minnesota) to legal noncitizens even if they were in the country prior to the federal law being signed. Medical Assistance is a joint federal and state program that helps people who can't afford health care. New immigrants will automatically be barred from receiving Medical Assistance for five years after entry into the United States.

Certain emergency help will remain available for all immigrants — legal or otherwise — such as emergency hospital care, disaster relief, the national school lunch program, public health immunizations, soup kitchen,



Steve Jacobson of St. Paul has a cup of coffee as he waits for lunch at the Dorothy Day Center soup kitchen in downtown St. Paul. Jacobson, who says he has been in and out of mental institutions, wonders how he'll survive without his monthly public assistance check.

ens, higher education, and Head Start for disadvantaged pre-schoolers.

Despite the fact that federal benefits are being taken from immigrants, there's no "mad rush" to become a U.S. citizen, said John Borden, a casework supervisor with the International Institute of Minnesota, a St. Paul center that offers U.S. citizenship classes.

The institute has scheduled additional citizenship classes anticipating a demand. But the expected rush hasn't materialized. "They aren't going to start coming until they start seeing that the pinches are real," Borden said.

He expects the state to soften the cuts somewhat but not nearly enough to replace the federal dollars. "There's going to be an awful lot of suffering for some people."

Program hopping

Folks cut off from federal welfare may now qualify for one of several state programs, but the state must find ways to pay for the increased demand.

In Minnesota, two state programs offer help to those in poverty who do not qualify for Medical Assistance or Supplemental Security Income.

General Assistance offers about \$203 a month to those who are ineligible for other welfare programs. General Assistance Medical Care pays for necessary health care for those who are ineligible for other medical assistance programs.

The state has no program to replace the cuts in food stamps but has the option of creating one.

"I hope the state will step in or I don't know what these people are going to do," said William Yang of the Hmong-American Partnership in St. Paul.

Yang worries about his parents, who now receive public assistance. His family came to this country 16 years ago and although he became a citizen, his parents did not. His father is 85-years-old and his mother is 72-years-old. They don't understand the English language well enough to pass the citizenship test.

"Many people are like my mom and dad. It's impossible to teach the elderly the language so they can become citizens. It's easier to teach a water buffalo the flute," Yang said. "It's unfair. This is their home now. Their bones will be buried here."

But not everyone sympathizes with Minnesota's immigrants.

The cuts to legal immigrants are a fine start according to Jim Culotta, a government relations associate with the Federation for American Immigration Reform. The Washington, D.C.-based group seeks to limit immigration into the United States.

Immigrants, Culotta said, are using welfare disproportionately. "Why would we want to bring more people here when they can't support themselves? We can continue to take in the world's poor, but it is only going to work against our own country," he said. "We have plenty of poor Americans here already and we're not doing an adequate enough job of supporting them."

Those who sponsor immigrants to come to the United States, Culotta said, should be responsible for assuming the costs of all of their needs.

Other SSI changes

Legal immigrants aren't the only people facing the loss of their SSI checks. Until Jan. 1, 1997, some 2,800 Minnesotans with drug and alcohol addictions also were considered to have a "disability" and qualified for a monthly \$470 check.

The federal law cut them off and some cities and counties are bracing for an increase in homelessness, crime, and emergency room visits.

"These are the people who are going to turn the streets of downtown Minneapolis

MFIP pilot program

For several years Minnesota has experimented with a welfare pilot program in eight counties that requires poor families to work if they want public assistance.

If Gov. Arne Carlson and many state officials have their way, that experiment will become permanent and spread to all 87 Minnesota counties.

The Minnesota Family Investment Plan (MFIP) is expected to become the state's answer to a tough new federal welfare law.

MFIP allows families to accept lower paying jobs while receiving some public assistance, such as extra monthly cash and subsidized child and health care. In theory, allowing someone to work while still receiving benefits helps a low-skilled parent gain work experience and eventually obtain a better job.

Under the proposal, two-parent families statewide would be required to work immediately to receive welfare benefits. Single-parent families would be required to work within six months of receiving assistance. Parents who don't work will have their welfare benefits cut by 25 to 35 percent.

Also, in keeping with the federal law, there will be a five-year lifetime limit on receiving benefits.

Under the MFIP plan parents would leave welfare when their income reaches 120 percent of the poverty level which, for a family of three, is about \$15,600.

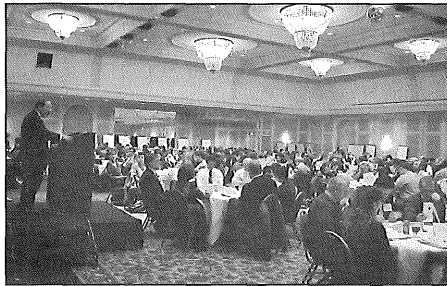
Under Minnesota's traditional welfare program, a family leaves welfare when its income reaches 85 percent of the poverty level. That, agency officials say, too often has discouraged people on welfare from even bothering to get a job. Families who worked typically lost income because earnings were deducted from their welfare check.

Under MFIP, going to work increases a family's income. For example, a parent with one child who would receive a combined cash-food stamp grant of \$638 per month without working, could earn

\$500 a month at a job and still receive a grant of \$456 a month.

MFIP began in 1994 as a pilot project in seven counties — Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Sherburne and Todd. Ramsey County was added in July 1996.

About 4,500 families receive welfare under MFIP and preliminary study results suggest that those people are more likely to work than those under the old welfare system.



Some 300 legislators, welfare recipients, case workers, and state agency officials met together Jan. 22 at the Radisson Hotel St. Paul to figure out how to reshape Minnesota's welfare program in light of a new federal welfare law that cuts benefits to many and requires most others to work. State Demographer Tom Gillaspay presented a statistical breakdown of Minnesotans on welfare.

and St. Paul into the streets of downtown Los Angeles," said Allison Boisvert of Catholic Charities Exodus Division.

"These people are mentally ill, not just chemically dependent. . . . These are not people who will advocate for themselves," Boisvert said, adding she knows of none who can hold down a job.

"They aren't handling it. . . . This is a crowd that doesn't handle anything."

Many children with behavioral disorders and mild mental retardation also are among

the group cut off from SSI benefits. Some 3,200 children with behavioral disorders are expected to lose their checks after July 1997 due to a more narrow definition of "disability." Their average monthly benefit is \$406.

Food stamps

The federal food stamp program was also changed by Congress. Able-bodied adults ages 18 to 50 with no children will no longer receive food stamps unless they are working. This provision could affect some 3,400

Minnesotans who currently receive about \$65 in food coupons per month.

Under the federal law, adults without children can only receive food stamps for three months in a three-year period unless they are working. "Work" can include participating in a government work program 20 hours or more per week.

"I realize they had to do something about welfare fraud, but this law is blanket coverage and people are going to get buried under it," said Charles Lickteig of Stacy, Minn., who has been on food stamps for about two months.

"If you look three years down the road, there's no telling what can happen to a person," said Lickteig, who was hospitalized last fall after an accident.

He doesn't plan on being on food stamps long. He's studying to become a certified welder and hopes he can soon pass out of his program at Southwestern Technical College before his food stamps run out.

"Sure, there are people happy sitting on welfare and they do nothing to get off, but there are lots of people who use it only when they need it, when there's trouble," he said.

"I just want to go back to a regular life. . . . Just the [food stamp] paperwork alone kills me."

The welfare debate in Minnesota is expected to heat up quickly during the 1997 Legislative Session. Officials with the Department of Human Services say they need a state welfare law signed by March 31, 1997 or they run the risk of missing the federal summer deadline to submit state plans.

Missing the deadline means cash penalties. And, with as many poor families expecting the state to pitch in where federal dollars leave off, Minnesota can't afford to be fined.

—K. Darcy Hanzlik



At precisely 11:36 a.m. in a Jan. 23 meeting of the House Taxes Committee, Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) pointed out that in the heavens above, four planets had just come into alignment with a full moon — a situation that occurs only once every 200 years or so. If one makes a wish under such a circumstance, McElroy said, supposedly that wish will be granted, although he was quick to add that he professes no great belief in the pseudoscience of astrology.

"You may wish for whatever you want," McElroy told the committee, "but I'm wishing for property tax reform."

Sviggum: Lawmaking one of 'best things' he's done

Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) makes the transitions between meetings, interviews, and major press conferences look effortless. Maybe that's because the 1997 session is his 19th as a legislator and his fifth as House minority leader. While serving in office is nothing new to him, he's still enamored with the job. "Outside of my family, being a member of the Legislature is the best thing I've ever done in my life," he said.

In addition, he said, he still feels challenged by the start of a new session. "Working with people means always being in a state of learning. Each session means beginning anew. It means dealing with peoples' attitudes and feelings and with new relationships. I always work to stay aware and keep doors open."

The start of the 1997 legislative session is unique in several ways. The Republican party was disappointed in its effort to gain a House majority despite Sviggum's best efforts and surest predictions. He attributes it, in part, to weakness at the top of the Republican ticket during the 1996 presidential election with Bob Dole and U.S. Senate candidate Rudy Boschwitz losing to Democrats. "If it hadn't been a presidential election year, the Republicans would be the majority in the House," he said. Still, he added, while the loss came as a blow, the final numbers also reveal a Republican victory. "We're a very close minority at 64-70. It means we'll be real players, especially when you factor in a Republican governor. Many of our initiatives will be looked upon favorably," he said. "The outcome speaks well to the candidates and the issues. We have 10 new freshmen, and they'll be good, solid legislators."

Also new is the apparent goodwill between political parties. "I genuinely feel that there is going to be a bipartisan effort to attend to the peoples' business. Hopefully, we'll focus on policy rather than power politics," Sviggum said.

Still, he's a pragmatist. "Maybe it's just

natural for there to be optimism at the beginning of the session. As the session goes forward, maybe some optimism will give way to reality," he said.

If Sviggum's outlook is tempered, it may be due to his unbending political philosophy. "I'm conservative. I'm not a moderate," he said. "I'm very traditional in my feelings and values." He believes a more conservative viewpoint is a natural outgrowth of maturity. "Maybe you've heard the idea that at 20,



House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum in his 19th session as a lawmaker is still enamored with the job.

one's politics should come from the heart, but at 40, they should come from the head."

At age 20, whether from the heart or head, Sviggum's politics took on a considerably different tone. He cast his first presidential vote for Democrat George McGovern, and joined thousands of others in protesting the Vietnam War. But his immersion in liberal

politics was never very deep. "My farming background influenced me tremendously. It gave me my values and principles; namely hard work, honesty, self-reliance, and individual responsibility." Sviggum and his two brothers farm the same 1,000 acres near Kenyon, Minn., that his family has cultivated for 100 years. Today, they grow soybeans and corn and raise beef cattle.

"One of my favorite pastimes is riding the tractor through the fields. It's very calming,"

he said. "I also enjoy heading out to the basketball court at night with the kids, just the four of us." Sviggum has three children: Hans, 16; Eric, 14; and Marit, 12. "The biggest accomplishment of my life is having three lovely, good children, with good values and principals." How did he do that? "I have a good wife," he said with a grin. Debbie Sviggum teaches high school in Cannon Falls, Minn. Sviggum also continues his long-standing activities as a basketball coach and referee.

He counts among his greatest legislative victories the bipartisan passage of a workers' compensation bill in 1995. "It helped Minnesota become competitive for jobs," he said. His biggest disappointment? "Not gathering a majority this session." That rates with another one: the failure thus far to pass an equitable funding formula for education in which the state would pick up a greater share of the tab, he said.

At least there will always be lutefisk. Sviggum, who said he's proud of his traditionalism, is also proud to be a connoisseur of lutefisk — cod soaked in lye. "I like it — love it," he said.

"The church [Vang Lutheran] puts on a big lutefisk dinner every year, and we also eat it at home. But you have to develop a taste for it." Do the kids eat it? "No. I didn't at their age either. But they will — that's tradition!"

— Celeste Riley

Committee Information

1997-98 Minnesota House of Representatives

Agriculture

487 State Office Building 296-4247

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

Members: 18

Chair: Wenzel-DFL

Vice Chair: Peterson-DFL

Lead Republican: Harder-R

Gunther-R	Otremba-DFL
Jaros-DFL	Rifenberg-R
Juhnke-DFL	Schumacher-DFL
Kielkucki-R	Skare-DFL
Kraus-R	Trimble-DFL
Kubly-DFL	Westrom-R
Kuisle-R	Winter-DFL
Molnau-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Patrick J. Plonski 296-4172

Committee Legislative Assistant

Vacant 296-5526

Capital Investment

543 State Office Building 296-4240

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

Members: 21

Chair: Kalis-DFL

Vice Chair: Luther-DFL

Lead Republican: Dempsey-R

Bettermann-R	Murphy-DFL
Bishop-R	Opatz-DFL
Clark-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Davids-R	Rhodes-R
Jefferson-DFL	Rostberg-R
Knoblach-R	Smith-R
Kubly-DFL	Trimble-DFL
Lindner-R	
Mariani-DFL	Carlson-DFL
Munger-DFL	- ex officio**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Patricia Lindgren 296-5398

Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathleen K. Bruss 296-4271

Fiscal Analyst

John Walz 296-8236

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

509 State Office Building 296-9635

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

Members: 26

Chair: Tunheim-DFL

Vice Chair: Hasskamp-DFL

Lead Republican: Commers-R

Boudreau-R	Milbert-DFL
Bradley-R	Nornes-R
Daggett-R	Paymar-DFL
Dorn-DFL	Peterson-DFL
Entenza-DFL	Pugh-DFL
Erhardt-R	Reuter-R
Farrell-DFL	Rifenberg-R
Gunther-R	Seifert-R
Juhnke-DFL	Sekhon-DFL
Kinkel-DFL	Slawik-DFL
Leppik-R	Tomassoni-DFL
McElroy-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Lois J. Knutson 296-8893

Committee Legislative Assistant

Barbara Moehrle 296-4171

Economic Development & International Trade

559 State Office Building 296-4246

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

Members: 24

Chair: Jaros-DFL

Vice Chair: Wejcman-DFL

Lead Republican: Van Dellen-R

Clark-DFL	Ness-R
Dempsey-R	Osskopp-R
Evans-DFL	Otremba-DFL
Gunther-R	Paymar-DFL
Harder-R	Reuter-R
Huntley-DFL	Rifenberg-R
Kahn-DFL	Rostberg-R
Krinkie-R	Rukavina-DFL
Kubly-DFL	Swenson, D.-R
Mariani-DFL	Trimble-DFL
Mullery-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Joseph H. Dodge 296-4283

Committee Legislative Assistant

Nanette Moloney 296-5402

Economic Development Finance Division

597 State Office Building 296-4201

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

Members: 11

Chair: Trimble-DFL

Vice Chair: Mullery-DFL

Lead Republican: Gunther-R

Clark-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Jaros-DFL	Workman-R
Otremba-DFL	
Reuter-R	Kalis-DFL
Rifenberg-R	- ex officio**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Laura K. Fenstermaker 296-5069

Committee Legislative Assistant

Mary Pat Speltz 296-4178

Fiscal Analyst

William E. Connors 296-5813

Housing & Housing Finance Division

503 State Office Building 296-0294

Meets: Tues., Thurs., 10 a.m. in Room 500S*

Members: 12

Chair: Clark-DFL

Vice Chair: Kubly-DFL

Lead Republican: Rhodes-R

Dempsey-R	Trimble-DFL
Evans-DFL	
Jaros-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Mariani-DFL	- ex officio**
Olson, M.-R	Solberg-DFL
Sykora-R	- ex officio**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Cathy A. Strobel 296-1540

Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathleen C. Regalado 296-6586

Fiscal Analyst

Cynthia Coronado 296-5384

Education

365 State Office Building 296-4255

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

Members: 34

Chair: Carlson-DFL

Vice Chair: Greiling-DFL

Lead Republican: Seagren-R

Anderson, B.-R	Luther-DFL
Bettermann-R	Mares-R
Biernat-DFL	Ness-R
Chaudhary-DFL	Nornes-R
Dehler-R	Olson, M.-R
Entenza-DFL	Opatz-DFL
Evans-DFL	Paulsen-R
Folliard-DFL	Pelowski-DFL
Johnson, A.-DFL	Schumacher-DFL
Johnson, R.-DFL	Sykora-R
Kelso-DFL	Tomassoni-DFL
Kielkucki-R	Tunheim-DFL
Kinkel-DFL	Tuma-R
Koppendraye-R	Weaver-R
Leighton-DFL	Wolf-R
Leppik-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Nancy K. Conley 296-4374

Committee Legislative Assistant

Dori Vaughan 296-3367

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division

537 State Office Building 296-2451

Meets: Mon., Wed., 12:30 p.m. in Room 5*

Members: 14

Chair: Kinkel-DFL

Vice Chair: McGuire-DFL

Lead Republican: Sykora-R

Boudreau-R	Nornes-R
Carlson-DFL	Slawik-DFL
Delmont-DFL	
Lindner-R	Kalis-DFL
Luther-DFL	- ex officio**
Mariani-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Mulder-R	- ex officio**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Dave Green 296-5318

Committee Legislative Assistant

Karen J. Herrera 296-9194

Fiscal Analyst

Cynthia Coronado 296-5384

Higher Education

Finance Division

549 State Office Building 296-8637

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

Members: 14

Chair: Pelowski-DFL

Vice Chair: Johnson R.-DFL

Lead Republican: Bettermann-R

Carlson-DFL	Paulsen-R
Chaudhary-DFL	Tuma-R
Dehler-R	
Folliard-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Huntley-DFL	- ex officio**
Leppik-R	Solberg-DFL
Opatz-DFL	- ex officio**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Susan M. Burns 296-4091

Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathy L. Anderson 296-3806

Fiscal Analyst

Doug E. Berg 296-5346

K-12 Education

Finance Division

415 State Office Building 296-1072

Meets: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 a.m. in Room 5*

Members: 19

Chair: Kelso-DFL

Vice Chair: Schumacher-DFL

Lead Republican: Koppendraye-R

Biernat-DFL	Tunheim-DFL
Carlson-DFL	Weaver-R
Entenza-DFL	Wolf-R
Greiling-DFL	
Johnson, A.-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Kielkucki-R	- ex officio**
Leighton-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Mares-R	- ex officio**
Ness-R	
Seagren-R	
Tomassoni-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

P. Joshua Downham 296-8875

Committee Legislative Assistant

Urszula M. Gryska 296-5492

Fiscal Analyst

Greg O. Crowe 296-7165

Environment & Natural Resources

479 State Office Building 296-4282

Meets: Mon., Wed., 10 a.m. in Room 5*

Members: 24

Chair: Munger-DFL

Vice Chair: Hausman-DFL

Lead Republican: Leppik-R

Bakk-DFL	Orfield-DFL
Delmont-DFL	Osthoft-DFL
Dempsey-R	Rostberg-R
Finseth-R	Sekhon-DFL
Folliard-DFL	Stang-R
Holsten-R	Swenson, H.-R
Johnson, R.-DFL	Tingelstad-R
Kinkel-DFL	Wagenius-DFL
McCullum-DFL	Westfall-R
Milbert-DFL	Workman-R
Nornes-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Elizabeth R. Goihl 296-8879

Committee Legislative Assistant

Norma S. Christensen 296-7175

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

585 State Office Building 296-4224

Meets: Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m. in
Basement Hearing Room*

Members: 15

Chair: Osthoft-DFL

Vice Chair: Sekhon-DFL

Lead Republican: Holsten-R

Bakk-DFL	Swenson, H.-R
Davids-R	Tingelstad-R
Finseth-R	Wenzel-DFL
Kalis-DFL	Westfall-R
McCullum-DFL	
Munger-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Peterson-DFL	- ex officio**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Liz Anderson 296-2909

Committee Legislative Assistant

Kristine M. Henry 296-5342

Fiscal Analyst

Jim Reinholdz 296-4119

Financial Institutions & Insurance

563 State Office Building 296-4936

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

Members: 18

Chair: Anderson, I.-DFL

Vice Chair: Mariani-DFL

Lead Republican: Davids-R

Abrams-R	Mulder-R
Boudreau-R	Ness-R
Carlson-DFL	Tomassoni-DFL
Clark-DFL	Tunheim-DFL
Knoblach-R	Van Dellen-R
Lieder-DFL	Wenzel-DFL
Mahon-DFL	Westrom-R
Marko-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Maureen Novak 296-4179

Committee Legislative Assistant

Joan I. Harrison 296-7881

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

579 State Office Building 296-4192

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

Members: 18

Chair: Milbert-DFL

Vice Chair: Folliard-DFL

Lead Republican: Vickerman-R

Anderson, B.-R	Pawlenty-R
Commers-R	Pelowski-DFL
Greiling-DFL	Rest-DFL
Hasskamp-DFL	Rostberg-R
Haas-R	Skoglund-DFL
Knoblach-R	Wejcman-DFL
McCollum-DFL	Westfall-R
Osthoff-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Laura Offerdahl 296-6860

Committee Legislative Assistant

Marree A. Boland 296-4388

Governmental Operations

367 State Office Building 296-4257

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

Members: 20

Chair: Kahn-DFL

Vice Chair: Hilty-DFL

Lead Republican: Knight-R

Anderson, B.-R	Mares-R
Farrell-DFL	McGuire-DFL
Greiling-DFL	Mullery-DFL
Jefferson-DFL	Osskopp-R
Kinkel-DFL	Osthoff-DFL
Koppendraye-R	Reuter-R
Krinkie-R	Rukavina-DFL
Larsen-R	Tuma-R
Luther-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Jacquelyn B. Rosholt 296-4112

Committee Legislative Assistant

Krysta Niedernhofer 296-7173

State Government

Finance Division

471 State Office Building 296-0170

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

Members: 12

Chair: Rukavina-DFL

Vice Chair: Farrell-DFL

Lead Republican: Krinkie-R

Anderson, B.-R	Osskopp-R
Hilty-DFL	
Jefferson-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Kahn-DFL	- ex officio**
Knight-R	Solberg-DFL
Luther-DFL	- ex officio**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Brad Lehto 296-5367

Committee Legislative Assistant

Robert Humphrey 296-6937

Fiscal Analyst

Helen Roberts 296-4117

Health & Human Services

571 State Office Building 296-3248

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

Members: 22

Chair: Dorn-DFL

Vice Chair: Slawik-DFL

Lead Republican: Tompkins-R

Boudreau-R	Koskinen-DFL
Bradley-R	Lindner-R
Delmont-DFL	McCollum-DFL
Goodno-R	Mulder-R
Greenfield-DFL	Opatz-DFL
Haas-R	Otremba-DFL
Huntley-DFL	Tingelstad-R
Jennings-DFL	Vickerman-R
Johnson, R.-DFL	Wejcman-DFL
Knoblach-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

M. T. Johnson 296-7185

Committee Legislative Assistant

Beth Nelson 296-5494

Health & Human Services

Finance Division

381 State Office Building 296-0173

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

Members: 14

Chair: Greenfield-DFL

Vice Chair: Otremba-DFL

Lead Republican: Goodno-R

Bradley-R	Vickerman-R
Dorn-DFL	Wejcman-DFL
Haas-R	
Huntley-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Jennings-DFL	- ex officio**
Koskinen-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Tompkins-R	- ex officio**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Victor A. Thorstenson 296-2317

Committee Legislative Assistant

Don Jorovsky 297-7202

Fiscal Analyst

Joe Flores 296-5483

Judiciary

477 State Office Building 296-4330

Meets: Mon., Wed., Fri., 10 a.m. in
Basement Hearing Room*

Members: 24

Chair: Skoglund-DFL

Vice Chair: Biernat-DFL

Lead Republican: Bishop-R

Broecker-R	Olson, M.-R
Chaudhary-DFL	Pawlenty-R
Dawkins-DFL	Paymar-DFL
Entenza-DFL	Pugh-DFL
Evans-DFL	Seagren-R
Larsen-R	Smith-R
Leighton-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Macklin-R	Stanek-R
McGuire-DFL	Swenson, D.-R
Mullery-DFL	Weaver-R
Murphy-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Greg. W. Bergstrom 296-5396

Committee Legislative Assistant

Laurie M. Nistl 296-5497

Civil & Family Law Division

409 State Office Building 296-5158

Meets: Wed., 12:30 p.m. in Room 400S*

Members: 12

Chair: Dawkins-DFL

Vice Chair: Chaudhary-DFL

Lead Republican: Smith-R

Biernat-DFL	Murphy-DFL
Bishop-R	Pawlenty-R
Entenza-DFL	Skoglund-DFL
Larsen-R	Weaver-R
Leighton-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Chris Crutchfield 296-4329

Committee Legislative Assistant

Nancy K. Anderson 296-1544

Judiciary Finance Division

557 State Office Building 296-2676

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

Members: 12

Chair: Murphy-DFL

Vice Chair: Paymar-DFL

Lead Republican: Swenson, D.-R

Broecker-R	Stanek-R
Dawkins-DFL	
Larsen-R	Kalis-DFL
McGuire-DFL	- ex officio**
Pugh-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Skoglund-DFL	- ex officio**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Tanja Bjork 296-5533

Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathleen Kerr 296-7191

Fiscal Analyst

Gary G. Karger 296-4181

Labor-Management Relations

577 State Office Building 296-8659

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

Members: 20

Chair: Jefferson-DFL

Vice Chair: Koskinen-DFL

Lead Republican: Wolf-R

Bakk-DFL	Murphy-DFL
Bettermann-R	Olson, M.-R
Daggett-R	Osskopp-R
Garcia-DFL	Paymar-DFL
Goodno-R	Rifenberg-R
Hilty-DFL	Rukavina-DFL
Kielkucki-R	Sekhon-DFL
Leighton-DFL	Svigum-R
Mullery-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Susan J. Maher 296-4180

Committee Legislative Assistant

Laura M. DeRose 296-2955

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

485 State Office Building 296-4176

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

Members: 22

Chair: Rest-DFL

Vice Chair: Opatz-DFL

Lead Republican: Dehler-R

Chaudhary-DFL	Mulder-R
Garcia-DFL	Olson, E.-DFL
Knight-R	Orfield-DFL
Koskinen-DFL	Paulsen-R
Kraus-R	Schumacher-DFL
Krinkie-R	Skare-DFL
Kuile-R	Stanek-R
Mahon-DFL	Tompkins-R
Marko-DFL	Wenzel-DFL
Molnau-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Robert D. DeBoer 296-5376

Committee Legislative Assistant

Lillian A. Pohlkamp 296-9552

Regulated Industries & Energy

591 State Office Building 296-0518

Meets: Tues., 12:30 p.m. in Room 5*

Members: 20

Chair: Jennings-DFL

Vice Chair: Delmont-DFL

Lead Republican: Ozment-R

Anderson, I.-DFL	Kahn-DFL
Anderson, B.-R	Kelso-DFL
Greiling-DFL	Koppendrayner-R
Hausman-DFL	Olson, E.-DFL
Hilty-DFL	Olson, M.-R
Holsten-R	Osskopp-R

Pelowski-DFL	Wolf-R
Vickerman-R	Workman-R
Wagenius-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Carol Kummer 296-4281

Committee Legislative Assistant

Dianne L. Ruppert 296-4279

Rules & Legislative Administration

459 State Office Building 296-5505

Meets: Call of the chair

Members: 17

Chair: Winter-DFL

Vice Chair: Pawlenty-R

Abrams-R	Munger-DFL
Carruthers-DFL	Ozment-R
Goodno-R	Pelowski-DFL
Greenfield-DFL	Peterson-DFL
Kelso-DFL	Svigum-R
Leighton-DFL	Sykora-R
Long-DFL	Van Dellen-R
McCollum-DFL	

Staff

Administrative Assistant to Majority Leader

Mary E. Faust 297-8168

Committee Legislative Assistant

Teri T. Remke 296-7171

Taxes

443 State Office Building 296-0171

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

Members: 27

Chair: Long-DFL

Vice Chair: Bakk-DFL

Lead Republican: Macklin-R

Abrams-R	Milbert-DFL
Anderson, I.-DFL	Olson, E.-DFL
Carruthers-DFL	Orfield-DFL
Commers-R	Ozment-R
Daggett-R	Rest-DFL
Dawkins-DFL	Seifert-R
Erhardt-R	Skare-DFL
Garcia-DFL	Van Dellen-R
Harder-R	Winter-DFL
Hasskamp-DFL	
Johnson, A.-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Kraus-R	- ex officio**
McElroy-R	Solberg-DFL
	- ex officio**

Staff

Committee Administrator

John D. Skare 296-8880

Committee Legislative Assistant

Gerrie Boice 296-5388

Fiscal Analysts

William E. Connors 296-5813

Mary Jane Hedstrom 296-1237

Matthew S. Shands 296-4162

Property Tax

& Tax Increment Finance (TIF)

Division

565 State Office Building 296-4265

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

Members: 18

Chair: Olson, E.-DFL

Vice Chair: Garcia-DFL

Lead Republican: Abrams-R

Anderson, I.-DFL	Ozment-R
Daggett-R	Rest-DFL
Dawkins-DFL	Seifert-R
Hasskamp-DFL	Winter-DFL
Kraus-R	
Long-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Macklin-R	- ex officio**
McElroy-R	Solberg-DFL
Orfield-DFL	- ex officio**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Dorothy M. Sawyer 296-7427

Committee Legislative Assistant

Lu Finnegan 296-9463

Sales & Income Tax Division

539 State Office Building 296-5510

Meets: Tues., Thurs., 8 a.m. in Room 300S*

Members: 12

Chair: Johnson, A.-DFL

Vice Chair: Skare-DFL

Lead Republican: Erhardt-R

Bakk-DFL	Van Dellen-R
Commers-R	
Garcia-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Harder-R	- ex officio**
Long-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Milbert-DFL	- ex officio**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Ray Frost 296-5508

Committee Legislative Assistant

Nancy Haas 296-8857

Transportation & Transit

437 State Office Building 296-4200

Meets: Mon., Wed, 12:30 p.m. in Room 10*

Members: 22

Chair: Wagenius-DFL

Vice Chair: Juhnke-DFL

Lead Republican: Workman-R

Anderson, I.-DFL	Mahon-DFL
Broecker-R	Marko-DFL
Finseth-R	Molnau-R
Greenfield-DFL	Peterson-DFL
Hausman-DFL	Rhodes-R
Johnson, A.-DFL	Schumacher-DFL
Kelso-DFL	Stang-R
Knight-R	Swenson, H.-R
Kuisle-R	Westrom-R
Lieder-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Andre P. Colaiace 297-5600

Committee Legislative Assistant

Mary M. Hale 296-5486

Transportation & Transit Finance Division

515 State Office Building 296-5091

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

Members: 12

Chair: Lieder-DFL

Vice Chair: Mahon-DFL

Lead Republican: Molnau-R

Hausman-DFL	Westrom-R
Juhnke-DFL	
Kuisle-R	Kalis-DFL
Marko-DFL	- ex officio**
Stang-R	Solberg-DFL
Wagenius-DFL	- ex officio**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Todd Iverson 296-5528

Committee Legislative Assistant

Shannon Pfarr 296-4230

Fiscal Analyst

John Walz 296-8236

Ways & Means

445 State Office Building 296-2365

Meets: : Call of the chair

Members: 25

Chair: Solberg-DFL

Vice Chair: Evans-DFL

Lead Republican: Finseth-R

Bettermann-R	Macklin-R
Bishop-R	Molnau-R
Carlson-DFL	Pugh-DFL
Carruthers-DFL	Rukavina-DFL
Dorn-DFL	Skoglund-DFL
Goodno-R	Slawik-DFL
Jennings-DFL	Stang-R
Kahn-DFL	Sviggum-R
Kalis-DFL	Swenson, D.-R
Koppendraye-R	Winter-DFL
Krinkie-R	
Long-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Dan Kane 296-6970

Committee Legislative Assistant

Maxine J. Wiech 296-4371

Fiscal Analyst

William F. Marx 296-7176



Even those audited by the state come away as satisfied customers, members of the House Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division were told at a meeting in mid-January. There, the Department of Revenue's Deputy Commissioner Mathew Smith reported that of the 500 or so taxpayers who had been audited during 1996 and responded to a customer-satisfaction survey, 92 percent had been "satisfied with the audit process."

Smith then told the committee it costs the state a mere 60 cents or so to collect \$100 worth of sales tax — far less than the cost to collect the same amount of either individual or corporate franchise levies.

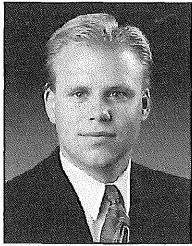
"As a small-business owner who is currently undergoing a sales-tax audit, I can tell you why it costs you less," Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview), the division's lead Republican, said sternly. "Because the business owners collect it for you."

"Well, 92 percent of you should be satisfied with that," piped up Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls).

New members . . .

Stang stays close to constituents, rural concerns

Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring) is used to questions about his age. He heard them on the campaign trail, and he's hearing them in his early days as a member of the House.



Rep. Doug Stang

The 22-year-old is the youngest member of the 1997 Legislature, but it's a distinction he seems to pay little mind.

"Someone has to be youngest, and I guess I'm that person," he said. "In my district, this is really nothing un-

usual. Our area has a history of sending young legislators down here to St. Paul."

In fact, the region around Stang's hometown has elected several relatively youthful state lawmakers. District 14B also claims the youngest member of the Minnesota Senate, Sen. Michelle Fischbach (R-Paynesville), 31.

A recent graduate of St. John's University, Stang's political education got a boost in 1995 when he served as a clerk for the Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, then chaired by Sen. Joe Bertram of Paynesville.

"Working in the Senate in 1995 gave me an idea of what exactly it takes to be a legislator and what you need to do," Stang said. "At that point, my interest in running for office grew."

Stang once stood up at a party for Bertram staffers and joked that he wasn't sure who he might someday unseat, Joe Bertram or his brother Jeff Bertram, then a member of the House.

Within a short period of time, Stang made a bid for each of the seats once held by the Bertrams.

After Joe Bertram resigned in 1995, Stang declared his candidacy for the Senate seat, but lost in the Republican primary to Fischbach.

Stang got another chance at the Legislature when Jeff Betram announced that he would not seek re-election in 1996. This time Stang had better luck. He defeated Paynesville Mayor Joe Voss in the November general election.

Stang built his campaign around his promise to better mirror his district's values. Those values, according to Stang, center on a strong work ethic and a commitment to family.

He also plans to support a fiscally conservative agenda focusing on issues such as continued reform of the welfare system and cautious use of the forecast budget surplus.

Stang sees a golden opportunity for the state to make effective welfare system changes in the wake of last year's federal overhaul.

"There's such a strong public uproar against the current system," Stang said. "Now more than ever we have the public support to make the changes and to shift toward getting people back into the workplace."

He is taking a cautious approach to any proposal that calls for dipping into the surplus in state funds, which is forecast to reach \$1.4 billion.

"I don't like the idea of spending that money," Stang said. "If the additional revenue is there, I would like to see it spent on education if we're going to spend it on anything."

Improving public education was another theme of Stang's campaign and it is something he intends to concentrate on as a legislator.

He would like to see the state pick up a

larger share of the education spending tab to reduce the current reliance on local property taxes. And Stang has joined a chorus of legislators calling for repeal of education spending caps enacted in 1995 that would result in significant cutbacks over the next two years.

He also is among the many lawmakers who are opposed to public funding for a new baseball stadium.

"People love the Twins out in rural areas, but those people understand what their priorities are and the Legislature needs to understand those priorities as well," Stang said.

Those down-home priorities seem to be Stang's guiding force in his early days in the House, and he promises that age will not hold him back.

"The main thing is you have to earn the respect of your colleagues," Stang said. "The way you do that is by respecting them and respecting the experience that they have. That's what I've been doing, and that's what I will continue to do."

— Nick Healy

District 14B

1996 population: 36,096

Largest city: Cold Spring

Counties: Stearns, Pope

Location: central Minnesota

Top concern: "The people who live in my district have a very strong work ethic and they're very family oriented. They want to see those values incorporated into the work we do in the Legislature. I want to carry those values forward, and I want to give my district honest, open-minded representation."

—Rep. Doug Stang

Lawmakers discussed streaking and got a firsthand look at their subject matter during one unusual day in 1974.

The *Rochester Post-Bulletin*, on March 14, 1974, reported that lawmakers debated a "streaking amendment" to an unrelated bill the previous day and that "nude male streakers" made their Capitol complex debut.

The tongue-in-cheek amendment, offered by Rep. Neil Haugerud (DFL-Preston), defined a streaker as "one who moves at a high speed, but not to

Do you know?

exceed 55 miles an hour" — a sarcastic reference to the freshly established 55 mph speed limit.

The amendment also called for a \$2 registration fee for streakers and a special tax on ski masks and sneakers. And the proposal included a requirement that "night streakers" be equipped with a light on the front and a red reflector on the rear, according to the *Post-Bulletin*.

Lawmakers had some fun with the proposed amendment. One suggested that streakers in the Senate be required to wear a coat and necktie — a jab at the upper body's dress code.

The amendment never came up for a vote, but events that followed left some wondering if it should have. Moments after the proposal was dropped, three streakers scurried past the House chamber entrance.

Bill Introductions

HF118-HF159

Thursday, Jan. 23

HF118—Juhnke (DFL)
Taxes

Used farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently.

HF119—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary

Judges reduction of minimum mandatory fines, surcharges, and penalty assessments restricted.

HF120—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations

Office of technology established as a state agency, North Star information access account created, and money appropriated.

HF121—Jefferson (DFL)
Education

Youth initiative grant neighborhood substitution provided.

HF122—Jefferson (DFL)
Transportation & Transit

Radio and stereo use restricted in motor vehicles.

HF123—Long (DFL)
Transportation & Transit

Trunk Highway No. 55 in Minneapolis railroad access reduced.

HF124—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary

Sentencing hearing defendant information presentation limited.

HF125—Sviggum (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Kenyon tax levy recertification authorized.

HF126—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes

Commercial industrial property market value increased when subject to a reduced property tax class rate.

HF127—Folliard (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

State election law modified and clarified related to voter requirements and election procedure.

HF128—Luther (DFL)
Judiciary

Merchant physical search of suspected shoplifters prohibited.

HF129—Opatz (DFL)
Education

Educational accountability and enhanced achievement provided through uniform statewide testing, improvement plans for schools in crisis, and designating distinguished teachers, school improvement fund established, and money appropriated.

HF130—Carlson (DFL)
Education

Gopher state bonds; college savings bond program established, marketing plan development required, and bond sale authorized.

HF131—Luther (DFL)
Judiciary

Tenant notification of apartment manager criminal background check compliance required.

HF132—Luther (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Housing and redevelopment authorities occupancy standard determination provisions modified.

HF133—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary

Dangerous offender sentencing law violent crime definition to include felony-level domestic assault.

HF134—Sviggum (R)
Education

Independent School District No. 763, Medford, fund transfer provided.

HF135—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary

Community crime cost study by Legislative Audit Commission requested.

HF136—Leppik (R)
Health & Human Services

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

HF137—Haas (R)
Taxes

Permanent and total disability homestead property tax classification requirements modified.

HF138—Haas (R)
Health & Human Services

MinnesotaCare provider tax rate reduced.

HF139—Ness (R)
Education

Minnesota learning academy established to provide educators and administrators technology-use training, learning resources network established, site-based grants and library site grant program provided, and money appropriated.

HF140—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary

Automobile insurance card rule adoption required.

HF141—Seifert (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Emergency snow removal funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF142—Skoglund (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Metropolitan Airports Commission name changed to Minnesota Airports Commission.

HF143—Wenzel (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Emergency snow removal funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF144—Nornes (R)
Governmental Operations

Licorice adopted as the official candy of the state of Minnesota.

HF145—Sviggum (R)
Governmental Operations

Term limits imposed on legislative and executive offices, biennial legislative sessions and unicameral legislature provided, legislative procedures modified, state primary election date changed, and constitutional amendments proposed.

HF146—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary

Stolen vehicle impoundment charges prohibited.

HF147—Weaver (R)
Judiciary

Juvenile crime data release authorized to crime victims, terroristic threat, crime offender, child custody or visitation right provisions modified, and crime victim notification required when sentence modification occurs.

HF148—Tunheim (DFL)
Agriculture

Turf grass research and development support continued, and money appropriated.

HF149—Rifenberg (R)
Health & Human Services

Abortion; constitutional standard established relating to abortion, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF150—Rifenberg (R)
Health & Human Services

Partial-birth abortions prohibited and criminal penalties provided.

HF151—Seifert (R)
Judiciary

Firearms; right to keep and bear arms for certain purposes not abridged; and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF152—Seifert (R)
Taxes

Used farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently.

HF153—Osskopp (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Nuclear waste; radioactive waste management facility dry cask storage alternative site requirement eliminated.

HF154—Murphy (DFL)
Judiciary

Livestock activity liability provisions modified.

HF155—Jaros (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations

Temporary employee use restricted, and civil penalty provided.

HF156—Slawik (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Secretary of State filing fees and procedures regulated.

HF157—Rifenberg (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Term limits imposed on legislative and executive offices and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF158—Greiling (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Unicameral legislature provided with 99 members, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF159—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Welfare reform; human services and public assistance programs and eligibility requirements modified, and money appropriated.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
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MONDAY, Jan. 27

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
Tour
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: Site visit and briefing by the Minnesota
Humanities Commission.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Presentation by the Higher Education
Services Office.

**K-12 Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: "Minnesota Educational
Accountability Reporting System - Feasibility
and Design Study, Bob Bruininks, College of
Education and Human Development,
University of Minnesota.

Regent Candidate Advisory Council
Room to be announced.
Chr. Mary McLeod
Agenda: Regent candidate interviews.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**
Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Snowmobile report. Reports from the
Safety Task Force; Minnesota United
Snowmobile Association; and the Sheriff's
Association.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel
Agenda: Presentations and introductions of
major agricultural organizations and their
representatives, including: Minnesota Farmer's
Union; Minnesota Farm Bureau; National
Farmer's Organization; Farmer's Legal Action
Group (FLAG); Farm Credit Services;
Minnesota Agrigrowth Council; Dairies
Federation of Minnesota; Ethanol producers'
organizations; Minnesota Pork Producers'
Association; Minnesota Wheat Growers'
Association; and Northwest Agri-Dealers'
Association.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**
Tour
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: Site visits and briefings by the
Department of Health, Environmental Health
Division.

**Health & Human Services
Finance Division/
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Performance report presentation:
Minnesota Department of Human Services.

JUDICIARY
Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Statistical overview of crime in
Minnesota, Ray Lewis, Lonnie Erickson, Carol
Weber; Minnesota Statistical Crime Analysis
Center, Minnesota Planning.

12:30 p.m.

**Working Group on
De-Welfarizing Daycare/
Family & Early Childhood
Education Finance Division/EDUCATION**
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: To be announced.

**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Division/EDUCATION**
Tour
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: Tour of Ronald H. Hubbs Center for
Lifelong Learning in St. Paul.

**GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS
AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS**
300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert
Agenda: HF74 (Osthoff) Absentee voting.
HFXXXX (Folliard) Change of address voter
registration.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson
Agenda: Overviews of Workers' Compensation
Reinsurance Association and Department of
Labor.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: Global warming and transportation
policy, Dean Abrahamson and Margaret Davis,
University of Minnesota.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

TUESDAY, Jan. 28

8 a.m.

EDUCATION
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: HF84 (Carlson) Labor Day school
start.
Overview of Governor's budget
recommendations by the Department of
Finance.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Brief overviews of new initiatives that
need funding by the committee: committee
members, noncommittee members with bills
or ideas; agencies; and public. Past
appropriations: juvenile bonding reports from
each judicial district; correction officer
positions allocated in 1994, probation officer
caseload reduction money; Violence
Prevention Education Grants; Youth
Intervention Program; Auto Theft Prevention
Board; Hennepin County Chemical
Dependency Pilot Program; African American
Violence Prevention Program; DWI; and Public
Safety Aid to Minneapolis.

Regent Candidate Advisory Council
400S State Office Building
Chr. Mary McLeod
Agenda: Regent candidate interviews.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**
Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Waste prevention and management.
Waste remediation presentations by the
Pollution Control Agency; Department of
Agriculture; and the Office of Environmental
Assistance.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES
300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson
Agenda: Review of the Department of Revenue's technical bill.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Review of administrative rules processes.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn
Agenda: Welfare overview. No public testimony.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
Agenda: Agency income limits and housing plans, Housing Finance Agency. Welfare reform proposal to deduct \$100 from families receiving rental assistance, Department of Human Services. Minnesota Housing Partnership.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF)
Division/TAXES**
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson
Agenda: Presentations by House Research and Fiscal Analysts regarding the implications of K-12 funding on property tax.

11:45 a.m.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM &
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
Tour
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim
Agenda: Member tour of the Explore Minnesota Store in the Mall of America. Department of Tourism presentation.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: Overview of the Department of Administration, Commissioner Elaine Hansen. Capital budget process, Assistant Commissioner Dennis Spalla.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**
Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: Presentation of Legislative Agendas: Association of Minnesota Counties; Minnesota Association of Townships; Metropolitan Inter-County Association; and Minnesota Municipal Board.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: Continuation of Jan. 21 agenda: Minnesota Telephone Association, Jerry Knickerbocker; MCI, Barry Tilley; AT&T,

JoAnne Anderson; U.S. West Communications, Phyllis Harvin.
HFXXXX (Jennings) Utility right-of-way (discussion only).

1:30 p.m.

WAYS & MEANS
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg
Agenda: Presentation by Wayne Simoneau, commissioner Department of Finance.

4:30 p.m.

Capitol Forum Series 1997
3M Auditorium,
Minnesota History Center
Agenda: How population trends will affect Minnesota's workforce, Hazel Reinhart, former State Demographer.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 29

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: Briefings from Asian-Pacific Americans Council; Black Minnesotans Council; Chicano Latino Affairs Council; and Indian Affairs Council.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Budget overview, Lisa Dereme, Department of Finance.

**K-12 Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: Overview of Governor Carlson's K-12 budget recommendations.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF)
Division/TAXES**
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson
Agenda: Property tax overview.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**
Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Water management and water issues. Presentations from the Department of Natural Resources; Pollution Control Agency; BWSR; Department of Agriculture; Department of Health; Metropolitan Council; and Minnesota Planning.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: HF113 (Munger) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund; Constitutional Amendment.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS &
INSURANCE**
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson
Agenda: Continuation of Department of Commerce overview.

**Health & Human Services
Finance Division/
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Performance report presentation: Department of Health.

JUDICIARY
Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Presentation by the Department of Corrections on prison population projections. Update on plans for meeting prison space needs. Overview of sentencing guidelines by Deb Dailey, director, Sentencing Guidelines Commission.

12:30 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins
Agenda: Presentation by the Minnesota Supreme Court Task Force on Visitation and Child Support, Julie Brunner, county administrator, St. Louis County and Peter Parilla, former chair, Sociology Department, University of St. Thomas.

**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Division/EDUCATION**
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: Testimony by University of Minnesota experts on factors that lead to well-developed children.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: Department of Transportation budget presentation.

1 p.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
Tour
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros
Agenda: Tour and site briefing by Minnesota Trade Office, George Crolick, executive director. Discussion of Office of Tourism and its efforts to promote international tourism, Steve Markuson, executive director. Discussion of the goals and operation of the Minnesota World Trade Association, D'Ann Brosnahan, executive director. (Directions and transportation information will be sent to members' offices.)

2:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Gaming/
REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Delmont

Agenda: Overview of Allied Charities, King Wilson.
HFXXXX Charitable Gambling Omnibus (discussion only).
Overviews of Minnesota Racing Commission, Richard Krueger, executive director; Canterbury Park Holding Corporation, Randy Sampson, president; Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association, Cort Holten.

THURSDAY, Jan. 30

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Briefings from the Board of Electricity; Employment Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing; and Centers for Independent Living.

**Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/
EDUCATION**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza

Agenda: Discussion of statewide testing.

**Subcommittee on School Facilities/
EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Geri Evans

Agenda: Presentation and discussion of air quality in schools.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Continuation of Jan. 28 agenda.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Land stewardship. Conservation issues: Department of Natural Resources; Department of Agriculture; and BWSR.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: Review of the Department of Revenue's technical bill.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Review of public pensions, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: Welfare overview. No public testimony.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: Discussion on guiding principles. HF97 (Clark) Emergency Services Grant.

12 Noon

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Tour

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Tour of Lino Lakes Correctional Facility.

12:30 p.m.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM &
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HFXXXX (Slawik) Secretary of State housekeeping.

HF117 (Rest) Requiring local units of government to license the retail sale of tobacco.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: Continuation of Jan. 21 agenda. Presentations from Association of Metropolitan Municipalities; Association of Small Cities; Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities; and League of Minnesota Cities.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

3:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on
Transportation Operations/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Sharon Marko

Agenda: Welfare reform and transportation.

7 p.m.

Joint

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES/
Senate**

HEALTH & FAMILY SECURITY

Christ Lutheran Church,

105 University Avenue West

St. Paul, Minnesota

Chrs. Rep. John Dorn, Sen. John Hottinger

Agenda: Welfare reform bills: immigrant focus.

FRIDAY, Jan. 31

8 a.m.

Higher Education

Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Budget overview, Lisa Dereme, Department of Finance.

**Transportation & Transit Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: Budget overview: Department of Public Safety, Donald E. Davis, commissioner and Frank Ahrens, finance director. Pipeline Safety, Charles Kenow, director. Traffic Safety, Thomas Boerner, director. Technical support services, Steve Patchet, assistant director. Driver and Vehicle Services, Kathy Burke Moore, director.

10:30 a.m.

JUDICIARY

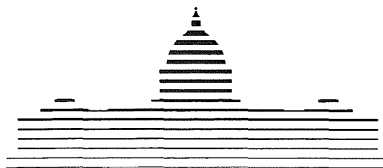
Tour

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Tour of Minnesota Teen Challenge. Tour of Harriet Tubman Battered Women's Shelter.



Rep. Fran Bradley talked to high school pages about the legislative process Jan. 23.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Welfare in Minnesota

Average number of Minnesotans receiving monthly AFDC benefits, 1996 ..	174,000
As a percent of all Minnesotans	3.7
AFDC families headed by a single parent	9 in 10
Average number of people in an AFDC household	2.94
Percent of new AFDC families who are off the program in six months or less	23
Percent of state and county general fund budget devoted to AFDC, 1986	2.8
in 1996	1.4
Adjusted for inflation, change in the amount Minnesota spent on AFDC, in percent, 1986-1996	-32
Adjusted for inflation, change in the amount Minnesota spent on Medical Assistance, in percent, 1986-1996	+87
Increase in the dollar amount of monthly AFDC benefits since 1986	0
Able-bodied childless Minnesotans ages 18 to 50 receiving food stamps, 1996	3,400
Statewide, change in AFDC recipients, 1986-1994	+33,600
Change from 1994 to 1996	-18,200
Number of Minnesota's 87 counties in which the number of AFDC recipients decreased between 1986 and 1996	67
Counties in which AFDC recipients make up more than 5 percent of the population	10
Number of those counties in northern Minnesota	8
Beltrami County residents receiving AFDC, highest in Minnesota	1 in 10
Number of expected new job openings requiring a high school education or less for every welfare recipient required to work	8
Number of applicants competing for every new job opening	3.6
Child support cases in which the state assisted with collections, 1996	204,000
AFDC payments to child support clients repaid from child support collections, in millions, 1995	\$55
Percent of U.S. population composed of legal immigrants	4.7
Minnesota population	1.4
Percent of federal savings from welfare reform that will come from cuts in aid to legal immigrants	46

Source: *Work in Progress: Federal Welfare Reform in Minnesota*, February 1997, Minnesota Planning.

For more information



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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ January 31, 1997 ♦ Volume 14, Number 4



SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • January 31, 1997 • Volume 14, Number 4

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Update

The Legislature has only met in session for one month now, but the average population has increased dramatically throughout the Capitol and State Office Buildings. Activists, constituents, and lobbyists have converged on the complex to share information and try and help to play a role in legislative decision-making.

While such issues as a new stadium for the Minnesota Twins or more money for education are being brought to the table, some of the 134 House members have already introduced 342 bills that received a first reading. All of these have been sent to House committees for hearings. Only four bills have been sent back to the body and passed. So far, no bills have failed to pass. About 1,500 bills will be introduced by the end of May, but only some 300 may go to the governor to be signed into law, and some of them may be vetoed.

Musing on these findings at this point in the session, total numbers are relatively unimportant. But indirectly, they do relate to the reason for the sea of dark business suits seen during lunch hour in the cafeterias of the two buildings.

Like their colleagues seen near the Capitol rotunda and talking on their cellular phones, the "business suiters," for the most part, are the 450-plus lobbyists who fill the hallways, tunnels, hearing rooms, and members' offices to discuss and advocate for their favorite issues, be it health care, tobacco, cities, oil refining, or money for the arts.

What the members do with the information they get from the advocates is difficult to discern. While standing or sitting in some most unlikely places, members who are stopped outside a hearing room or in front of the chamber, listen to and question the many people who seek them out. One can only guess at the reason for seeing so many cellular phone types so early in session, and why "session statistics" are climbing so rapidly.

It is a fact that now, more than ever in the world of clean Minnesota politics, no member or activist would dare be found guilty of ethics violations. Likewise, it is difficult to find any informational gatherings held at local eating establishments outside the complex.

As the early statistics continue to change and become more meaningful, the issues related to them will become more focused. For now, only observing the legislative players is a unique pastime as the legislative caucuses begin a compatible second month of conducting the business of the people.

-LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: The Bug O Nay Ge Shig Dance Troop, Cass Lake, Minn., danced their way into the Capitol rotunda Jan. 29 as part of Creative Ticket Day, an event sponsored by several arts education organizations.

— Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Highlights

Anti-smoking bill . . .

Lawmakers work to block tobacco sales to minors

The effort to crack down on the sale of tobacco products to minors, thought to be extinguished in 1996, has flared up again with the introduction of a new anti-smoking bill.

On Jan. 30, members of the Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee voted 21-4 to send the bill to the House floor.

As originally written, **HF117**, sponsored by Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) and Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), would require local governments to license and regulate the retail sale of tobacco and conduct at least two compliance checks per year in every establishment that sells it.

Amendments to the bill cut back the com-

establishes a minimum level of regulation and relies on a framework of local ordinances to meet, or exceed, the law.

Rest told committee members that the legislation has the support of a broad coalition of interests, including public health groups, law enforcement agencies, and children's and family advocates. Moreover, she continued, "the general public supports this legislation by a huge margin."

Rest called underage smoking the country's "number one public health problem," comparing it to the ravages of AIDS, highway death, and murder. Indeed, two local officials and two schoolchildren testified to that effect. One 11-year-old student illustrated

checks," said retail association spokeswoman Judy Cook, "and most often the clerk misjudges someone's age rather than commits a willful violation."

After hearing all public testimony, the committee accepted five amendments.

Under an amendment offered by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), a city, town or township would have the option of regulating tobacco sales and could enact regulations stronger than those outlined in the bill. If the municipality chose not to regulate tobacco sales, that responsibility would fall to the county, which would then be compelled to do so. The city, town, or county would also be allowed to set the license fee at an amount sufficient to recover, or perhaps exceed, the cost of enforcement.

An amendment offered by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), reduced the number of mandatory compliance checks from two per year to one. Many committee members felt that requiring municipalities to perform two checks, which are usually "sting" operations, would impose an undue financial burden on local governments.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) proposed an amendment that would require a local government to give at least 30 days written notice to retailers before adopting any ordinance that would change the tobacco regulations.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) successfully offered a pair of amendments. The first deleted a section that would have prohibited tobacco manufacturers or distributors from paying retailers to place tobacco products in special eye-catching locations in a store. Many distributors routinely pay shopkeepers "slot" payments to ensure their products receive the most prominent display space.

Gunther, who is a grocer, pointed out that, contrary to media reports, the profit margin on cigarettes is not great. In fact, he said, many small store owners have come to rely on the slot payments.

Gunther's second amendment reduced the amount of fines levied against the store owners for violating the law. Originally, the bill imposed a minimum \$100 fine for a first



A bill on its way to the House floor would crack down on the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products to minors.

pliance checks to one and give cities and towns the option of regulating tobacco sales. But, if they do not, counties would have no choice. They must.

Rest's measure is similar to the amendment she offered to a tobacco bill in 1996. But that bill, sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), would have set statewide penalties for selling tobacco to minors. Jennings modeled his bill after the so-called "pre-emption laws" already on the books in more than two dozen states that trump local ordinances. **HF117**, on the other hand, es-

the threat. He recounted the ease of strolling into a restaurant and buying a pack of cigarettes from a vending machine.

The bill, however, was not without opposition. Officials from the Minnesota Retail Grocer's Association and the Minnesota Retailer's Association testified in opposition to the legislation. The law, they said, would impose a difficult burden on merchants who operate stores in several different cities and towns, each of which could impose a different level of regulation.

"Most retailers do their own compliance



Shawn Rowley, a sixth grader at Mississippi Heights Middle School in Sauk Rapids, Minn., testified before the Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee Jan. 30 in favor of a bill that would provide for mandatory penalties when tobacco is illegally sold to minors.

offense and at least \$250 for a second offense. The amounts changed to \$50 and \$150, respectively.

Rest's bill retained its \$50 fine for store clerks who sell tobacco to a minor.

"The net effect of this bill is that we get a statewide standard . . . and still allow local governments to be more strict," in their regulation of tobacco, Rest said. "This approach to restricting tobacco . . . will be a very important public policy decision for Minnesota."

—F.J. Gallagher



AGRICULTURE

Exorbitant milk prices

State lawmakers are looking for answers to problems in the dairy industry that have Minnesota consumers paying exceptionally high milk prices while the state's dairy farmers struggle to make a living.

"I believe there is a crisis in the dairy industry today," said Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), who chairs the House Agriculture Committee. "The crisis is not being addressed by those who are profiting from it."

Wenzel's committee and the Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Committee met jointly Jan. 24 to discuss the plight of Minnesota's dairy farmers.

The recent history of the dairy business

has been troubled. Farmers have seen a significant drop in the prices they get for their products. Consumers continue to pay retail prices among the highest in the nation. And Minnesota's largest milk wholesalers face an investigation into price fixing accusations.

Frank Grimm, a Sibley County dairy farmer, told members of the joint panel that changes must be made to ensure the future of dairy farming in Minnesota.

Grimm's family has been in the dairy business in Minnesota since the 1800s, but his operation is "losing ground" because of low prices paid by processors and rising prices for feed and supplies

Longtime farmers are being forced out by low prices, and young, start-up farmers just can't make a go of it, according to Grimm, who spoke on behalf of the Minnesota Farmers Union.

"For people to start in this business, we need to have profit," he said. "The way to have profit is to have fair pricing."

Wenzel said he plans to pursue reforms this session to help dairy farmers.

Specifically, he expressed support for a proposal to repeal the Dairy Unfair Trade Practices Law, which prohibits the retail sale of milk at prices below wholesale.

Allowing stores to freely set milk prices could drive up consumer demand, and as a result, force an increase in the price paid to dairy farmers, according to Wenzel.

"Minnesota dairy farmers could hardly do worse under a free market system," he said. "Government intervention has put thousands of farmers out of business, and in the process, gouged consumers."

Wenzel also said he would support an effort to create a compact with neighboring states to guarantee dairy farmers a fair minimum price.

So far this session, neither proposal has been introduced in the form of a bill, but several legislative proposals related to dairy pricing are expected to be debated before lawmakers adjourn in May.



CRIME

The children's list

Last November, authorities at Lino Lakes prison discovered a computerized list of the names of 3,000 children from outstate Minnesota. The prisoner suspected of compiling the list is a repeat child molester who is scheduled for release in January 2002.

Recently, a second list was found with about 2,600 names — and addresses in many

cases — of children in the Twin Cities metro area.

Authorities believe the names on both lists were gathered from public sources, such as newspapers, and that the lists are between 4 and 10 years old.

"We'll probably never know all the sources with respect to where the names came from," said Dennis Benson, deputy commissioner of the Department of Corrections, during testimony before the House Judiciary Committee Jan. 29.

Benson concedes that compiling such a list is not illegal, which has made it difficult to formulate a departmental response.

"It's certainly disturbing, but not illegal," Benson said. "The individual's history, however, heightens our level of concern."

Roger Wheeler, a special agent with the corrections department, said the incident will generate a criminal investigation, then a possible grand jury indictment.

"We continue to review our internal policies," Benson said. "We will work with the Legislature on any bill you might produce."

The prisoner had computer access through Insight, Inc., a prison telemarketing program. He also had access to the Internet and a modem. An investigator told members that while there is no evidence the list was distributed, there is no way to prove it was not. Information detailing who received e-mail from prisoners is not available.

Investigators believe that none of the children on the list have been contacted by the prisoner or by others.

David Crist, acting commissioner of corrections, said that prisoners no longer have access to the Internet or other computers through a modem. They continue, however, to operate the telemarketing company and other computer programs, all on "stand alone" computers, he said.

Several legislators had concerns about inmates' continued access to computerized information and questioned whether they should have any access to computers.

At the time of the meeting, the corrections department had sent letters to 700 families of children whose names appeared on the list. They intended to send letters to remaining families by Jan. 31 and also have established an information line for concerned parents at (612) 603-0026.

"This is a yellow caution light in terms of the computer age, the Internet, and technology," Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said. "We have to be careful regarding the ease with which information is available to any one individual." Possible legislation stemming from the incidents may affect computer access by

prisoners and parolees, data privacy laws, or school and other lists with information about children, Dawkins said.

Pay up for troopers

State troopers were called to Minneapolis last August along with other law enforcement assistance. Many arrests were made, guns were taken off the street, and the city's murder rate did not reach the record level of 1995. Now the \$226,000 bill for those extra law officers has come to the Legislature.

The cost of deploying 25 state troopers, three to five Bureau of Criminal Apprehension agents and a state patrol helicopter was paid for out of the state's trunk highway fund. Legislation (**HF19**) sponsored by Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) authorizes the commissioner of finance to transfer \$226,000 from the general fund to reimburse the trunk highway fund before the current fiscal year ends on June 30, 1997. The bill was discussed Jan. 28 by the House Transportation and Transit Finance Division, which Lieder chairs.

Don Davis, state commissioner of public safety, recounted for the committee the events leading up to the trooper deployment. In late August 1996, Minneapolis appeared to be careening toward another record homicide level, Davis said. The *New York Times* had carried a story labeling Minnesota's largest city "Murderapolis," and Gov. Arne Carlson and Lt. Gov. Joanne Benson had both just returned from overseas trips concerned about the image Minneapolis was acquiring. On Aug. 25, there were three more murders while Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton and Police Chief Robert Olson were out of town. Two days later, Carlson summoned Davis to his office and wanted to know what the state could do to immediately address the crime problem in Minneapolis. After discussing the matter with city council and police officials, it was decided to send in 15 state troopers and three to five BCA agents to assist Minneapolis police for a 60-day period. A state patrol helicopter and pilot were also assigned to the city.

The results were dramatic, according to Davis. The state troopers made 1,089 arrests and assisted in responding to 505 emergency 911 calls. Among the arrests were 66 weapons-related, 196 for outstanding warrants, 86 for other felonies, and 154 for driving while intoxicated or without a license. Chief Olson has reported that after the troopers left, crime rates in the fourth and fifth precincts have stayed down, Davis said.

Fred Corrigan, vice president of the Minnesota Transportation Alliance, told the committee that his group is sympathetic to the problems experienced in Minneapolis and is supportive of state assistance, but also concerned about the use of highway trust fund dollars for non-highway purposes. "State law is very specific about the use of trust fund dollars and trunk highway dollars in stating these dollars shall be used solely for highway purposes," Corrigan said.

The committee voted to support **HF19**. It will be included in the division's omnibus funding bill.



EDUCATION

More education dollars

A bill that would avert a \$337 million cut in funding for public schools passed the House on Jan. 30. The vote was 133-0.

The bill (**HF1**), sponsored by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), would repeal spending caps that became law as part of a 1995 education spending package.

The caps, effective with the start of the 1998-99 biennium, would force a reduction in the per-pupil amount each school district receives from the state and would alter the formula used by the state to calculate funding levels for secondary students.

"I believe this bill is an example of good government at work," Johnson said. "I say that because we listened to the people of Minnesota. They asked us to pass a bill that would restore the funding cuts."

Passage of the bill was never really in doubt on the House floor. There was strong bipartisan support for the measure among House members. However, some controversy was stirred by an amendment offered on the House floor by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka).

The goal of the amendment was to hold the line on property taxes in those districts with excess levy referendums or high property taxes in place as a result of the caps.

Abrams offered the same amendment last week in the House Taxes Committee, only to see it defeated. At the time, committee members agreed with the principle of the amendment but most expressed a desire to deliver a "clean bill" that could move quickly through the legislative process.

On the House floor, the merits of the amendment were hardly disputed.

Johnson acknowledged the amendment addressed a "legitimate issue," but she said it is not an issue "to be considered at this time." She suggested it would be better to try to get the amendment included in the omnibus K-12 education or tax bills that will be assembled later in the session.

Ultimately, the amendment failed on a 94-37 vote.

HF1 now goes to the Senate.

Statewide testing

Lawmakers are considering whether Minnesota students should be subject to standardized, statewide testing to measure pupil and school performance.

Several statewide testing proposals are



Rep. Henry Kalis, foreground, and the rest of the Capital Investment Committee, took a tour of the Lino Lakes Correctional Facility Jan. 30. Warden Bert Mohs, far right, showed committee members recent renovations that gave access to people with disabilities.

expected to be considered this year, but Gov. Arne Carlson's plan is the first to be taken up by a House committee.

The governor's proposal (HF235) is sponsored by Rep. LeRoy Koppendray (R-Princeton), who argued such testing would help to assure the quality of Minnesota's schools.

"Minnesota prides itself on leading the way in public education," Koppendray said Jan. 30 before the House Education Committee's Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives. "Minnesota led the way on school choice and in many other areas."

The subcommittee took no action on HF235.

The bill would require that students in grades three, five, and eight take a single nationally recognized test each spring, and the bill would provide \$5 million to finance the testing in 1998 and 1999.

Statewide testing would provide a "comprehensive statewide assessment" of how students, schools, and districts are doing, Koppendray said. Testing each student at various points throughout his or her academic career would measure progress and identify areas of concern.

"The earlier we start, the less threatening it is and the more useful it is," Koppendray said, explaining the need to initiate testing at the third grade level. "It is something we can use as a tool to build a child's education."

Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) contradicted those remarks, describing statewide testing as "a tool of punishment" that offers nothing to help disadvantaged students.

Identifying struggling students in third grade is too late, according to Kinkel.

"I promise you the state would get a much better return if you took that \$5 million and put it into early childhood development," he said.

Current state law prohibits the use of a single, statewide test in public schools. (State-developed tests are the most common means of determining whether students meet the basic skills requirements of Minnesota's graduation rule, but school districts also have the authority to choose from more than a dozen approved alternative exams.)

Proponents of statewide testing argue that it would make schools more accountable by providing an objective measurement of student performance and a reliable foundation for comparing schools across both districts and states.

Opponents claim statewide testing would provide no information about student performance that their teachers don't already know and that the testing could have a nega-

tive effect on students, causing unnecessary anxiety and driving up dropout rates.

"A statewide test just pits school district against school district," said Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy).

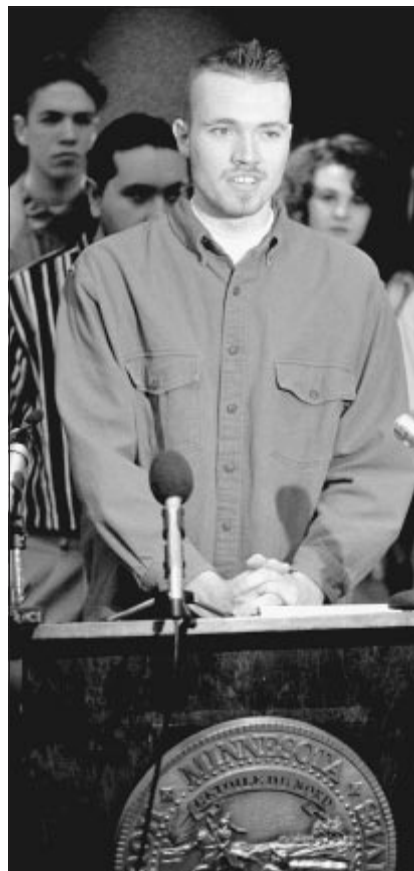
Koppendray, who described the bill as a work in progress, said it likely will be altered to include the recommendations of a recently released University of Minnesota report on statewide testing.

That report, required under a 1995 education funding law, maps out a comprehensive approach for implementation of statewide testing.

Major recommendations in the report call for statewide testing of students at four grade levels and suggest that the new testing be linked to the graduation standards required under current law.

Pre-Labor Day school

Students accustomed to savoring the Labor Day weekend as the last hours of summer freedom may be in for a surprise under a bill headed for the House floor.



Eric Hanson, Stillwater, a senior and student body vice president at the University of Minnesota, expressed his support for a bill Jan. 24 that would appropriate \$45 million to reduce the cost of tuition for students attending state educational institutions.

HF84, sponsored by Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), would allow school districts to begin classes before Labor Day in 1998 and 1999. The bill was approved by the House Education Committee on Jan. 28.

The reason for the bill is simple enough. Labor Day falls relatively late in September for the next two years (Sept. 7 and Sept. 6, respectively) and that can foul up the schedule for the entire academic year, Carlson said.

The bill even has the support of one major tourism industry group. But any discussion of the current state law mandating that school begin after Labor Day is bound to attract some controversy.

Tourism groups are usually the most vocal defenders of the law because those businesses benefit from the later school start. It keeps available the teenagers they rely upon to fill seasonal jobs, and it stretches the season for summertime family vacations.

The law's detractors include those who believe the academic calendar should be set by local school boards and those advocating alternative school schedules.

Bob Meeks, a lobbyist for the Minnesota School Boards Association, said HF84 is the result of negotiations between his organization and the Minnesota Restaurant, Hotel & Resort Associations, a trade group that lobbies for the hospitality and tourism businesses.

"They gave up quite a bit," Meeks said. "They were willing to compromise. . . . Obviously, they understand the need for education, and we understand their need to make a living."

Another tourism industry organization — The Minnesota Association of Innkeepers — registered its opposition to the bill in a memo to committee members.

The bill stirred little controversy in the committee, but the reaction of some members hinted at a larger debate that may lie ahead this session.

Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) said lawmakers need to discuss expanding the time for learning by extending hours in a school day and adding days to the school year.

"I believe this bill is a Band Aid," Folliard said.

To merge or not to merge

A plan to merge two Twin Cities postsecondary schools was presented to the Education Committee's Higher Education Finance Committee Jan. 27.

Under the plan, developed by the

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) at the direction of the Legislature, Metropolitan State University (MSU) and Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC), both in Minneapolis, would merge. The combined school would function much like a four-year educational institution, according to MnSCU Chancellor Judith Eaton.

Eaton said the plan is meant to increase the ability of inner city students to obtain college degrees.

"There's an enormous need for additional higher education opportunities, especially in the future," Eaton told the committee. "It has become more and more important to look at plans that cut across existing institutions and remove barriers. Minneapolis and Minnesota have an opportunity that is left in few urban centers."

Eaton said the plan is, in part, a response to the changing demographics of the Twin Cities. (See related story, page 15.) The state's minority population grew 75 percent between 1980 and 1990, according to the report compiled by MnSCU, which also says that 87 percent of that population resides in the Twin Cities seven-county metro area. Many are poor and undereducated, according to the report.

The merger plan, Eaton said, would address the growing need to reach out to and educate that increasing population. Based on her experiences in other major cities, it's a critical issue. "The erosion of which I'm speaking is not as bad as it's going to get," she told the committee. "The answer is to expand educational opportunities in Minneapolis before it's too late."

Under the plan, which was one of five options MnSCU examined, the two schools would form one at the existing campus of MCTC. MSU now rents space on Hennepin Avenue, just a few blocks from MCTC, which is itself the product of a recent merger. "While a major investment in facilities would be necessary, the costs would be much less than building a new campus," the report states.

The plan was met with mixed reactions from committee members. Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) expressed concern about the site-selection process, but said he would wait until further hearings to examine the issue more closely. "The magnitude and complexity of the decision on site selection is so great that it needs more in-depth discussion," Carlson said.

The 1996 Legislature, in two pieces of legislation, directed MnSCU to plan for MSU's future.

One called for a master plan for the Twin

Cities area and a permanent site for MSU's campus. (The school currently rents.) "The plan must consider short- and long-term demographic and enrollment projections . . . and coordination and duplication of program offerings."

The second law said MnSCU's board of trustees should "determine how best to improve the delivery of comprehensive, quality educational programs," and consider merging MSU with other campuses.

Rep. Gene Pelowski, (DFL-Winona), committee chair, said that future hearings on the issue will be held.



ELECTIONS

Vote from home

A House panel is taking another look at easing the process of voting by absentee ballot. An attempt to do so last year got tangled with other election issues and never made it to the House floor, according to Secretary of State Joan Grove.

The sponsors of **HF74** would like to make voting by absentee ballot available to anyone. Under current law, voters must have one of several reasons to vote outside an official polling place: expected absence from the precinct; illness; disability; religion; or service as an election judge in another precinct.

HF74 would remove the reasons for which a voter may vote by absentee ballot, and state "Any eligible voter may vote by absentee ballot. . . ."

"This proposal would result in more people participating in the process," Grove said during testimony before the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee Jan. 27.

"Voter participation is in decline," Grove continued. "The last [primary] election had the second lowest voter turnout ever."

Grove said the new legislation would remedy some of the causes that keep people from voting. Many voters cannot take the time to stand in line at polling places. Others, especially the elderly, are uncomfortable venturing onto often-hazardous roads during November in Minnesota, she said.

"Lifestyle changes within the voting population are factors that cannot be underestimated," Grove said. "This bill addresses the concerns of these voters. It permits people to vote at the time and place of their choosing."

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), the bill's sponsor, said, "In this day and age, we have to try to maximize voter turnout. We have to

reach out. We have to be experimental."

In last year's state primary election, only 13.2 percent of qualified voters cast ballots. In the general election, 64.8 percent voted. Since 1950, general election turnout has ranged from a high of 83.9 percent in 1956 to a low of 47 percent in 1986.

Members were quick to distinguish absentee balloting from mail balloting, which is now permitted in 161 precincts in cities and townships with fewer than 400 registered voters.

Also, there are numerous special elections in counties, municipalities, and school districts that allow ballot questions to be voted on by mail, according to Joe Mansky of the Office of the Secretary of State.

The primary difference between the two types of voting is that voters must request an absentee ballot; mail-in ballots are mailed to all registered voters. In 1996, Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed a measure to extend mail balloting to cities with fewer than 1,000 registered voters, calling it "a creeping spread of an unwise policy."

To prevent fraud and abuse, **HF74** has tight controls addressing who can handle the ballots and how ballots must be requested.

Lawmakers plan to vote on **HF74** after ensuring that certain provisions conform with the state's Data Practices Act.



FAMILY

Parental visitation

In November 1995, the Minnesota Supreme Court asked a task force to examine visitation issues among families who have undergone divorce and recommend ways to address related problems.

Among the questions explored by the panel: Should a non-custodial parent be allowed to withhold support payments if a custodial parent interferes with court-ordered visitation rights?

The task force answered with a resounding "no," and recommended against linking visitation and child support. Doing so, according to the report, "may encourage adversarial behavior . . . and negatively impact the emotional and financial well-being of the children involved."

The report was presented to the House Judiciary Committee's Civil and Family Law Division Jan. 29 by task force members Peter Parilla of the Sociology Department at the University of St. Thomas, and Julie Brunner, county administrator in St. Louis County.

"What came through is that there's a need

for visitation enforcement to catch up with support enforcement — but not to link them,” said Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), committee chair. “That equals a double-whammy for kids: They don’t get the visitation and they don’t get the support.”

The panel also examined: how often parents interfere with visitation rights; the frequency with which non-custodial parents fail to exercise their visitation rights; and the impact a lack of access to the courts has on compliance with visitation issues.

Included in the task force’s recommendations are:

- parent education and other family-support programs should be increased considerably and, in some cases, participation should be mandated;
- court officers should be better educated on matters related to divorce;
- compensatory visitation rights should be more regularly awarded to parents who have been wrongfully denied visitation, and sanctions imposed against parents who deny them;
- custody arrangements should be modified if a pattern of persistent denial of visitation occurs over a three-month period or longer — if doing so is in the best interest of the child; and
- visitation expeditors (neutral parties qualified to moderate visitation disputes) should be used more frequently.

Those attending the hearing, though on various sides of the issue, seemed to approve of the task force report. Testifying before the committee were representatives from the Father’s Resource Center, R-Kids, Aces (a group that works for compliance with support orders), Catholic Charities, and mediators and attorneys.

Dawkins said the next step is for legislators to come forward with bills in support of the recommendations.

The wing housed the children’s school and was named the Michael Dowling Memorial Hall, in honor of a state legislator who lost his hands and feet to frostbite at age 14. He became an advocate for people with disabilities.

Public and private dollars renovated the structure for \$2.6 million.

Members of the House Economic Development Finance Division listened to testimony about commission programs such as MOTHEREAD/FATHEREAD, which promotes family reading; the Teacher Institute, which provides energizing, week-long, residential seminars for teachers; and grants for public community humanities projects.

The MHC receives \$586,000 per year in state dollars and is requesting the same amount during the 1998-1999 budgeting period.

The humanities consist of history, literature, philosophy, archaeology, modern and classical languages, ethics, jurisprudence, comparative religion, linguistics, cultural anthropology, and history and criticism of the arts.

“People need a strong humanities background to become productive adults,” said Cheryl Dickson, the commission’s executive director.

Jan Wolden, a junior high teacher from Owatonna, Minn., shared her experience as part of the Teacher Institute. In 1994, she attended a week-long seminar on the “Cross-cultural Understanding of Health and Ill-

ness.”

The lessons learned helped with her Hmong and Hispanic students, Wolden said, adding that the “world is coming to Minnesota” and it is programs such as the Teacher Institute that help prepare teachers.

JeriAnn Angelo, a reading specialist from Minneapolis, spoke of the successes of MOTHEREAD/FATHEREAD.

“Many kids come into school not able to read or even listen to a story.” The reading program helps train parents and caregivers how to read to their children and apply the messages of culturally diverse literature to daily life, Angelo said.

Currently about 300 sites around the state are trained in MOTHEREAD/FATHEREAD, and there is a waiting list.

Theodore Schaum, a retired college professor, spoke of his MHC grant that allows him to run a discussion series out of the Detroit Lakes Library.

Several times a month 35-65 people in the area come to discuss topics such as “Can poetry matter?” “Can the heart be filled anywhere on Earth?” and “Is racism stronger than ever? — II.”

Schaum said the discussion series, known as Great Minds Appreciation Discussion Circle, “brings intellectual stimulation” to a community void of a college or university.

All communities need a cultural life, he said, adding that the MHC helps give Minnesota a “good intellectual climate.”



HUMANITIES

Strengthening the humanities

The staff of the Minnesota Humanities Commission (MHC) hosted a tour for several Minnesota lawmakers Jan. 27 to show off their renovated building and encourage continued funding of their programs.

The Humanities Education Center, near St. Paul’s Phalen Park, was originally the west wing of the Gillette State Children’s Hospital, a state-funded hospital established in 1897 that provided free care for children with disabilities.



Jessica Roth, right, classmate Kayla Karnes, left, and the rest of the eagles waited to play their parts during the Prairie Woods Elementary School’s performance of “Ronald Raven Saves Wetland Hollow” in the Capitol rotunda Jan. 29. The students from the New London-Spicer area performed as part of Creative Ticket Day, an event sponsored by several arts education organizations.



LABOR

Workers' comp refund

The board of the Workers Compensation Reinsurance Association (WCRA) will be authorizing a \$440 million refund of surplus funds, WCRA president Jay Benanav told the House Labor-Management Relations Committee Jan. 27. The amount of the distribution must be approved by the state commissioner of labor and industry and the commissioner of commerce.

The WCRA provides reinsurance to private insurance companies and to self-insured businesses for large claims such as those involving brain, spinal cord, or back injuries. The nonprofit insurance association was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1979 in response to concerns about the availability and cost of workers' compensation reinsurance. The WCRA is the state's exclusive provider of excess workers' compensation reinsurance.

The agency is able to keep the cost of reinsurance premiums down through successful investment and management of its reserves, Benanav said. It is the success of these investments, along with fewer claims filed than anticipated, that has led to the WCRA's surplus.

The 1997 refund will be the fourth in recent years. In 1992 and 1993, the WCRA refunded \$100 million and \$302 million, respectively. After the 1997 refund, the WCRA will have given back nearly every dollar it has ever collected in premiums. Also, since July 1996, the WCRA has applied \$42.5 million in excess reserves to lower premiums paid by insurance companies and self-insured employers. The refunds will not impair the agency's ability to pay future claims, Benanav told the committee.

Following the 1993 surplus declaration, the Legislature enacted a law requiring the WCRA to pass on the 1992 and 1993 excess surplus refunds to employer policyholders rather than to the insurance company members. Litigation initiated by insurance companies resulted in a federal judge's ruling in 1994 that the Legislature could not retroactively require the surpluses built up before the law passed to be refunded directly to policyholders. Therefore, insurance company members were allowed to keep the \$402 million surplus which had already been declared by the WCRA board. The ruling did not affect refunds directly to self-insured employers.

The judge did not rule on the constitutionality of the 1993 law as it applied to

future distributions of WCRA surpluses, Benanav said.

"Our board of directors intends to follow the law as it was amended in 1993. This will result in distributions of approximately \$140 million to Minnesota employers and \$260 million to insurance companies."



SPORTS

Trail funding crisis

Minnesota's snowmobile trail fund has an operating deficit of \$2.5 million for the 1997 fiscal year, according to a report from the Minnesota Snowmobile Advisory Committee (MSAC). The report was included in testimony delivered to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Jan. 27 in a plea for increased snowmobile trail funding.

Dennis Asmussen, director of Trails and Waterways for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, told the committee that the state's Snowmobile Trail Enforcement Account is not adequate to operate and maintain the existing 18,047 mile trail system. The fiscal year 1997 appropriation is \$6.1 million, though approximately \$8.6 million is actually needed.

The report cites a number of factors lead-



Jeff Mausolf, president of the Minnesota United Snowmobile Association, told the Environment and Natural Resources Committee Jan. 27 that his association would support a \$5 increase in license fees if more money was spent on the construction of more snowmobile trails.

ing to what the MSAC has called a crisis in snowmobile trail funding, including:

- a 41 percent increase in the number of registered snowmobile users in the past 10 years for a total of 255,000 in 1996;
- ridership averaging 1,400 miles per year, per machine, up from 500 miles in the late 1980s; and
- aging trail maintenance equipment in need of replacement.

In addition, Asmussen told the committee that the MSAC recommends adding 3,322 miles of trail. "Most of these trail proposals are based on historic use patterns and needs that have gone unanswered," Asmussen said. "The proposed trails would complete trail systems, create linkages and spread use out from heavily used existing trails."

The report estimates the cost of building the additional miles of trails at \$4.2 million. Another \$2.5 million is needed to modernize the existing system. The report estimates the annual cost of operating and maintaining a new enlarged trail system at \$9.5 million.

"Minnesota's snowmobile trails are the state's single largest economic development project and it is borne on the backs of volunteers," Jeff Mausolf, president of Minnesota United Snowmobile Association said of the current state trail maintenance system. He expressed concern that many volunteers are feeling overwhelmed and may not continue. "In 1993-94, our people logged 194,000 hours in trail maintenance and grooming."

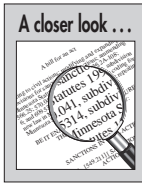
Mausolf said his group supports an increase in the annual snowmobile registration fee from \$10 to \$15 and an increase in the gasoline tax to pay for the trail expansions and improvements. He noted that the extra expenditures would be a good investment since "Winter recreationists who come to snowmobile will spend more than any other winter visitors to the state."



When the commissioner of Minnesota's Department of Veteran's Affairs presented the House Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division with his agency's performance report Jan. 29, he pointed out that customers often confuse the state's veteran's affairs office with the similarly named federal department. Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), the division's chair, offered some sound political advice: "Remind them that you're from Minnesota when they like you and just don't say anything when they don't. We politicians do that all the time."

Saving the trust fund . . .

Bill may extend lottery's environment dollars to 2050



Lotteries have long been used to raise money for underfunded causes, from Michelangelo's painting on the Sistine Chapel ceiling to the American Revolutionary War. In Minnesota, the lottery has been wed to funding for environmental causes.

"It is an unholy alliance," quipped Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) in recounting the history of the state's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The match came about in 1988 when Munger, long-time chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee, was pushing a bill to set up the state's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. At the same time, Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) was also trying to jump start legislation for a state-run lottery. When the two bills met in the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, it was not long before they were united, Munger said.

In the fall of 1988, Minnesotans voted by a margin of more than three-to-one to authorize a state-run lottery with a portion of the proceeds going to support environmental causes. In 1990, voters supported dedicating 40 percent of the lottery's net revenues to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund until Dec. 31, 2000. The remaining 60 percent of net lottery proceeds are now allocated to the state's general fund. When the lottery legislation originally passed, 35 percent of lottery profits funded capital improvements for educational facilities and environmental projects. The remaining 25 percent was marked for the now defunct Greater Minnesota Corporation, a joint public-private venture which encouraged economic development and job growth in Greater Minnesota.

This session the Legislature is considering a bill (HF113) sponsored by Rep. Munger which would extend the trust fund's ties to the lottery until 2050. It won approval Jan. 29 from the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

According to a report from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), the lottery has contributed \$149 million to the trust fund since it began in 1991. About seven cents of every dollar spent by lottery players goes to the fund, which is currently worth about \$140 million. Most of the funds are invested in an equal mix of stocks and bonds. Given stable lottery sales,

the LCMR projects that the trust fund will reach \$1 billion in assets by the 2016.

To date, the trust fund has contributed approximately \$60.5 million to 87 environmental projects. Forty more projects are proposed for 1998-99, which would increase total trust fund expenditures to about \$81 million. (An additional \$22 million has been leveraged from the private sector with another \$4 million promised by 1999.)

"Environmental enhancement is not a short-term fix," said Nancy Gibson of the

Citizens Advisory Committee on the Trust Fund. She testified in favor of HF113 along with a dozen other environmental activists at the Jan. 29 hearing. "We do know that spending dollars on environmental preservation is a lot cheaper than paying for recovery," she added.

Gabe Horner of the Nature Conservancy presented data to the committee from a survey her organization conducted to gauge the opinions of Minnesotans on environmental issues and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The survey included 400 registered voters from throughout the state who were polled Nov. 21-22, 1996. (The results have a margin error of plus or minus 4 percent.)

According to the survey, 86 percent of Minnesotans continue to support dedicating lottery proceeds to the environment. Ninety-seven percent of those surveyed agreed with the statement: "Natural areas and lakes are an important part of our heritage and should be preserved for future generations." Some 87 percent agreed that "Minnesota's lakes, farm lands, and other open spaces will soon be lost forever if we do not protect them now." When asked about the distribution of lottery profits, 69 percent said they would favor increasing the amount dedicated to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Ron Nargang, deputy commissioner for the Department of Natural Resources, told the committee that Gov. Arne Carlson will support the bill but would have preferred to deal with the issue in 1998.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) said that he would like to see the dedication of lottery funds extended even longer than 2050. Osthoff has introduced a similar bill (HF111) which would make the marriage between the environment and lottery "perpetual and in-violate forever."

HF113 now moves to the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.



Gabe Horner, *right*, of the Nature Conservancy, testified before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee Jan. 29 in support of an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution extending lottery proceeds to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund until the year 2050. Former state senator Gene Merriam, head of the Environmental Trust Fund Coalition, *left*, also testified in favor of the amendment. At right is a state map showing projects that have been funded by the trust fund.

— Steve Compton

Trust fund accomplishments

The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund's major accomplishments between 1991 and 1997 include:

Recreation: Twenty-two appropriations totaling \$22 million for acquisition of land for parks, trails, and water entry points to help meet increasing demands on state and regional recreation facilities. Americans with Disabilities Act compliance is incorporated into all developments. Project accomplishments include:

- 261 miles of trails acquired, developed, or improved for a variety of uses;
- 5,806 acres of recreational park land acquired;
- 7 public water accesses acquired and developed, including fishing piers; and
- 58 projects in park facilities for restoration, development or improvement.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat: Twenty-four appropriations totaling \$14.9 million for wildlife and fisheries habitat acquisition and improvement, biological control activities including Eurasian water milfoil and purple loosestrife, acceleration of the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) projects, wetland restoration, restoration of native species, collection of data and

assessment of rare and endangered species. Project accomplishments include:

- 5,900 acres acquired;
- 9,000 acres improved; and
- 13 miles of streams and rivers acquired and/or improved.

Water Resources: Seventeen appropriations totaling \$7.8 million for projects in pollution prevention, research, and/or restoration which have impacted all 39 of Minnesota's major watersheds.

Education: Twelve appropriations totaling \$3.9 million for environmental education programs directly impacting more than 250,000 students and teachers.

Agriculture: Three appropriations totaling \$1.75 million for biological control of pest and 1,244 acres of RIM reserve land acquired.

Land use and Natural Resource Information: Nine appropriations totaling \$5.5 million for projects including statewide and regional mapping of resources, activities to improve the health of forest ecosystems, bluffslands protection, and assessment of Minnesota's environmental health.

Source: Minnesota Commission on Minnesota Resources



Reps. Betty Folliard and Satveer Chaudhary, along with other members of the Higher Education Finance Division, used laptop computers available to Northwest Technical College students during a committee hearing Jan. 24. The lawmakers simulated a lab procedure that would normally cost \$100,000 by creating circuit boards, and then running tests on those boards. Gary Ellingson, a faculty member from the Moorhead campus, *left at witness table*, led them through the procedure.

Committee deadlines

Each year the House and Senate set deadlines by which most bills must be heard in a committee and forwarded through the process. The deadlines serve to weed out some of the several thousand bills introduced each year.

The first committee deadline is **Wednesday, March 26**. That means all bills must be passed out of all policy committees in their house of origin to receive further consideration this session. If a House bill hasn't been approved by House policy committees by the deadline, but its Senate companion has, the bill has met the committee deadline.

By the second committee deadline — **Wednesday, April 9** — all bills other than those containing appropriations, must be passed out of all policy committees in both the House and the Senate. The deadline does not apply to the finance divisions of the committees or the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, the Taxes Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee.

By **Friday, April 18**, all appropriations bills must clear their policy and finance committees and move to either the Taxes Committee or Ways and Means Committee.

Of course, there are exceptions to the deadlines. Any lawmaker may try to convince the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, which includes leaders from both party caucuses, to hear a bill after the deadlines.

Feedback

The House of Representatives Public Information Office has established an e-mail address and invites readers to comment on the *Session Weekly* and its contents.

Send messages to:

session@house.leg.state.mn.us

We thank you for your input.

The editors

Opatz, Wejcman take speaker's gavel when needed

Presiding over hours and hours of sometimes contentious debate on the floor of the Minnesota House of Representatives can be too much for one person.

Even if the speaker's hectic schedule doesn't demand he be elsewhere, simple exhaustion may require him to call in some relief.

This session, two lawmakers will share duties as backup to Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Park).

Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) and Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) have been named speakers *pro tempore*, as the position is officially known (or *pro tem* for short).

As the title makes clear, the speaker pro tem assumes the role of the speaker on a temporary basis whenever necessary.

"Later in the session, we are on the floor for very, very long periods of time," Opatz said. "It's just physically difficult for a person to stand up there for a dozen hours in a row.

"Just as importantly, the speaker is going to have to be meeting with other members, conference committees, the governor, [Senate Majority Leader] Roger Moe, the minority leadership. [Carruthers] will have other responsibilities that take him away from the floor, and that's where our role comes in."

While their time in the speaker's chair may be limited, Opatz and Wejcman likely will be required to make quick decisions on important, controversial issues.

Seemingly mundane procedural rulings, such as deciding whether an amendment is germane to a bill, can have a significant effect on the ultimate fate of the legislation.

"Determining if an amendment is germane can be a major issue, especially as we get to the end of session," Wejcman said. "There will have to be a lot of trust on the part of other legislators that I will be fair and I will make the right decisions."

Wejcman and Opatz have been selected to fill a position that is relatively new in the history of the House.

House rules have long allowed for temporary speakers, but the practice of selecting a stand-in has varied. Designating a speaker pro tem is a practice less than two decades old.

Before the 1980s, temporary speakers could not serve for more than one day. And instead of being appointed by the speaker, they were chosen by a majority of the House or by the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

Carruthers began his new job as speaker with a vow to foster bipartisan cooperation in the lower chamber. The speakers pro tem say they aim to support the speaker's efforts.

"I think I tend to be a fairly nonpartisan, objective person," Opatz said. "I see myself behaving in a way very consistent with the way [Carruthers] would like the floor to operate. It should be businesslike, and it should be civil."

body is here because they really want to do the right thing."

In addition to standing in for the speaker, Wejcman and Opatz will work with the majority leader and assistant majority leaders as part of the caucus' leadership team.

Wejcman is beginning her fourth term representing what she describes as a "wonderfully diverse" district in south Minneapolis.

Neighborhoods in the district include a mix of people from varied ethnic groups and economic classes, according to Wejcman. And she has focused her legislative work on universally important issues: child care, housing, employment, and safety.

Wejcman sponsored a 1996 law that will require all new police officers hired after Aug. 1, 1997, to have completed a course in community policing.

Opatz is in his third term representing a portion of St. Cloud and surrounding areas. Perhaps his most publicized legislative work was a 1996 law he sponsored requiring insurance companies to allow mothers and their newborn babies to stay in the hospital for at least 48 hours.

"There is no other legislation that I have ever carried that has gotten such a positive response in terms of its personal impact on people's lives," he said. "...That's been very gratifying."

Opatz also has worked heavily on land-use planning issues, with an eye toward controlling urban sprawl. And he has been active on issues related to education, which is something close to his heart. When not tied up at the Capitol, he works as an administrator at St. Cloud State University.

The speakers pro tem both say they are pleased to be part of Carruthers' vision for the House.

"It's really an honor to have that faith put in you, to be trusted," Wejcman said.

— Nick Healy



Reps. Joe Opatz and Linda Wejcman have been named speakers pro tempore and will step up to the podium to give the speaker a break.

The Legislature can meet the public's call for less partisanship, according to Wejcman.

"Everybody elected to the House is here with the intention of doing what their district wants and what they think is best for Minnesota," she said. "We might differ a little bit from district to district, but every-

Historic mansion . . .

Governor's Residence a treasure for all Minnesotans

Which capital city abode has sheltered world leaders, Olympic athletes, lumber barons and even a pair of goats? The Governor's Residence, of course, built on tony Summit Avenue in 1910.

St. Paul lumberman Horace Hills Irvine paid \$7,000 for a good-sized plot of land along the prestigious roadway, which at the time was an isolated retreat for the city's leading citizens. With the automobile age still in its infancy, most St. Paulites needed to hop an electric trolley to make it "up the hill" from the lower town.

After Minneapolis architect William Channing Whitney completed his designs, Irvine secured a building permit, specifying an estimated cost of \$50,000 for a "two-and-one-half story brick and stone dwelling."

When completed, the 20-room English Tudor country manor house would sport nine bedrooms, an equal number of fireplaces, and eight baths. It was equipped with both gas and electrical outlets, (since electricity was still a novelty at the time, and its future was uncertain). A complex call box and bell system covered most of the house, an ancestor of today's intercom. Perhaps the mansion's most interesting gadget was a central vacuum cleaner "with outlets throughout the house, and its mechanism in the basement . . . intended to ease the task of cleaning and free the staff for other household matters," according to *The Governor's Table: a Treasury of History and Hospitality at the Minnesota Governor's Residence*. The book project was spearheaded by Gretchen Quie, wife of Al Quie, Minnesota's 35th governor.

Here, Irvine and his wife, Clotilde, raised four children and entertained elite friends such as the Pillsburys, Kelloggs, Bells, and Ordways. More than 50 years later, the house would become the official Minnesota Governor's Residence.

In 1965, a year after the death of Clotilde Hills Irvine, (Horace had died in 1947), the surviving Irvine daughters gave the home at 1006 Summit Avenue to the state of Minnesota. The Legislature debated whether an aging home in disrepair was a wise investment of taxpayer dollars.

Florence Rolvaag, wife of sitting Gov. Karl Rolvaag, told reporters, "One of the problems of being governor in Minnesota is that we've never had an official place for dignitaries to stay. We've had to accommodate them . . . and do our entertaining in hotels."

Social clubs, the State Capitol, and even the state fairgrounds had also served as host sites to prestigious visitors.

Lawmakers quickly authorized the deal and marked \$100,000 to renovate and operate the building. Minnesota became the 41st state to provide its governor with an official residence.

The *St. Paul Dispatch* approved of the move, noting that in an effort to woo potential businesses "it probably is a help if a governor has some spot where he can hold private conferences and gatherings, entertain and "sell" his state to corporate executives and planners."

State Sen. Gordon Rosenmeier said it would be a place where the governor could have a little "dignity, pomp if you will."

And also a place near the Capitol for the governor to sleep. But when Gov. Karl Rolvaag, the first to occupy the Governor's Residence, showed up with his family on moving day, beds were nowhere to be found. Not only the cupboards but the floors were bare as well — of carpet and furniture. The Rolvaag's short-term solution was to bring furnishings from their Arden Hills home.

Efforts were soon under way to dress up the residence, and the Fine Arts Committee was established to "provide long-term en-

couragement to the citizens of Minnesota to give appropriate gifts to the house." By January 1966, more than 400 yards of carpeting had been laid and the kitchen, bathrooms, basement, and third floor were remodeled. Fine art lined the walls and halls of the residence, including a Rodin bust on loan from the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Construction continued during the LeVander administration with the help of continued private donations and another \$230,000 from the Legislature. Iantha LeVander, wife of Gov. Harold LeVander, was instrumental in decorating the residence. She wanted a "simple but elegant working, living house," according to *Minnesota Times and Tastes*, published in 1993 by the 1006 Summit Avenue Society as a project of current First Lady Susan Carlson. LeVander wanted the residence to "look like a governor's house."

After all, when not the site of official meetings and formal teas, the mansion is a private home. Both its size and special attributes have kept 15 children busy exploring its nooks and crannies.

Gov. Al Quie's son, Ben, played miniature golf in the attic. Gov. Wendell Anderson's daughter, Beth, recalls games of hide and seek with the chefs and security staff. There's



The Governor's Residence has hosted many dignitaries over the years including former Soviet Union head Mikhail Gorbachev in 1990 during Gov. Rudy Perpich's third term.

even a tunnel from the basement of the mansion to the adjacent carriage house, where the Irvine children are said to have played. (The same carriage house would house a Vietnamese refugee family during the Quie administration.) A secret panel is said to exist in the ornate walnut wood of the dining room, according to *The Governor's Table*.

And to many, a home just wouldn't be a home without a pet. Many governors, including Gov. Arne Carlson, have owned dogs, but Gov. Wendell Anderson is believed to be the only chief executive to be the proud owner of a pair of goats, which were stored and bottle-fed in the third floor storage area.

Doubling as both public building and private home, the Governor's Residence "is at the same time dignified and friendly, vast and intimate, formal and informal, a celebration of the past and a magnificent ac-

commodation for the present and the future," wrote the editors of *The Governor's Table*.

Since the Irvine's gave their family home to the state of Minnesota, seven governors and their families have juggled public and private lives in the stately Summit Avenue mansion. What Gretchen Quie called "Minnesota's house" continues to host more than 200 annual events and frequent public tours. Countless events throughout the years have been held there to honor Minnesotans for their service or achievements. Susan Carlson has said living in the Governor's Residence is a privilege, and she recognizes its place as a valued state resource. "The state is fortunate to have such a place where Minnesotans can feel special."

— John Tschida

Facts about the Governor's Residence

- In the basement are the paw prints of Gov. Karl Rolvaag's beagle, Leo. Workmen pouring a new slab of concrete left the prints and an identifying tag, preserved under varnish, in Leo's honor.
- Mixed in the poured concrete that makes up the sidewalk fronting the Governor's Residence are several campaign buttons of Gov. Harold LeVander, placed there by his wife, Iantha.
- In 1971, Dyan LeVander, daughter of outgoing Gov. Harold LeVander, tacked a horseshoe to her bedroom wall as a symbol of good luck for the incoming Wendell Anderson family. The horseshoe remains today.
- In 1974, the Governor's Residence was added to the National Register of Historic Places.
- In 1977, regularly scheduled public tours were started at the behest of Lola Perpich.

Media Day on the Hill

For the folks who work in Greater Minnesota newsrooms, the Capitol can seem a million miles away. Each year, the House hosts an event designed to bridge that gap.

More than 30 newspaper, radio, and television reporters from around the state converged on the Capitol Jan. 30 for "Media Day on the Hill."

The agenda included a full day of events designed to help members of the media gather information about major issues at hand and make valuable contacts to assist in coverage throughout the session.

"It's not often that reporters from Greater Minnesota can make it to the Capitol," said Brian McClung, a reporter for KCCO-TV in Alexandria, Minn. "This is a nice chance to spend some time here and to get to know more about what is happening in St. Paul."

Highlights of the day included lunch meetings with lawmakers from the home district

of each reporter and a question-and-answer session with House leadership, Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), and Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon).

"Government works best when everybody

The reporters also heard from staff members from both caucus media offices and the House Public Information Office, who detailed the resources available to assist in coverage of Capitol events. And Chief Clerk Ed Burdick led a refresher course on the legislative process.

To conclude the event, reporters headed to the House floor to cover debate on one of the most talked about bills to come up for a vote so far this year. (The bill [HF1] would repeal caps on education spending that require a \$337 million cut over the next two years. See related story, page 5.)

"It is harder for those of us in outstate areas to report on the Capitol without a hands-on chance to work with these people," McClung said. "This helps to make up for that."



Chief Clerk of the House Ed Burdick outlined the legislative process to out-state Minnesota news reporters as part of Media Day on the Hill Jan. 30.

is in the loop," Winter told the reporters.

Sviggum said that this legislative session will be different from others in recent history.

"We are not going to bring personalities into question and into the debate," he said. "We are going to get the people's business done."

State's aging workforce presents new challenges



Customers at some Twin Cities fast-food burger joints get more than just a side of fries with their order; they also get a vision of the forces transforming the face of Minnesota's workforce.

Increasingly, said Hazel H. Reinhart, the worker who

takes your order isn't a teenager but someone whose acne problems ended a long time ago — perhaps even a new retiree. Moreover, she continued, the burger itself could well have been assembled by machine, untouched by human hands.

"It's pretty clear to me that we're [soon] going to have a pretty substantial part of our labor force over the age of 45," Reinhart, the president of Reinhart Consulting Services, told an audience of legislators and staffers. "More of them will be better educated, but the bulk of the labor force will not have college degrees."

Reinhart's Minneapolis-based firm provides strategic marketing advice to business, education, and community organizations. She also has served as state demographer in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. She spoke in the Minnesota History Center's 3M Auditorium on Jan. 28 at the first in a five-part Capitol Forum lecture series, "Discussing Minnesota's Future," produced by Minnesota Technology Inc. and the McKnight Foundation.

The touchless-burger scenario, Reinhart said, illustrates what may be the most overwhelming set of social circumstances to confront policymakers since the Great Depression: rapidly expanding technology combined with an aging workforce ill-equipped — and perhaps ill-suited — to adapt to new, high-tech means of production. And while many workers displaced by technology and corporate downsizing may not find themselves handing robo-burgers

across the counter to hungry customers, huge numbers of them — in mid-career and mid-life — will need to be retrained in skills they could never have imagined when they first entered the work force.

"That's one of our biggest challenges, and it must be done by the public sector," Reinhart said. "It's a very major challenge — and one that we don't have much experience with."

In addition to a burgeoning cohort of older workers, Reinhart said, Minnesota is also experiencing an increase in the number of minorities entering the labor force, many of whom are quite young. These young people, she said, will be the ones replacing the baby boomers as they retire. Minnesota's primary and secondary education system must be able to school them in the ways of the on-line world of work.

Of course, Reinhart said, as soon as you think you've got one problem solved, a bigger one rears its head. In this case, she explained, it is the inevitable aging of America. By the year 2010, fully one-fifth of Minnesota's population will be over the age

of 65. If current spending habits continue, Reinhart said, both Social Security and Medicare will go broke, leaving hundreds of thousands of the newly retired without a financial safety net.

The key to avoiding catastrophe, Reinhart said, is to invest in both technology and the education — primary, secondary and postsecondary — necessary to put the technology to the most productive use.

Upon completing her remarks, Reinhart opened the floor to questions and comments. Many legislators probed the implications of the demographic changes Reinhart had outlined. Questions ranged from the effect an older society would have on pension policies, the housing market, and Minnesota's infrastructure to the increased potential for age discrimination.

After Reinhart's lecture, several legislators said her remarks had given them new perspective on the problems facing policymakers on the edge of a new millennium.

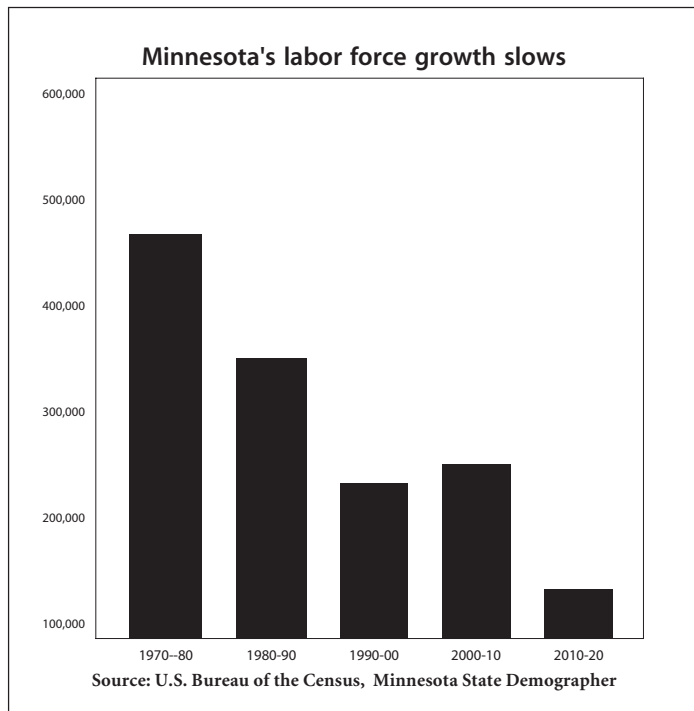
"When we're over at the Capitol, we're dealing with bills, we're dealing with specifics," said Senate Minority Leader Dean Johnson (R-Willmar). "This gives you more background. . . . You can make better policy. . . . It points out the big picture and broader themes."

Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) agreed with Johnson, and said that Reinhart's insight had provided lawmakers with a wake-up call of sorts.

"Demographics drive public policy, and what's more predictable than demographics?" Moe asked. "Why are we always reacting?"

The series' second lecture will feature cultural anthropologist and author Jennifer James, who will offer thoughts on technology and human interaction.

— F.J. Gallagher



Hazel H. Reinhart, owner of a Minneapolis-based consulting firm, told legislators that Minnesota's labor force will grow much more slowly through 2020 — just one of several demographic trends that will radically alter the labor market in years to come.

New members . . .

Kuisle weighs issues from urban, rural perspective

Rep. William Kuisle (R-High Forest Township) sees his Rochester-area district as a cross section of the Minnesota political landscape.



Rep. William Kuisle

District 31A includes a slice of Rochester's urban center, a portion that can best be described as suburban Rochester, and rural townships in Olmsted and Dodge counties.

Accordingly, Kuisle (pronounced KWEEZ-lee) says he must consider issues from a broad perspective. He must consider the effects legislation will have on constituents with diverse lifestyles, such as rural family farmers, medical professionals living on newly developed cul-de-sacs, and hourly wage workers renting apartments in the city.

"You have to make sure you're talking about issues that affect the whole district," Kuisle said. "Up here [at the Capitol], you see the split between rural and urban. I'm talking about what's best for both sides. I have to come up with something that can work for my district as a whole."

Kuisle, 39, is a dairy farmer who works the farm his family has owned since the 1930s. He got his start in politics at the local level when he was elected to the High Forest Township Board in 1987.

There, he served until elected to the Olmsted County Board in 1990. Kuisle resigned as a commissioner just days before being sworn in as a member of the House.

With all that experience in local government, Kuisle's decision to seek higher office may seem to be simply a natural progression. His story, however, is anything but typical.

To get to the House, Kuisle had to get past a senior legislator from his own party. That person was Rep. Don Frerichs (R-Rochester), a 16-year veteran and a minority caucus leader.

Kuisle stunned Frerichs in the August 1996 primary election, and then held off a Frerichs write-in campaign in November. (No DFL candidate sought the seat.)

Pundits were quick to attribute Kuisle's primary win to his opposition to legalized abortion and support of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, a political group that opposes abortion.

Kuisle said there was more to it than that. "My district is very unique," he said. "Only about 30 percent of the district is inside Rochester city limits. A lot of people thought [Frerichs] represented Rochester and overlooked the rest of it."

Kuisle's candidacy also created some controversy because of his switch in party affiliation shortly before his run for the House. Kuisle explains his jump to Republicanism with candor.

"I was on the wrong side, so I switched parties," he said with a laugh.

More seriously, Kuisle explains that his political values have not changed and that he found a more comfortable fit within the Republican Party.

"I've always been fiscally conservative," he said. "I treat the taxpayers' money as I treat my own money. I want to make sure it's spent wisely."

Kuisle's agenda centers on his support for welfare reform, his desire to protect family farmers, and his wish to crack down on crime.

A jump in crime overall and an increase in violence among juveniles have many people in the Rochester area concerned, Kuisle said.

He wants to see steps taken to prevent crime and to provide relief for overburdened local police and courts.

Where welfare reform is concerned, Kuisle sees an opportunity for the state to make real changes in the wake of federal reforms that will end many federal programs and send money to the states in the form of block grants.

"Anytime you talk welfare reform, you have to talk about moving people from welfare to work," he said.

Kuisle considers the split between urban and rural interests in the Legislature to be comparable to partisan divisions.

As he begins his legislative career, Kuisle is aiming to find solutions that best suit constituents who live in the country, the city, and everywhere in between.

"You've got to be willing to look at everything that comes up as to how it affects the whole district — and the whole state — not just part of it," he said. "You have to try not to be anti-urban or anti-rural. You have to find a balance."

— Nick Healy

District 31A

1996 population: 34,162

Largest city: Rochester

Counties: Dodge, Olmsted

Location: southeastern Minnesota

Top concern: "Trying to deal with the crime in our district is going to be a top priority for the community in coming years. Right now, the county attorney's office is swamped with cases, the courts are getting swamped, the probation officers are swamped, the jail is overflowing. We're experiencing, like a lot of other communities in the state, a rise in crime and the after-shocks of dealing with it."

—Rep. William Kuisle

Before an overhaul of Minnesota's liquor laws in the mid-1980s, it was illegal to sell liquor to a "spendthrift, habitual drunkard or improvident person."

That and other "obsolete and unenforceable" provisions of state liquor law were the subject of a 1977 Department of Public Safety report recommending the repeal of several outdated prohibitions, according to a March 24, 1977, report in the *Minneapolis Star*.

Specifically, state law made it illegal for anyone except a licensed pharmacist to sell

It's a fact!

liquor to spendthrifts and habitual drunkards within one year of notice by police, the person's parents or employers, or anyone "annoyed or injured by the intoxication" of such a person.

A similar measure also prohibited to sale of liquor to anyone identified as a "public prostitute."

The 1977 report amounted to a plea to the Legislature to update the existing liquor laws, most of which were written

early in the 1900s or shortly after the repeal of Prohibition.

Despite the urging of the public safety department, the 1977 Legislature left the archaic liquor laws on the books.

The provision forbidding sales to spendthrifts remained intact until it was repealed by the 1984 Legislature. In 1985, lawmakers completed a thorough overhaul of state liquor laws. The 1985 legislation wiped out archaic portions of the liquor law and increased the legal drinking age from 19 to 21.



How to get here

Location

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

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

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

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

I-35E southbound: Exit at University Avenue. Turn right. Go to Rice Street and turn left. Go one block and turn left to enter Parking Lot D.

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

Parking

Public metered parking is available in Lot Q, north of the Capitol at Cedar Street and Sherburne Avenue; Lot D, next to the State Office Building off Rice Street on Aurora Avenue; Lot K, across from the Armory on Cedar Street (enter from 12th Street); and on the orange level of the Centennial Office Building Ramp at Cedar Street and Constitution Avenue. All-day parking is available in Lot Q and in the Centennial Office Building Ramp. Capitol Security personnel will issue tickets for expired parking.

Outdoor handicapped parking is available in Lot N, which is directly behind the Capitol; in Lot D, which is off Rice Street on Aurora Avenue; and in Lot F, which is directly behind the Transportation Building.

Indoor handicapped parking is available on the lower level of the State Office Building Ramp (use the call box at the ramp entrance to gain entry); on the blue level of the Centennial Office Building Ramp; and on the entry level of the Administration Building Ramp (two stalls).

There are two handicapped entrances to the Capitol. One is on the north side of the building, just off Lot N; the other is a drop-off entrance under the south portico at the front of the building.

Since parking is limited during legislative sessions, busing may be easier. Freeway express bus service also is available. Bus number 94B takes you to the Capitol and the State Office Building. Call the Transit Information Center at (612) 349-7000 for other schedule and route information.

What to do

Tours

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

Tour guides lead the 45-minute tours on the hour Mondays through Fridays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (last tour leaves at 4 p.m.); Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.); and Sundays between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.). The tours are free of charge and begin at the Capitol's information desk at the end of the corridor to the right of the main entrance. Brochures in about 15 foreign languages also are available there.

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

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

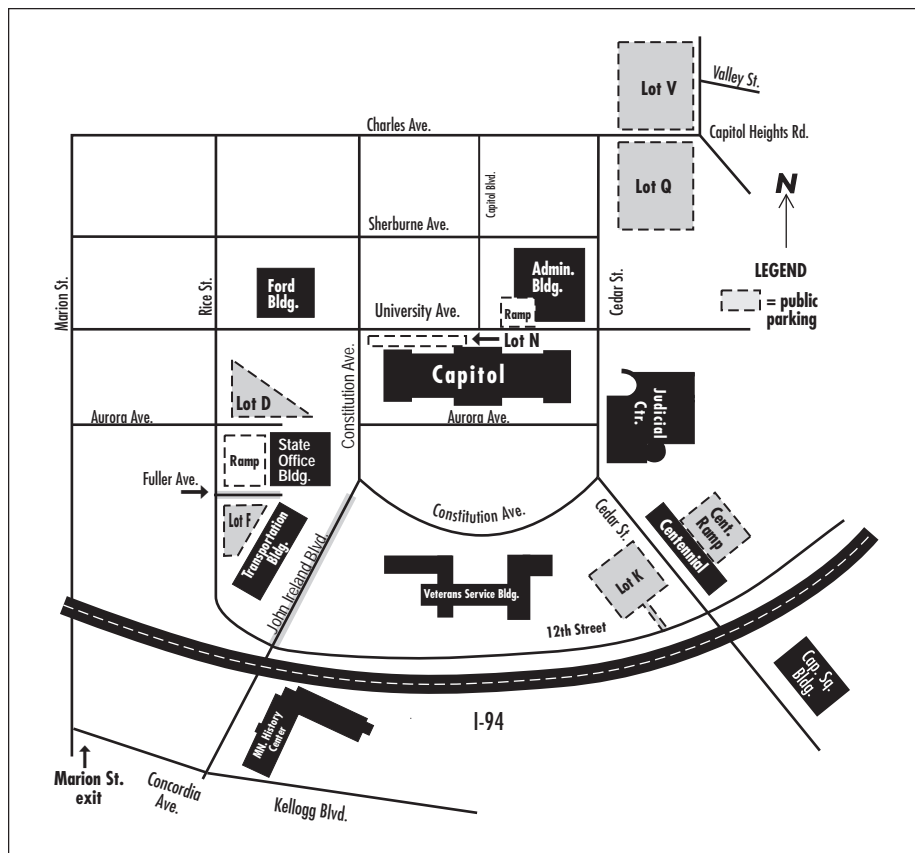
Historical society officials ask that groups of 10 or more call at least two weeks in advance to reserve a tour time.

For a recorded message regarding tours and events, call (612) 297-3521.

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

Legislators

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



Legislative sessions

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

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

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

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

Committee meetings

Visitors wanting to attend a committee meeting may call the committee hotlines for prerecorded messages with the meeting times and agendas for each day: House, (612) 296-9283; Senate, (612) 296-8088. Printed agendas for the week also appear in each issue of the *Session Weekly* and the *Senate Briefly*.

Anyone with e-mail can receive both House and Senate committee schedules.

To receive the House schedule, send a message to:

listserv@hsched.house.leg.state.mn.us

Leave the subject line blank, and in the body of the message, enter:

subscribe h-schedules

To receive the Senate schedule, send a message to:

listserv@senate.leg.state.mn.us

Leave the subject line blank, and in the body of the message, enter:

subscribe sen-schedules

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

and are available to the audience on a first-come, first-served basis.

Major proposals on issues often have several public hearings so committee members may listen to all arguments for and against a bill.

Each committee has a chair, vice chair, administrator, and legislative assistant. A list of committees and members is available in the House Public Information Office in Room 175 of the State Office Building or the Senate Information Office in Room 231 of the State Capitol.

Groups and individuals wishing to testify before a committee should call the appropriate committee's legislative assistant well in advance of the meeting and ask to be placed on the agenda. Committees prefer requests one week in advance but will accept later notification when unexpected issues appear on the committee schedule. A brochure containing tips on testifying at legislative committee hearings is available from the House Public Information Office.

Dining

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

Group visits

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

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

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

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

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

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

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

This nonpartisan office provides: committee meeting schedules, legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* newsmagazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

Most of what this office publishes can be viewed on the Legislature's World Wide Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

House Television Services

216C State Capitol (612) 297-1338

This office is responsible for live coverage of House floor sessions and some committee hearings. Since 1996, such coverage has been aired in the Twin Cities area on KTCI-TV, Channel 17. Beginning in mid-March 1997, the House will broadcast via satellite statewide. Outstate residents should check with local cable operators for time and channel information or the office's Web site at: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/htv/htv.ssi>

All televised floor sessions and committee hearings are close-captioned for people with hearing impairments.

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

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

House Index Department

211 State Capitol (612) 296-6646

The House Index Department, a part of the Chief Clerk's Office, has a computerized index available for public use. House Index lists bills by committee, topic, author, file number, and other categories. The office can also give you the current status of legislation.

Senate Information Office

231 State Capitol (612) 296-0504

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

Senate Media Services

B-44 State Capitol (612) 296-0264

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

New members . . .

Chaudhary plows new ground in election to House

Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley) displayed both a sense of history and a sense of humor when commenting on his election to the Minnesota Legislature. "When was the last time a tall, skinny, left-handed, balding, Gemini was elected in Minnesota?" he asked. The answer: "Hubert Humphrey."



Rep. Satveer Chaudhary

Satveer Chaudhary (pronounced SUT-veer CHAW-dree) has made history in another way as well. He is the first Asian Indian elected to public office in Minnesota, and only the fourth person of Asian Indian heritage to hold public office nationwide. His election was covered by the U.S. Indian press and by a prominent Indian news magazine.

"It is a source of pride to the Asian community and I'm happy to be part of that," Chaudhary said. "It is especially good for the children to see that they can be proud of their heritage."

Chaudhary's parents immigrated from India in 1966. His father, S.P.S. Chaudhary, is a retired inspector with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The story of how he got that job became a frequently told story in the Chaudhary family. "My dad was a Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota and, being a new immigrant, was having a hard time finding a job," Chaudhary said. "He decided to utilize the American system and write to his U.S. senator. Hubert Humphrey called him back and said that there was no reason why my dad, if he was a qualified veterinarian, shouldn't work for the USDA."

Chaudhary's mother, Raj, owns an import firm. "I definitely get my business sense

and political savvy from her," he said. "Both of my parents taught us to never forget how we began."

Though only 27 years old, Chaudhary already has a decade of political involvement under his belt. "I've been pretty much a political animal since high school. My senior government teacher at Columbia Heights [Jack Gause] got us involved. The first campaign I ever worked on was for Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) in 1986," Chaudhary said. "It was a great honor to co-sponsor [legislation] HF1 with her 10 years later."

Chaudhary has been involved in DFL politics ever since. As an undergraduate, he was in the student senate at St. Olaf College and lobbied for the state student coalition. He also worked for Attorney General Skip Humphrey's office doing outreach. "After college, I worked for Sen. (Ted) Kennedy in Washington, D.C. for a few months," Chaudhary said. "That was a tremendous experience."

In 1992, Chaudhary took a year off from academics to work on the Tom Harkin presidential campaign and Gerry Sikorski's last 6th District congressional race. Both candidates lost, but "that experience provided some important political lessons," Chaudhary said.

"During law school, I became more involved with my own community," he said. "I started speaking to Columbia Heights [High School] social studies classes about the importance of being involved with government. I also joined the Columbia Heights Lions Club and the Fridley Kiwanis, and became a member of the Fridley Human Resources Commission."

Chaudhary's first run for office came when

he was just two weeks out of law school. He ran in a July 1995 special election primary for the District 52A legislative seat, a Minneapolis suburban area that includes parts of Fridley and New Brighton and all of Columbia Heights and Hilltop. Chaudhary lost that race, but came back to defeat the winner, Republican Skip Carlson, in 1996.

"The district really needed a strong representative for working families," Chaudhary said. "On top of the district's agenda are education, crime, taxes, welfare reform, and affordable health care. We're an inner ring suburban area and are facing a lot of pressures."

Chaudhary is especially interested in education and economic development. "Without education you have higher crime and without economic development you have a weak tax base," he said.

The other constituency Chaudhary expects to hear from is Minnesota's Asian community. "I've already had some contacts from the Hmong community," he said. "I hope other Asian groups will bring me their concerns as well."

— Steve Compton

District 52A

1996 population: 33,290
Largest city: Fridley
Counties: Anoka, Ramsey
Location: northwestern metro area
Top concern: "On top of the district's agenda are education, crime, taxes, welfare reform, and affordable health care. We're an inner ring suburban area and are facing a lot of pressures."

—Rep. Satveer Chaudhary



Staff of the Criminal Justice Center at Minnesota Planning presented a host of 1995 statistics to the House Judiciary Committee Jan. 27:

- Individuals aged 10 to 24 years old comprised 21 percent of the state's population, but accounted for 69 percent of all

arrests for violent and other serious crimes. In the seven-county metropolitan area, that population, numbered at 470,760 in 1995, is expected to grow to 552,210 by 2005, after which it will begin to decline. In the other 80 counties, that population, numbered at 323,680 in 1995, will peak at 489,040 in 2000, then begin to decline.

- The number of arrests and apprehensions for all crimes — serious and minor — rose from 144,211 in 1985 to 231,049 in

1995. Less serious crimes accounted for 179,782 of the arrests and apprehensions in 1995.

- While males accounted for 74 percent of arrests and apprehensions for the most serious crimes, females showed the greatest increase: 36 percent since 1985.
- Nationwide, juvenile arrests for violent crime increased 107 percent in the 10 years leading to 1995; adult arrests rose by 81 percent. Those numbers are similar to Minnesota's.

Bill Introductions

HF160-HF342

Monday, Jan. 27

HF160—Winter (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 175, Westbrook, high school student entrepreneurship pilot program established, and money appropriated.

HF161—Jennings (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Welfare reform; Minnesota Family Investment Plan implemented.

HF162—Tunheim (DFL)

Agriculture

Seed potato inspection fund appropriated money.

HF163—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Criminal gang council and strike force established, grants authorized, and money appropriated.

HF164—Bakk (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Snowmobile trail grants-in-aid provided, and money appropriated.

HF165—Rest (DFL)

Taxes

Property tax market value limitation formula modified and program duration extended.

HF166—Hasskamp (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Tobacco retail license establishment required by local units of government, vendor compliance checks provided, and mandatory penalties provided for sales to minors.

HF167—Bakk (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Deer hunting license surcharge established to fund emergency deer feeding activities, and money appropriated.

HF168—Tunheim (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Mail balloting in certain elections expanded to include additional cities and towns.

HF169—Mulder (R)

Judiciary

DWI; maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered for operation of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, motorboats, and while hunting or handling explosives.

HF170—McCollum (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, retirement plan coverage exclusion election authorized for certain trades personnel.

HF171—Bakk (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Deer; youth resident deer hunting license established.

HF172—Paulsen (R)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Term limits imposed on legislative and executive offices and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF173—Mahon (DFL)

Taxes

Aspirin substitute sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF174—Jaros (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Duluth teachers retirement fund association members provided interim military service credit purchase.

HF175—Finseth (R)

Environment & Natural Resources

Erosion control and water management cost-sharing contract approved practices modified related to windbreaks and shelterbelts.

HF176—Vickerman (R)

Judiciary

Distressed food donor injury liability limited.

HF177—Tunheim (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Multiple party voting allowed in state primary elections.

HF178—Finseth (R)

Environment & Natural Resources

RIM; Reinvest in Minnesota resources act windbreak definition modified.

HF179—Bishop (R)

Transportation & Transit

Health care directive designation provided on drivers' licenses and identification cards.

HF180—Goodno (R)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Moorhead liquor license issuance authorized.

HF181—Greiling (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Mail balloting requirement provided for certain elections.

HF182—Greiling (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Legislative coordinating commission assigned responsibility for review of legislative rules.

HF183—McCollum (DFL)

Education

School site decision-making options and intradistrict enrollment options provided, and charter school provisions modified.

HF184—Bishop (R)

Judiciary

Harassment victim civil cause of action provided.

HF185—Sykora (R)

Health & Human Services

Child welfare and children's mental health collaborative provisions modified, privatization of adoption services for children under state guardianship provided, pilot projects established, and money appropriated.

HF186—Paulsen (R)

Judiciary

Plea bargaining prohibited when defendant is charged with committing a dangerous felony with a firearm, and defendant testimony provisions modified.

HF187—Swenson, D. (R)

Judiciary

Sentencing guidelines commission mitigating sentencing departure restrictions provided.

HF188—Long (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Coya Knutson memorials designed and constructed, and money appropriated.

HF189—Pugh (DFL)

Judiciary

DWI; repeat DWI offenders provided felony penalties, prior offense definition provisions modified, and sentencing guidelines commission criminal history point weighting provisions modified.

HF190—Hasskamp (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Crow Wing county tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF191—Pugh (DFL)

Judiciary

DWI; criminal penalties enhanced for repeat DWI offenses involving commercial vehicles, commercial vehicle definition modified, and technical corrections provided.

<p>HF192—Sviggum (R) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Legislator resignation required upon filing for or appointment to another office, and constitutional amendment proposed.</p>	<p>HF204—Knoblach (R) Health & Human Services Abortion informed consent required and civil cause of action provided.</p>	<p>HF217—Opatz (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Land use mandatory comprehensive planning provided, capital improvement program established, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF193—Murphy (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Municipal off-sale intoxicating liquor sale time of day restrictions modified.</p>	<p>HF205—Paymar (DFL) Judiciary Pistol illegal possession criminal penalties increased.</p>	<p>HF218—Mullery (DFL) Judiciary Vendor or consenting owner mechanic lien service notice effect clarification provided.</p>
<p>HF194—Bishop (R) Judiciary Adult corrections facility occupancy standards altered.</p>	<p>HF206—Paymar (DFL) Judiciary Firearm unlawful possession mandatory minimum sentence increased.</p>	<p>HF219—Hasskamp (DFL) Labor-Management Relations Civil air patrol members provided unpaid leaves of absence from employers.</p>
<p>HF195—Bishop (R) Judiciary Crime victim impact statement defendant rebuttal provisions clarified, crime victim and witness advisory council duration extended, victims provided notification of defendant appeal, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF207—Paymar (DFL) Judiciary Explosive materials required to contain identification and detection taggants, and criminal penalty imposed.</p>	<p>HF220—Mullery (DFL) Judiciary Religious corporation property conveyances validated, real property disposition notices required pending marriage dissolution, and uniform probate code property distribution regulation provided.</p>
<p>HF196—Bishop (R) Judiciary Crime victim reparation provisions expanded, and peace officer records of children release authorized.</p>	<p>HF208—Swenson, D. (R) Judiciary Vehicle license plate impoundment criteria expanded.</p>	<p>HF221—Rhodes (R) Transportation & Transit Seat belt use required for all persons between ages three and 15, and primary offense designation provided for failure to use seat belts.</p>
<p>HF197—Leppik (R) Governmental Operations Administrative procedure act rulemaking procedures modified.</p>	<p>HF209—Vickerman (R) Health & Human Services Human services child placement heritage or background provisions modified.</p>	<p>HF222—Milbert (DFL) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Lobbyist registration requirements, conflicts of interest, and campaign finance provisions clarified, and invalid provisions eliminated.</p>
<p>HF198—Hasskamp (DFL) Education K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF210—Daggett (R) Taxes Long-term health care insurance premium income tax credit provided.</p>	<p>HF223—Mulder (R) Judiciary Marriage dissolution decrees to include debt and real property transfer notices.</p>
<p>HF199—McCollum (DFL) Education K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF211—Sviggum (R) Education Telephone extended area service installation authorized within combined school districts.</p>	<p>HF224—Commers (R) Judiciary Peace officers authorized to stop vehicles bearing special series license plates.</p>
<p>HF200—Wenzel (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Emergency snow removal funding provided, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF212—McCollum (DFL) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Ramsey county soil and water conservation district supervisor election requirements modified.</p>	<p>HF225—Broecker (R) Judiciary Peace officers authorized to arrest persons within four hours of a violation for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle.</p>
<p>HF201—Swenson, D. (R) Judiciary DWI; criminal penalty provided for operators of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and motorboats who refuse an alcohol test.</p>	<p>HF213—Greiling (DFL) Rules & Legislative Administration Legislator per diem payments eliminated and salary recommendations required.</p>	<p>HF226—Macklin (R) Judiciary Vehicle theft notification responsibility transferred.</p>
<p>HF202—Knoblach (R) Health & Human Services Partial-birth abortions prohibited and criminal penalties provided.</p>	<p>HF214—Paulsen (R) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Initiative and referendum provided and constitutional amendment proposed.</p>	<p>HF227—Goodno (R) Judiciary Human rights department investigative data reclassification provided.</p>
<p>HF203—Knoblach (R) Health & Human Services Abortion; constitutional standard established relating to abortion, and constitutional amendment proposed.</p>	<p>HF215—Swenson, D. (R) Regulated Industries & Energy State lottery advertising practices restricted and gross revenue use for advertising reduced.</p>	<p>HF228—Davids (R) Transportation & Transit Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Highway extended.</p>
<p>HF203—Knoblach (R) Health & Human Services Abortion; constitutional standard established relating to abortion, and constitutional amendment proposed.</p>	<p>HF216—Mariani (DFL) Labor-Management Relations Employment contract provisions modified.</p>	

HF229—Weaver (R)**Judiciary**

DWI; repeat DWI offender violations provided enhanced gross misdemeanor penalty.

HF230—Erhardt (R)**Taxes**

Senior citizens' property tax deferral program adopted, and money appropriated.

HF231—Swenson, D. (R)**Judiciary**

DWI; maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered for operation of motor vehicles, criminal vehicular homicide crime scope expanded, prior DWI offense definition modified, and technical corrections provided.

HF232—Finseth (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Soil and water conservation district supervisors provided four-year terms of office.

HF233—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services**

Partial-birth abortions prohibited, and criminal penalties provided.

HF234—Macklin (R)**Judiciary**

Local jail booking fees and collection procedures established.

HF235—Koppendrayner (R)**Education**

Standard statewide education testing provided, and money appropriated.

HF236—Pawlenty (R)**Judiciary**

Tear gas compounds and electronic incapacitation devices categorized as dangerous weapons.

HF237—Sviggum (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Hunter, trapper, and angler harassment prohibition provisions modified.

HF238—Leppik (R)**Taxes**

Third-party income tax bulk filer registration required, and civil penalty provided.

HF239—Tuma (R)**Education**

Independent School District No. 721, New Prague, permitted to begin school year prior to Labor Day.

Thursday, Jan. 30**HF240—Hausman (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan area transit and paratransit capital expenditure financing provided, employer discount bus pass sale requirements modified, regional transit subsidy alternative demonstration program authorized, and obsolete language deleted.

HF241—Mullery (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Motor carrier audits conducted jointly by public safety and transportation departments, commercial vehicle traffic accident information provisions modified, and federal motor carrier safety regulation conformity provided.

HF242—Juhnke (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Recreational equipment registration and taxation provisions modified related to slip in pickup truck campers, and vehicle registration information access restricted, vehicle dealer purchase receipt requirements modified.

HF243—Juhnke (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Truck tractor wheel flaps required, unsafe fire-wood hauling citation issuance authorized, vehicle axle weight restrictions regulated, truck weight enforcement provisions modified, and technical changes provided.

HF244—Bishop (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Individual sewage system requirements modified, and Pollution Control Agency rule compliance authority granted.

HF245—Dawkins (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Community rehabilitation program nonprofit organization participation allowed, and money appropriated.

HF246—Dawkins (DFL)**Judiciary**

Public nuisance definition expanded, and nuisance civil action participation and cost recovery provisions modified.

HF247—Daggett (R)**Health & Human Services**

Assisted living facilities financing provided through bond issuance.

HF248—Trimble (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Refugee citizenship and employment training provided, and money appropriated.

HF249—Paulsen (R)**Education**

Statewide uniform educational testing provided, and money appropriated.

HF250—Entenza (DFL)**Judiciary**

DWI; maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered to 0.08 for adults and 0.04 for minors for operation of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and while hunting.

HF251—Seagren (R)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

State lottery advertising practices restricted and gross revenue use for advertising reduced.

HF252—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Juvenile court open hearings and records provided in certain cases.

HF253—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Juvenile court open hearings and records provided in certain cases involving children in need of protection and delinquency.

HF254—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Juvenile court open hearings and records provided in certain cases involving children in need of protection.

HF255—Johnson, R. (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Environmental Quality Board membership modified.

HF256—Slawik (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

State department earnings report submission, cash flow resources advancement, and litigation and settlement money use provisions modified, and rulemaking exemptions renewed.

HF257—Dorn (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Ambulance service licensing requirements established, emergency medical services statutory provisions relocated, and money appropriated.

HF258—Kubly (DFL)**Taxes**

Used farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently.

HF259—Slawik (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Community and statewide immunization registry creation authorized and penalties provided.

HF260—Delmont (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

School immunization and health record provisions modified.

HF261—Farrell (DFL)**Judiciary**

Motor vehicle crime statutory elements and defense provisions modified.

HF262—Daggett (R)**Judiciary**

Law enforcement agencies authorized to sell forfeited firearms, ammunition, and accessories to eligible persons.

HF263—Abrams (R)**Education**

Independent School District No. 284, Wayzata, permitted to begin school year prior to Labor Day.

HF264—Milbert (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Personal watercraft operation requirements modified.

HF265—Molnau (R)**Agriculture**

Farm crisis assistance personnel employment status clarified.

HF266—Munger (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Water and Soil Resources Board membership provisions modified.

HF267—Greiling (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Health care administration simplification act rule expiration and operating procedure provisions modified.

HF268—Murphy (DFL)**Judiciary**

Close custody corrections facility construction appropriation and construction bid provisions modified.

HF269—Bakk (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

State owned iron-bearing material and stockpiled metallic minerals material ownership provisions modified.

HF270—Macklin (R)**Judiciary**

Tax return data, information and inspection requirements modified, and penalties provided.

HF271—Rukavina (DFL)**Labor-Management Relations**

Employer wage reporting requirements modified related to reemployment insurance.

HF272—Wejcman (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Human services program licensure requirements modified, and civil penalties imposed and modified.

HF273—Pelowski (DFL)**Education**

Virtual U Minnesota established to develop life-long learning opportunities, and money appropriated.

HF274—Pelowski (DFL)**Judiciary**

Probate code devisee rights provided for transfers made on behalf of incapacitated principals.

HF275—Pelowski (DFL)**Education**

Information technology initiatives appropriations provided to the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

HF276—Pelowski (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Floating structure public waters work permit issuance restricted.

HF277—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services**

Welfare reform; public assistance residency requirements modified.

HF278—Mulder (R)**Judiciary**

Three strikes; mandatory life sentence imposed for persons convicted of a third violent felony offense.

HF279—Delmont (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare provider tax rate reduced.

HF280—Johnson, R. (DFL)**Education**

American sign language recognized as a fully developed natural language.

HF281—Jennings (DFL)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Gas utility service provider performance regulation plans provided.

HF282—Stanek (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan transit police officer appointment, discharge, and discipline procedures provided.

HF283—Stanek (R)**Judiciary**

Fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle crime penalties increased.

HF284—Luther (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Medical assistance drug formulary, home care advisory, traumatic brain injury advisory, preadmission screening, alternative care, and home-based services advisory committees, and American Indian child welfare council duration extended.

HF285—Delmont (DFL)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Gambling device manufacturer inspection cost-funding mechanism established.

HF286—Wejcman (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Day training and habilitation service vendor payment rate increase authorized for the purposes of personnel salary increases.

HF287—Bakk (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Hastings, Luverne, and Silver Bay veterans homes improvements provided through the use of donated funds.

HF288—Jaros (DFL)**Taxes**

Duluth Lake Superior center authority construction material sales tax exemption provided.

HF289—Johnson, R. (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Elderly housing with services provisions modified, nursing facility appeal process provisions

modified, permanent child placement family foster care reimbursement provisions modified, and family general assistance time limit removed.

HF290—Hausman (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Environmental Quality Board review program modified, and rulemaking authorized.

HF291—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Elderly housing with services requirements modified, and home care provider medical assistance reimbursement permitted.

HF292—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Elderly housing with services and home care provider requirements modified.

HF293—Johnson, A. (DFL)**Taxes**

Income, sales, property and MinnesotaCare tax technical corrections bill.

HF294—Folliard (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Voter change of address system established.

HF295—Ozment (R)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Public Utilities Commission public utility transaction approval criteria established.

HF296—Wejcman (DFL)**Judiciary**

Father registry created and adoption notice and consent provisions modified.

HF297—Jennings (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

National guard member tuition and textbook reimbursement grant program provisions modified.

HF298—Jennings (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Railroad charges to utilities for right-of-way access disputes heard and resolved by transportation commissioner.

HF299—Bakk (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

State park additions and name changes provided.

HF300—Kahn (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Police state aid provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF301—Jennings (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Accountant licensure requirements modified.

HF302—Greiling (DFL)**Education**

Learning year program approval required by State Board of Education.

HF303—Johnson, A. (DFL)**Education**

School disciplinary policy evaluation and implementation grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF304—Opatz (DFL)**Education**

Higher education master plan commission established, and money appropriated.

HF305—Wagenius (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Minneapolis Teachers Retirement Fund Association retirement coverage provided for former part-time nursing teachers.

HF306—Olson, E. (DFL)**Taxes**

Rental residential property tax class rate reduced.

HF307—Koppendrayner (R)**Education**

Education funding reform provided.

HF308—Koppendrayner (R)**Education**

Education income tax credit and deduction provided, and money appropriated.

HF309—Koppendrayner (R)**Education**

School boards authorized to contract for instructional and noninstructional services.

HF310—Koppendrayner (R)**Education**

Teachers employment contract provisions modified.

HF311—Luther (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Angling assistance provided to disabled residents permitted without a license.

HF312—Jefferson (DFL)**Labor-Management Relations**

Reemployment insurance technical and administrative modifications provided.

HF313—Milbert (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Fish habitat and propagation provisions modified, special hunting events established for youth, airboats restricted, minnow taking provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF314—Seagren (R)**Education**

Education site based financing and site merit pay provided, and money appropriated.

HF315—Seagren (R)**Education**

Charter school law provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF316—Huntley (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare provider tax rate reduced.

HF317—Huntley (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Municipal wastewater infrastructure eminent domain action authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF318—Jennings (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare provider tax rate reduced.

HF319—Pelowski (DFL)**Education**

Higher education institution gift income tax credit allowed.

HF320—Paymar (DFL)**Taxes**

Property tax increase disclosure and vote required.

HF321—Folliard (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Lobbyist contribution and solicitation prohibition provisions clarified.

HF322—Jennings (DFL)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Municipalities authorized to control public rights-of-way related to utility services.

HF323—Anderson, I. (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Precinct caucuses eliminated.

HF324—Bishop (R)**Taxes**

Dependent care tax credit requirements modified.

HF325—Johnson, A. (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Fridley; Locke Lake dam construction loan canceled and forgiven.

HF326—Holsten (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Hunting and fishing rights affirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF327—Van Dellen (R)**Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare provider tax rate reduced.

HF328—Seagren (R)**Health & Human Services**

Individual medical savings account income tax deduction provided.

HF329—Leighton (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Uniform partnership act adopted, and money appropriated.

HF330—Luther (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

School bus safety provided through bus monitors, seat belts and video cameras.

HF331—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Ways & Means**

State fiscal biennium to begin in even-numbered years, and legislative approval required for federal fund expenditures.

HF332—Rukavina (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Taconite mining wetland replacement requirement exemption provided.

HF333—Farrell (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Peace officers killed or injured in the line of duty provided continued health insurance coverage.

HF334—Jaros (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Duluth special assessment provisions modified.

HF335—Jennings (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Building and construction contracts, payments and retainages, and mechanics liens regulated.

HF336—Ozment (R)**Governmental Operations**

Building code division transferred from the Department of Administration to the Department of Public Safety.

HF337—Marko (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Motor vehicle sales and registration tax proceeds dedicated to the Minnesota transportation fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF338—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Inmates barred from computer on-line service use, and the Department of Corrections rules required.

HF339—Rest (DFL)**Taxes**

Property tax fiscal disparities determination provisions modified.

HF340—Harder (R)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Cigarette and tobacco sales taxes recodified, criminal and civil penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF341—Daggett (R)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Liquor taxes recodified, civil and criminal penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF342—Farrell (DFL)**Judiciary**

Impounded vehicle sales authorized 15 days after impoundment notification.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
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MONDAY, Feb. 3

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Tour
Department of Economic Security
390 N. Robert Street,
St. Paul, Minnesota
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: Tour and site briefing of the
Department of Economic Security.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: Overview of Governor Carlson's
K-12 budget recommendations: General
Education Program, Tom Melcher,
Department of Children, Families, and
Learning.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Presentations from Minnesota/
Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission; and
Voyager National Park Citizens Council.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel
Agenda: Overview of the Department of
Agriculture and its initiatives, Commissioner
Gene Hugoson. Continuation of Jan. 27 agenda
(presentations and introductions of major
Minnesota agricultural organizations and their
representatives).

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: Chemical contaminants: Pesticides
and other contaminants, human health, and
the potential impact of genetically-engineered
crops, Vincent Garry, Environmental Medicine
& Pathology, University of Minnesota, and
Donald Alstad, Department of Ecology,
Evolution & Behavior, University of Minnesota.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Presentation of the governor's 1998-
1999 proposed budget for programs
administered by the Department of Human
Services

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Overview of agencies within the
oversight of the committee.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Performance review and budget
overview and review: Department of Finance.

12:15 p.m.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

Tour
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson
Agenda: Tour and site briefing of the
Department of Economic Security. (Depart
from south entrance of the State Office
Building.)

12:30 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: Governor's budget recommendations,
the Department of Finance and the Department
of Children, Families, and Learning.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert
Agenda: HF74 (Osthoff) Absentee ballot voting
provisions modified.
HF294 (Folliard) Change of address voter
registration.
HF127 (Folliard) State election law modified
and clarified related to voter requirements and
election procedure.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: Budget overviews from the
Department of Public Safety and the
Metropolitan Council.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

7:30 p.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

Ballroom B, Kirby Student Center,
University of Minnesota-Duluth
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Higher education issues and concerns:
testimony from students, community
members, faculty and staff.

TUESDAY, Feb. 4

8 a.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

Tour
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Tours: University of
Minnesota, Duluth; Natural Resources
Research Institute; Lake Superior College,
Duluth; and Fond du Lac Tribal and
Community College, Cloquet.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: How were past appropriations spent?:
Juvenile bonding reports from each judicial
district; correction officer positions allocated
in 1994; Violence Prevention Education Grants;
Auto Theft Prevention Board; African
American Violence Prevention Program; DWI;
Public Safety Aid to Minneapolis; Anti-
Violence Campaign; and School of Law
Enforcement. Brief Overviews of new initiatives
that need funding by the committee: Non-
committee legislators with bills or ideas: Rep.
Matt Entenza, Rep. Richard Jefferson. Agencies:
Sentencing Guidelines Commission;
Department of Human Rights; Uniform Laws
Commission; Ombudsman for Corrections;
Department of Corrections; and Public Defense
Board. Other Agencies: Olmsted County,
Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault;
and Hennepin County Attorney's Office.
Public.

Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/ EDUCATION

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza
Agenda: HF129 (Opatz) School accountability
initiatives.

Continuation of Jan. 30 agenda, statewide testing. Public testimony.

**Transportation & Transit
Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: Budget overview by the Department of Public Safety, Kathy Burke Moore, Director of Driver and Vehicle Services; and Colonel Mike Chabries, Chief of State Patrol.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Presentations by Science Museum of Minnesota and Minnesota Academy of Science.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson
Agenda: Continuation of the discussion of the Department of Revenue's technical bill.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Continued presentation by the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

**Joint
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES/
Senate**

HEALTH & FAMILY SECURITY
15 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. John Dorn, Sen. John Hottinger
Agenda: Welfare reform: focus on the disabled. Public testimony.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
Agenda: Metropolitan livable communities, Metropolitan Council and Latimer Group.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Department of Revenue's technical bill.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: Debt capacity forecast, Assistant Commissioner Peter Sausen.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM &
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim
Agenda: Continuation of Jan. 30 agenda.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: To be announced.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: Overview, Vic Dobras, Sprint. HFXXXX (Jennings) Utility right of way (discussion continued). Presentations from Public Utilities Commission, Burl Haar, Executive Director; City of Redwood Falls, Jeffrey Weldon, City Administrator; City of St. Paul, John Maczko; Minnesota Telephone Association, Jerry Knickerbocker, Director.

1:45 p.m.

**Joint
COMMERCE, TOURISM &
CONSUMER AFFAIRS/
Senate COMMERCE**

Tour
Chrs. Rep. Jim Tunheim, Sen. Sam Solon
Agenda: Tour and site briefing of Minneapolis Convention Center. (Buses leaving at 1:45 p.m..)

4:15 p.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: HF167 (Bakk) Emergency deer feeding.

7 p.m.

**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Division/EDUCATION**

Blaine City Hall
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: Testimony from local citizens. (Bus leaves from East side of State Office Building at 4:45 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 5

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: To be announced.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**

Tour
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Tours: Laurentian Community & Technical College, Virginia; Laurentian Community & Technical College, Eveleth; Hibbing Technical College; Hibbing Community College; and Itasca Community College, Grand Rapids.

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: "An Analysis of Changes in School Funding in Minnesota Over the Past 20 Years," John Myers, Augenblick & Myers, Inc.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF)
Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson
Agenda: Overview of assessment process/sales ratio.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Presentations from Board of Animal Health and Agriculture Utilization Research Institute.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: Forestry Practices: Biodiversity and landscape level coordination, Jim Erkel, The Nature Conservancy; David Tilman, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, University of Minnesota; and Kim Chapman, The Nature Conservancy.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS &
INSURANCE**

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

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

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 3 agenda.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 3 agenda.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Department of Administration budget reviews: Minnesota Children's Museum; State Archeologist.

12:30 p.m.

**Working Group on
Sliding Fee Day Care/
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Division/EDUCATION**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: "De-welfarizing" daycare.

**Subcommittee on
Transportation Operations/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Sharon Marko
Agenda: Welfare reform and transportation.

1 p.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros
Agenda: The group "Strategies for Economic Growth" will present the findings of their study which defines public policy goals for Minnesota, Janna King and Kevin Walli. Presentation on the economic status of women, Aviva Breen. Tour of Minneapolis Convention Center (transportation will be provided).

2:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Gaming/
REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Delmont
Agenda: Report to the Legislature, George Anderson, Director, Minnesota State Lottery.

3:30 p.m.

**Joint
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT/
Senate TRANSPORTATION**
112 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Jean Wagenius,
Sen. Carol Flynn
Agenda: Presentation by Walter Kulash, Traffic Engineer, national expert on transit planning.

THURSDAY, Feb. 6

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: To be announced.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 4 agenda.
HF100 (Wenzel) Emergency snow removal funding provided, and money appropriated.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson
Agenda: Technology presentations by Keith Carlson, Senate Staff; Larry Wilkie, Department of Revenue; Alan Johanningsmerir, Department of Revenue.

8:30 a.m.

EDUCATION
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: HF121 (Jefferson) Youth initiative grants. Overview of University Regent election process.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: HF113 (Munger) State lottery proceed dedication to environment and natural resources trust fund duration extended, and constitutional amendment proposed.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Overview of the Secretary of State's Office. Report of the Legislative Auditor on Statewide Systems Project.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn
Agenda: Welfare reform: focus on nonprofit organizations. Public testimony.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
Agenda: Governor's budget and performance report, Housing Finance Agency. Governor's budget and executive order to move programs from the Department of Economic Security, Department of Children, Families, and Learning.

TAXES
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Public subsidies, Art Rolnick.

12:30 p.m.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM &
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim
Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

3:30 p.m. or After Session.

St. Louis County Delegation
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Election of officers. Presentation of 1997 legislative agenda, Julie Brunner, County Administrator and John Ongaro,

Intergovernmental Relations Director.

6 p.m.

EDUCATION
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: HF33 (Koppendray) Omnibus K-12 policy and appropriations. Governor's education initiatives. Public testimony.

FRIDAY, Feb. 7

8 a.m.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**
Tour
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Tour and site briefing of Metro State University, St. Paul Campus.

**Transportation & Transit
Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: Budget of overview of Transit Operations, Jim Solum, Executive Director, Metropolitan Council; and Curt Johnson, Chair of Metropolitan Council.

8:30 a.m.

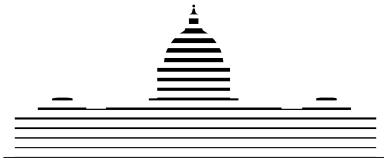
JUDICIARY
Tour
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Tour of Woodland Hills, First Witness Child Abuse Center and other facilities and programs in Duluth.

12 Noon

St. Paul House Delegation
112 State Capitol
Chr. Alice Hausman
Agenda: Presentation by St. Paul Public Schools. Wilder Schools proposal. Charter Schools in St. Paul.

1:30 p.m.

**Compensation Council/
Legislative Coordinating Commission**
5 State Office Building
Chr. Tom Swain
Agenda: Organizational matters: introduction of members; election of a chair. Review of council responsibilities. Agency head salary ranges. Salaries for constitutional officers, judges and legislators.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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175 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
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Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota State Lottery

Cents of every lottery dollar spent that goes to the state's general fund	11
to the Environmental Trust Fund	7
Other states dedicating a portion of lottery funds to environment and natural resource programs	3
Total dollars appropriated from the Environmental Trust Fund (including projects recommended for funding in 1989-1999), in millions, 1991-1998	\$81.5
Instant game tickets sold on April 17, 1990, the debut of the Minnesota Lottery, per second	62
Other state's with lotteries when Minnesota's lottery began	32
States with lotteries, 1996	36
Year that George Washington operated a lottery to finance road construction	1768
Different lotteries operating in 1831	420
Ratio of dollars raised by those lotteries compared to the 1831 federal budget ...	5:1
Year the Federal Lottery Act was passed to ban these largely private lotteries...	1890
Percent of net lottery profits dedicated to the state's general fund when the lottery was instituted in 1990	0
in 1997	60
Percent of net profits dedicated to capital improvements for state universities and colleges, 1990	28.3
in 1997	0
Dedicated lottery fund beneficiaries originally called for in 1990 and not protected by the Minnesota Constitution that are still receiving funds today	0
Lottery dollars marked for compulsive gambling, fiscal year 1990	\$100,000
fiscal year 1995, in millions	\$1.5
Minnesota State Lottery sales in fiscal year 1996, in millions, highest to date ...	\$379
Unclaimed prize money, in millions, fiscal year 1996	\$1.5
Cents of every lottery dollar that went to prizes, fiscal year 1996	60
Lottery dollars spent on advertising, in millions, fiscal year 1996	\$8.7
Percent of gross lottery revenue that can be spent on advertising, according to state law	2.75

Sources: Minnesota State Lottery, *Annual Report, 1990*; House Research Department; Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources; Environmental Trust Fund Coalition

For more information



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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ February 7, 1997 ♦ Volume 14, Number 5



SESSION WEEKLY

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Update

For the past 20-25 years we have been driven by a need to believe that "bigger is better." Buy the latest computer with more MHz's, megabytes, and hard drive than you will need, and before you get it home it has been replaced on the market by a bigger and better product with more memory, more speed, more everything.

Or, for example, look at the no frills two-seat pickup? It's probably not the popular vehicle it once was a few years ago. Nowadays, an individual owning a pickup drives one with a four-seat cab, more shiny chrome than a '56 Chevy, plus room enough for the baby seat and dog bed included. And don't forget to add four tires that are three sizes too large for the vehicle.

Bigger is better. Even the re-release of the movie "Star Wars" is supposedly "bigger and better" than it was 20 years ago. At least Princess Leia's hairdo remains unchanged.

Even such ideologies get debated by the Legislature. Creating new laws or improving on old ones are not always driven by how much more can be added, or how much less something will cost. Fortunately, bills may get changed because the legislative process is long and deliberate. Whether or not a bill is designed to build a bigger mousetrap, reform welfare, build a new stadium, or provide cheaper health care, the more a bill is refined, the better it will be, and the more it will be called a "good bill."

Basically, that is how the legislative process works. Ideas are introduced and bills are written and studied. They are thoughtfully worked on and even amended if necessary to ensure that outcomes are not just bigger and better. The results should be a positive benefit to the citizenry.

Although a key responsibility for legislators is to pass bills, some bills may not be the best they can be. But keeping in mind that bigger is *not* always better, one can trust that with patience, thought, and common sense, legislators will, in the long run, "do the right thing."

-LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: Lee Pao Xiong, executive director of the Asian Pacific Council, testified Jan. 30 before a joint House and Senate hearing on the new federal welfare reform law as it will affect legal immigrants in Minnesota. Lawmakers took about two hours of public testimony at the Christ Lutheran Church in St. Paul from many immigrants who will be severed from public assistance.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Highlights

Welfare reform . . .

Hearings put human face on federal welfare changes

Moving Minnesotans on welfare to the ranks of the employed may sound like a straightforward task. But, as state lawmakers are learning, the new federal welfare reform law is anything but.

During the past week, members of both the Minnesota House and Senate have held special hearings to listen to several groups — such as legal immigrants and people with disabilities — who stand to lose their public assistance without state action.

Hearings also have dealt with new federal work requirements and the child care and transportation issues associated with them.

States across the country are hurrying to pass new welfare laws after the federal government scrapped the long-standing welfare system in August 1996.

The federal law does away with monthly welfare checks and food stamps for many legal immigrants and eliminates disability cash assistance for people with drug and alcohol addictions. It also eliminates cash assistance for children with certain disabilities and requires able-bodied adults, ages 18-50, who receive food stamps to work.

Perhaps the most significant change involves poor families with children. The law requires these parents to get a job and sets a five-year-lifetime limit on their welfare benefits. States that do not move these parents to



Four-Year-old Alex Rodenborg of Mora, Minn., who requires a feeding tube, as well as having other medical needs, plays with his Winnie the Pooh bear as his mother, Robin, tells a joint House and Senate committee Feb. 4 about the difficulties her family will have caring for Alex without their monthly public assistance check.

mental retardation, or certain chronic illnesses.

These children are expected to lose their Supplemental Security Income (SSI), a federal program begun in 1974 that provides cash help to the needy who are aged, blind or disabled.

she belongs,” said Kathleen Sanders, a single mom from Coon Rapids, Minn., whose 9-year-old daughter has Down’s Syndrome and attention-deficit problems.

Sanders said her family’s SSI check enables her to work 25 to 30 hours per week because she can afford specialized day care for Jennifer. It also helps pay for basics, such as food and shelter.

The mother said she worries that families like hers will begin to house their children in large institutions because they’ll have no other choice. Either that, or they’ll become destitute.

Without the monthly check, “I would not be able to work. I see no alternative but to apply for welfare,” Sanders told committee members from the House Health and Human Services Committee and the Senate Health and Family Security Committee.

According to Anne Henry of the Minnesota Disability Law Center, the change in the SSI definition of “disabled” will affect many other children as well.

Another 700 Minnesota families of chil-

“We want to keep Jennifer at home where she belongs.”

— Kathleen Sanders

work will be penalized by the federal government.

While the federal law prescribes some of what states are required to do, it leaves each state to decide how to design its own welfare system.

Below is a summary of some of the issues touched on during the past week.

Disabled

Portions of the federal law will hit families whose children have behavioral disorders, mild

In Minnesota, some 3,200 children could lose their monthly SSI checks due to a more narrow definition of “disability” in the federal law. The average monthly benefit is \$406 and the cuts are set to take effect after July 1997.

Families whose children fall short of meeting a new definition of “disabled” told some Minnesota lawmakers Feb. 4 that they fear the loss of their monthly check may force them to institutionalize their children.

“We want to keep Jennifer at home where

dren with disabilities could lose their Medical Assistance under the change. Medical Assistance is a joint federal and state program that helps people who can't afford health care. And, another 150 families could lose their access to a program that lets them buy into Medical Assistance as added insurance coverage.

Robin Rodenberg of Mora, Minn., and her 4-year-old son Alex also face the loss of their SSI check.

Alex, who waved a stuffed Pooh bear and sat with his mother as she testified, has many medical problems but, under the new definition, no one problem by itself qualifies for federal help.

Alex has asthma, a cleft palate, a muscle at the bottom of his stomach that keeps him from digesting food properly, is far-sighted, deaf in one ear, and his jaw sits on top of his airway.

Currently, Rodenberg's monthly SSI check helps pay for Alex's feeding tube, special car seat, adaptive furniture, long distance calls to "informed" doctors (her access to doctors is limited in rural Minnesota) as well as other needs.

She's worried that insurance companies, schools, and hospitals will follow the federal government's lead and cut benefits to people with disabilities.

In addition to children with disabilities, elderly and disabled legal immigrants will also lose their monthly SSI check. That is estimated to affect some 5,400 legal immigrants in Minnesota. Overall, legal immigrants are cut off from most federal programs.

Tatyana Kasperovich of Minneapolis testified on behalf of four immigrants from the former Soviet Union who have survived religious persecution, wars, and famine in their homeland and who are now about to lose their public assistance here.

"Their only hope is God's mercy and the Legislature," Kasperovich said.

Immigrants

A crowd of about 300 people gathered at Christ Lutheran Church near the State Capitol Jan. 30 to hear how the loss of federal welfare benefits will affect Minnesota's legal immigrants and refugees.

Kao Yang's story illustrates how a situation far removed from state control can create an impact in Minnesota. "I was conscripted by the CIA to fight when I was 13 years old," he told members of the Minnesota Senate Health and Family Security Committee and the House Health and Human Services Committee through a translator.



Alberto Puga, a migrant farm worker who testified in Spanish before a joint House and Senate hearing Jan. 30, told lawmakers of the struggle his mentally handicapped daughter has had trying to become a citizen. He worries about what will happen to her with the pending welfare cuts.

"They gave me an M-16 that later exploded in my hand making me blind in my right eye and limited the vision in my left eye. I married my wife while we lived in a refugee camp in Thailand and we have six children. We came to the United States three years ago and have not yet learned to speak English. My wife doesn't have an education and can't find a job."

Yang and many others stand to lose cur-

rent welfare benefits because of federal changes.

In all, the federal welfare law is expected to save the United States more than \$50 billion over the next six years and much of that savings — \$25 billion — targets the immigrant population.

The food stamp program tops the list of federal welfare programs that are now off limits to many legal immigrants. In Minnesota, an estimated 16,000 non-citizens will lose their

difficulty of the citizenship exam, especially for the elderly.

Yur Hang, a 66-year-old Vietnamese woman asked the lawmakers, "If my benefits are cut off before I become a citizen, what will happen to me?."

Phon Not has already taken and failed the citizenship test three times. "It is very hard for me to study to become an American citizen," said the 72-year-old Cambodian

Several speakers complained about the

"It is very hard for me to study to become an American citizen. . . . I cannot understand when they talk to me. I go to school every day and study hard. I want to be an American citizen very much."

—Phon Not, a 72-year-old Cambodian woman

woman. "I cannot understand when they talk to me. I go to school every day and study hard. I want to be an American citizen very much."

Judy Yellin of the Jewish Federation of Minneapolis' Resettlement Services said that as many as 150 Russian Jewish immigrants face the same problem. "There are still many frail elderly who won't be able to pass the citizenship test and will need some form of

ing to move off the welfare rolls.

The message from government officials serving both rural and urban areas is that transportation should be included in that list of ingredients for effective reform.

"In order for welfare reform to succeed, people will need adequate transportation to and from jobs or postsecondary institutions," said Julie Aanenson, who supervises the Tri-Valley Heartland Express Transportation

do, bus service is often very limited.

For example, Aanenson's organization provides daily bus service in Thief River Falls, Minn., but buses run in-town routes only two days per week in Crookston.

In order to meet the demands of welfare reform, more buses will be needed and service will have to be expanded, Aanenson said.

She also urged lawmakers to foster cooperative efforts between organizations already providing transit services and to consider ways to make more efficient use of existing resources.

For example, Aanenson said, school buses could be put to better use during the long period of down time between the morning and afternoon commutes.

Urban areas face different transportation concerns than do rural areas, but the need for improvement is universal.

In the Twin Cities, people moving from welfare to work may have a hard time finding a bus to take them where they need to go. The expected increase in demand for public transit comes on the heels of Metropolitan Council Transit Operations (MCTO) fare hikes and cutbacks in the number of buses running on metropolitan-area streets.

The MCTO is hard pressed to meet the rise in reverse commuting, which brings workers from the core cities to the fast-developing business frontiers in first- and second-ring suburbs.

"If the jobs are at the Mall of America, we need to be able to take people from our Frogtown neighborhood and get them to the Mall of America," said Ramsey County Commissioner Sue Haigh. "We are going to need reliable transit and transportation to get those folks to work."

Legislators were urged to provide more funding for bus service and to work with businesses to find other solutions such as shuttle services to and from the work site.

"We want to succeed with reforming welfare," Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin said. "We need a transit system that allows us to do that."

Session Weekly writers Steve Compton, K. Darcy Hanzlik, and Nick Healy contributed to this article.

***"We want to succeed with reforming welfare. . . .
We need a transit system that allows us to do that."***

—Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin

assistance," she said.

"We Somalis have run away from hell," Adam Amin Avil told the hearing. "Back home you can't walk the streets. The Somali community here are many single-parent families, widows with their children who need a handout. If they lose assistance, God knows what will happen."

Juanita Christiansen urged the lawmakers to consider the contributions of immigrants. "I'm the daughter of immigrants. My parents came across from Mexico in 1912," she said. "Our country is rich because of its immigrants. I have a son who is a doctor at the Mayo Clinic. My daughter is a nurse. My other daughter works for the Minneapolis School Board. It is time for you to see that immigrants get the justice they have coming, not charity."

Transportation

Any discussion of welfare reform is sure to include lofty calls to move people from welfare to work, but the street-level reality is that such an effort will require some method to transport people from their homes to jobs.

The House Transportation and Transit Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation Operations heard from a dozen state and local officials from throughout the state during a Feb. 5 hearing on the implications of welfare reform.

"All the [job] training in the world doesn't mean anything if you're not there to use it," said Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega. "We consider transit a critical component of welfare reform. We don't think it's going to succeed without transit."

So far, much of the discussion of reform has focused on removing barriers that prevent welfare recipients from seeking work. Child care, health care, and job training frequently rank as the top needs of people look-

ing to move off the welfare rolls.

"In rural Minnesota, these jobs and schools will be found in the larger communities and many of the people needing these options will be located in smaller communities."

The demand for public transit is expected to increase because many current welfare recipients who will be forced into the job market by recent federal changes simply cannot afford to own a car. They will need public transit so they can bring their children to day care and get to work.

In rural areas, the problem is especially acute. Roughly 40 of the state's 87 counties have no public transit system. In those that



Ramsey County Commissioner Sue Haigh holds up a map with dots indicating the concentration of welfare recipients in Ramsey County. She testified Feb. 5 before the Transportation and Transit Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation Operations.

**Send e-mail comments
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We thank you for your input.

The editors



CHILDREN

Kids in open court?

Should juvenile court proceedings be open to the public?

That's one of the questions the House Judiciary Committee explored Feb. 5 in a meeting with three top court officials.

"There is some disagreement among judges in the state. It's a time-honored practice to keep those proceedings closed and confidential," said John Stanoch, Hennepin County District Court judge and presiding judge in juvenile court. "I'd like people to have a better understanding of the difficulty of the decisions we make. Often the only scrutiny we get is when something horrible happens, like when a child [who has had some contact with the system] dies."

Under current law, juvenile court proceedings are closed to the public, as are juvenile court records.

"They probably should be opened, at least more than they are," Stanoch added. "The time may have come for that to occur."

Edward Toussaint, chief judge in the Minnesota Court of Appeals, said the issue is partly a matter of accountability: Would opening the proceedings undermine the protection children deserve from the courts? Toussaint mentioned fears some have that exposing the proceedings to the public could violate a child's need for privacy.

The majority of members on a Minnesota Supreme Court Foster Care and Adoption Task Force recommended, with qualifications, that the proceedings be more open, Toussaint pointed out. "This debate will continue," he said. "It would be an advantage for the public to take a look at it."

Also testifying was Sue Dosal, Minnesota Supreme Court administrator.

"This meeting was to inform the committee," Skoglund said, "but we ended up with a dialogue. Members are learning from them, and they [the court representatives] are hearing back. It was a very positive meeting."

The meeting was one of a series the committee has conducted with members of agencies affected by the committee's initiatives.



DEVELOPMENT

Conventional expansion

Legislators toured the Minneapolis Convention Center Feb. 4, where city officials presented a \$185 million plan that relies on state financing to expand the facility.



Minneapolis Convention Center officials met with members of both the House and Senate commerce committees to tour the facility Feb. 4. City officials presented a \$185 million plan that relies on state financing to expand the facility.

Members of the Senate's Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee joined several representatives from the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee on the outing, hosted by Minneapolis City Council Member Alice Rainville. Rainville, joined by fellow City Council Member Joan Campbell, told lawmakers that without their help, the facility could not remain competitive in the increasingly cut-throat convention market.

Indeed, Campbell said, the convention center, which opened in 1990, has already slipped in the national market from the 13th largest facility in the country to 37th.

"We are a Minnesota resource," Rainville said, "and we are simply asking the state to have a role in the completion of the facility."

The convention center's original plans included 500,000 square feet of display space. When then-Gov. Rudy Perpich vetoed state funding in 1985, those plans were scaled back to the 280,000 square feet that exists today. Minneapolis financed the effort with \$350 million in bonds, a debt that will be retired in 2014.

The city council members, along with representatives of the Minneapolis Downtown Council, presented an array of options for state funding, including state-secured bonds, revenue authority bonds, and no less than five pay-as-you-go options. The cost of the expansion, which would add dozens of meeting rooms in addition to the display space, is estimated at \$185 million for the pay-as-you-go plan, or nearly \$18 million annually for 24 years if state-backed bonds are used.

Supporters of the expansion maintain that Minneapolis cannot afford to shoulder the fiscal burden alone. In fact, the city has already done its part by going into debt for the original construction. To go further into debt, Rainville said, would jeopardize the city's AAA credit rating.

"Minneapolis can't do it on its own," Campbell said. "Our businesses already have some of the highest taxes and our competitors all have regional or state funding."

City officials hope to find someone to introduce legislation in the near future.



DWI

Drugged drivers

Until last year, the police had no way to deal with drivers under the influence of illegal drugs. Often, a dangerous driver would test negative for alcohol use and would have to be released.

"The officers were getting into situations where they had to toss up their hands because they didn't know what else to do," said Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) in testimony before the House Judiciary Committee's Judiciary Finance Division Feb. 6.

So the 1996 Legislature made it "illegal for citizens to drive an automobile . . . with any amount of certain controlled substances in their systems." That includes most addictive narcotics, stimulants, and depressants. The penalties for violating the law are consistent with the state's current DWI laws.

This year, Entenza would like the Legislature to provide the funds to make enforcement possible.

He and John Laux, executive director of the Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) board, asked the committee to approve \$6.8 million annually to train and pay for drug recognition experts to be deployed throughout the state. Entenza said the money would be used for 15 additional experts in the seven-county metro area and 22 others throughout the state. Minneapolis and St. Paul have their own programs.

"The need was highlighted by the deaths of three people in 1995," Entenza said. "They were killed by a man who had used illegal drugs and rear-ended their car. They were pushed into a ditch and drowned."

A fourth person was seriously injured. Entenza said the offender was difficult to prosecute because there was no drug recognition expert available at the scene.

The 1996 law called for the POST board to develop a plan to train a "sufficient" number of officers as Drug-Recognition Experts (DRE) to ensure they are available statewide each day to evaluate suspected drug-impaired drivers.

The DRE funding request coincided with a report from Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) that recommends expanding intensive probation programs for DWI offenders and continuing research to combat the problem. "Drunk drivers are Minnesota's most dangerous offenders. There's no doubt about that," said Don Davis of the DPS.



EDUCATION

Early school start

The House passed a bill Feb. 6 that would allow school districts to begin classes before Labor Day in 1998 and 1999. The vote was 123-9.

Current state law forbids districts from opening schools before Labor Day. That measure, strongly supported by the state's resort industry, has been on the books since 1986.

HF84, sponsored by Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), would allow school districts to begin classes on the Wednesday, Thursday or Friday before Labor Day in 1998 and 1999.

According to Carlson, the bill came about because Labor Day falls relatively late in September in 1998 (Sept. 7) and 1999 (Sept. 6).

Past efforts to change the law requiring

school to begin after Labor Day have attracted some controversy at the Capitol. Tourism groups have been the most vocal defenders of the law, because it keeps available the teenagers they rely upon to fill seasonal jobs, and it stretches the season for summertime family vacations.

Rep. Gail Skare (DFL-Bemidji) said the bill would be a "hardship" for northern Minnesota resort owners who must make the most of a relatively short tourism season.

"That last week of the summer and the long weekend are vital to their businesses," Skare said during earlier debate on the bill.

However, at least one major tourism industry group is supporting **HF84**. The legislation grew out of negotiations between the Minnesota Restaurant, Hotel & Resort Association and the Minnesota School Boards Association, according to Carlson.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Statewide testing

An effort to require uniform standardized testing in all public schools has taken a giant leap forward in the Senate. But it continues to move by small steps in the House — at least for now.

In a somewhat unexpected move, the Senate attached an amendment calling for statewide testing to an important but non-controversial education bill. The bill



Irene McIfee, director of assessment for the St. Paul Public School District, testified Feb. 4 before the Quality Initiatives Subcommittee of the Education Committee on a bill that would require uniform standardized testing in all public schools.

(**HF1*/SF3**) would lift statutory caps on education spending that, if left in place, would force a \$337 million reduction in K-12 school funding.

It is uncertain how the House will respond to the Senate's action. House members could concur with the upper chamber and send the bill to the governor, or they could send the measure to conference committee and work to get the statewide testing language altered or removed from the bill.

In the meantime, a House education subcommittee continues to deliberate the issue of statewide testing.

"Statewide assessment is not something you do on the fly," said Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), who chairs the House Education Committee's Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives.

Proponents of statewide testing claim it would make schools more accountable by providing an objective measurement of student performance and a reliable means for comparing schools across district and state lines.

Critics claim the testing would simply pit school districts against each other and could have a negative impact on students, potentially driving up dropout rates and special education designations.

Entenza's panel considered **HF129** on Feb. 4, which calls for standardized testing of Minnesota students in grades 3, 7, and 11.

Bill sponsor Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) said his legislation would do more than provide fodder for criticism of struggling schools and districts.

The bill, according to Opatz, would create a system that fosters improvement in schools that are performing poorly and rewards schools that are succeeding.

Under the legislation, tests would be given to establish a baseline score for individual schools. Future performance at each school would be measured against its own baseline.

Schools that show improvement over their baseline would be rewarded by the state, which would direct funds to teachers at each improving site and give them authority to decide how the money can best be spent to bolster learning.

Schools that do not show improvement — dubbed in the bill as "schools in crisis" — also would receive financial assistance from the state. However, the funding would have to be spent to develop and implement a plan to improve learning.

No action was taken on **HF129**. Opatz's bill is one of several statewide testing proposals introduced this year.

The education subcommittee earlier this

session discussed a separate proposal to require statewide testing. That bill (HF235), sponsored by Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayner (R-Princeton), consists of Gov. Arne Carlson's prescription for standardized testing in all public schools. (See Jan. 31, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 5.) No action has been taken on the Koppendrayner bill.



ENVIRONMENT

Lottery funding stalls

A bill to extend the dedication of state lottery revenue for the environment (HF113) stalled Feb. 6 in the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

Bill sponsor Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) wants 40 percent of net lottery proceeds to continue funding environmental projects until 2050. Under the Minnesota Constitution, that dedication is set to expire in the year 2000.

But after testimony from Munger and members of the Environmental Trust Fund Coalition, a debate over two amendments to HF113 has left its future uncertain.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), chair of the panel, offered an amendment to extend the lottery fund's dedication to 2020, arguing that by then the trust fund would have more than \$1 billion in assets, according to current financial projections. The \$1 billion figure was the original goal for the fund discussed by state lawmakers, said Osthoff. If allowed to continue until 2050, projections show the fund would be worth \$5.9 billion. "I think it is irresponsible for legislators to tie up this [lottery] money for 50 years into the future," Osthoff said.

Members approved the 2020 sunset date after Munger failed in attempts to lengthen it to 2040 and 2030.

Over Munger's objections, the panel also approved an amendment by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) to allow up to 25 percent of the annual revenues deposited in the environmental fund to be used for land acquisition and development until 2020. Munger's original bill would have authorized such expenditures only through fiscal year 1997. Kahn argued that since land prices increase over time, it makes more sense to buy property as early as possible. "The best use of the trust fund is to accumulate public land," Kahn said.

Munger, who had asked legislators to approve this bill without amendments, was visibly upset, and argued that the Kahn amendment would allow legislators to dip

into dedicated environmental dollars every year for pet projects. "You are getting the trust fund from both ends," Munger told the committee. "First you take away 30 years of funding and now you want to lower the amount by 25 percent."

Greta Hesse Gauthier, director of the Environmental Trust Fund Coalition, told the committee her organization's board of directors also opposed the change.

Munger then withdrew the bill, bringing discussion on the proposal to a sudden halt. It is unclear whether HF113 will be debated further.



GAMBLING

Revenue pay dirt

Minnesota gamblers spent nearly \$376 million on numbers games and scratch-off tickets in 1996 — the highest sales total yet, the Minnesota State Lottery's director said Feb. 5. And that number could have been larger.

"The blizzards hurt us a great deal," Director George Andersen told members of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee's Subcommittee on Gambling. "We lost about a million dollars a week."

As it was, he said, 1996 sales were up more than 10 percent, with instant games accounting for nearly three-quarters of gross revenues. Powerball sales, he continued, slumped dramatically during that period, adding that the Daily Millions game introduced last September has yet to produce its first big-prize winner.

Andersen presented the sales numbers during his annual appearance, mandated by law, before the legislative committee. He also detailed the state's piece of the action.

The lottery, Andersen said, returned almost \$90 million to the state last year. That money, for the most part, went into the general fund and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. In general, he continued, the financial statements have not varied much since the game's inception in 1990.

He went on about the notion that Minnesota's lottery somehow competes with Indian casinos for gambling dollars. The idea, he said, is not true, adding that the increased sales figures bear him out.

"We're retail," he said, "not a destination."

In presenting the numbers, Andersen placed the game in a historical context. The concept, he said, is ancient. For example, the Great Wall of China was built with lottery proceeds and European history is full of references to lotteries.

In the United States, people have enjoyed lottery action from the earliest days, even during the Revolutionary era, although the games in that time were privately run. In fact, Anderson said, Thomas Jefferson himself operated a numbers game.

The federal government, he said, banned lotteries in the 1850s and they did not reappear, legally, until New Hampshire introduced its sweepstakes in 1964. Other states quickly realized the revenue potential and created their own lotteries — although Andersen himself remained skeptical.

"I remember hearing on the radio . . . in



Three-year-old Taylor Ireland plays with his toy cars as his mother, Jessica, a welfare recipient from Northfield, holds a sign with his picture on it. Several demonstrators gathered outside a joint House and Senate hearing Feb. 4 as lawmakers took testimony on impending welfare cuts.

1972 that Pennsylvania had passed the lottery, and I thought it would never have a chance, that it would never succeed," he said. "I stand corrected."



GAME & FISH

Feeding the deer

Winter deer feeding costs the state too much in money and staff time and doesn't save enough deer to make it worthwhile, according to a preliminary report presented to the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Jan. 4. The report, presented by Tim Bremicker, chief of the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Division of Wildlife, evaluated the state's 1996 Emergency Deer Feeding Program.

Deer feeding supporters argue that the report failed to take public support into account.

"The DNR doesn't realize the number of volunteers who want to do this," said Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook). Bakk has sponsored a bill (**HF167**) that would allocate \$1.5 million for an emergency deer feeding program funded with a \$2.50 surcharge on hunting licenses. "Everything in life isn't about biology," he said. "Sometimes government has to respond to the wishes of people."

Bakk also sponsored a 1996 law that marked \$750,000 in emergency deer feeding funds. In 1996, the DNR spent a total of \$975,713 to provide 5,115 tons of feed. (The money came from a portion of the proceeds from hunting and fishing licenses, not general taxpayer revenue.)

The 1996 project involved 8,300 volunteer distributors spreading food at 9,150 sites over an area of 38,000 square miles. About 23 percent more deer were reached in 1996 than a similar effort in 1989.

According to the report, deer feeding is not effective in preventing widespread losses of deer during severe winters. Other findings include facts such as:

- more than 8,000 hours of staff time went into the feeding program;
- deer populations declined an average of 27 percent in areas where feeding occurred in 1996;
- the cost to provide an adequate ration to 50 percent of the herd would have been \$2.3 million, more than twice as much as the 1996 expenditure; and
- no other state or province pays for emergency deer feeding, although there are numerous private efforts.

The report also raises what it terms serious

biological concerns. "Deer feeding unnaturally concentrates deer, leading to increased susceptibility to predation, transmission of disease and parasites, and impacts to natural browse and vegetation. There are also potential long-term consequences of feeding on deer movements, habitat use, and the overall health of the deer herd."

The report recommends that the state develop policies "to determine whether deer feeding should be included as part of future state deer management programs and if so, what the goals of future programs should be and strategies for meeting those goals."

Joe Wood, executive director of the 18,000-member Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, sees a different message in the DNR report. The 1996 study shows that 23 percent of the deer in northern Minnesota were reached by the feeding program. That is an increase from 11 percent from the 1989 feeding. "It shows a substantial improvement from 1989," Wood said. "Is the efficiency of deer feeding comparably as good as anything else the DNR does?" he asked.

In the end, the committee decided to send **HF167** on to the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee without making a recommendation. A hearing is expected on the proposal next week.



HEALTH

Reducing teenage smoking

After nearly four hours of debate, the House of Representatives granted preliminary passage Feb. 6 to a bill aimed at reducing teenage smoking. The vote was 128-0.

Lawmakers approved a dramatically altered version of **HF117** that hits store owners with fines for the first time, but no longer includes annual "sting" operations to ensure compliance.

As approved, **HF117**, sponsored by Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope), would require local governments to license establishments that sell tobacco. It also would slap store owners with a \$50 fine should a clerk sell smokes to an underage buyer. Fines for a repeat offense increase to \$150, and a third violation within two years would cause the store to lose its license to sell tobacco for at least a week. The bill also adds civil fines for clerks who sell to those who are underage.

Essentially, the bill fills a gap in Minnesota's existing tobacco regulation, Rest said.

"The current law does not involve the

stores," Rest said. "Our bill . . . brings the stores into the circle of responsibility."

Under current law, clerks who sell tobacco to minors can face criminal penalties of up to a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine, but the store owner faces no penalties — civil or criminal.

But **HF117** does provide room for a rebuttal on the part of clerks and proprietors.

Rest herself introduced an amendment, adopted by voice vote, that allows penalties to be waived if the accused "could not reasonably have known that the conduct was unlawful." Such a situation could involve the use of a fake identification card.

Another amendment, offered by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) and approved by a 70-62 vote, would let store owners sell tobacco products from self-serve displays, as long as the fixtures are within the sight line of an employee. As introduced, the bill prohibited self-serve displays altogether. Proponents wanted to remove easy access to cigarettes. Opponents called the move an unnecessary burden on businesses.

Many lawmakers expressed dismay that **HF117** apparently provides tougher sanctions for everyone culpable in underage smoking, except for the lawbreakers themselves. Several representatives offered amendments to remedy that shortcoming, including one from Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) that would have slapped a \$1,000 fine on teens caught trying to buy a pack of smokes. (Under current law, underage tobacco possession or use is a petty misdemeanor, which carries a top fine of \$200.)

Ultimately, an amendment sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) was adopted. It requires an alternative to the fine system. Store owners, parents, and others peripherally involved in an underage tobacco purchase would collaborate to consider developing an education program on the hazards of smoking or examine community service as an option in lieu of a fine.

Legislators reserved what was perhaps their most passionate debate for an amendment by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), which was approved by a 66-62 margin. The amendment deleted a provision requiring communities to conduct at least one sting operation per year in each establishment licensed to sell tobacco.

"Are we that suspicious of our citizens?" Bishop asked, adding that law enforcement officials should have at least probable cause before engaging in undercover compliance checks. "This is a terrible precedent."

A final vote on **HF117** is expected Feb. 10.



HIGHER EDUCATION

Regent selection

Legislators are about to begin the process of choosing from 12 finalists for five seats on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

The House Education Committee received a briefing Feb. 6 on the regent selection process and on the final steps slated to take place this month.

The 12-member Board of Regents includes one person representing each of Minnesota's eight congressional districts and four at-large members, including one U of M student (who is a student at the time of election).

Regents serve six-year terms that are staggered so that four seats come up for election by the Legislature in each odd-numbered year. Five seats are available this year because of the October 1996 resignation of Regent Jean Keffler. (Gov. Arne Carlson appointed Michael O'Keefe to temporarily fill Keffler's seat, and O'Keefe is now seeking election to serve the remainder of a term set to expire in 2001.)

The 12 finalists were selected by the Regent Candidate Advisory Council, a panel created in 1988 to screen candidates for the board. Ninety-one candidates applied for the open seats this year, and 23 of them were interviewed by the advisory council.

Three major steps remain in the regent selection process.

First, nominees will be reviewed by a caucus of all legislators from the appropriate congressional district. Caucus members will vote to endorse one candidate. Congressional caucus meetings are expected to take place during the week of Feb. 10-14.

Next, the House and Senate education committees will meet jointly Feb. 18 to consider the advisory council recommendations and the caucus endorsements. Committee members will vote to endorse five candidates, whose names will be submitted to the full Legislature as a slate.

Finally, the full House and Senate will convene jointly in the House Chamber Feb. 27 to elect the regents. Lawmakers can vote the slate or choose from others among the 12 finalists. A majority of the 201 members of the House and Senate must approve any nomination to the board.

Here's a look at the finalists in the five congressional districts with open seats.

First District: Bryan Neel, an incumbent regent and a doctor at Rochester's Mayo Clinic. Thomas Stoa, Winona, a doctor practicing in La Crosse, Wis.

Fourth District: Andrew Boss, St. Paul, chair of the board for St. Anthony Park State Bank. Carol Erickson, Roseville, superintendent of the Roseville School District. David Metzen,

superintendent of the South St. Paul School District.

Fifth District: Michael O'Keefe, an incumbent regent and executive vice president of the McKnight Foundation. William Drake, Minneapolis, president and chief executive officer of Islet Technology Inc.

Sixth District: George Allen, Woodbury, retired 3M senior vice president. Barbara Klemme, Stillwater, consultant for nonprofits. Maureen Reed, Stillwater, a doctor and HealthPartners' medical director for contracted care.

Seventh District: Bob Bergland, Roseau, former secretary of agriculture under President Jimmy Carter. Herbert Chilstrom, Pelican Rapids, a retired presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



INDUSTRY

Subterranean jungle

There's much more to the streets of Minnesota than meets the eye. Countless miles of lines and cables run beneath the pavement, all carrying services for water, electricity, sewer, natural gas, telephones, and cable television.

The underground has become even busier in recent years with the advent of new technologies and new uses for the technology, such as those for telephones. The result? Increased demand for limited space.

Looking for ways to manage competing public and commercial interests, members of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee have been meeting with municipal and industry authorities to talk about how access to the ground below public streets should be managed.

The committee heard Feb. 4 from city officials and engineers who said the situation has gotten out of hand.

Streets are being torn up more than ever before and often are left with substandard repairs. New lines and cables are competing for space, and new installations make it hard for public works employees to reach existing utility lines.

"We're fighting all the other utilities when we want to plan work," said Leonard Krumm of the City Engineers Association of Minnesota (CEAM) and an assistant director of public works for the city of Minneapolis. "At



During a celebration of Minnesota National Girls and Women in Sports Day, Briana Kennedy-Coker, left, and Clyde Lund performed a segment of the play "Tomboy Stone" Feb. 6 in the Capitol rotunda. This play, currently running at the Great American History Theater in St. Paul, is a story about the first woman to play big league baseball — St. Paul's Marcenia Toni "Tomboy" Stone Alberga. Briana plays the part of Stone as a young girl who had to convince the men in power to let her play with the boys.

times, we can't even get to our water mains. The telecommunication lines are all out of proportion."

"It's a utilities right-of-way management issue," added John Maczko, also of CEAM and an engineer for the city of St. Paul. "Cities need to have a say in how to manage it."

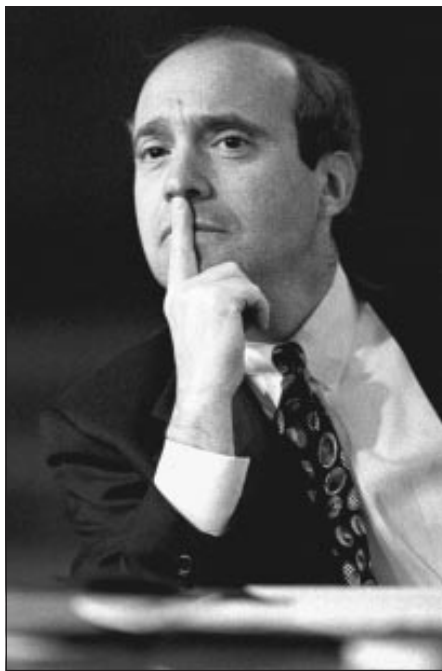
Most agree that the new technologies are desirable and in demand. Representatives from the telephone industry said they'd like the Legislature to enact a statewide policy on below-ground rights-of-way. Currently, what little control that exists is shared by municipalities and the Public Utilities Commission.

"Everyone who uses the right-of-way should share the burden of costs. It has to be proportionate," said Jerry Knickerbocker, director of the Minnesota Telephone Association.

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), committee chair, has authored a bill addressing rights-of-way concerns. "The bill does three things," Jennings said. "It provides and establishes absolute authority on the part of cities to determine rights-of-way; it allows cities to recover actual costs for access [by others]; and it provides that access is not a revenue source for cities."

The bill (HF322), however, has not yet received a hearing. While Jennings expects the bill's three major provisions to remain intact, he also expects other changes will occur during committee discussion.

Further consideration of the issue is expected in the near future.



Arthur Rolnick, an economist from the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, listened to a question from a member of the Taxes Committee Feb. 6. The hearing dealt with the increasing demand from private businesses that state and local governments subsidize them to better the job climate.

The effect, Rolnick said, has been to pit state against state and city against city as corporations seek the best tax deal. Moreover, he continued, a strong argument can be made that the anticipated benefits rarely, if ever, emerge.

"No one's overturned Adam Smith's 'invisible hand,'" Rolnick said, invoking the Scottish political philosopher whose "Wealth of Nations" became the bible of the free-market economy. "But Adam Smith's theories don't apply to competition among governments."

Economic competition, in and of itself, is not bad, Rolnick explained, it is just that one must distinguish between private and public goods. If a state wants to create a pro-business climate, then certainly that state can reap the benefits as firms relocate to take advantage. However, Rolnick said, when governments start to offer specific subsidies to lure particular businesses — that kind of competition can be debilitating.

For example, he said, Alabama, hoping to create an industrial base, enticed Mercedes-Benz to open a plant there by ceding the company tens of millions of dollars in taxes. From an Alabaman perspective, the move may have been worth the cost. But from a national perspective, the economy most definitely took a hit.

"Because we allowed the states to bid,

these states gave up some revenue," Rolnick said. "By playing this game nationally, you end up with less revenue."

Mercedes would have located in the U.S. anyway, so there was no economic development and no net job creation by virtue of the subsidy, Rolnick said. What's more, other businesses in Alabama need to pay more taxes to recover the share not paid by Mercedes.

Obviously, Rolnick said, no government will unilaterally remove itself from the competition. Such a move would be too costly. The obvious solution, he said, is to have Congress apply the Constitution's interstate commerce clause and tax — as income — public subsidies.

"Congress does have the authority . . . and they should use it," Rolnick said. "If you're a private company and you're able to get preferential treatment . . . you should have to declare it as income. . . and the IRS should tax it at a very high rate. I'd prefer 100 percent. The game would be over."



Property taxes, as most legislators know, can arouse the strongest of emotions in even the most staid individuals — particularly around assessment time. During the course of the Taxes Committee's Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division's Feb. 5 meeting, an overview of the assessment process prompted Rep. Edwina Garcia (DFL-Richfield), who served on a local tax appeal board, to recall an incident where the procedure proved lethal.

"I remember one man who was just sitting there and he just keeled over — and he was gone," Garcia said of one appellant who didn't live to pay the tax. "I know it takes Catholics a long time to get over something like that. I felt responsible."

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at:
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>



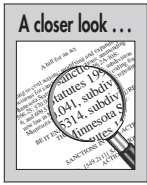
TAXES

Public handouts

About 130 years ago, Americans fought the Civil War, the bloodiest conflict this country has ever seen. Now, in the face of dizzying technological advancements, the states are once again at each other's throats — but instead of bullets, the public tax dollar is the weapon of choice.

Increasingly, Federal Reserve Bank economist Arthur Rolnick told the House Taxes Committee Feb. 6, state and local governments have turned to subsidizing private businesses with public money in an effort to generate economic development. Indeed, as companies have become more mobile, they've started to press governments to offer subsidies or risk losing their business — and jobs.

Proposals introduced to respond to federal changes



Within the past few weeks, several different welfare bills have begun to spring up around the State Capitol and although House members have yet to debate them, it is expected that something based on the governor's proposal will survive.

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) is sponsoring two welfare bills, one of which (**HF161**) encompasses much of what Gov. Arne Carlson and the Department of Human Services would like.

Jennings cautioned, however, that the bill is "very fluid" and open to changes.

States across the country are hurrying to pass new welfare laws after the federal government scrapped the long-standing welfare system in August 1996.

The federal law does away with monthly welfare checks and food stamps for many legal immigrants and eliminates disability cash assistance for people with drug and alcohol addictions. It also eliminates cash assistance for children with certain behavioral disabilities and requires able-bodied adults, ages 18-50, who receive food stamps to work.

Perhaps the most significant change involves poor families with children. The law requires these parents to get a job and sets a five-year-lifetime limit on their welfare benefits. States that do not move these parents to work will be penalized by the federal government.

While the federal law prescribes some of what states are required to do, it leaves each state to decide how to design its own welfare system.

Below are some of the highlights of **HF161**.

The bill, as it stands now, would:

- Set a five-year lifetime limit on receiving welfare benefits. This is in keeping with the new federal law.
- Mandate a 30-day residency requirement to receive welfare and require that, for the first year, families who move to Minnesota receive either the benefit amount they would have received in their previous state, or Minnesota's rate, whichever is less.
- Beginning Jan. 1, 1998, expand a statewide welfare pilot program that requires poor families to work if they want public assistance. The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) is expected to become

the state's answer to the tough new federal welfare law.

MFIP allows families to accept lower paying jobs while receiving some public assistance, such as extra monthly cash and subsidized child and health care. In theory, allowing someone to work while still receiving benefits helps a low-skilled parent gain work experience and eventually obtain a better job.

Under the proposal, two-parent families statewide would be required to work immediately to receive welfare benefits. Single-parent families would be required to work within six months of receiving assistance. Parents who don't meet the deadline to work will, at first, have their welfare benefits cut by 25 percent. Families face an additional 10 percent cut for each work deadline they miss.

Under MFIP, parents would leave welfare when their income reaches 120 percent of the poverty level which, for a family of three, is about \$16,000.

The bill also creates statewide employment and training services for welfare recipients who are now required to work. Under the governor's proposal, the state is expected to spend less per person on employment and training services than it currently spends per person in the several counties that have experimented with MFIP for the past two years.

In all, the governor recommends \$17.8 million in fiscal year 1998 and \$28.4 million in fiscal year 1999 to pay for MFIP. The governor has said that the cost of MFIP will cost the state no more than its old welfare system.

In addition, the governor's proposal would:

- Allow legal immigrants on U.S. soil at the time the federal law was signed to be eligible for Medical Assistance. The federal law gives states the option of denying those individuals coverage. The law does bar immigrants who arrived after Aug. 22, 1996, (the date the federal law was signed), from receiving Medical Assistance for five years. But, the governor's proposal would offer the benefit to certain legal immigrants in that group. The state would use its own money to pay for them.
- Allow legal immigrants on U.S. soil at the time the federal law was signed to be eligible for MFIP. Again the federal law gives states the option of denying those indi-

viduals coverage. The federal law does prevent immigrants who arrived after Aug. 22, 1996, from receiving MFIP. But, the governor's proposal would offer the benefit to legal immigrants. Again, the state would use its own money to pay for them.

- Require that the income of a legal immigrant's American sponsor be considered when determining eligibility for public assistance of any kind.
- Tap into the rental subsidies of some families on welfare. Specifically, the bill would count \$100 of a welfare recipient's rental subsidy as part of their income, thus potentially reducing their overall welfare benefit. This provision helps pay to expand MFIP statewide but it has been criticized as shuffling benefits from one poor person to help another.
- Eliminate a \$50 payment to those on welfare who are owed child support. When a single parent is owed child support and applies for welfare, he or she must agree to allow the state and federal government to keep a part of any child support collected to compensate for the welfare payments. Under the old federal law, states were required to pass on the first \$50 collected each month to the family. The new federal law no longer requires states to do that.
- Limit to one year the amount of postsecondary education a person on welfare can receive while preparing for work. Jennings said this provision in particular is open for discussion. Some careers may require two years of schooling but offer better pay, thus helping to move people off welfare for good.
- Eliminate the \$1,500 cap on the value of a welfare recipient's vehicle. Many argued that the low value too often meant unreliable transportation and could cost people their jobs.
- Provide special citizenship training to help more legal immigrants pass the U.S. citizenship test.

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

Check your local listings to watch House committee and floor sessions on TV.

New members . . .

Reuter not playing games with fiscal restraint

Rep. Doug Reuter (R-Owatonna) likes to turn dreams into reality. The idea for his successful board game Sequence came to him in a dream. Another long-time dream came true when he was sworn in as the state representative for District 28A.



Rep. Doug Reuter

“I dream a lot,” Reuter said. “I keep paper and pencil by my bedside to write down ideas for products or services or solutions to problems

that come to me.”

He woke up from a particularly vivid dream in 1974 with the full blown idea for his board game, he said. “I worked on it off and on for the next two years. Then, it sat in my closet until 1981 when I sold the rights to manufacture and distribute it to Jax [a New Hope-based game company].”

With no advertising, the game “didn’t do much for the first 12 years,” Reuter said. “But in the last three years, it has really taken off and sales are now at about one and a quarter million copies.” In November 1995, Reuter quit his job as human resources director for Owatonna exercise equipment manufacturer Cybex to devote his full attention to marketing the game.

Reuter, 47, was born in Superior, Wis., but grew up in the Twin Cities area. His parents eventually settled in New Hope where they are now retired.

After high school, Reuter joined the U.S. Navy, where he met and married his wife, Nancy, while stationed in Seattle. They now

have three children, the oldest of whom is a senior at Owatonna High School. Chipping away at college courses at Metro State University, Reuter eventually received his degree in business administration in 1991. He worked in the field of human resources for 22 years, including his stint in the Navy and five years as an independent consultant.

He was first exposed to the legislative process as a lobbyist for Reuter, Inc., a waste management firm founded by his uncle. In the 1980s, the company was pushing recycling, composting and refuse-derived fuel as an alternative to landfills and mass incineration. Reuter made presentations before the Metropolitan Council, Legislature, city councils, and county boards, and eventually lobbied in 30 states.

“I am proud of the fact that, as a direct result of my efforts, we have many fewer mass incineration facilities in this country than we would have had,” Reuter said.

Now, as a legislator, he sits on the other side of the desk. “As a lobbyist, I had the easier job,” Reuter said. “Now I’m responsible for actually making laws.”

Reuter’s first exposure to party politics was as a Republican activist in Eden Prairie, where he and his family lived for 18 years. There, he ran for city council in 1982 and 1984 and for mayor in 1986. He lost all three races, but stayed active in the Republican Party, serving as a local officer and state delegate.

After moving to Owatonna, Reuter was offered a position on the executive committee of the Steele County Republicans in March 1996. The following month, incumbent Re-

publican Rep. Gary Worke announced that he would not seek re-election. Reuter quickly decided to run for the seat.

“Education, crime, the stadium, and welfare reform were the top issues during the campaign,” Reuter said. “The proposed Twins stadium is the number one issue that I have heard about since. Virtually none of my constituents favor public funding of the stadium.”

Since the election, another concern has emerged in Owatonna: property taxes. Lost state aid school funding and a \$29 million school bond referendum “combined to produce a large property tax increase, some as high as 200 percent,” he said.

The answer is to control spending, he said. “Coming from the private sector, there is no automatic 4 or 6 percent increase in spending every year. It’s tighten your belt, increase production while decreasing spending. We need to bring that attitude to government.”

— Steve Compton

District 28A

1996 population: 34,287

Largest city: Owatonna

Counties: Steele, Waseca

Location: southern Minnesota

Top concern: “Since the election, property taxes have become a huge issue in Owatonna. The school district lost state aid funding, and at the same time, a property tax increase was kicking in for a \$29 million school bond referendum. Those two combined to produce a large tax property increase, some as high as 200 percent.”

—Rep. Doug Reuter

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 296-2100

TTY*, Senate 296-0250

TTY*, House 296-9896

or 1-800-657-3550

1997 House finance committee/division accounts

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

Capital Investment

Capital Projects
Debt Service

Economic Development & International Trade

Economic Development Finance Division

Arts Board
Asian Pacific Americans Council
Black Minnesotans Council
Chicano Latino Affairs Council
Commerce Department
Economic Security Department
Historical Society
Humanities Commission
Indian Affairs Council
IRRRB
Labor & Industry Department
Labor Interpretive Center
Mediation Services Bureau
Minnesota Municipal Board
Minnesota Technology, Inc.
Non-Health Boards (4)
Public Service Department
Public Utilities Commission
Trade & Economic Development Department
Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals
World Trade Center

Housing & Housing Finance Division

Housing Finance Agency

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Academy of Science
Agriculture Utilization Research Institute
Agriculture Department
Animal Health Board
Ethanol Development
Environmental Assistance Office
Horticultural Society
LCMR
Minn.-Wis. Boundary Waters Commission
Minnesota Zoo
Natural Resources Department
Pollution Control Agency
Science Museum
Voyageurs National Park Council
Water Resources Board

Education

Higher Education Finance Division

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
University of Minnesota
Mayo Medical School

Higher Education Services Office
Higher Education Facilities Authority

K-12 Education Finance Division

Children, Families and Learning Department (except for programs listed under Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division)
CFL Administration
Education Finance
Faribault Academies
Minnesota Center for Arts Education
Permanent School Fund
Public Libraries

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division

Community Education & Adult Education including:

- Adult Basic Education Programs
- Adults with Disabilities Programs
- Adult Graduation Aid
- Community Education Programs
- Youth Development Programs (part of community education)
- Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)
- Extended Day Programs
- GED Test Reimbursement
- Hearing Impaired Adult Programs
- Learning Readiness
- Health Screening

Male Responsibility

Alcohol Impaired Driver Account Grants

Family Service Collaboratives

Part H

Violence Prevention Grants, Councils & Education

Way to Grow

Youth Enrichment Grants

Child Abuse Victims' Services

Child Care - Basic Sliding Fee

Child Care - Family Assistance

Children's Trust Fund

Community Services Block Grant

Drug Policy & Violence Prevention

Energy Assistance-Oil Program

Energy Assistance-Liquified Petroleum Program

Energy Assistance-State Energy Assistance

Energy Assistance-Energy Assistance Program (EAP)

Food Assistance-Food Banks/Shelf

Food Assistance-Emergency Food Assistance

Food Assistance-Community Food & Nutrition

Head Start

Housing Assistance-Transitional Housing

Housing Assistance-Emergency Shelter Grant

Housing Assistance-Rural Housing Assistance

Housing Assistance-Supplemental Housing-Homeless

Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grant

Weatherization-State Weatherization

Weatherization-Department of Energy Weatherization

Governmental Operations

State Government Finance Division

Administrative Hearings Office
Administration Department
Amateur Sports Commission
Attorney General
Capitol Area Architectural & Planning (CAAP) Board
Contingent Accounts
Disabled American Veterans
Employee Relations Department
Ethical Practices Board
Finance Department
Government Innovation & Cooperation Board
Governor & Lt. Governor
Intergovernmental Information Systems Advisory Council (IISAC)
Investment Board
Legislature, Legislative Commissions, Legislative Retirement
Lawful Gambling Control Board
Lottery Board
Military Affairs Department
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Pension Issues including PERA
Public Broadcasting
Racing Commission
Revenue Department
Salary Supplement
Secretary of State
State Auditor
State Treasurer
Strategic & Long Range Planning Office
Veterans Affairs Department
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Health & Human Services

Health & Human Services

Finance Division

Alternative Care Programs
Community Social Services Act
Council on Disabilities
Emergency Medical Services Board
Families Ombudsman
Group Residential Grants
Health Department
Health Boards (13)
Human Services Department
Mental Health & Mental Retardation Ombudsman
MinnesotaCare
State Residential Facilities
Veterans Homes Board

Judiciary

Judiciary Finance Division

Board of Judicial Standards
Corrections Department
Corrections Ombudsman
Court of Appeals
District Courts
Human Rights Department

Judges' Retirement
 Peace Officer Standards & Training Board (POST)
 Private Detective Board
 Public Defense Board
 Public Safety Department (except for programs listed under Transportation & Transit Finance Division)
 Crime Victims Ombudsman
 Crime Victims' Services
 Criminal Apprehension
 Emergency Management
 Fire Marshal
 Gambling Enforcement
 Liquor Control
 Sentencing Guidelines Commission
 Supreme Court
 Tax Court

Uniform Laws Commission

Taxes

Income Taxes
 Sales Taxes
 Other Taxes
 Property Taxes
 Property Tax Aids & Credits
 Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Transportation & Transit

Transportation
 & Transit Finance Division
 Metropolitan Council Transit Operations
 Minnesota Safety Council
 Public Safety Department (except for programs

listed under Judiciary Finance Division)
 - Administrative Services
 - Driver & Vehicle Services
 - Pipeline Services
 - State Patrol
 - Traffic Safety
 Transportation Department
 Transportation Regulation Board
 Trunk Highway Contingent Accounts

Source: House Fiscal Analysis Department

New members . . .

Johnson brings strong focus on children, education

For Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL-St. Peter), several of life's turning points have pivoted around Gustavus Adolphus College. Her father was a Gustavus student when she was



Rep. Ruth Johnson

born. After growing up in Nebraska, where her father was a Lutheran pastor, she, also, attended Gustavus Adolphus for her undergraduate work. Then, after receiving her master's degree from Indiana University, and working in various other places, she returned again to become the associate dean of students at Gustavus.

Now as a newly elected member of the House, Johnson has taken a leave of absence from her duties at the college to devote her full attention to the five-month legislative session. She is also negotiating with Gustavus to reduce her workload for the remainder of the year so that she can attend town meetings and respond to constituent calls and letters.

As a child, Johnson remembers herself as a patriotic Girl Scout and a Republican sympathizer. "How could you be against President Eisenhower?" In high school, she supported Barry Goldwater. "By the time I was 21, I voted for Hubert Humphrey," she said.

Like millions of other baby boomers, Johnson's political conversion took place in college around opposition to the Vietnam War. "I was involved in the anti-war movement at Gustavus and became friends of some of the guys in VVAW (Vietnam Veter-

ans Against the War) in graduate school," Johnson said. "Those were extremely shaping political movements for me. I recognized that we needed a change in our government and that the change would come from citizen involvement."

More practical political experience was to follow. She stayed on at Indiana University after graduate school to work in an experimental social justice program run by the Roger Williams Foundation. Later, while living and working in Kansas, Johnson volunteered on a congressional campaign where she "got an idea of what grassroots campaigning was all about." She also served on the Kansas Democratic Party's state affirmative action committee.

All of her previous political experience came into play last summer when former DFL Rep. Don Ostrom announced that he would not seek re-election in District 24B. After being encouraged by DFL party members, she decided to enter the race. "I had to hit the ground running in the middle of June and put a campaign together on very short notice," Johnson said.

"My district is typical small-town Minnesota," Johnson said. It includes parts of Nicollet, Le Sueur, and Blue Earth counties. The largest town is North Mankato. "People are concerned about kids," she said. "And the first place they look is education. That's perfect for me."

On her arrival at the Capitol, Johnson immediately joined in working on one education-related issue that is close to her heart. She and Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville)

are sponsoring an anti-hazing bill. If passed, the new law would explicitly prohibit student hazing. Such unofficial student initiatives have become traditions on some high school and college campuses. Hazings are typically humiliating and painful for the initiates and have occasionally resulted in injury and death.

"About two-thirds of the states have laws on the books against hazing," Johnson said. "Minnesota does not."

Much of the behavior involved in hazing is already illegal, Johnson said. But it is often difficult to prosecute or gain damages because, in most cases, the victim has consented to the hazing. "Our bill would remove consent as a defense. We also want to educate young people to realize that their legitimate desire to belong or go through a rite of passage can involve challenge but not risk. It was very helpful to us at Gustavus to put the word 'hazing' in our student conduct code," Johnson said.

—Steve Compton

District 24B

1996 population: 34,922
Largest city: North Mankato
Counties: Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Nicollet
Location: south central Minnesota
Top concern: "People are concerned about kids and the first place they look is education. There are also concerns about property taxes and about finding better paying job opportunities for young people so that they won't all move away."

—Rep. Ruth Johnson

Bill Introductions

HF343-HF542

Monday, Feb. 3

HF343—Kubly (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Housing Finance Agency home improvement loan authority granted related to severe weather damage.

HF344—Slawik (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Ombudsman for mental health and mental retardation services extended.

HF345—Folliard (DFL)
Education

Education fiscal year levy adjustment authorized related to the repeal of K-12 education appropriation caps.

HF346—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Reimbursement rate increases provided for personal care services, home and community based services for persons with mental retardation, adult residential program grants, adult and family community support grants, and money appropriated.

HF347—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program definitions provided, county public assistance incentives provided, business tax incentives provided, higher education accessibility provided to low-income persons, and money appropriated.

HF348—Mullery (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Economic development department reporting requirements eliminated, and wage and job reporting requirements modified.

HF349—Kahn (DFL)
Agriculture

Hemp; industrial hemp classified as an agricultural product, hemp growers license required, and regulatory authority transferred.

HF350—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary

Emergency 911 telephone call interruption prohibited, and criminal penalty provided.

HF351—Knoblach (R)
Health & Human Services

MinnesotaCare provider tax rate reduced.

HF352—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary

Terroristic threat crime expanded to include the display of replica grenades or explosive devices.

HF353—Swenson, D. (R)
Judiciary

Child in need of protection or services definition modified.

HF354—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Health care consumer protection and assistance provided, and money appropriated.

HF355—Bishop (R)
Judiciary

DWI-related offense forfeiture action filing fee exemption provided for local units of government.

HF356—Greiling (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Newspapers of official publication designation criteria provisions modified.

HF357—Sykora (R)
Education

Laboratory school establishment authorized, grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF358—Weaver (R)
Judiciary

Peace officers provided firearms restriction exemption while acting in the course of official duties.

HF359—Nornes (R)
Education

Open enrollment and post-secondary enrollment options programs expanded.

HF360—Leppik (R)
Environment & Natural Resources

State lottery proceed dedication to Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund duration extended until 2050, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF361—Solberg (DFL)
Agriculture

Wholesale food processor and manufacturer fees modified.

HF362—Weaver (R)
Judiciary

Public accommodation access discrimination based upon clothing insignia prohibited, and civil cause of action provided.

HF363—Molnau (R)
Transportation & Transit

Omnibus transportation appropriations bill.

HF364—Sviggum (R)
Economic Development & International Trade

Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board composition and appointment provisions modified.

HF365—Swenson, D. (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Liquor sale practices restricted between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. to prohibit discounted prices, multiple drinks, and increased alcohol volume or percentage.

HF366—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources

Omnibus agriculture and environment and natural resources appropriations bill.

HF367—Davids (R)
Health & Human Services

Omnibus mortuary science regulation bill.

HF368—Koppendrayner (R)
Education

Omnibus K-12 education appropriations bill.

HF369—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources

Hunting and fishing license and stamp identification and validation provisions modified.

HF370—Macklin (R)
Judiciary

Peace officers required to notify parents of juveniles accused of committing adult court traffic offenses.

HF371—Macklin (R)
Judiciary

Domestic abuse protection order violation provisions clarified.

HF372—Wolf (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Public Utilities Commission authorized to levy civil penalties against public utilities and telephone companies.

HF373—Dempsey (R)
Education

School calendar start date requirement repealed.

HF374—Knoblach (R)
Health & Human Services

Adoption assistance program cost reimbursement provisions modified.

HF375—Bettermann (R)
Education

Education investment fund and grant program established.

HF376—Smith (R)
Judiciary

Theft crimes to include tenant issuance of dishonored check to landlord for rent.

HF377—Sykora (R)
Education

Compensatory education revenue program provisions modified.

HF378—Finseth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources

Deer; taking of two deer under one license authorized in designated counties.

HF379—Abrams (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Small corporate securities offering registration and regulation provided.

HF380—Swenson, D. (R)
Judiciary

DWI-related offense license plate impoundment and vehicle forfeiture criteria expanded.

HF381—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Nonprofit health care trust defined and transaction agreement regulation provided.

HF382—Finseth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources

Hunting and fishing rights affirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF383—Finseth (R)
Taxes

Used farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently.

HF384—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations

State agency procurement procedures modified.

HF385—Swenson, H. (R)
Transportation & Transit

Trunk Highway No. 19 designated as Augie Mueller Memorial Highway.

HF386—Luther (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Dog training grants provided to organizations which train or provide service dogs for persons with disabilities, and money appropriated.

HF387—Wagenius (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Transportation department claim payment provided and liability provisions modified, and eminent domain provisions modified.

HF388—Tomassoni (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Insurance product sale and solicitation regulated.

HF389—Swenson, H. (R)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle license fee prorated payments allowed.

HF390—Knoblach (R)
Health & Human Services
Medical savings account federal income tax treatment provisions adopted.

HF391—Westfall (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Soil and water conservation district supervisor appointment provisions modified.

HF392—Lieder (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Metropolitan area highway construction designated toll facility project substitution allowed, municipal review and dispute resolution provided, transportation plan revision required, and technical changes provided.

HF393—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing home reimbursement formulas modified.

HF394—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing home contractual alternative payment demonstration project provisions modified.

HF395—Westrom (R)
Judiciary
Same-sex marriages not recognized or allowed.

HF396—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Naturopathic physician licensure provided, and criminal penalties provided.

HF397—Westrom (R)
Health & Human Services
Partial-birth abortions prohibited and criminal penalties provided.

HF398—Westrom (R)

Health & Human Services
Abortion; constitutional standard established relating to abortion, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF399—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Day training and habilitation services payment rate increase authorized.

HF400—Westrom (R)
Health & Human Services
Abortion informed consent required and civil cause of action provided.

HF401—Greiling (DFL)
Governmental Operations
State employee parking fee provisions modified.

HF402—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health maintenance organization regulatory provisions modified.

HF403—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Speech-language pathologist, unlicensed mental health practitioner, alcohol and drug counselor, and hearing instrument dispenser licensure requirements modified.

HF404—Abrams (R)
Education
Education fiscal year levy adjustment authorized related to the repeal of K-12 education appropriation caps.

HF405—Rhodes (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Insurance; Congress memorialized to pass legislation requiring insurance sales state law compliance.

HF406—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Snowmobile registration fees modified, liability insurance and safety education required, and criminal penalty provided.

HF407—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Snowmobile registration fees increased, snowmobile trail grants-in-aid provided, and money appropriated.

HF408—Solberg (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Direct reduction iron processing facility developed, and money appropriated.

HF409—Solberg (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Direct reduction iron processing facility developed, and money appropriated.

HF410—Skoglund (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Recreational vehicle operators fleeing peace officers provided criminal penalty.

HF411—Weaver (R)
Health & Human Services
Welfare fraud law expanded to include the failure to report changes in circumstances while receiving assistance, and criminal penalties provided.

HF412—Kubly (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Granite Falls appropriated money for river bank restoration.

HF413—Rest (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Job training income tax credit provided.

HF414—Smith (R)
Ways & Means
Legislative bill fiscal note requirement established.

HF415—Smith (R)
Ways & Means
Appropriations not to exceed consumer price index rate increases, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF416—Entenza (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Teachers Retirement Association service purchase credit purchase allowed for certain members on leave due to illness.

HF417—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
County payment provided related to number of visitors to state parks, and money appropriated.

HF418—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Red River Watershed Management Board authority provisions modified.

HF419—Tunheim (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Watershed district project cost payment through tax levy authorized.

HF420—Anderson, I. (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Staggered legislative elections provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF421—Molnau (R)
Health & Human Services
Belle Plaine nursing facility replacement bed moratorium exception provided.

HF422—McCullum (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Contaminated land industrial development provided, and money appropriated.

HF423—Orfield (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Metropolitan Council made an elective body and provided public campaign financing, and penalties imposed.

HF424—Koppendrayner (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Mille Lacs County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF425—Greiling (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Lobbyist restrictions and requirements modified.

HF426—Schumacher (DFL)
Judiciary
Firearms; right to bear arms not abridged, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF427—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
St. Paul, Ramsey County, Independent School District No. 625 joint property tax advisory committee duration extended.

HF428—Jefferson (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Minneapolis utility charge assessment procedure clarified.

HF429—Jefferson (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Real property fire loss escrow account provisions clarified.

HF430—Hasskamp (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Tourism money expenditure requirements modified.

HF431—Mullery (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Corporation and limited liability company provisions modified, and domestic corporation and limited liability company mergers permitted.

HF432—Entenza (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Civil Commitment Act provisions clarified and reorganized.

HF433—Entenza (DFL)**Judiciary**

Equal rights provided to men and women, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF434—Swenson, D. (R)**Judiciary**

Omnibus judiciary finance and corrections appropriations bill.

Thursday, Feb. 6

HF435—Wagenius (D L)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Environmental response and liability act provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF436—Wagenius (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Reduction and recycling advisory council established, duties specified, and duration provided.

HF437—Kelso (DFL)**Education**

Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, additional community-based charter school grant awards authorized.

HF438—Opatz (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Dentists exempted from state health care program participation requirement.

HF439—Leighton (DFL)**Judiciary**

Alternative dispute resolution presiders provided immunity from civil liability.

HF440—Chaudhary (DFL)**Judiciary**

Family support uniform interstate act enforcement provisions modified.

HF441—Orfield (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Uniform commercial code revised article 5 enacted, letters of credit regulated, and conforming changes provided.

HF442—Opatz (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Hospital construction moratorium provisions modified.

HF443—Luther (DFL)**Taxes**

Brooklyn Park economic development authority property tax certification authorized.

HF444—McCollum (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Persian gulf war veteran bonus payment program established, criminal penalty imposed for false application, and money appropriated.

HF445—Pugh (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Tort claims act exclusion provided for military affairs department and national guard.

HF446—Biernat (DFL)**Education**

Driver's license issuance prohibited to persons under age 18 who have failed to receive a passing score on the state high school graduation test or meet other educational requirements.

HF447—Murphy (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Obstetric and gynecologic service direct patient access provided by health plan companies.

HF448—Chaudhary (DFL)**Judiciary**

Unlawful acts against senior citizens and vulnerable adults prohibited, and civil action limitations provided.

HF449—Skare (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Becker, Clearwater, and Hubbard counties provided wind damage mitigation grants, and money appropriated.

HF450—Rest (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Legislative Audit Commission membership provisions modified.

HF451—Jennings (DFL)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Local regulation of telecommunication companies limited.

HF452—Entenza (DFL)**Taxes**

Cottage and camp federal land use property tax exemption provided.

HF453—McCollum (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Military Affairs Department requirements, duties, and procedures modified, language clarified, and army provisions modified.

HF454—Johnson, A. (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Collector motor vehicle single license plate issuance and display allowed.

HF455—Huntley (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Nursing home medical assistance certification moratorium provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF456—Milbert (DFL)**Taxes**

Real estate tax notice service provided.

HF457—Juhnke (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Transportation department federal construction project payment provisions modified, bridge inspection provisions clarified, procurement pilot project extended, municipal air transportation service assistance provided, technical corrections.

HF458—Juhnke (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Highway service sign placement provisions clarified, transportation department exempt rules preserved, highway related definitions modified, and obsolete references corrected.

HF459—Rest (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Municipal annexation state policy established.

HF460—Orfield (DFL)**Taxes**

Dependent care income tax credit expanded, and money appropriated.

HF461—Osskopp (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Wabasha appropriated money for development of the American Bald Eagle Center.

HF462—Erhardt (R)**Taxes**

Three-fifths legislative majority vote required for sales or income tax increases, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF463—Kubly (DFL)**Agriculture**

Passing on the Farm Center services expanded, and money appropriated.

HF464—Vickerman (R)**Judiciary**

Lower Sioux Indian community authorized to exercise law enforcement authority.

HF465—Jaros (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Motorboat use restriction petitions permitted for owners of land contiguous to a body of water.

HF466—Erhardt (R)**Taxes**

Materials used in providing taxable services exempted from sales and use taxes.

HF467—Rostberg (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

State lottery proceed dedication to Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund duration extended until 2050, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF468—Peterson (DFL)**Education**

School district size requirements removed related to debt service equalization aid eligibility, and money appropriated.

HF469—Otremba (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Hospital districts authorized to operate assisted living facilities.

HF470—Erhardt (R)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Term limits imposed on legislative and executive offices and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF471—Delmont (DFL)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Gambling Control Board granted license issuance and renewal authority.

HF472—Bishop (R)**Judiciary**

Sex offender release community notification cost reimbursement provided to local units of government, and money appropriated.

HF473—Chaudhary (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Preventive health and employee recognition program operation permitted by Metropolitan Council.

HF474—Kalis (DFL)**Education**

Independent School District No. 2835, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, debt service equalization aid qualification provided.

HF475—Kalis (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

FarmAmerica provided operating grants, and money appropriated.

HF476—Kalis (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

FarmAmerica provided operating grants, and money appropriated.

- HF477—Rest (DFL)**
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
County commissioners removed from the Minnesota Municipal Board.
- HF478—Wagenius (DFL)**
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
SCORE; Office of Environmental Assistance authorized to carry forward waste management block grants.
- HF479—Farrell (DFL)**
Economic Development & International Trade
Crime prevention program grants awarded to certain first-class cities, and money appropriated.
- HF480—Westrom (R)**
Education
Statewide uniform educational testing provided, and money appropriated.
- HF481—Erhardt (R)**
Regulated Industries & Energy
State lottery advertising practices restricted and gross revenue use for advertising reduced.
- HF482—Farrell (DFL)**
Judiciary
Criminal gang council and strike force established, grants authorized, and money appropriated.
- HF483—Olson, E. (DFL)**
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal emergency service fee establishment authorized.
- HF484—Skoglund (DFL)**
Judiciary
Corrections officers authorized to carry firearms in the performance of official duties.
- HF485—Tingelstad (R)**
Health & Human Services
Lead and asbestos abatement and inspection provisions modified, infant testing provisions modified, elderly housing with service licensing provisions modified, and traumatic brain and spinal cord injury data provisions modified.
- HF486—Haas (R)**
Judiciary
Inmates barred from computer on-line service use.
- HF487—Greenfield (DFL)**
Health & Human Services
Hospital medical assistance surcharge tax eliminated, and hospital MinnesotaCare surcharge tax increased.
- HF488—Rest (DFL)**
Governmental Operations
MSRS, Teachers Retirement Association, and first-class city teachers retirement association members authorized service credit purchase for voluntary military service.
- HF489—Murphy (DFL)**
Taxes
Capital gains tax exclusion provided for the sale of property used as a principal residence.
- HF490—Koppendray (R)**
Health & Human Services
Physician assistant advisory council established.
- HF491—Koppendray (R)**
Health & Human Services
Physician assistants authorized to render emergency medical care without physician supervision, and liability immunity provided.
- HF492—Knoblach (R)**
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Legislature reduced in size to 45 senators and 90 representatives.
- HF493—Rostberg (R)**
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Election expense reallocation provided, and money appropriated.
- HF494—Rostberg (R)**
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Legislature reduced in size to 50 senators and 100 representatives.
- HF495—Osskopp (R)**
Regulated Industries & Energy
Gambling lawful purpose expenditures to include acquisition of property to replace property under threat of acquisition by eminent domain.
- HF496—Slawik (DFL)**
Health & Human Services
Ambulance service financial data collection system established, and money appropriated.
- HF497—Rest (DFL)**
Taxes
Proposed property tax notice and truth in taxation advertising provisions modified.
- HF498—Greenfield (DFL)**
Health and Human Services
Physician designation use clarified.
- HF499—McCollum (DFL)**
Health & Human Services
Physician licensure surcharge exemptions provided.
- HF500—Pugh (DFL)**
Judiciary
Public defender document copying fee imposed by government agencies.
- HF501—Evans (DFL)**
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Laurentian Environmental Learning Center renovation provided, and money appropriated.
- HF502—Opatz (DFL)**
Judiciary
FDA approved product or device liability case punitive damage limitation provided.
- HF503—Olson, E. (DFL)**
Environment & Natural Resources
Beaver Damage Control Board established, and money appropriated.
- HF504—Murphy (DFL)**
Judiciary
Probation defined, probation service provider jurisdiction clarified, and probation policies adopted.
- HF505—Westrom (R)**
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Legislative service limited to 10 years in the House of Representatives and 12 years in the Senate, and constitutional amendment proposed.
- HF506—Swenson, D. (R)**
Transportation & Transit
School bus safety regulated, student school bus conduct requirements developed, accident reporting provided, and penalties provided.
- HF507—Olson, E. (DFL)**
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Partition fence cost share apportioned to the state and counties.
- HF508—Tomassoni (DFL)**
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Taconite company restraint of trade provisions modified.
- HF509—Murphy (DFL)**
Judiciary
Deadly force use against a peace officer provided mandatory minimum sentence.
- HF510—Rest (DFL)**
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Waste management and treatment procedures provided for unincorporated areas.
- HF511—Otremba (DFL)**
Health & Human Services
Rural hospital grant and loan program established, physician license surcharge eliminated, health care commission membership modified, and money appropriated.
- HF512—Rest (DFL)**
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal bankruptcy filing authorized.
- HF513—Koskinen (DFL)**
Health & Human Services
Human services nonentitlement grant program consolidation authority provided.
- HF514—Wejcman (DFL)**
Health & Human Services
Living skills training program for persons with intractable epilepsy appropriated money.
- HF515—Evans (DFL)**
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Tobacco retail license establishment required by local units of government, vendor compliance checks provided, and mandatory penalties provided for sales to minors.
- HF516—Goodno (R)**
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal unincorporated land development limited.
- HF517—Clark (DFL)**
Economic Development & International Trade
Housing accessibility loan fund eligibility modified, equity take-out loans authorized for 236 rental property, special needs housing for homeless persons program repealed, and housing trust fund project provisions clarified.
- HF518—Entenza (DFL)**
Governmental Operations
Sign language interpreters provided for meetings with legislators.
- HF519—Mares (R)**
Education
Health and physical education instruction required, and health education included in teacher preparation programs.
- HF520—Rest (DFL)**
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal joint planning and aid provided in certain instances.

HF521—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Group residential housing supplementary rates provided.

HF522—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Licensed health care and human services program applicant background study process modified.

HF523—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Ways & Means
K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF524—Tunheim (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Malt liquor importation permit required.

HF525—Tunheim (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Liquor retailer liability insurance requirements modified.

HF526—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
Animal cruelty penalties increased and definitions provided.

HF527—McCollum (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Veterans employment preference act provisions modified.

HF528—McCollum (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Employee invention agreements regulated.

HF529—McCollum (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk Highway No. 36 in North St. Paul pedestrian-bicycle overpass construction required.

HF530—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Weed and seed; crime, drug, and illegal activity eradication program grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF531—Pawlenty (R)
Judiciary
Tobacco smoke exposure considered in child custody and visitation decisions.

HF532—Rest (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipalities allowed to transfer local board of review duties and responsibilities to counties.

HF533—McGuire (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Tobacco retail license establishment required by local units of government, vendor compliance checks provided, and mandatory penalties provided for sales to minors.

HF534—Pugh (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Commitment proceeding provisions and state liens for cost of care provisions modified.

HF535—Juhnke (DFL)
Agriculture
Bison designated as livestock, and federal food rule conformity provided.

HF536—Juhnke (DFL)
Agriculture
Minnesota commercial feed law provisions modified.

HF537—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Large energy facility definition expanded to include high voltage transmission lines that cross the state boundary.

HF538—Knoblach (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Business incentives; Congress memorialized to mitigate economic competition among states related to targeted business incentive programs.

HF539—Bishop (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
State lottery proceed dedication to environment and natural resources trust fund duration extended until 2050, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF540—Delmont (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Home care service reimbursement rate increased.

HF541—Bishop (R)
Judiciary
Sex offender release community notification provisions clarified.

HF542—Rest (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal incorporation, detachment, and annexation authority transferred to the office of strategic and long-range planning and the office of administrative hearings, and money appropriated.



When the Department of Administration presented its budget request to the Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division Feb. 5, they asked for funding to hire additional staff to inspect the thousands of elevators scattered throughout Minnesota.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) asked the administration spokesman if any of those new inspectors would be stationed in rural Minnesota.

"Do they have elevators in rural Minnesota?" asked Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), provoking laughter from the committee.

"I thought you were going to ask if they went all the way to the top," said Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul).

While this winter's bitter cold and record snowfall have recently given way to balmy temperatures in the 30s, some state officials aren't necessarily looking forward to spring thaws.

In recent testimony before the House Judiciary Committee, Jim Franklin, director of emergency management for the Department of Public Safety, explained his rather grim duties: "We're the people who spend all their time considering natural disasters."

Currently, Franklin said, his department is planning for projected spring floods. Given the high water content of the packed snow now in huge drifts throughout Minnesota — and in southwestern Minnesota in particular — winter's end could spell trouble.

"It is very difficult for me to study for citizenship," said Yur Hang. The elderly Vietnamese woman was testifying Jan. 30 before Senate and House lawmakers looking at how federal welfare cuts will affect legal immigrants. "Even the senators and representatives of Minnesota, I don't know," she admitted, gesturing toward the committees.

Sen. John Hottinger quickly responded, "Let me assure you that you are not the only one here who doesn't know who we are."

None of the accounting software programs used throughout the vast network of state offices knows what to make of the digits "00" when used to signify a year — such as the year 2000. Nor can they accommodate a four-digit year code.

The legislative auditor's office on Feb. 6 told members of the House Governmental Operations Committee that new software must be purchased for the government to continue to function. Millions of transactions will become impossible, such as writing paychecks, paying Medicare and Medicaid bills, or paying vendors.

"The problem touches on virtually every business transaction the state has," said Legislative Auditor Jim Nobles. "The state needs \$25 million currently not appropriated to rewrite the computer code to accommodate dates in the 21st century. The state's business depends on this problem being solved."

It seems the government's only option regards when, not whether, it will solve what has come to be known as "the year 2000 problem."

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
For information updates, call
House Calls at (612) 296-9283.
All meetings are open to the public.
Sign language interpreter services:
(612) 282-2331 v/tty
To have the daily and weekly schedules
delivered to your e-mail address, send a
message to:
listserv@hsched.house.leg.state.mn.us
In the body of the message type:
subscribe h-schedules

MONDAY, Feb. 10

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Presentations from the Bureau of
Mediation and Minnesota Technology, Inc.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Higher education systems cooperation,
Nils Hasselmo, president University of Minnesota;
Judith Eaton, chancellor, Minnesota State Colleges
and Universities (MnSCU); and David Laird,
president, Minnesota Private College Council.

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

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Overview of Governor Carlson's K-12
budget recommendations General Education
Program, Tom Melcher, Department of Children,
Families, and Learning.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF)
Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF293 (Johnson, A.) Income, sales,
property and MinnesotaCare tax technical
corrections.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Budget hearing: Zoological Gardens; and
Intragrated Resource Management Report.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: Continued presentations by Minnesota
agricultural organizations: Minnesota Wheat
Growers Association, Minnesota Barley Growers,
Minnesota Sugarbeet Growers, Minnesota Turkey
Growers, Minnesota COACT, Farm Credit
Services, Northwest Agri-Dealers Association,
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers, Minnesota
Agri-Growth Council, Dairies Federation of
Minnesota, Minnesota Milk Producers
Association, and Minnesota Association of
Cooperatives.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: Reports from the Minnesota Forest
Resources Council and the White Pine
Regeneration Strategies Work Group.

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

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Continuation of The Department of
Human Services presentation of the governor's
recommendation for the department's economic
support programs.

JUDICIARY

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

Agenda: Overview of Sentencing Guidelines
system, Deb Dailey, director, Sentencing
Guidelines Commission.
HF88 (Evans) Clarifying that the application of
the sentencing guidelines system is not a right
that the defendant may waive.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Special projects review: Year 2000
Initiative, Bev Schuft, director, Information
Policy Office.

12:30 p.m.

**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Division/EDUCATION**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Program reviews: Early Childhood
Family Education (ECFE) Way to Grow.

**GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS
AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS**

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

Agenda: HFXXXX (McCollum) Department of
Military Affairs housekeeping bill.
HFXXXX (Pugh) Department of Military Affairs

bill adding an exclusion to the Tort Claims Act.
HFXXXX (McCollum) Employment rights
modified relating to Veterans preference.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: Overview: Dislocated Workers Program.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

TUESDAY, Feb. 11

8 a.m.

**Subcommittee on
Quality Initiatives/EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza

Agenda: Statewide testing.

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Effects of state criminal justice policies
of courts, Department of Corrections,
Department of Public Safety and public defenders
on county budgets. Explanation of three probation
systems: AMC; Department of Corrections.
Criminal Justice Aid.

**Transportation & Transit
Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: Budget overviews by Minnesota Safety
Council. Budget overview by the Department of
Transportation: Rural Transit, Donna Allen.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Presentations from local units of
government on the fiscal impact of the Pollution
Control Agency, Department of Natural
Resources, and the Department of Agriculture
fees on cities, counties, and townships.

10 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: Welfare reform: Nonprofit organizations.
Public testimony.

HF374 (Knoblach) Relating to adoption reimbursements.
HF289 (Johnson, R.) Relating to Human Services.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

Tour
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
Agenda: Tour of Mary Hall in St. Paul and Community Rehab Project in West St. Paul.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Budget review: Public broadcasting.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: HF293 (Johnson, A.) Income, sales, property and MinnesotaCare tax technical corrections.
HF125 (Sviggum) Kenyon tax levy recertification authorized.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: Statewide building access status report, Dennis Spalla, assistant commissioner, Department of Administration. American Disabilities Act/Prison Projects, Margot Imdieke, Council on Disabilities and Dennis Benson, assistant commissioner, Department of Corrections.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER
AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim
Agenda: Presentation by Tom Brownell, director, Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division, Department of Public Safety. Presentation by the Minnesota beverage industry. Minnesota demographics and housing, Glen Dorfman, Minnesota Association of Realtors.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: To be announced.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: Discussion of Federal Communications Act-update and impact. Presentations by JoAnn Hansen, Department of Public Service; representative from the Attorney General's Office; representative from the Public Utilities Commission; Michael Martin, executive director, Minnesota Cable Communications Association; Phyllis Harvin, U.S. West Communications; and Jerry Knickerbocker, Minnesota Telephone Association.

4:30 p.m.

Capitol Forum Series 1997

Minnesota History Center
Agenda: Presentation by Jennifer James, Ph.D., cultural anthropologist and author of "Thinking in the Future Tense."

5 p.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Whitney Senior Center
St. Cloud, Minnesota
Chr. Rep. John Dorn
Agenda: Welfare reform. Public testimony.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 12

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: Presentation from the Iron Range Resource & Rehabilitation Board.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: HF108 (Tomassoni) Technical college employee benefits.
MSUSA Student Lobby Day. Testimony.

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: To be announced.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF)
Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson
Agenda: Overview of Tax Increment Financing.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Budget hearing: interagency water monitoring initiative; interagency community technical assistance and education.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: HF406 (Peterson) Snowmobile registration fees modified; liability insurance and safety education required; and criminal penalty provided.
HF407 (Bakk) Snowmobile registration fees increased; snowmobile trail grants provided; and money appropriated.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson
Agenda: HF56 (Kahn) Minnesota electronic authentication act adopted; electronic signature and message transmission use, validity, and security provided, and penalties prescribed.

Health & Human Services

**Finance Division/
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 10 agenda.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 10 agenda.
Overview of the Department of Corrections.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Budget review: Minnesota Office of Technology, John Gunyou, director.

12:30 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins
Agenda: HF218 (Mullery) relating to liens; clarifying the effect of service of notice in certain instances.
HF220 (Mullery) relating to property; validating certain conveyances by religious corporations; requiring published notice of dispositions of certain real property in a marriage dissolution action; etc.
HF246 (Dawkins) relating to public nuisance; adding to the acts that constitute a nuisance; etc.
HFXXXX (Chaudhary) relating to landlord-tenant nuisance laws.

**Family & Early Childhood Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: Program reviews: Learning Readiness; Early Childhood Screening; and Part H.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: To be announced.

1 p.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros
Agenda: Presentation on the economic status of women, Aviva Breen.
HF348 (Mullery) Department of Trade and Economic Development housekeeping bill.
HF50 (Jaros) Trade and economic development officers to be placed in tourism offices.

2 p.m.

**Legislative Commission on
Pensions and Retirement**

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. To be announced
Agenda: Mandated studies: Review of draft report formulated on behalf of the special task force on investment performance attribution reporting. Review of draft report on the comparison of defined contribution pension plans and defined benefit pension plans. Review of draft report on the study of providing pension plan coverage for

educational breaks in service for regional treatment center and related Department of Human Services employees. Report on the use of Police State Aid to fund PERA-P&F pension coverage for salaried firefighters.

2:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Gaming/
REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Delmont
Agenda: To be announced.

THURSDAY, Feb. 13

8 a.m.

**Economic Development Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: Presentations by Displaced Homemakers and Minnesota Technology, Inc.

Subcommittee on Facilities/EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Geri Evans
Agenda: Air quality in schools. Public testimony.

**Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/
EDUCATION**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza
Agenda: Statewide testing.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: HF100 (Wenzel) Emergency snow removal funding provided, and money appropriated.
Working groups will meet.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Budget hearing: BWSR and Horticulture Society.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson
Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn
Agenda: Welfare reform. Public testimony.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
Agenda: HF132 (Luther) Housing and redevelopment authorities occupancy standard determination provisions modified.
HF99 (Clark) Emergency human services grant program established, and money appropriated.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Budget reviews: Minnesota Office of Technology, John Gunyou, Director; Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Discussion of Legislative Auditor's report on performance measures at the Department of Revenue, Jody Hauer, Legislative Auditor's Office and James Girard, commissioner, Department of Revenue.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: HFXXXX (Folliard) Hopkins Performing Arts Center.
Capital budget priority resolution, Rep. Jim Knoblach.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM
& CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim
Agenda: HF340 (Harder) Cigarette and tobacco sales taxes recodified, criminal and civil penalties provided, and money appropriated.
HF341 (Daggett) Liquor taxes recodified, civil and criminal penalties, and money appropriated.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: To be announced

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: HFXXXX (Jennings) Certificate of need for power lines crossing state borders.
HFXXXX (Jennings) Indemnification of science advisors studying stray voltage.
HFXXXX (Jennings) Certification of need exemption in certain conditions.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

**Hennepin County
Legislative Delegation**

200 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Ron Abrams,
Rep. Linda Wejcman
Agenda: Criminal justice issues.

FRIDAY, Feb. 14

8 a.m.

**Transportation & Transit Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: Budget overview by the Department of Transportation.

10 a.m.

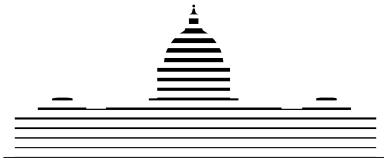
**Health & Human Services Finance Division/
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Conclusion of the Department of Human Services presentation of the Governor's recommendations for the department's economic support programs.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel
Agenda: Report from the Legislative Auditor on ethanol.



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Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota baseball and stadiums

Year that professional baseball began in Minnesota	1884
Year that Charles Comiskey moved his baseball franchise from St. Paul to Chicago	1900
Pennants won by each of the Minneapolis and St.Paul American Association teams	9
Seats taken from Griffith Stadium, in Washington D.C. (used by the Washington Senators from 1911-1960) and moved to Tinker Field, in Orlando, Fla., former spring training home of the Minnesota Twins	909
Metropolitan Stadium fans forced into parking lots and the outfield grass on Aug. 25, 1970, because of a bomb scare	17,967
Modern ballparks abandoned before the Twins left Metropolitan Stadium	0
Cubic feet of air pressure needed to keep the Hubert H. Metrodome inflated	250,000
Times that heavy snow has caused the Metrodome to deflate	3
Baseball games postponed due to a Metrodome roof collapse	1
Height of the Metrodome, at its apex, in feet	195
Cost to build the Metrodome, in millions	\$68
Multi-sport facilities built in the United States since the Metrodome was completed in 1981	0
Total cost to build Metropolitan Stadium in Bloomington, 1955, in millions ..	\$10.3
Estimated cost of the proposed convertible-roof stadium unveiled Jan. 31 by the Minnesota Twins, in millions	\$310-350
Time it will take to open or close the roof, in minutes	15
Projected seating capacity	42,000
Largest baseball crowd in Twin's history, Oct. 25, 1987	55,376
Smallest paying crowd ever, Sept. 20, 1965	537
Year that Dodger Stadium was built, the last privately funded Major League ballpark	1962
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Additional stadiums scheduled to be built by the year 2000	5
Teams currently building or exploring options to built a new ballpark	13
Number of Major League Baseball's 28 teams that have been in their current stadiums for at least 30 years	8
Of those, teams now building or looking to build a new stadium	5
Twins season ticket holders, 1996	8,600
Free Twins tickets given to inner-city youth programs each summer through Kirby Puckett's "Because We Care" program	30,000

Sources: Major League Baseball; Minnesota Twins; Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission; Ballparks by Munsey & Suppes (<http://www.ballparks.com>); *Uncovering the Dome*, Amy Klobuchar.

For more information



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SESSION WEEKLY

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SESSION WEEKLY

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Session Weekly is a non-partisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1997-98 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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Week at a glance

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Future of the white pine — A Department of Natural Resources work group on regenerating the white pine told the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee that the state should set aside money to help regrow the white pine in Minnesota. Page 6

Ghosts in the machine — The stroke of midnight on Jan. 1, 2000, could mark more than a new millennium — it could signal the start of a massive failure in Minnesota's computer systems, a state official said Feb. 10. Page 7

College bonds — A bill to help families save for their children's college education won approval from a House panel Feb. 12. The bill would allow the sale of state and federal bonds in increments as low as \$500. Page 7

Helping the homeless — A bill to provide up to \$15 million in grants to aid the homeless has won approval from a House panel. Page 7

Helping dislocated workers — A plan by Gov. Arne Carlson to slash the budget of Minnesota's Dislocated Worker Program received no endorsement from the person he appointed to oversee it. Page 8

Snow cleanup costs — A second House panel has approved a proposal to mark \$20 million to help cities and counties recoup some of their weather-related costs. Page 9

Protecting kids in carts — Small children accompanying mom or dad to the grocery store would be less likely to become a casualty under legislation approved by a House committee. The bill would require retailers to equip their shopping carts with child-protective devices. Page 9

New member — After two years of watching from the sideline, Rep. Kathleen Sekhon (DFL-Burns Township) has returned to the House Page 10

Morphin' Culture — Comparing the Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers to the Lone Ranger, a cultural anthropologist lectured Minnesota lawmakers on the skills Americans will need to survive in our rapidly changing culture. Page 11

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On the cover: Members of the Housing and Housing Finance Division Feb. 11 toured a community housing rehabilitation project located on St. Paul's West Side.

—Photo by Laura Phillips

Highlights

Snowmobile tragedies . . .

Lawmakers aim to make snowmobiles, trails safer

In the wake of recent tragedies involving high speeds, snowmobiles, and innocent children, state lawmakers are exploring possible solutions to an increasing winter problem.

Stacy Schlosser, 15, and Joshua Renken, 10, are among the record-tying 26 Minnesotans killed in snowmobile-related accidents this season. Their parents brought the heart-wrenching stories of their children's deaths to the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 12, where the panel approved two bills to further regulate snowmobiling.

"Do you know what it is like to have to look at an empty chair at the supper table every night?" Jan Schlosser tearfully asked committee members. Schlosser's daughter, Stacy, was killed while walking with her twin sister, Sonia, and some friends on Dec. 22 near East Bethel, Minn.

Schlosser said that a lot of people say that the problem is mostly with younger snowmobilers. "But the man who hit Stacy was 42 years old, had been in a bar, and was going down 183rd Ave. at 80 miles per hour.

"The fact that the state does not require licensing, training [for adults], or insurance is just incredible," she said. "I'm not trying



The rising number of deaths in Minnesota from snowmobile accidents has prompted lawmakers to introduce a bill that would require snowmobilers to take a state-approved safety course and carry liability insurance. Snowmobilers under 18 would be required to wear a helmet. The House Environment and Natural Resources Committee approved the bill Feb. 12.

was 20 years old and also had been drinking before the accident. The man had a previous conviction for driving under the influence. "Not every road leads to a bar. But if you pick up a snowmobile map, you will see that many of the trails lead to bars," she said.

Both mothers urged legislators to enact tougher laws regulating snowmobiling. Schlosser called for the nighttime speed limit

to be lowered from 50 to 30 miles per hour. The bill also would require all snowmobile owners to carry a minimum level of liability insurance coverage and mandate that riders under 18 wear a protective helmet.

And nighttime speeds would be curtailed. Current law has a maximum speed limit of 50 miles per hour on public lands or waters. **HF406** would lower that to 40 miles per hour between sunset and sunrise. The bill has the support of the Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association.

Most of the committee's discussion focused on those who consume alcohol and ride. About 50 percent of snowmobile accidents are alcohol-related, Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) said. The current proposals would not change the state's DWI laws.

Under current law, first time DWI offenders face up to 90 days in jail and a \$700 fine. Repeat offenders face up to a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine. Both penalties are the same as those for driving under the influence on Minnesota roads. The penalties accumulate with the offenses regardless of whether they are committed on a snowmobile or in a car. Drunk drivers in cars face tougher penalties if they have a previous conviction for DWI on a snowmobile, and the reverse is true as well.

"The fact that the state does not require licensing, training [for adults], or insurance is just incredible. . . . I'm not trying to say 'let's ban snowmobiles.' But there are a few snowmobilers who must be stopped."

—Jan Schlosser

to say 'let's ban snowmobiles.' But there are a few snowmobilers who must be stopped."

Lori Renken of Big Lake, Minn., was sobbing as she described the death of her 10-year-old son, Joshua, who was killed last month while crossing the street in front of his home. "It's only been three weeks and I'm in a lot of anger right now," Renken began. "I don't know how to shop for groceries anymore. I went shopping yesterday and I'm still buying the things Josh liked."

Renken said that the man who hit her son

to be lowered from 50 to 30 miles per hour. "Please, please pay attention," Renken pleaded.

HF406, sponsored by Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison), addresses many of the concerns of both mothers.

The proposal, unanimously approved by the committee, would mandate that all snowmobilers take a state-approved safety course before they can ride. Current law only requires those under 18 to take the course before riding on state trails and wa-

Aside from criminal penalties, snowmobilers convicted of riding drunk will have their operating privileges revoked for a year. Those convicted of a DWI while driving a car, however, do not have their snowmobile privileges suspended.

Snowmobilers Michael and Eugene Krueger urged lawmakers not to blame all snowmobilers for the problems created by a few. "I've been a snowmobiler all my life and I don't drink and ride and I never will," said Michael Krueger.

His father, Eugene, told the panel the law needs to come down harder on those who ride while intoxicated. "The problem has to be stopped at the bars."

The elder Krueger said he opposed raising operator fees. "I'm all for training and insurance," he said. "But if you are going to require it you need to regulate the insurance companies so they don't take advantage of us."

HF406 also calls for doubling the current snowmobile registration fee — to \$60 from \$30 every three years — for machines with engine displacements over 335 cubic centimeters. Those fees go into a state account to maintain state snowmobile trails. Many look to an overburdened, underfunded, and out-of-date trail system as part of the problem as well.

"Snowmobiling is a sport that took off in the 1970s and has continued to grow," Peterson said. "Now we have a \$1 billion-a-year sport operating on 1970s trails, 1970s laws, and 1970s enforcement. We need to catch up to the 1990s."

Peterson's bill also calls for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to adopt rules for safety standards on state-supported trails.

The committee also passed a bill (**HF410**) to increase the penalty for operators of snowmobiles and other off-the-road vehicles who flee from law enforcement officers.

Sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), the bill would make it a gross misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine. Causing the death of someone while fleeing could result in 10 years imprisonment and a \$20,000 fine. Under current law, fleeing an officer is a misdemeanor, carrying a penalty of up to 90 days in jail and a \$700 fine.

Some snowmobilers would rather flee and face a misdemeanor charge later when they have sobered up than stop for a law enforcement officer and get the stiffer drunken driving penalty, Skoglund told the panel. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that DNR conservation officers are riding older and



Jan Schlosser of Wyoming, Minn., stopped her testimony to recompose herself before continuing to tell the Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 12 of how her daughter, Stacy, was killed by a snowmobiler.

slower snowmobiles and many riders know they can get away, he added.

HF406 now moves to the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee. **HF410** was sent to the House Judiciary Committee.

—Steve Compton



CHILDREN

Special-needs adoptions

A bill to better reimburse licensed private adoption agencies who help place children, often from abusive homes, with new adoptive families is on its way to the House floor.

Currently, the Minnesota Department of Human Services reimburses licensed private adoption agencies a maximum of \$4,000 per case and the cap hasn't increased since 1986. Today, it costs agencies from \$8,000 to \$13,000 to place a single child with special needs, said Bob DeNardo, a supervisor in the department's family and children services division.

Under the bill (**HF374**), sponsored by Rep. Jim Knobloch (R-St. Cloud), there would be

no cap on the reimbursement as long as the adoption services for the child were deemed to be "reasonable and appropriate." The Department of Human Services would review each reimbursement request.

The bill won approval from the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 11.

The adoption reimbursement helps compensate the private agency for recruiting families, matching them with the right special needs child, and preparing the family for the child through education, counseling, and home visits.

Special-needs children are part of the Adoption Assistance Program and in many cases, have been severely neglected or abused and their parents have relinquished their parental rights to the state. The child may not only suffer from physical problems but from behavioral, mental, and emotional ones as well. Children who do not come from abusive homes, but who are severely disabled or have chronic health problems, can also be considered special-needs children if their parents have relinquished their parental rights.

These children often wait in foster care until someone wants them, DeNardo said.

Currently, there are 813 children in Minnesota who are considered wards of the state. Each year, about 275 to 330 are placed in permanent adoptive homes, DeNardo said.

Last year, more money was set aside for reimbursement for private adoption agencies, but steps to remove the cap have been tied up by a departmental rulemaking procedure. The longer state officials wait to make the change, the greater the risk that fewer children with special needs will be placed.

The current \$4,000 cap discourages private agencies, especially the small ones, from actively seeking families for special-needs kids, DeNardo said, because they cannot recoup their costs.

The bill is designed to speed things up. It now moves to the House floor where it could be placed on the Consent Calendar, which lists non-controversial bills.

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CONSUMERS

Stop the slamming

It's still happening: A long-distance telephone company switches a customer's service without the customer's knowledge or approval.

It's called "slamming" and the methods employed include a check, a sweepstakes form, or a survey. But what the unknowing individual or business doesn't realize is that by participating or signing, they've authorized a switch in their long-distance company.

Members of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee discussed the problem Feb. 11.

The 1996 Legislature passed a law to deal with slamming. It states that a customer can have his or her original service reinstated at no charge and be re-billed if the original charges would have been lower. Further, a long-distance company may be liable for civil penalties if it fails to take appropriate actions, according to Eric Swanson of the Office of the Attorney General.

Because most of the provisions took effect on Jan. 1, 1997, it's too soon to assess the law's impact.

Swanson said the best defense is still to be careful. Also, local companies will "freeze" a customer's long-distance service upon request, making it immune to slamming. That, however, prevents customers from taking advantage of offers for lower rates, he said.

Law or no law on the books, "the problem is likely to become even bigger as competition increases," Swanson added.



DEVELOPMENT

Statewide development

Rural Minnesotans might get a boost in their business community, and homeowners could get state-backed loans to fix any damage done by winter storms under legislation approved by the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee Feb. 12.

HF50, sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth), allows Minnesota's commissioner of trade and economic development to establish at least three trade and economic development officers in non-metropolitan areas. The trade officials will most likely work in outstate tourism offices with local governments to increase economic development.



Jean Herron, a Head Start teacher in South Minneapolis, holds 16-month-old Ebony Hearst of Minneapolis as she enjoys a cookie at the end of the "Head Start on the Hill" rally in the Capitol rotunda Feb. 12.

"I think it would be really good for the department to have a presence in northern Minnesota, central Minnesota, and southern Minnesota," Jaros said, testifying for the bill. "It won't cost any more and . . . it might even save money."

Economic development officers, he said, would be able to cut down on travel if they were stationed closer to the communities with which they work.

The committee also approved legislation sponsored by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) that authorizes the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to make emergency loans to homeowners.

Under **HF343**, loans of up to \$10,000 would be made to low-income home owners and could be used only for repairs that would prevent damage to the property from severe weather conditions, such as winter storms or spring floods. The legislation, which would become effective immediately after passage and expire July 1, 1997, would allow low-income homeowners to borrow at no interest and to defer repayment. Borrowers with slightly higher incomes would pay an interest rate of 3 percent.

The loan would be forgiven if the borrower lives in the home for 10 years after receiving the money, and it comes due only if the building is sold during that 10-year period.

Both bills now head to the House floor.



EDUCATION

Solution on caps, testing

A bill that would remove statutory caps on education spending and require uniform statewide testing of public school students is headed to Gov. Arne Carlson's desk.

The bill (**HF1*/SF3**) won final passage in the House Feb. 12 on a 129-2 vote. The Senate passed the bill Feb. 13 on a 62-0 vote.

Action on the bill came quickly on the heels of an agreement among legislative leaders to speed its passage. The bill would lift spending caps that, if left in place, would require school districts to absorb a \$337 million cut in funding for the next biennium.

The bill also repeals a current law prohibiting statewide testing, and includes a provision to require statewide testing to begin during the 1997-1998 school year, said Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park). Johnson and Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon) sponsored the bills.

The specifics on how the statewide assessment system would work will be included in separate legislation to be constructed during this session, Johnson said.

Rep. LeRoy Koppendray (R-Princeton) urged support of the bill during debate on the House floor.

"If there are two things the public wants, they want us to fund education adequately, and they want education to have accountability," Koppendray said.

School district officials from around the

state have urged lawmakers to move quickly this session to repeal the education spending caps. Many districts are already forming their budgets for the next school year, and with the caps in place, must plan for program cutbacks and layoffs.

The House passed a bill to repeal the caps Jan. 30 on a 133-0 vote. The Senate passed the bill Feb. 3, but added an amendment that would require statewide standardized testing of Minnesota students. The move temporarily stalled further action on the bill.

Statewide testing has been trumpeted by supporters as a way to increase accountability in public schools by providing a reliable measurement of student and school performance that can be compared to results from other districts and states.

House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) said at a Feb. 10 press conference that he and other legislative leaders worked together to avoid a prolonged debate on statewide testing, which would further delay the passage of **HF1*/SF3**.

The agreement, struck by majority and minority caucus leaders from both chambers, eventually led to the bill that won final passage in the House and Senate.

The agreement also calls for the creation of a joint House-Senate committee to devise separate legislation prescribing exactly how statewide testing would be implemented.

"It's a win-win situation," said House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon). "It's certainly a win for the [school] systems, as they will get the funding that they need. And it's a win for students and parents, as they will get the accountability that they deserve."

The special statewide testing committee will be chaired by Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), who this year took over as chair of the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee, and Sen. Larry Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls), who chairs the Senate Education Committee.

Carruthers said the committee will ensure "an open process" that allows for input from the public, local school officials, the governor's administration, and legislators.

"We've moved the debate off of whether or not we're going to have testing onto what kind of testing we're going to have," said Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine). "The process is under way now. It's not going to stop."

More education options

Parents and students would have new educational choices available to them under a bill considered by the House Education Committee during a Feb. 6 hearing.

HF33, sponsored by Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayner (R-Princeton), incorporates Gov. Arne Carlson's education funding proposals for the next biennium.

Chief among Carlson's proposals is his plan to provide tax relief to parents who send their children to private schools.

The proposal would increase the amount parents can claim as an income tax deduction for education expenses from \$650 to \$1,950 for each dependent in grades K-6 and from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for each child in grades 7-12. The bill also would give a separate credit of \$1,000 per child or a maximum \$2,000 per family to taxpayers with an income of less than \$39,000.

Carlson's plan promises even more in the area of choice.

The bill aims to increase the number of charter schools in the state and would eliminate provisions in current law that limit the total number of charter schools and the number that can be sponsored by public colleges or universities. The bill also would provide grant funding for the so-called "laboratory schools" at select public and private universities in Minnesota and would bolster the state's open enrollment system for public schools.

John Brandl, a University of Minnesota professor and former legislator, praised the governor's effort to give parents and students more financial capacity to choose through tax credits and expanded deductions, and more choices, through more charter schools and college-sponsored lab schools.

"We haven't done well enough. We need better education," Brandl said. "Minnesotans have put their money where their mouths are, but we're still not doing well enough."

Brandl was one of about two dozen people to testify on Koppendrayner's bill during the hearing.

The Education Committee took no action on the bill. Decisions on the governor's proposals will come when the House compiles its omnibus K-12 funding bill later in the session.

HF33 drew support from Mark Myles, Duluth School District superintendent, who said the bill would bring forces of competition to the "protected monopoly" of public education.

Specifically, Myles urged lawmakers to

support provisions in the bill that would provide financial rewards to individual schools for meeting performance goals created on the local level.

"In education, there's too little reward for excellence and too few penalties for mediocrity," Myles said.

Some of the changes proposed in Koppendrayner's bill drew criticism from Therese Van Blarcom, a member of the Elk River School Board.

Van Blarcom called the tax credit and tax deduction proposals in the bill "vouchers of another kind." And she was concerned the bill would drain much-needed resources from public schools.

"Choice has always been available and will always be available," Van Blarcom said. "For those of us who choose public schools, please do not tie the hands of our school boards."



ENVIRONMENT

Future of the white pine

The oldest, tallest, and most majestic trees in Minnesota's forests are the white pine. But with only 2 percent of the state's original white pine population still standing, conservationists, the timber industry, and state officials are all concerned about the tree's future.

A Department of Natural Resources (DNR) work group on regenerating the white pine told the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 10 that the state should set aside money to help regrow the white pine in Minnesota.

The group recommended that the state set a number of goals for its white pine population that include:

- doubling the number of white pines and the number of acres of young white pines within the next seven years and identifying land suitable for white pine growth;
- adjusting the harvesting of white pines to help increase the trees' chances for a comeback;
- conducting research on genetic improvements to the white pine, not only to help its regrowth, but to help the trees better withstand their natural predators — white-tailed deer and blister rust disease; and
- distributing white pine management information.

Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) has introduced a bill (**HF693**) that would set aside \$1.5 million over the next two years to help regrow the white pine.

By all measures, the white pine population in Minnesota has declined precipitously over

the last 100 years due mostly to logging and land clearing for farming, according to the DNR work group.

Information recorded during the Public Land Survey of Minnesota (1850-1905) indicated that white pines were then a common occurrence on four million acres of land, mostly in the central and northeastern part of the state. A 1990 Minnesota forest inventory conducted by the U.S. Forest Service showed white pines occurring on only about 63,700 acres. Another study, by the Minnesota Forest Resource Partnership in 1996, put the white pine acreage at 82,000.

The DNR's workgroup recommendations may not go far enough to satisfy some conservationists. In testimony before the committee, Lynn Rogers of the White Pine Society criticized the group's decision-making process. "The timber industry had the power to veto anything they didn't like," Rogers said.

"No one had veto power," said Bruce Zumbahlen, manager of the DNR's Forest Resource Management Division. "We used a consensus-building approach. Recommendations were included in the report only if all members agreed."

"That boils down to a veto," Rogers said.

Rogers' group offered its own recommendations including that the state stop selling its white pines until a sustainable harvest plan is developed for each section of Minnesota. Harvest plans should take into account ecological and aesthetic values and long-term values, he said. Rogers also said that all white pines older than 120 years should be exempt from harvesting.



GOVERNMENT

Ghosts in the machine

The stroke of midnight on Jan. 1, 2000, could mark more than a new millennium — it could signal the start of a massive failure in Minnesota's computer systems, a state official said Feb. 10.

"Some programs may not run at all, or some may sort records in the wrong order," said Bev Schuft, assistant commissioner of the Department of Administration's Information Policy Office. She presented a plan for addressing the problem to members of the Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division. "Security could be compromised," she warned.

Schuft said that the information office needed \$25 million in new appropriations to implement the Year 2000 Project and head off the disaster. She also said the total cost of

the project can't be estimated because many state agencies have spent money on the problem out of their regular operating funds and will continue to do so. The \$25 million, she said, represented the total amount requested by state agencies to ensure that various "mission-critical applications" would not fail.

The problem, from which private sector businesses are not immune, began in the 1970s when those designing computer systems decided to store years as two digits instead of four. For example, the year 1997 is represented by the numbers nine and seven. As a result, Schuft explained, nearly every computer in the state will interpret the year 2000, represented by a double zero, as the year 1900, throwing whole systems — most notably payroll, pension, and tax collection programs — into disarray.

Jim Close, the information office's Year 2000 Project director, said nearly 84 million lines of computer code and more than 34 billion database records need to be reviewed and corrected. At this point, Close said, the Year 2000 Project team has completed the first three phases of the endeavor — includ-



Minnesota Zoo volunteer Don Mereen showed Rep. Howard Swenson and the members of the House Environment and Natural Resource Finance Committee a North American opossum during their hearing Feb. 10. The zoo hopes for a budget increase this year.

ing an impact analysis — and now needs to define the methods, develop a staffing plan, and do the work.

"Finding all the date occurrences is the hardest part," Close said. "Fixing them should be easy."

The entire process should be completed by June 1999.



HIGHER EDUCATION

College bonds

A bill to help families save for their children's college education won approval from a House panel Feb. 12.

HF130 would allow the sale of state and federal bonds in increments as low as \$500. Normally, the tax-exempt bonds are available in denominations of \$5,000 or more.

"We're essentially allowing middle-income families to participate in these purchases," said Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), the bill's sponsor.

While the bonds will be available for purchase to anyone, the bill has several provisions designed to encourage their purchase for college savings. The first \$25,000 in purchased bonds will not be used in calculating a student's state grant eligibility. And employees will be allowed to pay for the bonds using a payroll deduction plan, which lowers the employee's taxable income.

"Not only will families get a tax break, they get a break in their needs assessment when a student applies for aid," Carlson said.

Similar programs operate in 24 other states, Carlson said. "This is the first step in a larger financial aid package," he added.

The Gopher State savings bonds program will apply to all higher education programs.

A similar bill was passed unanimously by the full House in 1996, but the proposal did not become law.

HF130, approved by the House Education Committee's Higher Education Finance Division, now moves to the full Education Committee.



HOUSING

Helping the homeless

A bill to provide up to \$15 million in grants to aid the homeless won approval from a House panel Feb. 13.

As the Minnesota Legislature grapples with its response to federal welfare reform, housing advocates are asking the state to provide

new funds to prepare for an anticipated increase in homelessness. At the Feb. 13 hearing before the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee's Housing and Housing Finance Division, Sue Watlov-Phillips of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless said that "In Wisconsin, when they instituted welfare reform, they saw a 60 percent increase in emergency shelter use."

HF99, sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), would establish a \$2 million state emergency services grant program to be administered by the Department of Economic Security (DES). The bill also would add \$3 million to the state's existing \$2.77 million transitional housing program for the biennium. Finally, the bill would create a \$10 million backup fund to be used for either emergency services or transitional housing should the need arise.

Any increased need for current programs for the homeless would strain an already overburdened support system. The number of people using emergency shelters and transitional housing in the state has tripled over the past 11 years, according to DES figures. A total of 4,981 Minnesotans needed services in 1996; 44 percent of those were children.

The emergency services grants under **HF99** could be used by local units of government and nonprofit organizations to provide emergency shelter or assist homeless persons in obtaining other services such as medical and psychological help, employment counseling, substance abuse treatment, emergency child care or transportation.

The DES commissioner could require grant recipients to provide \$1 in nonstate funds for every \$2 received in grant funds.

The transitional housing program targets those in a temporary housing crisis in an attempt to stabilize their lives and prevent them from slipping into homelessness. "The transitional housing program is a welfare reform program that we have pioneered in Minnesota," Watlov-Phillips said Jan. 30 when the bill was first brought to the committee.

Use of the \$10 million contingency fund would depend on the governor's determination that homeless persons are being turned away from emergency shelters due to a lack of available space.

Also testifying at the Jan. 30 meeting was Bonnie McCarty, who had her own crisis when, after 25 years of marriage, she experienced a contentious divorce followed by a health crisis. She lost her home and, after going through back surgery, turned to the Mankato Coalition for the Homeless for help.

"Now I have moved to St. Paul," she said.

"I have finished my degree and am now working full time and paying full rent."

HF99 now goes to the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee.



LABOR

Helping dislocated workers

A plan by Gov. Arne Carlson to slash the budget of Minnesota's Dislocated Worker Program received no endorsement from the person he appointed to oversee it.

"This is a very good program," said R. Jane Brown, commissioner of the Department of Economic Security. "It is ranked near the top in the nation."

Carlson's budget would cut the Dislocated Worker Program by \$14.5 million per year — nearly half its annual budget.

The state program, (which also receives dollars from the federal government), was created in 1991 to help those who have lost their jobs due to obsolete job skills, company downsizing, or plant closings.

In fiscal year 1995, the program helped 14,781 people return to the workforce at an average hourly wage of \$12.15.

Jim Korkki, director of the Dislocated Worker Program, told the House Labor-Management Relations Committee on Feb. 10 that three types of people are helped by the Dislocated Worker Program.

"Some just need assistance writing their resume and getting back in the job market," he said. "Others have skills that need upgrading with a class or two. A third group has

obsolete skills that are no longer marketable. They need to be retrained for a new career path."

The program is currently funded by a 0.1 percent payroll tax paid by all Minnesota employers. On average, the program costs about \$30 million per year, Brown said. Of the \$14.5 million per year Carlson wants to cut from the existing program, about \$6.5 million would go to the state's general fund. The remaining \$8 million would cover deficits at the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association (MCHA).

MCHA is the state's high risk insurance pool for people who are uninsurable or with chronic health conditions. There are approximately 32,000 enrollees in MCHA, according to Minnesota Commissioner of Commerce David Gruenes. He explained to the panel that Carlson believes the move is a legitimate use of dislocated worker funds, since the statutes that set up the fund include a provision for support services which may include health care. Some dislocated workers are assisted by MCHA when they are laid off and lose their health care benefits, Gruenes said.

Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville) asked if Carlson's recommendation might be based on a declining need for the program. Brown answered that even though unemployment is low, many people are in job transition.

The trend is for larger layoffs, Korkki told the committee. "And that trend is continuing."

"There is a great deal of churning in both Minnesota and the country as a whole," Brown said. "And people who are laid off are needing greater skills to get reemployed."



Sylvia Herndon, an assistant administrator for Catholic Charities in St. Paul, led members of the Housing and Housing Finance Division through Mary Hall, a transitional housing and emergency shelter facility, Feb. 11. The room pictured is an emergency shelter area.



OUTSTATE

Snow cleanup costs

A second House panel has approved a proposal to mark \$20 million to help cities and counties recoup some of their weather-related costs.

Sponsored by Rep. Stephen Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), **HF100** would authorize the commissioner of public safety, the governor, and the Legislature to appropriate grant money to cities, counties, and towns for recent severe weather-related matters. Most of the appropriations would be matched by federal emergency funds.

How bad has this winter been? The average December snowfall in Duluth, Minn., is 16.1 inches. But this December, 41.7 inches fell.

Similar statistics can be reported for most of the towns and counties throughout Minnesota during the winter of 1996-97. By just about every measure, including low temperatures and wind, it has been the century's most severe winter. Forty-nine counties in western Minnesota have been declared federal disaster areas.

The result? The majority of Minnesota counties are staring at empty emergency-management coffers. Funds for snow removal have long since dried up.

Even with the infusion of \$20 million, the shortfall in counties throughout the state is almost \$60 million, according to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS).

"This money won't begin to cover actual costs," said James Franklin of the DPS. "It provides a percentage of budget overruns."

And the worst may not be over. The National Weather Service is preparing its first forecast for spring flooding.

Another big concern: "What if this winter isn't an aberration?" asked Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul). "What if, for the next 20 years, we keep having 'historic' snowfalls?"

Franklin said the DPS has developed a plan to track problem areas throughout the state and apply preventive measures. A major element will be to build "living snow fences" of trees that would block wind, and thus, prevent the huge drifts that have plagued counties this year. "We can't prevent snow, but we can prevent how it blows," Franklin said. The plan is currently in search of funding.

Franklin said counties that intend to seek funding should prepare by reviewing and updating their emergency response plans, identifying problem areas, and exploring

partnerships and other innovative ways to deal with emergencies.

HF100, approved by the House Judiciary Committee's Judiciary Finance Division, now moves to the full Judiciary Committee.



TECHNOLOGY

I want my HDTV

Minnesota's largest public television station plans to construct a digital broadcast facility in anticipation of shifting industry standards, a public television executive told members of the House Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division Feb. 11.

"The Digital Age is upon us," said Jim Kutzner, vice president at Twin Cities Public Television, which runs KTCA (Channel 2) and KTCI (Channel 17). "This is not going to be simply analog television stuffed into a new system."

What it will be, Kutzner said, is the application of a technology that is fundamentally different from anything that has come before it. Digital television stations will be able to provide a High-Definition TV signal comparable in quality to a 35 mm Hollywood film. In place of the HDTV signal, the station could choose to broadcast four signals of lesser quality through the same digital cable, allowing for a much broader range of programming.

Twin Cities Public Television, Kutzner said, plans to build the digital station, at a total cost of \$2.25 million, and have it on line by August 1998. It would be one of the first such stations in the world. The station plans to provide \$1.5 million of the total, and hopes the state will provide the other \$750,000. (Gov. Arne Carlson has called for the appropriation in his budget recommendations.)

Public television's share of the funds, Kutzner said, will come, in part, from partnering with the private sector, although the details of that arrangement have yet to be finalized.

"We recognize that in order for us to survive in the new world," Kutzner said, "there's going to have to be a healthy marriage of mission and revenue."

Television and computer manufacturers have argued for years over the industry's digital broadcast specifications. In December 1996, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) finally adopted standards (defined by the Advanced Television Systems Committee, a group formed specifically to develop a solution to the problem).

Those standards decreed that all broadcasters must phase in the new digital technology immediately. The FCC is expected to assign digital TV frequencies to broadcasters in the near future.

"When this occurs," Kutzner said, "the gates will be thrown open" to rapid product development, and Minnesota, with its new station, could quickly become an industry leader.



SAFETY

Protecting kids in carts

Small children accompanying mom or dad to the grocery store would be less likely to become a casualty under legislation approved by the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee Feb. 13

HF10, sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth), would require retailers to equip their shopping carts with child-protective devices. Children, Jaros said, have a propensity to fall out of shopping carts, often sustaining potentially lethal head injuries as a result.

"There are kids dying out there," because of shopping cart accidents, Jaros said in support of the bill. "This is probably the best pro-life legislation you'll see this session."

Yet **HF10**, which was approved by an 11-9 vote, also drew some objections. Children riding in shopping carts often suffer facial injuries, too, noted Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina). "Should we not mandate helmets if children are going to ride in these kinds of vehicles?" he asked.

The bill now goes to the House floor.



TRANSPORTATION

Minors must buckle up

Police would have the authority to stop cars if passengers under 18 years old are not using seat belts, under a bill on the way to the House floor.

HF221, sponsored by Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), was approved Feb. 12 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

"We feel it's a safety issue, a children's issue, and a health issue," Rhodes said. "We think this will save lives. It's that simple."

Rhodes' bill would make two significant changes in state law regarding the use of seat belts.

First, it would extend existing law requiring all occupants between the ages of 3 and

11, regardless of where they are seated in the vehicle, to wear seat belts to include anyone between the ages of 3 and 18.

(Current law requires passengers aged 3 and under to be secured in child car seats. Passengers aged 11 and up currently are required to wear seat belts only when riding in the front seat. Under the bill, passengers aged 18 and up still would be required to wear a seat belt only when in the front seat.)

Second, the bill would make it a primary offense not to have all occupants between 3 and 18-years-old buckled up.

Currently, violation of seat belt require-

ments for occupants older than 3 is a secondary offense. That means police can issue a citation only after a vehicle is stopped for a moving violation or another violation involving vehicle equipment.

The bill would allow police to stop any vehicle in which any passenger between 3 and 18 years old, whether in the front seat or back, is not using a seat belt.

Rhodes supported his bill with a Department of Health report showing the majority of minors who suffered serious neurological injuries in motor vehicle crashes were not wearing seat belts.

According to the report, crashes in the years 1993-1996 caused brain and spinal cord injuries to 407 children under 18 who were not wearing seat belts. Only 198 children in that age group suffered similar injuries despite wearing seat belts.

The report also showed that a disproportionate number of neurological injuries were suffered by children 15 to 17 years old. The injury totals for that age group include 265 people not wearing seat belts and 87 wearing seat belts.

Rhodes' bill passed on a voice vote.

New members . . .

Sekhon focuses on education, environment issues

After two years of watching from the sideline, Rep. Kathleen Sekhon (DFL-Burns Township) has returned to the House with idealism tempered by realism.



Rep. Kathleen Sekhon

Sekhon, who served one term in the House before a 1994 election defeat, still has many of the same concerns as during her first term. However, she acknowledges that she has a different outlook from when she arrived at the

Capitol to begin her first term.

"Certainly, I come with a more realistic picture of what can happen and what I can accomplish," Sekhon said. "You could easily work around the clock for six months and still not do everything worthwhile. My goal is to try to streamline the process, based on what I learned three and four years ago, so that I can make the best use of my time."

After losing her seat to Republican Tom Hackbarth, of Cedar, Minn., in 1994, Sekhon returned to her career as a teacher, working as a substitute mainly at the middle school level, and remained involved in several community groups.

As the 1996 election approached, there was little doubt about Sekhon's intentions.

"The issues that were of top concern to me are continuing issues," she said. "We need to have committed people who are willing to work hard if we are going to accomplish the things that we need to accomplish. It was clear to me that I was going to run again."

Sekhon regained her House seat in a closely fought rematch with Hackbarth. It was her second victory in four consecutive campaigns for the House.

The oldest of seven children, Sekhon grew up in Pipestone, Minn., and received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. She is married and has three children, all in college.

Sekhon's political life began in 1980, when she attended her first precinct caucus. She wound up being a delegate to the state DFL convention that year, which led her to further involvement in the party and in other political organizations. She served as co-chair of the DFL Platform and Issues Commission from 1984 to 1990, when she launched her first campaign for office.

Issues such as education funding, environmental protection, and workplace safety make up the core of Sekhon's legislative agenda.

This year, she has been named vice chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee, and she also is a member of a separate environment policy committee.

From those positions, Sekhon plans to be a voice for groundwater protection, waste reduction, and improved waste management. Her take on environmental issues focuses on the long-term implications of current policies and practices.

"We need to consider the future costs of what we are doing today," she said. "I want to look to the future when we're making our policy decisions."

Education funding and property tax reform are two issues that go hand-in-hand, according to Sekhon. She would like to see significant changes to address both problem areas.

"We need to change the way we fund our schools," she said. "I'd love to see 100 percent state funding and no dependence on residential property taxes.

"I don't know that we're going to be able to get to that point, but I think more and more legislators are realizing that the property tax is not the best way for us to be funding schools."

The forecast \$1.4 billion surplus in state coffers provides a rare chance to make significant changes, Sekhon said, and that provides her additional reason for optimism as returns to the House.

"When I was here last time, it was during the shortfall period," she said. "It's going to be very exciting working at a time when we do have a good economic forecast, when it looks like we have some money we can use for critical investments like education."

Sekhon heads into her second term with a clear message from her constituents, a group she believes to include an unusually large number of independent voters with little interest in partisan politics.

"They want work done. They don't want bickering and partisan attacks," Sekhon said. "That's very counterproductive, and I don't think it will be tolerated by the people in my district."

—Nick Healy

District 50A

1996 population: 37,063

Largest city: East Bethel

County: Anoka

Location: northern metropolitan area

Top concern: "People in my district are concerned about a whole range of issues. I think they want government that is efficient and effective. For the most part, I think people in the district realize that we do have shared responsibilities and that government is the way that we can get the things done that are best done together, like educating our children."

—Rep. Kathleen Sekhon

Mighty morphin' lawmakers must respond to change



Forty years ago, an entire generation thrilled to the adventures of the Lone Ranger and his faithful companion, Tonto. Today, kids like to pretend they're the Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers, while their parents wonder whatever happened to "Hiyo, Silver — away!"

And that, said cultural anthropologist and author Jennifer James, is precisely the problem.

James has authored the book, *Thinking in the Future Tense*, which explores the skills Americans will need to survive in our rapidly changing culture. She spoke to a group of legislators Feb. 11 at the Minnesota History Center's 3M Auditorium as the second of five speakers in the Capitol Forum Series, sponsored by Minnesota Technology Inc. and the McKnight Foundation.

"Look at them," James said of the animated characters who combat intergalactic evil. "Half of the time they're dinosaurs and half the time they use technology . . . and they transform back and forth. When they can't deal with a problem, they pull everybody together — all genders, all races — and morph into a new entity."

The power rangers, James said, have become one of the new American myths, deftly illustrating all of the qualities employers seek in workers today: flexibility, an appreciation for diversity and teamwork, and a willingness to embrace new technologies. And most of us just don't get it.

Our culture, James said, has experienced profound change during the last two decades. Moreover, the pace of that change will not slow anytime soon. Indeed, it will accelerate. As it does, the weaknesses inherent in many of our institutions, which James referred to as "lodges," will become even more pronounced than they are now.

For example, she said, a degree from the Citadel, that Southern bastion of male military tradition, once guaranteed a commission in the army or a position on the fast track in a Southern corporation. Today, the times have changed and the military has changed with them. Women and minorities have positions of power in the armed services and the Army is often held up as a model of affirmative action that has worked.

And the Citadel? James asked. They're too busy hazing each other to notice, she said.

"Now those companies," that used to hire Citadel grads, James said, "are working on a diverse, team concept and they don't want a bully."

But the cracks in the "lodge" walls extend far beyond the Citadel, she said. Pick an institution — the legal or medical professions, academia, politics, even that cornerstone of American values, the nuclear family. All of these "lodges," she said, have become inadequate, at best — perhaps even destructive — as people evolve out of the hunter-gatherer mentality and into the future.

James framed this evolution in a structure of four interlocking areas: technology, economics, culture, and demography. Each, she said, provides a bit of context that, when taken as a whole, will define the new mindset.

Technology, she said, will also dramatically change the way we work, much more than it has already, as greater numbers of

people work out of "technology cottages" in their homes. Correspondingly, she said, workers can enjoy more family time and closer relationships because they choose when they want to work, rather than having it defined by the company.

"Everything the Industrial Revolution took away," James said, "we can get back . . . [but] when technology shifts, so do the means of production. We're developing a new character and a new worker."

And as corporations have begun to seek out workers who can thrive in the new high-tech environment, she said, the old class structure is falling away. A new one, based on different definitions of mental health and intelligence, has begun to develop. For example, technology has brought about something that has never existed before; today, a five-year-old can routinely beat an adult at a video game and that kid is potentially a more valuable worker than the adult.

Corollary of the new worker, she said, is a new demography. Of course, if you change the demography, you change the culture, which is where the power rangers come in.

The kids watching the power rangers will create our new lodges, our new institutions, for the good of the community, James said, and legislators need to let that happen.

"You need . . . to set the model," James said to legislators. "This is an extraordinary time in history. You are the examples."

Many of the legislators who heard James said they came away with a remarkably changed view of their role as policymakers — particularly with regard to the legacy of their decisions.

"Some of the things she said ruffled my edges a bit, but they made me think I've got to change," said Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township), adding that James seemed to raise hackles in both the DFLers and Republicans. "For my kids . . . we've got to change."

Other lawmakers said James provided some valuable insight and allowed them to think outside of the box traditionally the domain of the representative.

"It's important for us to hear," said Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), the day after the lecture, adding that she thought of James' remarks in a committee hearing. "It's forced me to think 10 years down the road instead of one."

— F.J. Gallagher



Jennifer James, a cultural anthropologist and author of the book, *Thinking in the Future Tense*, lectured lawmakers on the dynamics of change, Feb. 11, at the Minnesota History Center. The lecture was part of the Capitol Forum Series '97.

Committee Scopes & Agendas

1997-98 Minnesota House of Representatives

The Minnesota Legislature — the House of Representatives and the Senate — is divided into many committees, divisions, and sub-committees. Since thousands of bills are introduced during each two-year legislative session, it is impossible for any one legislator to become an expert in all areas. Therefore, each legislator serves on three to five committees and divisions, which allows him/her to focus on just a few areas of policy or finance.

In a sense, the committee structure forms the heart of the Legislature. Although many people believe that most of the legislative process occurs on the House and Senate floors, it's in committee where most substantive action occurs. It is there where each bill is pored over and dissected, where key amendments are added and sections are deleted, and where recommendations for approval are given or withheld.

In an effort to provide people with a general outline of House activities this session, as well as an indication of where to go with various issues of concern, the Session Weekly asked House committee administrators and chairs for brief, general descriptions of the functions of their committees and divisions. More specifically, they were asked what topics were likely to be considered this session.

Here are the results of the survey — a list of all committees and divisions, the boundaries of their concerns, and in most cases, some specific areas they expect to address during the 1997 session.

Agriculture

Scope

Reviews farm policies and programs to assist Minnesota family farmers; promotes interstate and international trade; develops strategies for marketing agricultural commodities; reviews and enacts legislation covering regulations and inspections of farm pesticides, food, and dairy products; and develops programs to encourage soil conservation.

Agenda '97

- Ethanol funding programs
- Large scale agriculture issues (corporate farming)
- Various fee proposals from the Department of Agriculture
- Dairy pricing issues

Capital Investment

Scope

Recommends objectives and goals in undertaking state debt; reviews the governor's capital budget proposals for state buildings and infrastructure; recommends debt management practices to maintain the state's credit rating; reviews every bill where the good faith and credit of the state is being obligated; and sets overall debt finance limits.

Agenda '97

- Emergency capital improvement projects
- ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) projects in prisons
- HEAPRA/CAPRA (Higher Education Asset Preservation and Renewal Account/Capital Asset Preservation and Renewal Account) overview
- Cancellations of old bond authorizations

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Scope

Considers legislation in the areas of consumer affairs, professional licensing, tourism, small business issues, and liquor regulations; examines administrative rules and rulemaking and how to limit the impact of regulation on Minnesota's small and main street businesses.

Agenda '97

- Consumer protection
- Tourism
- Professional licensing

Economic Development & International Trade

Scope

Examines Minnesota's economic and job needs, emphasizing world competitiveness; makes recommendations to enhance the state's economic strength; and provides funding to various state agencies through its two finance divisions.

Agenda '97

- Set policy and funding requests for the various state agencies that are dealt with by the committee and its two finance divisions.

Economic Development Finance Division

Scope

Reviews and recommends funding for the Minnesota State Arts Board, Department of Commerce, Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans, Council on Black Minnesotans Chicano and Latino Affairs Council, Department of Economic Security, Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Humanities Commission, Indian Affairs Council, Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, Department of Labor and Industry, Labor Interpretive Center, Mediation Services, Minnesota Municipal Board, Minnesota Technology Inc., Non-health boards, Public Utilities Commission, Department of Trade and Economic Development, Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals, World Trade Center.

Agenda '97

- Working with agencies to make sure they have the tools and support they need to prepare for the onslaught of people entering the workforce because of welfare reform
- Looking at new initiatives for future economic development in the metro and greater Minnesota areas
- Arts funding
- Reviewing, considering, and administering funding to existing programs as well as possible new initiatives

Housing & Housing Finance Division

Scope

Examines all aspects of housing programs and policy; focuses on preventing homelessness and preserving existing affordable housing; and targets community-based revitalization and rehabilitation.

Agenda '97

- Impact of federal welfare reform
- Homelessness prevention funding
- Low-income home ownership
- Rural and inner city housing and economic development
- Landlord and tenant issues

Education

Scope

Handles family and early childhood, K-12, and postsecondary educational policy, state-wide school and higher education funding, and the structure of public education.

Agenda '97

- Education/higher education funding
- School standards and accountability
- Vocational education (K-12 and higher)
- Education planning and transition (school to work, school to college)
- Technology at all levels

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division

Scope

Works to increase the well-being of children and families by integrating the importance of education into every program under its jurisdiction; includes three approaches — prevention, early childhood and family/community support, and self sufficiency/lifelong learning.

Agenda '97

- Strengthening child care in the wake of welfare reform
- Enhancing Adult Basic Education
- Supporting collaboration among community action programs

Higher Education Finance Division

Scope

Determines operating and capital budgets for the University of Minnesota; the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU); the Higher Education Services Office, including financial aid and programs for students at both public and private institutions; selected programs at the Mayo Medical School; and the Higher Education Facilities Authority.

Agenda '97

- Higher education budget — base funding increase
- Financial aid and tuition policy
- Technology — addressing needs of students, faculty, and staff
- Cooperation of systems — coordination of service
- Master academic plan for metro region

K-12 Education Finance Division

Scope

Provides policy direction and funding for the state's K-12 education system, which includes all public school districts, academies, the Department of Children, Families and Learning, education finance (school aids), Minnesota Center for Arts Education, the Faribault academies for people who are blind and for those who are deaf, public libraries, and the Permanent School Fund.

Agenda '97

- Discussion and adoption of the 1998-99 biennial budget
- Student/school accountability measures
- Site-based decision making
- School-to-work/school-to-career
- Technology in schools

Environment & Natural Resources

Scope

Examines issues relating to air and water quality; pollution and its prevention; land use and preservation; ground and surface water resources; solid, hazardous, and radioactive waste management and reduction; forestry, mining, and agricultural practices; wildlife protection; hunting, fishing, and other outdoor public recreational activities; environmental education; and sustainable development initiatives.

Agenda '97

- Constitutional amendment to extend time for lottery proceeds to be dedicated to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.
- Land use
- Forest management

- Chemical contamination; impacts on humans and wildlife (frogs, etc.)
- Water and air quality (feedlots, indoor air, septic systems, etc.)
- Nuclear waste storage

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Scope

Oversees the budgets of state agencies: Academy of Science, Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Utilization Research Institute, Board of Animal Health, Ethanol Development, Environmental Assistance Office, Horticulture Society, Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Commission, Minnesota Zoo, Department of Natural Resources, Pollution Control Agency, Science Museum, Board of Water and Soil Resources, and Voyageurs National Park.

Agenda '97

- Agency budgets for 1998-99
- Snowmobile trail funding and safety issues
- Rededication of the trust fund
- Increase in game and fish licenses
- Ethanol subsidies

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Scope

Reviews laws pertaining to banks, savings and loans, and credit unions; examines consumer rights in insurance and availability of insurance for individuals and companies and all other aspects of the insurance industry.

Agenda '97

(unavailable)



In a sense, the committee structure forms the heart of the Legislature. Although many people believe that most of the legislative process occurs on the House and Senate floors, it's in committee where most substantive action occurs.

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Scope

Reviews election concerns and matters involving the Minnesota Ethical Practices Board, veterans and military affairs issues, and legislation unrelated to other House standing committees, such as laws governing cemeteries.

Agenda '97

- Gulf War bonus
- Military affairs/elections housekeeping
- Elections issues, such as absentee balloting and Grove Commission recommendations
- Ethics
- Size of the Legislature
- Veterans Homes Board issues

Governmental Operations

Scope

Reviews any bill that substantially changes or creates a new state department, agency, commission, board, or bureau; deals with public employee pension plans, state workers' employment and salary issues, and administrative rules. It also votes on appropriation recommendations of the State Government Finance Division.

Agenda '97

- Sunsetting rules
- Creation of an office of technology
- Pension issues
- Salary increases for state agency heads

State Government Finance Division

Scope

Reviews and recommends appropriations for state departments, commissions, agencies, and other accounts, including: Administrative Hearings Office, Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, contingent accounts, Department of Administration, Department of Employee Relations, Department of Finance, Department of Military Affairs, Department of Revenue, Department of Veterans Affairs, Disabled American Veterans, Ethical Practices Board, joint legislative commissions, Gambling Control Board, Legislature, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission, Minnesota Planning Office, Minnesota Racing Commission, Minnesota State Retirement System, Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Office of the Attorney General, Office of the

Secretary of State, Office of the State Auditor, Office of the Treasurer, Public Employees Retirement Association, Salary Supplement, State Board of Investment, tort claims, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Agenda '97

- Omnibus State Government Finance Bill
 - Technology initiatives and funding
 - Funding of the Persian Gulf War veterans' bonuses

Health & Human Services

Scope

Receives all bills relating to health issues and various social services in the state; reviews issues relating to health maintenance organizations; deals with the licensing of health care providers and social workers; reviews and recommends welfare programs, policies, goals, objectives, and reforms.

Agenda '97

(unavailable)

Health & Human Services Finance Division

Scope

Reviews administrative and legislative funding proposals administered by the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, the Council on Disabilities, the Veterans Homes Board, all health-related licensing boards and ombudsman offices. The recommendations of the Health and Human Services Finance Division are forwarded to the House Health and Human Services Committee.

Agenda '97

- Funding \$5 billion budget
- Funding federal welfare reform mandates
- Restoring MinnesotaCare eligibility for adults without children

Judiciary

Scope

Reviews all areas of Minnesota's *criminal* justice system, including sentencing practices, corrections policies, law enforcement issues, prosecution and public defender services, probation services, and the operation of the courts. Also reviews all areas of *civil* law, including family law and civil liability. Responsible for data practices policies, including the classification of government data as public or private.

Agenda '97

- Anti-gang initiatives
- Crackdown on criminals with guns
- Open up juvenile court proceedings
- Focus on chronic misdemeanants
- Stronger laws to deal with nuisance properties, such as crack and drug houses

Civil & Family Law Division

Scope

Reviews all areas of Minnesota's civil laws, including family law, business law, personal injury law, probate, landlord-tenant, and nuisance law; places an emphasis on system reform and affecting positive change.

Agenda '97

- Equal access to justice for all Minnesotans
- Alternative dispute resolution
- Parenting plans for divorcing parents (instead of custody, visitation, and support disputes)
- Nuisance laws as a way to do "community policing" and "community prosecuting"

Judiciary Finance Division

Scope

Oversees the budgets of state agencies related to corrections, courts, law enforcement, and violence prevention, including those of the Board of Judicial Standards, Board of Public Defense, Court of Appeals, Department of Corrections, District Court, Ombudsman for Corrections, Crime Victims Ombudsman, Department of Human Rights, Private Detectives Board, Department of Public Safety (criminal justice sections), Peace Officers Standards and Training Board, Sentencing Guidelines Commission, Supreme Court, Tax Court, and the Uniform Laws Commission.

Agenda '97

- Juvenile issues
- Crime prevention
- Funding Judiciary, Corrections, and Public Safety without creating a negative impact on property taxes
- Probation officer workload reduction
- Criminal justice technology

Labor-Management Relations

Scope

Considers reemployment insurance, workers' compensation, public and private labor relations, occupational health and safety, wage and hour requirements, as well as regulating employment practices, such as discrimination and leaves of absence.

Agenda '97

- Minimum wage and tip credit
- Employment development regarding welfare reform
- Public employment labor relations
- Reemployment taxes and benefits
- WCRA (Workers Compensation Reinsurance Association) surplus premium

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Scope

Examines local government and makes recommendations concerning the relationship between state and local governments; examines local governments jurisdiction, control, and bonding authority; reviews metropolitan agencies' structures, goals, and programs; and considers changes to the transportation system, sewers, roads, bridges, parks, and airports, and other improvements that enhance the livability of the metropolitan area.

Agenda '97

- Statewide land use planning
- Contaminated lands
- Sports facility financing

Regulated Industries & Energy

Scope

Examines controls on state regulated industries, such as telephone, utilities, weights and measures, and commercial soliciting; reviews the state's energy policy and conservation issues; reviews legislation concerning gambling policies; oversees various agencies responsible for gambling oversight, including the Minnesota State Lottery, Gambling Control Board, and the Minnesota Racing Commission.

Agenda '97

(unavailable)

Rules & Legislative Administration

Scope

Establishes the budget for the House; approves personnel matters; recommends House rules and joint rules of the House and Senate; designates bills for consideration as Special Orders; and acts on bills and resolutions referred to the committee, including all constitutional amendments.

Agenda '97

(not applicable)

Taxes

Scope

Discusses policy matters affecting Minnesota taxpayers and reviews bills affecting state income, sales and use, excise, and property taxes. The committee also hears bills regarding state aid to municipalities and counties. The Taxes Committee has two divisions that share in the full committee's workload — the Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division and the Sales and Income Tax Division.

Agenda '97

- Achieving comprehensive tax reform
- Providing taxpayer relief
- Analyzing public subsidies
- Analyzing the effects of tax policies on land use and other state policies

Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division

Scope

Reviews property tax-related issues; and prepares property tax provision for the omnibus tax bill.

Agenda '97

(unavailable)

Sales & Income Tax Division

Scope

Reviews legislation that involves state taxes; and prepares state tax provisions for the omnibus tax bill.

Agenda '97

- Expansion of sales tax
- Sales Tax Advisory Council's final report/recommendations
- Examination of telecommunications
- Stadium/cigarette tax

Transportation & Transit

Scope

Addresses policy matters concerning highways, trucking, transit systems, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Public Safety.

Agenda '97

(unavailable)

Transportation & Transit Finance Division

Scope

Reviews and recommends funding for all transportation- and transit-related areas, including the Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Council Transit Operations, the Department of Public Safety (transportation areas), and the Transportation Regulation Board.

Agenda '97

- Transportation and transit funding package

Ways & Means

Scope

Sets House spending and revenue limits and budget reserve amount by adopting a budget resolution; and holds hearings on all money bills passed by the House finance and tax divisions/committees and ensures that they are within limits set forth in the budget resolution.

Agenda '97

- Budget resolution
- Spending and revenue bills

For a complete listing of House finance committee/division accounts, see Feb. 7, 1997, Session Weekly, page 14.

Need to know the House File number or the chief author of a bill?

Call the House Index Office at
(612) 296-6646

Bill Introductions

HF543-HF741

Monday, Feb. 10

HF543—Entenza (DFL)
Education

Child and family program outcome accountability mechanism established and working group established, report required, and money appropriated.

HF544—Kahn (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

University of Minnesota steam plant relocation away from the Mississippi River funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF545—Haas (R)
Taxes

Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF546—Daggett (R)
Health & Human Services

Employers required to report access to employer-subsidized insurance on W-2 forms for purposes of MinnesotaCare eligibility determination.

HF547—Solberg (DFL)
Judiciary

Close-custody corrections facility construction appropriation and construction bid provisions modified.

HF548—Westrom (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

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

HF549—Mulder (R)
Taxes

Used farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently.

HF550—Rukavina (DFL)
Transportation & Transit

Embarrass; signs erected to inform motorists of the route and distance to the town of Embarrass.

HF551—Sekhon (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

State land boundary line and trust sale provisions modified, property tax payment by natural resources commissioner provided, and public land sales authorized.

HF552—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary

Rental housing discrimination studied by human rights commission, and money appropriated.

HF553—Mulder (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Term limits imposed on legislative and executive offices and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF554—Vickerman (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Ground voltage study science advisor civil action immunity provided.

HF555—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services

Tuberculosis health threat act adopted, isolation and detention of persons with active tuberculosis provided, standards and procedures established, and health professional reporting required.

HF556—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Health care provider unique identifier implementation and identification provisions modified.

HF557—Tuma (R)
Education

School districts authorized to hire nonlicensed teachers without board of teaching approval, and nonlicensed teacher background checks provided.

HF558—Weaver (R)
Health & Human Services

Partial-birth abortions prohibited and criminal penalties provided.

HF559—Workman (R)
Environment & Natural Resources

Hunting and fishing rights affirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF560—Tuma (R)
Labor-Management Relations

Workers' compensation benefit payment dispute arbitration provided.

HF561—McElroy (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Legislature reduced in size to 57 senators and 114 representatives in 2003, 47 senators and 94 representatives in 2013, and 37 senators and 74 representatives in 2023.

HF562—Abrams (R)
Education

Education fiscal year levy adjustment state aid payment provided related to the repeal of K-12 education appropriation caps, and money appropriated.

HF563—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services

MinnesotaCare hospital and health care provider gross revenue tax rate reduced.

HF564—Olson, E. (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Becker County economic development authority established.

HF565—Luther (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Patient and health care facility resident transportation service provider criminal background check requirement established.

HF566—Solberg (DFL)
Governmental Operations

Itasca County government innovation and cooperation board law exemption duration extended.

HF567—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes

Materials used in providing taxable services exempted from sales and use taxes.

HF568—Delmont (DFL)
Governmental Operations

Volunteer firefighter maximum pension amounts increased.

HF569—Juhnke (DFL)
Agriculture

Grain bank license requirements modified, and interstate compact on agricultural grain marketing repealed.

HF570—Skare (DFL)
Taxes

Used farm machinery sales and use tax exemption extended permanently.

HF571—Kalis (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance

Long-term care insurance policy sales regulated.

HF572—Luther (DFL)
Education

Low-income concentration school grant aid formula provided, and money appropriated.

HF573—Luther (DFL)
Education

Low-income concentration school grants funded, and money appropriated.

HF574—Luther (DFL)
Education

Independent School District No. 279, Osseo; levy authorized to fund instructional services for at risk children.

HF575—Weaver (R)
Education

Pornography-blocking computer software required for schools.

HF576—Greiling (DFL)
Education

School district learning and development revenue use flexibility provided.

HF577—Solberg (DFL)
Transportation & Transit

MIA; special license plates designed and issued for veterans formerly missing in action.

HF578—Kubly (DFL)
Agriculture

Animal feedlot and manure management advisory committee expiration date designated, and food safety advisory committee membership provisions modified.

HF579—Tunheim (DFL)
Education

Independent School District No. 169, Badger, general education revenue reduction exemption extended.

HF580—Tunheim (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

Snowmobile registration fees increased, snowmobile trail grants-in-aid funded, unrefunded snowmobile gasoline tax revenue increased, and money appropriated.

HF581—Hausman (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Unicameral legislature provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF582—Hausman (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Humanities Commission teacher training institute building rental permitted.

HF583—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Unwed mother government data access provisions modified.

HF584—Greiling (DFL)
Education
Charter school law modified providing expanded interdistrict open enrollment, and money appropriated.

HF585—Stang (R)
Judiciary
Same-sex marriages not recognized or allowed.

HF586—Stang (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Hunting and fishing rights affirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF587—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
Medical Assistance and General Assistance Medical Care eligibility requirements modified.

HF588—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare ineligibility required for enrollees who exceed income guidelines.

HF589—Goodno (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Moorhead telephone exchange construction vote required.

HF590—Osskopp (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Gasoline retail sales permitted below cost.

HF591—Boudreau (R)
Transportation & Transit
Faribault highway easement transfer required from transportation department.

HF592—McElroy (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Affordable neighborhood design and development initiative funded, and money appropriated.

HF593—Milbert (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Campaign conduit fund ethical practices board registration required.

HF594—Rhodes (R)
Transportation & Transit
Metropolitan freeway ramp meter study conducted by University of Minnesota center for transportation studies, and money appropriated.

HF595—Rhodes (R)
Taxes
Senior citizens provided property tax rate freeze.

HF596—Rhodes (R)
Transportation & Transit
Radio and stereo use restricted in motor vehicles, and penalties prescribed.

HF597—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education
Education supplemental revenue reduction provisions modified.

HF598—Jaros (DFL)
Education
Education debt service equalization program enhanced.

HF599—Skare (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Bemidji railroad depot purchase and conversion to historical museum provided, and money appropriated.

HF600—Dempsey (R)
Health & Human Services
Goodhue and Wabasha public health service board joint purchaser demonstration project established, and money appropriated.

HF601—Wenzel (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal boundary commissions established.

HF602—Trimble (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Mississippi River parkway commission duration extended.

HF603—Lieder (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
State road operations appropriations provided.

HF604—Lieder (DFL)
Education
Education debt service aid sparsity determination provisions modified.

HF605—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
Intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation or related conditions alternative payment demonstration project established.

HF606—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Law enforcement agencies required to perform background investigations on applicants for employment as peace officers.

HF607—Davids (R)
Education
Homework helpline funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF608—Goodno (R)
Governmental Operations
Omnibus state departments appropriations bill.

HF609—Erhardt (R)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle buyers to notify registrar of transfer within ten days of purchase, and fees and penalties imposed.

HF610—Macklin (R)
Governmental Operations
Legislative Audit Commission membership provisions modified.

HF611—Tompkins (R)
Health & Human Services
Maternal and child health advisory task force and state community health advisory committee expiration exemption provided.

HF612—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Uniform correction or clarification of defamation act adopted.

HF613—Pugh (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Cribbage; card game tournaments permitted and maximum prize amount designated.

HF614—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Firearm silencer or muffler possession restricted and regulated.

HF615—Kinkel (DFL)
Education
Teacher multi-year contracts offered, and public post-secondary education waivers provided as an alternative to continuing employment.

HF616—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
HIV/Hepatitis B; corrections guards provided testing for HIV and hepatitis B when experiencing significant exposure to infected persons while engaged in official duties, inmate assault sentencing modified, fourth-degree assault expanded.

HF617—Weaver (R)
Judiciary
Juvenile crime victim data disclosure provisions modified.

HF618—Ness (R)
Governmental Operations
Administrative rules periodic repeal provided.

HF619—Weaver (R)
Judiciary
Court-ordered restitution payment required prior to fine payment upon conviction.

HF620—Solberg (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Human rights department duties specified, data privacy provisions modified, cost reimbursement authorized, and press releases required.

HF621—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Deer-hunting special season first weekend reserved for hunters under age 16 accompanied by a nonhunting adult.

HF622—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services
Omnibus health and human services appropriations bill.

HF623—Solberg (DFL)
Taxes
Property tax relief area revenue distribution repealed.

HF624—Solberg (DFL)
Taxes
Property tax relief area revenue distribution delayed.

HF625—Solberg (DFL)
Taxes
Taconite tax relief area fiscal disparities program modified.

HF626—Luther (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Designated parent agreement execution and consent requirements modified.

HF627—Rest (DFL)**Taxes**

Low-income housing property tax class uniform rules established, apartment and nonhomestead residential property tax class rates reduced, penalties imposed, rulemaking authorized, and money appropriated.

HF628—McElroy (R)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Municipalities authorized to purchase electricity from any electric utility providing service within the applicable area.

HF629—Erhardt (R)**Taxes**

Replacement capital equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF630—Rukavina (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Self-insured employee benefit plan dissolution notification required.

HF631—Folliard (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Hopkins Performing Arts Center previous appropriation terms modified.

HF632—Solberg (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Environmental learning centers previous appropriation provisions modified.

HF633—Murphy (DFL)**Taxes**

Senior citizens' property tax deferral program adopted, and money appropriated.

HF634—Larsen (R)**Governmental Operations**

Electricity board membership provisions modified.

HF635—Entenza (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

North Star government on-line service and information initiative provided, information and telecommunications technology community resource development initiative established, MNcard projects implemented, and money appropriated.

HF636—Pugh (DFL)**Taxes**

Residential rental property tax class rate reduced.

HF637—Abrams (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Minnetonka housing development account established and expenditures authorized.

HF638—Abrams (R)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Health maintenance organization regulatory authority transferred from health department to commerce department.

HF639—Rest (DFL)**Taxes**

Property tax reform provided, K-12 education financing modified, property tax class rates modified, truth-in-budgeting program established, state property tax aid programs modified, and money appropriated.

HF640—Solberg (DFL)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Nashwauk authorized to own and operate a gas utility.

Wednesday, Feb. 12**HF641—Wejcman (DFL)****Judiciary**

Minneapolis authorized to regulate possession and carrying of pistols within city limits.

HF642—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

State court action created for relief for damages caused by federal court action affecting public participation by the plaintiff.

HF643—Olson, E. (DFL)**Education**

Pine Point School provided permanent status.

HF644—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Court defendant guilt adjudication refusal provisions clarified.

HF645—Tomassoni (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Health plan mental health coverage minimum standards provided for determining medically necessary care.

HF646—Kinkel (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Crappie noncontinuous fishing season established.

HF647—Jefferson (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Public pension benefit accrual rates increased, defined contribution early retirement options authorized, homestead and agricultural credit aid modified, and money appropriated.

HF648—Johnson, R. (DFL)**Education**

Law school loan repayment assistance program established, and money appropriated.

HF649—Jennings (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Intermediate care facility rate and reimbursement provisions modified.

HF650—Hasskamp (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Glendalough State Park and Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area appropriated money for development and operation.

HF651—Huntley (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Intermediate care facility county geographic designation modifications provided for reimbursement purposes.

HF652—Johnson, A. (DFL)**Education**

Targeted breakfast grant program established to analyze the nutritional components of school meals, and money appropriated.

HF653—Pugh (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Diabetes outpatient self-management training and education health insurance coverage required.

HF654—Van Dellen (R)**Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare hospital and health care provider gross revenue tax rate reduced.

HF655—Opatz (DFL)**Education**

Firefighter Relief Association trustee training video production authorized, and money appropriated.

HF656—Holsten (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Washington County property taxpayer personal information use restricted.

HF657—Larsen (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Washington County board of commissioners plat approval required prior to building permit issuance.

HF658—Marko (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Washington County recorder and auditor/treasurer appointment permitted.

HF659—Pugh (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Outdoor power and sport equipment dealerships regulated.

HF660—Kelso (DFL)**Taxes**

Proposed property tax notice provisions modified.

HF661—Biernat (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Landlord and tenant law recodified, clarified, and relocated.

HF662—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Local government unit apportionment permitted between two or more contiguous government units.

HF663—Rukavina (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Mineral coordinating committee membership expanded, aggregate resources task force established, and money appropriated.

HF664—McCollum (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Water and soil resources board granted authority to administer federal grants, donations, gifts, and other contributions.

HF665—Skare (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Heartland trail improvements provided, and money appropriated.

HF666—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Insurance company fraud, misrepresentation, or deceptive practice relief provided.

HF667—Macklin (R)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Lawful gambling separate tax refund and credit account requirement eliminated.

HF668—Seagren (R)
Health & Human Services
Industrial hygienist and safety professional title protection act adopted.

HF669—Rhodes (R)
Health & Human Services
Licensed professional counseling board established, and money appropriated.

HF670—Erhardt (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
State lottery proceed dedication to environment and natural resources trust fund duration extended until 2020, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF671—Entenza (DFL)
Education
Higher education state grant student share reduced, living and miscellaneous allowance increased, work-study provided for grant recipients, and money appropriated.

HF672—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
Human services elderly and disabled health care provisions modified, nursing facility conversion demonstration project established, regional treatment center provisions modified, and demonstration project for disabled persons established.

HF673—Vickerman (R)
Health & Human Services
Nursing facility authorized to qualify for interim and settle up payment rates.

HF674—Kraus (R)
Judiciary
Government entities included as victims for the purpose of restitution orders, and criminal penalties provided.

HF675—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Home care provider and elderly housing with services provider licensure requirement provided.

HF676—Rifenberg (R)
Education
School district debt service equalization eligibility provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF677—Stanek (R)
Transportation & Transit
Novice drivers' license advisory committee established.

HF678—Stanek (R)
Transportation & Transit
Drivers' license applicants under age 18 required to be certified by parent or guardian as having had at least 50 hours of driving prior to license eligibility.

HF679—Gunther (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Omnibus economic development appropriations bill.

HF680—McElroy (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Metropolitan Council service redesign and employee incentives provided, and pilot project established to improve council efficiency.

HF681—Erhardt (R)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare hospital and health care provider gross revenue tax rate reduced.

HF682—Opatz (DFL)
Education
State colleges and universities board trustees exempted from the administrative procedures act.

HF683—Lieder (DFL)
Judiciary
Civil action judgement creditor affidavit information requirements expanded.

HF684—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
Replacement capital equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF685—Rest (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Local government innovation and efficiency program established, and money appropriated.

HF686—Paymar (DFL)
Judiciary
Tenants provided right to seek police and emergency assistance, and penalties provided.

HF687—Marko (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Motorcycle helmet use admissibility into evidence prohibited.

HF688—Paymar (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Cigarette advertising restricted and regulated, and penalties provided.

Thursday, Feb. 13

HF689—Kubly (DFL)
Agriculture
Alfalfa processing facility construction material sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF690—Rhodes (R)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle compulsory insurance law violation minimum fine imposed.

HF691—Wagenius (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Impounded junk vehicle sales by local units of government authorized.

HF692—Tingelstad (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Andover contaminated land cleanup funded, and money appropriated.

HF693—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
White pine forest restoration and regeneration provided, white pine blister rust research program funded, and money appropriated.

HF694—Koppendrayner (R)
Governmental Operations
Employee relations department technical and administrative changes provided, and state employment provisions modified.

HF695—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
Child support enforcement provisions modified, financial institution data match system established, and civil penalties provided.

HF696—Rukavina (DFL)
Governmental Operations
State agency professional and technical service contract provisions modified.

HF697—Bettermann (R)
Judiciary
Tort claim state immunity provisions clarified.

HF698—Rukavina (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
St. Louis County division vote provided.

HF699—Dawkins (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
St. Paul rental tax equity pilot project reinstated, property tax refunds provided, and money appropriated.

HF700—Delmont (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Lawful gambling gross profit expenditure provisions modified, gambling control board rules modified, and paddleticket and bingo limits and restrictions modified.

HF701—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Employee benefit exemptions provided judicial interpretation conformance.

HF702—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Unauthorized animal release penalties increased, and stalking and harassment crime scope expanded to include unlawful interference with activities of an entity that sells or provides services for animals or animal products.

HF703—Dawkins (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Minors authorized to be elected precinct caucus delegates or officers.

HF704—Ozment (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Electric power generating plant certificate of need proceeding exemption provided.

HF705—Rifenberg (R)
Taxes
Three-fifths legislative majority vote required for sales or income tax increases, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF706—Juhnke (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Fertilizer and agricultural chemical transporter quarterly registration allowed.

HF707—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Toxics in products requirements and enforcement provisions modified.

HF708—Skare (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Mastectomies; health plan inpatient mastectomy coverage requirement established.

HF709—Rest (DFL)**Taxes**

Seasonal recreational residential property tax class rate reduced.

HF710—Kalis (DFL)**Capital Investment**

Cambridge state bank claim settlement payment provided, revenue bonds discharged, and money appropriated.

HF711—Munger (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Soil and water conservation districts provided annual funding allocation.

HF712—Lieder (DFL)**Taxes**

Aggregate material production tax increase provided.

HF713—Molnau (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Wastewater treatment facility privatization ownership restrictions modified.

HF714—Bakk (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Solid waste transfer station grant program repealed.

HF715—Bakk (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

State snowmobile trail use permit requirement established.

HF716—Sviggum (R)**Education**

Job training franchise tax credit provided, education investment fund established, corporate alternative minimum tax abolished, unfair cigarette sales act abolished, capital equipment sales and use tax exemption, and money appropriated.

HF717—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Nursing facility reimbursement provisions modified.

HF718—Folliard (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Conservation corps youth corps advisory committee provisions modified.

HF719—Rhodes (R)**Transportation & Transit**

Motor vehicle registration suspension authorized in certain circumstances, and registration provisions modified.

HF720—Westfall (R)**Education**

Independent School District Nos. 21, Audubon, and 24, Lake Park authorized to begin the school year prior to Labor Day.

HF721—Paulsen (R)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Municipalities allowed to authorize on-sale of 3.2 percent malt liquor at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays.

HF722—Dawkins (DFL)**Taxes**

Relocated residence improvements provided valuation exclusion.

HF723—Marko (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Trunk highway revolving loan account and transportation revolving loan fund created, and money appropriated.

HF724—Molnau (R)**Education**

Minnesota River Valley special education cooperative computerized transportation routing system established, and money appropriated.

HF725—Wagenius (DFL)**Education**

Early childhood technology grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF726—Rhodes (R)**Transportation & Transit**

Temporary motor vehicle registration certificate requirements prescribed.

HF727—McGuire (DFL)**Judiciary**

Birth information released to adopted persons, and money appropriated.

HF728—Juhnke (DFL)**Agriculture**

Farmers exempted from tax on gasoline and special fuel received in on-farm bulk storage tanks.

HF729—Finseth (R)**Agriculture**

University of Minnesota appropriated money for wheat and barley scab research.

HF730—Mulder (R)**Judiciary**

Firearms; right to keep and bear arms for certain purposes not abridged, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF731—Mulder (R)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

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

HF732—Rifenberg (R)**Taxes**

Senior citizens' property tax deferral program adopted, and money appropriated.

HF733—Swenson, H. (R)**Agriculture**

Dairy development program established, grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF734—Stanek (R)**Judiciary**

Private detective and protective agent board director appointment authority modified.

HF735—Entenza (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Civil Commitment Act provisions modified related to voluntary treatment of certain incompetent persons, neuroleptic medication administration standards and procedures modified, and provisional discharge procedures modified.

HF736—Orfield (DFL)**Education**

Public post-secondary institution tuition reduced, and money appropriated.

HF737—Orfield (DFL)**Labor-Management Relations**

Union organization rights and duties established, unfair labor practice provisions modified, and penalties provided.

HF738—Wagenius (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan Council urban service area extension moratorium imposed.

HF739—Mulder (R)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Long-term health care insurance premium income tax credit provided.

HF740—Juhnke (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Insurance companies and agents regulated.

HF741—McGuire (DFL)**Judiciary**

Legislative information policy task force established, and money appropriated.



When a Twin Cities Public Television executive told members of the House Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division on Feb. 11 that emerging digital television technology might allow the stations to carry more House programming, legislators were elated.

"Can you imagine this being on television,

Mr. Chairman?" asked Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City). "We'd outdraw the Simpsons!"

"They'd think we're Beavis and Butthead," replied Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), invoking the vocally challenged MTV duo.

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MONDAY, Feb. 17

8 a.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Mandates update: University of
 Minnesota, Marvin Marshak, senior academic
 vice president, Minnesota State Colleges and
 Universities (MnSCU), John Ostrem, MnSCU
 Systems Office; Laura King, chief financial
 officer, MnSCU; and campus representatives.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: Overview of Governor Carlson's
 budget recommendations General Education
 Program, Tom Melcher, Department of
 Children, Families and Learning.

Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson
Agenda: Overview of Sales Ratio.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel
Agenda: HF118 (Juhnke) Making the
 exemption for used farm machinery
 permanent.
 HFXXXX (Juhnke) Relating to sales tax
 imposed on bulk fuel purchases for agricultural
 purposes.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: The future of solid waste management,
 Pollution Control Agency, and Office of
 Environmental Assistance.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Public testimony on the governor's
 budget recommendations for the Department
 of Human Services economic support
 programs and welfare reform.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room,
 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: HF268 (Murphy) Amending the
 appropriation to build a close-custody
 correctional facility of at least 800 beds.
 HF81 (Murphy) Modifying multiple
 occupancy requirements applicable to state
 prisons.
 HF91 (Skoglund) Repealing the law requiring
 single and double bunking in certain state
 prisons.
 HF49 (Swenson, D.) Requiring a minimum of
 50% of capacity in multiple occupancy in
 medium-security institutions.
 HF194 (Bishop) Altering occupancy standards
 in adult correctional facilities.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Budget review: Department of
 Revenue; and Minnesota Collection Enterprise.

12:30 p.m.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert
Agenda: HF74 (Osthoff) Absentee ballot voting
 provisions modified.
 HF294 (Folliard) Voter change of address
 system established.
 HF127 (Folliard) State election law modified
 and clarified related to voter requirements and
 election procedure.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson
Agenda: HF219 (Hasskamp) Leaves of absence
 without pay for employees rendering services
 as members of the civil air patrol.
 HF155 (Jaros) Restrictions on the use of
 temporary employees.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: HF626 (Luther) Relating to children;
 modifying execution and consent requirements
 for designated parent agreements.
 HF86 (Stanek) Radio and stereo use restricted
 in motor vehicles, and penalties prescribed.
 HF243 (Juhnke) Truck tractor wheel flaps
 required, unsafe firewood hauling citation

issuance authorized, vehicle axle weight
 restrictions regulated, truck weight
 enforcement provisions modified, and
 technical changes provided.
 HF602 (Trimble) Relating to transportation,
 extending the life of Mississippi River Parkway
 Commission to June 30, 2001.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

4 p.m.

The House and Senate meet in joint session.

5 p.m.

Ramsey County Legislative Delegation

123 State Capitol
 Chrs. Rep. Alice Hausman,
 Sen. Charles Wiger
Agenda: Transit/Welfare.

7 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

Faribault Junior High School,
 Faribault, Minnesota
 Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: Public hearing. (Vans leave at 4:30
 p.m.)

TUESDAY, Feb. 18

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: HF280 (Johnson, R.) American sign
 language recognized as a fully developed natural
 language.
 HF211 (Sviggum) Telephone extended area
 service installation authorized within combined
 school districts.
 HF108 (Tomassoni) Technical college
 employee retirement benefit protection
 provided.
 HF130 (Carlson) Gopher state bonds; college
 savings bond program established, marketing
 plan development required, and bond sale
 authorized.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Working groups (Agency and program
 directors should be present to meet with
 members): Second working group 8:00 to 8:20
 a.m.; Third working group 8:20 to 8:40 a.m.
 Presentation on causes and prevention of crime,
 Dr. James Gilligan, Department of Psychiatry,
 the Cambridge Hospital, Harvard Medical
 School.

**Transportation & Transit
Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: Budget overview by the Department of Transportation.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Budget hearings: Interagency Community Technical Assistance and Education Initiative; and Office of Environmental Assistance.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson
Agenda: Update on federal conformity issues.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Technology issues and procurement reform, Department of Administration.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn
Agenda: To be announced.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: State Auditor's report on Tax Increment Financing and other issues related to Tax Increment Financing.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: HF81 (Murphy) Corrections facilities multiple occupancy requirements modified. American Disabilities Act/Prison Projects, Margot Imdieke, Council on Disabilities and Dennis Benson, assistant commissioner, Department of Corrections. Discussion of Cambridge Bank Bonds.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM
& CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim
Agenda: Minnesota demographics and housing-industry overview, Glen Dorfman, Minnesota Association of Realtors. HF441 (Orfield) Uniform commercial code revised article 5 enacted, letters of credit regulated, and conforming changes provided. HF238 (Leppik) Third-party income tax bulk filer registration required, and civil penalty provided.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: Continuation of the Federal Communications Act discussion focusing on long distance carriers: Victor Dobras, U.S. Sprint; Barry Tilley, MCI; and Teresa Lynch, AT&T.

7 p.m.

**Joint
EDUCATION/
Senate
EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Lyndon Carlson,
Sen. LeRoy Stumpf
Agenda: University of Minnesota Regent interviews and recommendations.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 19

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: Briefings by the department of Trade and Economic Development.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Performance reports: University of Minnesota, Marvin Marshak, senior academic vice president; and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU), Judy Borgen, MnSCU System Office.

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: Overview of Gov. Carlson's budget recommendations Article 2, Special Education, Wayne Erickson, Department of Children, Families and Learning. Special Education Program Evaluation Report, Marilyn Jackson, Office of the Legislative Auditor.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF)
Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson
Agenda: HF427 (Dawkins) St. Paul, Ramsey County, Independent School District No. 625 joint property tax advisory committee duration extended. HF126 (Milbert) State election law modified and clarified related to voter requirements and election procedure. HF306 (Olson, E.) Rental residential property tax class rate reduced. HF6 (Wenzel) Commercial industrial first-tier property tax class rate reduced, and additional state aid provided.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Ethanol Program Evaluation Report: presentation by the Legislative Auditor.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: HF407 (Bakk) Snowmobile registration fees increased, snowmobile trail grants-in-aid provided, and money appropriated. HF580 (Tunheim) Snowmobile registration fees increased, snowmobile trail grants-in-aid funded, unrefunded snowmobile gasoline tax revenue increased, and money appropriated. HFXXXX (Hasskamp) Snowmobile safety. Board of Water & Soil Resources (BOWSR) introduction. HF266 (Munger) Water and Soil Resources Board membership provisions modified. HF232 (Finseth) Soil and water conservation district supervisors provided four-year terms of office. HF664 (McCollum) Water and soil resources board granted authority to administer federal grants, donations, gifts, and other contributions.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
& INSURANCE**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson
Agenda: HF447 (Murphy) Obstetric and gynecologic service direct patient access provided by health plan companies. HF638 (Abrams) Transferring regulatory authority for health maintenance organizations to commissioner of commerce; requiring commissioner of health to advise and assist. HF645 (Tomassoni) Providing uniform minimum definition of medically necessary care for mental health coverage. HF653 (Pugh) Requiring coverage for diabetes outpatient self-management training and education.

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

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Department of Human Services presentation of the governor's recommendations for the Department of Human Services programs and operations.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: How to reduce the rate of crime and violence, Dr. James Gilligan, Department of Psychiatry, the Cambridge Hospital, Harvard Medical School; director, Center for the Study of Violence; and director, Massachusetts Prison Mental Health Services. Continuation of Feb. 17 agenda. HF220 (Mullery) Religious corporation property conveyances validated, real property

disposition notices required pending marriage dissolution, and uniform probate code property distribution regulation provided.
HF100 (Wenzel) Emergency snow removal funding provided, and money appropriated.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Budget reviews: State Auditor; State Treasurer; and Ethical Practices Board.

12:30 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: HF246 (Dawkins) Public nuisance definition expanded, and nuisance civil action participation and cost recovery provisions modified.

HF47 (Daggett) Domestic abuse definition modified for the purposes of evaluating the best interests of a child.

HF683 (Lieder) Civil action judgement creditor affidavit information requirements expanded.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: HF413 (Rest) Job training income tax credit provided.

HFXXXX (Jaros) Establishing a Minnesota Office of International Affairs.

**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Division/EDUCATION**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: To be announced.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: HF506 (Swenson, D.) School bus safety regulated, student school bus conduct requirements developed, accident reporting provided, and penalties provided.

HF387 (Wagenius) Transportation department claim payment provided and liability provisions modified, and eminent domain provisions modified.

HF529 (McCullum) Trunk Highway No. 36 in North St. Paul pedestrian-bicycle overpass construction required.

THURSDAY, Feb. 20

8 a.m.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Agency budget presentations: Tax Court, Rep. Rich Stanek; Sentencing Guidelines Commission, Rep. Doug Swenson; Department of Human Rights, Rep. Andy Dawkins, Rep. Rich Stanek; Uniform Laws Commission, Rep. Peg Larsen; Private Detectives Board and Board of Judicial Standards, Rep. Mary Murphy; and Ombudsmen for Corrections and Crime Victim Ombudsmen, Rep. Doug Swenson.

**Subcommittee on Education Planning and
Transitions/EDUCATION**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ruth Johnson

Agenda: Overview of transitions and planning programs.

HF160 (Winter) Independent School District No. 175, Westbrook, high school student entrepreneurship pilot program established, and money appropriated.

Subcommittee on Facilities/EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Geri Evans

Agenda: Air quality in schools.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources proposal and bill.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 18 agenda.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: HF197 (Leppik) Administrative Procedures Act rulemaking procedures modified.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: To be announced.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: To be announced.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 18 agenda.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: HF640 (Solberg) Permitting the city of Naushwauk to own and operate a gas utility.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: HF268 (Murphy) Close-custody corrections facility construction appropriation and construction bid provisions modified.

**Hennepin County
Legislative Delegation**

200 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Ron Abrams,

Rep. Linda Wejcman

Agenda: Criminal justice issues.

FRIDAY, Feb. 21

8 a.m.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**

Tours

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Tours of Rochester Community and Technical College; Winona State University, Rochester Center; University of Minnesota-Rochester; and St. Mary's University of Minnesota.

**Transportation & Transit
Finance Division/**

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: Budget overview by Department of Transportation.

10 a.m.

**Health & Human Services
Finance Division/**

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 19 agenda.

2 p.m.

Joint

JUDICIARY/

Senate CRIME PREVENTION

10 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Wes Skoglund,

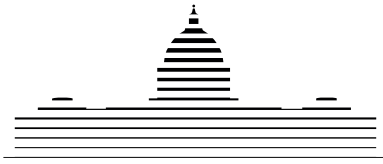
Sen. Allan Spear

Agenda: Juvenile gun violence. Presentation by David Kennedy, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and director of Boston Gun Project.

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MINNESOTA INDEX

Snowmobiles and Minnesota

Snowmobiles registered in Minnesota, 1996	254,510
Increase in the number of registered snowmobiles in the last 10 years, in percent	41
Dollars generated from snowmobile registrations, in millions, FY1996	\$2.9
Revenue collected in fines to snowmobilers, FY1996	\$37,716
Cost to register a snowmobile, per year	\$10
Total number of trails in the Minnesota snowmobile trail system, in miles	18,047
Additional trails built and operated by local trail clubs not supported by state funds, in miles	1,903
Annual cost to operate and maintain the trail system, in millions	\$8.7
Miles of additional trails proposed by county-level planning process, in miles	3,322
Estimated cost to build those trails, in millions	\$4.2
Last year that new trail construction was funded	1990
Reported snowmobile accidents resulting in injury, 1995-1996 season	630
in 1986-1987	145
Snowmobile deaths, 1995-1996	26
in 1986-1987	2
Percent of 1995-1996 deaths that were alcohol-related	76
Deaths this season, as of Feb. 13, 1997	26
Deaths in the last five winters	129
Maximum speed limit on Minnesota public lands and waters, in miles per hour	50
Stopping distance necessary for a snowmobile traveling at 50 mph, in feet	300
Rank of "operator error" in factors causing a snowmobile accident	1
Rank of trespassing, among complaints registered by landowners against snowmobilers	1
Years a snowmobile's registration will be suspended for an owner's conviction of a trespassing offense	1
Miles traveled by the average snowmobiler, 1990-1991 season	461
during the 1995-1996 season	1,000
Under current law, youngest age that a Minnesota snowmobiler may travel unaccompanied and without restriction after completing a snowmobile safety course	14
Cost of DNR-approved snowmobile safety course	\$5
Maximum civil fine for using a snowmobile to intentionally drive, chase, run over, kill, or take a wild animal	\$300

Sources: *Minnesota Snowmobile Safety Laws & Regulations, 1996-1997*, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; DNR News Releases; Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

For more information



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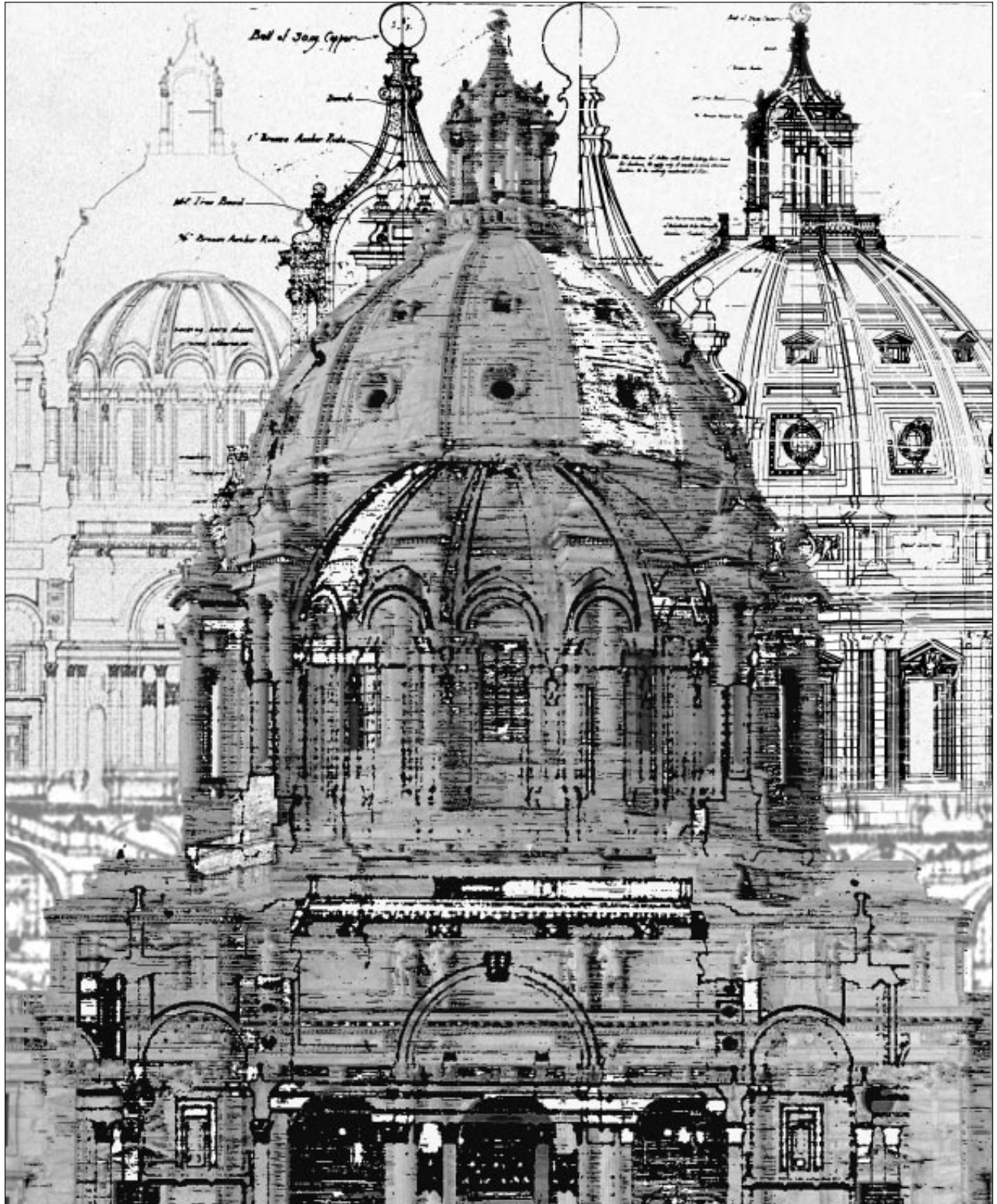
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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ February 21, 1997 ♦ Volume 14, Number 7



SESSION WEEKLY

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Update

The Legislature has taken on more of an academic atmosphere this session. A quest for information has been influenced by the need to have more detailed knowledge about the important issues introduced in the form of bills and discussed in committee hearings.

Walk into a committee meeting, and likely, you will think you are in a college classroom. Depending on the committee, you may find yourself listening to an academic discussion or a question and answer discourse on the state of prisons, welfare, highways, school recidivism, or why frogs with abnormal bodies are being found in south central Minnesota.

For members and staff, a recent increase in what is being learned about the many aspects affecting our lives, is for the most part, a direct influence on an increase in the amount of information offered throughout the complex.

As reported in the Jan. 31, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 15, a new source for learning is a five-part Capitol Forum series, "Discussing Minnesota's Future," sponsored by Minnesota Technology Inc. and the McKnight Foundation. Topics already explored by lawmakers are "Transforming the Face of Minnesota's Workforce" and "Thinking in the Future Tense."

Other experts have assisted with extending the knowledge of individuals in the Capitol complex through seminars, lectures, hearings, and fact-finding tours. Those participating have been informed and advised on a variety of issues yet to come before the Legislature.

In the last three weeks, continuing education around the complex embodied reshaping Minnesota's welfare program; how a shift in the use of public tax dollars can change economic development for the state; and the implications of universal access in the 1996 U.S. Telecommunications Act.

Other lectures, reported in this issue of the *Session Weekly*, involved a four-hour crime prevention issues forum, and a joint gathering of the House and Senate on closing the learning gap among rich and poor youth throughout the state.

Legislators are showing much seriousness as they scurry from a seminar to a committee hearing and then to session. A dedication to an increase in knowledge by lawmakers and some staff is obvious. For most, the end result will be personal development. The lawmaking process will benefit.

According to the educator, John Dewey, "Development emphasizes the need of . . . extensive acquaintance . . . with a view to mastering the way of dealing with the problems of experience, not [just] the piling up of information."

—LeClair Lambert

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On the cover: a photo illustration using images from Cass Gilbert's original Capitol blueprints.
—by Andrew Von Bank

Blueprint images courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

Highlights

Rush City prison . . .

Revised plan uses double-bunking to meet budget

The House Judiciary Committee approved a bill Feb. 17 that would transform the design of the prison scheduled for construction in Rush City, Minn., this spring. The new plan calls for double-bunking in the majority of the prison cells. Originally, most cells would have held a single prisoner.

HF268 would repeal a statute that requires inmates to be placed in separate cells whenever space allows in prisons at a security level of the planned Rush City prison. Higher security prisons, such as Oak Park Heights, would not be affected by the proposal. The bill also reverses an earlier requirement specific to the Rush City prison that it be designed with mostly single occupancy units. The bill now requires the opposite—the new facility must provide multiple occupancy cells “to the greatest extent possible.” The result is that only one-seventh of the cells at Rush City will house a single prisoner.

“The main difference between this and the 1996 bill [authorizing the prison to be built] is that it allows the facility to be double-celled,” said Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), the bill’s sponsor.

The corrections department had asked for \$100 million for the prison; the Legislature approved \$89 million in its bonding bill last session.

The department’s new plan calls for three



Minnesota’s only maximum security prison, Oak Park Heights, *shown above*, will not be affected by legislation that would allow the new prison in Rush City to be built with double occupancy cells.

According to projections compiled by Minnesota Planning Criminal Justice Center, Minnesota youths age 15 to 19 had the highest arrest rates for violent and nonviolent crimes in 1995, the year of the study. Minnesota’s population in the 10- to 24-year age group is expected to climb in the seven-county metro area from 470,760 in 1995 to 552,210 in 2005, when it reaches its peak. In Minnesota’s remaining 80 counties,

are expected to exceed prison capacity.

While double-bunking enables the prison to be built within budget and adds to its capacity, it raises other concerns. Much debate has centered around safety issues for both inmates and personnel. The solution, according to prison officials who testified before the committee Feb. 17, is to provide the necessary staffing and activities for state inmates. The intention is for prisoners to be in their cells only at night.

“The bottom line is that there’s an inter-connection between staff, programming, double-bunking, inmate security, and guard security. If that isn’t addressed by the legislation, we’ll have problems,” said John Beer of AFSCME, which represents the union to which many prison personnel belong. “With adequate staffing, remarkable things can be done to manage institutions.” Beer said there is a correlation between assaults and inadequate staffing, but the role of double-bunking in the equation was not known. He said that AFSCME has “not taken a hard and fast position” on double-bunking.

Still, his points raised the question from Rep. Sherry Broecker (R-Vadnais Heights) as to how much money double-bunking saves

***“We’re doing this for money
and only money.***

—Rep. Michael Paymar

‘pods,’ or living sections, with 136 double-occupancy cells in each, and one pod with 136 single-occupancy units. The double-occupancy cells will measure 84.2 square feet. The new design increases the facility’s capacity to 952 inmates, up from 800.

The earlier plan had called for six single-occupancy pods. The two pods not requested in the new proposal could be added later if needed.

that population will peak in the year 2000 at 489,040, according to the study. Crime statistics reveal those populations to be over-represented in the state’s prison population. Further, the overall adult male prison population in Minnesota is expected to increase from 5,043 in 1997 to 6,282 in 2005. An additional 346 adult females are also expected to be behind bars. Both populations

if it increases staff and program requirements.

"We're not prepared to say how much money the new plan will save, but we think it will create some efficiencies," Benson said. "We'll have to add some staff," but not so much it will drive up costs, he added.

And Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) questioned the wisdom of any policy that forces prisoners into close quarters.

"I'm speaking against this policy in the strongest terms," he said. "I think we'll see an increase in assaults and lawsuits. The issues of the safety of the staff and inmates have not been adequately addressed by the committee. . . . This is cost-driven, folks," he added. "We're doing this for money and only money. While we have a fiduciary responsibility, this is shortsighted."

Paymar also expressed doubt at Deputy Commissioner Dennis Benson's assertion that only one confirmed rape has occurred in more than 10 years within the prison population. The prison environment precludes the reporting of such crimes, Paymar suggested.

No study has been conducted on the policies other states follow on prison double-bunking. Minnesota is thought to be among a minority with laws on the books in this regard. On the federal level, only one prison — a "super-maximum" security facility in Colorado — has exclusively single-occupancy units throughout the facility.

The department also outlined for lawmakers a new classification system in which all prisons will be assigned a number between one and six, with six referring to the highest security facilities, and one, the lowest. Rush City's prison will be classified as a level four, which is the highest number in which double-bunking will be allowed. The prison at Oak Park Heights is a maximum security, or level six; Stillwater and St. Cloud correctional facilities are level five; the correctional facilities at Lino Lakes, Moose Lake, and Faribault are level three; Brainerd's facility is a two, and Willow River, Red Wing, MSU/Stillwater, and Shakopee correctional facilities are level one.

HF268 now moves to the House Capital Investment Committee.

— Celeste Riley



AGRICULTURE

The price of ethanol

Minnesota's burgeoning ethanol industry was the subject of criticism and praise during a Feb. 14 House Agriculture Committee hearing focused on a recent legislative auditor's report on state ethanol programs.

The report, released in early February, questions the benefits of Minnesota's promotion of ethanol in gasoline, but some committee members and other officials were unbending in their support for the ethanol industry.

"Ethanol production is one of those things that is a bright star out there," said Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison).

According to the report, the ethanol industry has helped small, rural communities by providing high-wage jobs and a market for corn growers.

However, the report also notes that the state has paid a high price to support ethanol, and the product has driven up gasoline prices and reduced gas mileage.

The report estimates that Minnesota consumers pay an extra 2- to 3-cents-per-gallon for ethanol-blended fuel, creating a total statewide cost of about \$42 million annually.

However, a Department of Agriculture official argued that ethanol is not responsible for higher prices at the pump.

"We dispute that," said Jerry Heil, director of agriculture marketing and development for the department. "We disagree with the methodology used to draw that conclusion."

The state requires the use of ethanol or similar products to reduce harmful automobile emissions, but the report states there is no clear link between the use of ethanol-blended fuel and reduced carbon monoxide in the atmosphere.

"As far as the environmental issues are concerned, it's a question mark," Legislative Auditor James Nobles said. "It's not so much a negative statement as it is a question mark."

Not so, according to Heil, who said there is "no doubt" ethanol has had an effect on reducing pollution.

State law requires that gasoline sold year-round in the Twin Cities area contain a certain amount of oxygen. Beginning in October 1997, the oxygen requirement will be extended statewide. (Use of ethanol is not mandated, but the product, which is derived from corn and other agricultural products, is the oxygenation agent regularly used in Minnesota.)

There are now eight ethanol plants oper-

ating in the state, and three more are under construction. All but one of the plants are farmer-owned cooperatives, and most of them were constructed after the state initiated the producer payment in 1987.

The producer payment provides a 20-cent-per-gallon subsidy for ethanol. The federal government contributes an additional 54-cent-per-gallon subsidy.

The report estimates the industry's total economic impact statewide to be \$211 million to \$327 million annually. But, the report says, the industry costs Minnesotans a significant sum in state subsidies, higher gas prices, and reduced fuel efficiency.

Gov. Arne Carlson is advocating increased state support for ethanol. The governor's budget proposal calls for the state to spend \$49 million on ethanol subsidies during the 1998-1999 biennium, double the amount spent during the current two-year spending period.

Tax-free farm equipment

Minnesota farmers would not be required to pay state sales tax on the agricultural machinery necessary to their industry, under a bill approved Feb. 17 by the House Agriculture Committee.

HF118, sponsored by Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar), would permanently lift the state sales tax on both new and used farm machinery.

"There's no tax along the rest of the food chain right now," Juhnke said. "Why should we tax it in the beginning?"

Current state law includes a temporary sales tax exemption for used farm machinery, but it is set to expire June 30, 1997. Without the exemption, farmers buying used machinery would be required to pay 2.5 percent sales tax, the same rate currently applied to new farm machinery purchases.

The exemption for used farm machinery has been in place since 1994, when a law was passed allowing the exemption for a period of one year. Subsequently, lawmakers have twice voted to extend the sunset date of that law.

"I don't see any reason why we should be back here every year doing this," Juhnke said. "It ought to be permanent."

The bill originally affected only the sales of used farm machinery, but the committee approved an amendment to exempt new machinery as well.

It is estimated that the tax exemption for used machinery would cost the state about \$3.4 million in lost revenue during the 1998-

99 biennium. Adding new machinery to the equation would push the total to \$26.2 million in lost tax revenue during the two-year period.

The exemption would apply to machinery used directly and principally for production of crops, livestock, and other agricultural goods. That includes anything from milking machines to tractors.

Farmers would continue to pay full sales tax on related equipment, such as pickup trucks and snow blowers.

HF118 now moves to the House Taxes Committee.



CHILDREN

Adoption reimbursement caps

A bill to allow the state to reimburse adoption agencies up to \$16,000 when placing certain children with adoptive families won approval from the House Governmental Operations Committee Feb. 20.

The bill (HF374) will affect special needs children who are eligible for the state's adoption assistance program. Most of the children are in the foster care system and have suffered from neglect or abuse. (See Feb. 14, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page. 4.)

Reimbursement for agency costs is currently capped at \$4,000 per child, a figure that hasn't changed since 1980. Costs for the placements now average between \$8,000 and \$13,000. One reason for the increased cost is the need for extensive follow-up services for special-needs placements.

Bill sponsor Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud) said there are 813 children currently in foster care whom the new law will effect. Their average age is eight, he said. An unknown number of other children are currently in various stages of adoption.

Knoblach's original proposal left the reimbursement figure open-ended, limited only to "reasonable and appropriate costs." But several committee members expressed concern that a cap is needed to prevent costs from rising dramatically.

"We need a cap or costs will rise to the maximum people think they can get," said Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids).

HF 374 now moves to the House floor.

Check your local listings to watch the House committee and floor sessions on TV.



Carol Holmes of Plymouth holds her daughter, Laura, while listening to U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone and others speak at a PTA rally in honor of the organization's 100-year anniversary. The event took place in the Capitol rotunda Feb. 17.



EDUCATION

Alcohol-free drivers

School bus drivers would be disqualified from their job if caught with even a trace of alcohol in their system, under a bill approved Feb. 19 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

HF506, sponsored by Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake), would make it illegal for a school bus driver to be on the job "when there is physical evidence present in the person's body of the consumption of any alcohol."

Current state law makes it a crime for a school bus driver to operate a bus with a blood-alcohol concentration of .04 percent or more. The .04 percent limit applies to all commercial drivers. The legal limit for other drivers is .10 percent.

Under Swenson's bill, school bus drivers or Head Start bus drivers would face a misdemeanor charge if caught with alcohol in their system. And violators would lose their commercial license for one year on the first offense.

The alcohol-related provision is part of a larger school bus safety bill that would make numerous technical changes in the law in order to update state standards for school bus equipment.

Swenson's bill is based on recommendations from the School Bus Safety Advisory Committee, a 17-member panel including

bus drivers and officials from state departments, the state patrol, school districts, and other organizations.

The provision tightening the alcohol limit for school bus drivers was included in the bill to "create a not-a-drop environment," said Dennis Lazenberry, pupil transportation safety director for the state patrol and a member of the advisory committee.

The bill also would make some minor changes to existing state law regarding bus safety education for students.

A 1994 law requires school districts to designate the first week of each school year as school bus safety week. During that week, each district is required to provide K-12 students with bus safety training.

Swenson's bill would move school bus safety week to the third week of the school year and would lift the requirement that students be trained in bus safety during that week.

Lazenberry said the proposed changes aim to give school districts more flexibility during the busy days at the beginning of the school year.

Members of the committee deleted a separate, potentially controversial provision from the bill.

The provision would have mandated that school bus drivers walk the aisle after each route to check for sleeping children or other stragglers, and it would have made failure to do so a misdemeanor.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) said such checks are "a good practice," but that it is not

necessary to threaten bus drivers with a misdemeanor penalty.

HF506 now goes to the House Judiciary Committee.



ELECTIONS

Keeping track of voters

Under a bill approved Feb. 17 by the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee, the Office of the Secretary of State will acquire change-of-address lists from the U.S. Postal Service. The lists will help the Secretary's office maintain accurate and updated records of registered voters.

About 25,000 Minnesotans change residences each year, but the Secretary of State's office has no way of tracking them. "We don't even know they've moved until a voter attempts to register or vote again," said Joe Mansky, director of the Secretary of State's Elections Division. "Our records can be inaccurate for up to two years."

The Secretary of State's office will collect the lists about once a month. It has the full cooperation of the postal service, Mansky said. "Now we can update our database on an ongoing basis so it's always correct."

The office will send a postcard to each resident who moves within Minnesota, informing them of the location of their new polling place.

HF294, sponsored by Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins), now moves to the House floor.



ENVIRONMENT

Snowmobile funding

As Minnesota's 1997 snowmobile-related death toll rose to a record of 28, legislators introduced yet more proposals addressing snowmobile safety, trail maintenance, and funding issues.

Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) brought a bill (HF407) to the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 19 that seeks additional revenue to help pay for the snowmobile initiatives that other bills are proposing.

"We need an influx of money into the system," Bakk told the panel. "I support many of the policy issues that are being brought forward. But without funding, we won't be able to enact these new policies."

Bakk's bill would increase the snowmobile registration fee from the current \$30 every three years to \$45. The measure would

raise an additional \$1.25 million annually, Bakk said. Other bills under consideration by the Legislature, including one the committee approved last week, would double the fee to \$60.

Bakk also proposed that snowmobilers be required to purchase \$10 permit stickers in order to use state-owned trails. The 2,000 miles of state trails constitute the backbone of Minnesota's 18,000-mile snowmobile trail system, Bakk said. The other 16,000 miles of trails are locally owned and maintained, often with state grants. The sticker fee would generate another \$3 million annually, according to Bakk, without penalizing those who don't use the system, such as farmers who just use snowmobiles to do chores on their own property. Sticker fees would also allow the state to collect from out-of-state riders who use Minnesota's trail system, Bakk said.

In addition, the bill provides that 1 percent of the state's gasoline tax revenues be designated for snowmobile-related purposes. About 1 percent of gasoline sold in the state goes into snowmobiles.

The bill also would appropriate \$1 million annually from the state general fund in 1997 and 1998 for local trail maintenance. For the

past few years, snowmobile clubs, which maintain local trails with state grant-in-aid funds, have run out of money before the end of the season and had to ask the Legislature for emergency appropriations. Most clubs have already exhausted this year's trail maintenance funds.

HF407 was approved and now moves to the Transportation and Transit Committee.



HOUSING

Accessibility loans

Foster parents wanting to take in a disabled child will be eligible for the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency's accessibility loan program, under a provision in a bill (HF517) approved by the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee's Housing and Housing Finance Division Feb. 18.

Accessibility loans are typically used to pay for construction of wheelchair ramps and other special adaptations needed by disabled people. Under current law, only disabled individuals or their families are eligible for the loan program. HF517 would allow loans to households if someone residing in



Linda Wolford, Minneapolis, and other Metro Mobility riders attended a rally in the Capitol rotunda Feb. 19 to support full funding for the system and to talk about issues such as the increase in trip denials.

the household has a permanent physical or mental disability.

"The present law is too restrictive," said Tonja Orr, director of government affairs for the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. "Foster parents who want to care for a disabled child are being excluded."

The bill also drops a restriction that defines disability as a condition that would otherwise require hospitalization or skilled nursing care facilities.

HF517 contains several other provisions and will eventually become the omnibus housing funding bill. The bill will stay in the Housing and Housing Finance Division until it is completed later in the session.



INSURANCE

Direct OB/GYN access

A bill to forbid health insurers from requiring women to receive a referral in order to see an obstetrician or gynecologist won approval Feb. 19 from the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

HF447, sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), would require that insurance companies and health maintenance organizations (HMOs) allow female enrollees direct access to obstetricians and gynecologists.

Under the bill, women would have to be allowed to schedule appointments with an obstetrician or gynecologist without prior approval from the insurer or a referral from a "gatekeeper" primary care physician.

"Why shouldn't I be able to see that person without having to [first] see a physician I don't even know?" Murphy said.

The bill would require that women be given direct access to an obstetrician or gynecologist for annual examinations, any subsequent treatment deemed necessary by the specialist, maternity care, and treatment of acute or emergency conditions. Companies would be barred from charging women extra for direct access.

The bill is necessary to protect women's "traditional right" of direct access, said Dr. Jan Strathy, the legislative liaison for the Minnesota Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists/Minnesota Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Strathy stressed that the bill would not mandate any new coverage; it would simply ensure that women are not waylaid by ever-changing "gatekeeper" policies.

"Women should be able to choose the type of physician that will attend to their most intimate medical needs," Strathy said.

Nineteen states already have laws guaranteeing direct access to obstetricians and gynecologists. Proposals similar to HF447 are being considered in several other states, according to Strathy.

Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) told members of the committee that she was once charged by her insurer for an visit to an obstetrician/gynecologist because she had not received a referral.

"It's one thing to be able to choose out of your provider network," Boudreau said. "It's another thing to have to get permission from a gatekeeper to see a specialist."

The bill now moves to the House floor.

More coverage for diabetics

Health plans would be required to provide coverage for training and education to assist diabetics in managing their disease, under a bill headed for the House floor.

HF653, sponsored by Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul), was approved Feb. 19 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

The bill would expand a 1994 law requiring medical insurance companies and health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to provide coverage for syringes, blood-testing devices, and other equipment diabetics need.

Pugh said his bill would help to ensure diabetics know how to use the medical equipment and how to monitor their own condition. Medical nutrition therapy would be

required to be included in health coverage, under the bill.

Dr. Richard Bergenstal, executive director of the International Diabetes Center, urged lawmakers to support the bill.

If unchecked, diabetes can lead to blindness, kidney failure, amputation, and other serious concerns, Bergenstal said. But, he added, early education and effort to control the disease can help diabetics "at a stage when we can prevent many of these devastating complications."



LABOR

Temporary work restrictions

Thousands of Minnesota companies, large and small, have come to depend on temporary workers to perform a wide variety of jobs. A bill (HF155) now before the House Labor-Management Committee seeks to limit employer use of temporary workers.

In a Feb. 17 hearing, bill sponsor Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth) said that his intent is to limit temporary employment in the same position to 600 working days in a consecutive three-year period. There would be an exemption for companies with fewer than 20 employees.

"I'm not against temporary agencies or their employees; they are needed for work overload situations," Jaros said. "But from my study, temporary workers are often used by employers to bypass giving employment



On Feb. 20, one-year-old Elizabeth Krinkie, daughter of Rep. Phil Krinkie, decided that the bills on her dad's desk needed more work.

benefits. Employees with permanent jobs will be happier.”

The committee took no action on the bill.

The one witness Jaros had lined up to speak for the bill, AFL-CIO President Bernard Brommer, did not attend the meeting.

Seven witnesses did speak in opposition to the bill.

Neil Clark, president of Minnesota Technical Services Association, gave the panel a handout listing myths and facts about temporary employment. “There is a misconception that temporary employees get lower wages,” he said. “But we must compete for employees in the same market as everyone else.”

Clark said that some of his technical employees have earned from \$40 to \$60 per hour working temporary assignments. He also stressed that many temporary agencies offer employees such benefits as paid holidays and vacations, health care, and 401k retirement plans.

“Our industry and workers are very opposed to this bill,” said Jackie Engmark, president of Minnesota Association of Temporary Services and owner of an employment agency. “It will severely damage the temporary industry in Minnesota.”

Engmark said that 55 percent of her workers wind up finding permanent employment by working temporary jobs. She added that, for a variety of reasons, some workers prefer to work temporary jobs.

One such person is Ingrid Pasko, who has worked for Engmark’s agency for more than three years. Pasko told the panel that, because of her family, she needs the flexibility that temporary work offers more than the benefits that go with a permanent job. “My husband’s health benefits cover us,” she said. “Working temp allows me to take off when I need to for my kids.”

Employers hire temporary workers for the flexibility and to be more honest with their commitments to employees, said Rob Reinhardt of the Minnesota Employers Council. “I’ve been listening and have yet to hear what problem is being addressed by this legislation. Thoughtful employers don’t want to engage in layoffs so they use temporary workers to fill in. The alternative is to hire more people than you need and then have to lay them off.”

Committee Chair Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) appointed a six-member working group on HF155 to revise the bill and report back to the panel.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Police benefits

A bill to ensure that peace officers disabled in the line of duty continue to receive health coverage for themselves and their families won approval from a House panel Feb. 20.

“This is an initiative that came out of the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association,” Dennis Flaherty, executive director of the MPPOA, told the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee. “It is near and dear to our members.”

There are currently 54 former Minnesota peace officers receiving retirement pensions after becoming disabled by duty-related injuries. Though they are eligible for pensions, many of these officers lost their health care benefits once they could no longer serve as peace officers.

HF333, sponsored by Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul), would require their previous employers to provide health care coverage. It also would extend the same coverage to the dependents of those killed in the line of duty.

A recent survey of registered voters commissioned by the MPPOA indicated that 95 percent of Minnesotans support such benefits for injured officers, according to Flaherty. Continuing health benefits for the families of officers killed in the line of duty was supported by 82 percent of the respondents.

Minneapolis currently provides such coverage under a negotiated contract with the Minneapolis Police Federation, said Joel Jamnik of the League of Minnesota Cities. St. Paul provides similar coverage to the families of officers killed in the line of duty.

“The League does not support this bill,” Jamnik said. “These matters should be dealt with in collective bargaining agreements in each individual city.

“While I am sympathetic to the intent of this bill, when you get right down to it, what you have here is an unfunded mandate for cities and counties,” Jamnik said. “If you are going to pass this you should also provide funding.”

An average of three officers per year lose their lives in the line of duty in Minnesota, Flaherty said.

Several committee members also criticized the bill for creating an unfunded mandate for local governments. An amendment by Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph), which failed, would have allowed the state to reimburse local governments for compliance with the law.

Rep. Ron Kraus (R-Albert Lea) asked why others who risk their lives for the public such as fire fighters and emergency medical technicians aren’t included in the bill. Farrell responded that those groups could each bring forth their own legislation.

HF333 now goes to the House floor.

Potential government savings

A bill designed to save local governments some money in publishing legal notices won approval from a House panel Feb. 18.

For a variety of reasons, cities, townships, and counties must publish legal notices in local newspapers. The ads serve as public notice for land sales, class action lawsuits, and other government actions.

Under current law, local governments can only publish such notices in newspapers whose primary offices are within the government’s jurisdiction.

But that limitation can cost local governments more than necessary when nearby newspapers charge substantially less for ad space.

HF356, sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), would allow local governments to officially designate any newspaper with at least 25 percent of its circulation within the government’s jurisdiction.

A letter from the Roseville City Council detailed the problem for members of the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

“The council designated the *Roseville Review* as the official newspaper for 1996, based on substantially lower cost.” But the letter of the law required the city to select the *Roseville Focus*, based on the paper’s office location. The restriction will cause Roseville to pay approximately 75 percent more, or about \$4,500, for legal notices in 1996.

Joel Jamnik of the League of Minnesota Cities told the committee that his group supports the bill. “It will potentially reduce costs to cities while still providing for adequate public notice,” he said.

Mark Anfinson, the Minnesota Newspaper Association’s attorney, said that he is generally supportive of the measure, while his organization has yet to take an official position.

The bill now moves to the House floor.



TAXES

Cutting property taxes

The House Taxes Committee's Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division took the first steps on the road toward reforming the state's complex property tax code Feb. 19.

The division approved HF126, sponsored by Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul), which would draw on Minnesota's projected budget surplus to buy down the property tax rates on commercial, industrial, and utility properties.

Currently, the first \$100,000 of such properties is taxed at 3 percent, with the remaining value taxed at 4.6 percent. HF126 would extend the 3-percent bracket to \$200,000. Commercial-industrial property in an enterprise zone, now assessed at 2.3 percent rate on the first \$50,000 and 3.6 percent between \$50,000 and \$200,000, would be taxed at 2.3 percent on the first \$200,000. Property values over that amount would be assessed at the 3.6-percent rate.

The state government would offset the loss of revenue to local governments, estimated at \$26 million per year, by increasing the amount provided through Minnesota's Homestead Agriculture Credit Aid (HACA).

HF126 would provide a 21-percent cut in property taxes to small businesses, Milbert said, although all businesses would feel some relief.

"The property tax on small business is particularly high — onerously high," Milbert said, noting that small companies account for 94 percent of the state's total number of firms. "This move will increase the success rate of small businesses."

The division sent the bill, with no recommendation, to the full Taxes Committee for consideration as part of the 1997 omnibus tax bill.

The division also approved two separate proposals: HF427, a bill sponsored by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) that would make permanent the joint Ramsey County-St. Paul property tax advisory committee, and HF306.

HF306, sponsored by Rep. Edgar Olson (DFL-Fosston), would reduce the tax rate on some rural residential apartment units from 3.4 percent to 2.3 percent.

The division sent both bills to the full committee.



TECHNOLOGY

Electronic signatures

The House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee brought Minnesota businesses one step closer to the digital age Feb. 20, endorsing a plan to give electronic signatures the full force of legal protection.

"This bill is going to revolutionize business," Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said of HF56 after hearing Katie Engler of the Secretary of State's office describe the digital encryption system.

HF56, sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) and modeled after a law set to take effect in Washington state in January 1998, allows for the full authentication of documents transmitted between computers. The process relies on a set of two cryptographic key codes built around one-of-a-kind mathematical formulas known as algorithms. One key, held privately by the user, encodes documents with a digital signature; the other is held in trust by a public certification authority and used by recipients to verify an encoded document's integrity.

The bill defines the rules of the digital authentication system and mandates that the Secretary of State set up a transitional public certification authority until private sector firms, which would be licensed and regulated by the secretary's office, can step in and take over the verification process. HF56 also defines the range of liability assumed by the system's subscribers and provides penalties for acts of fraud.

Perhaps most importantly, Kahn said, the entire electronic signature system would remain voluntary. Businesses would not be required to participate. Moreover, the state would not assume any financial burden because the cost of doing business would be assumed by the private sector firms — who could set whatever price the market could bear — when they take over as certification authorities.

Committee members, though, did not approve the bill without questioning the degree of security provided by the encryption codes.

"The whole bill is a question to me," said Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley). "My concern is that I know how often I read in the paper that some brilliant hacker has just cracked somebody's code."

It seems, she continued, that every time a bold, new technological innovation comes along, some ne'er-do-well rises to the challenge and finds a way to beat the system.

Other representatives felt the bill linked the process to technology that may be state-of-the-art today, but obsolete in a few years.

Both concerns, Kahn said, could be addressed either by the private sector firms as they keep abreast of the developing technology or by amendment.

HF56 now moves to the Governmental Operations Committee.



TRANSPORTATION

Seat belt bill fails

A proposal to give police authority to pull over motor vehicles carrying juveniles who are not buckled up has stalled in the House.

HF221, sponsored by Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), would have required motor vehicle occupants under age 18 to be wearing seat belts. The measure failed to win preliminary approval Feb. 20 on the House floor. The vote was 80-48 against the bill.

A provision in the bill making violations of its requirements a primary offense — giving a new power to police officers — was the focus of criticism from several members of the House.

"Do we want to add an additional reason why a peace officer in this state can pull over a motor vehicle?" Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) asked.

Once a vehicle is pulled over, Abrams said, police can write tickets for any offense, including the failure of adult passengers to comply with seat belt laws.

Current law requires all vehicle occupants between the ages of 3 and 11 to wear seat belts. Rhodes' bill would have extended the requirement to include anyone between the ages of 3 and 18.

(Children under age 4 are required to be secured in child car seats. Occupants 18 or older must wear seat belts only when in the front seat.)

Violation of seat belt requirements for occupants older than 3 is now a secondary offense. That means police can issue citations only after a vehicle is stopped for a moving violation or another violation involving the vehicle's equipment.

The bill would have allowed police to stop any vehicle in which any occupant between 3 to 18 years old, whether in the front seat or back, was not using a seat belt.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) argued against giving police new powers to stop vehicles just because they suspect juve-

Continued on page 19

Roots of violence lie in shame, economic disparity

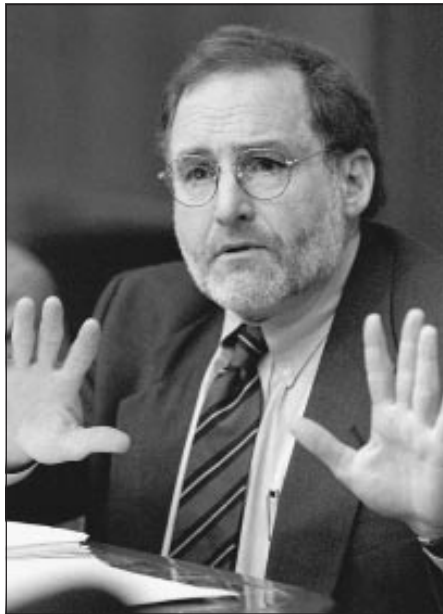
It may be that there is no single or simple way to determine the causes of crime and violence, which, according to Dr. James Gilligan, are of epidemic proportions in American society. But Gilligan, a psychiatrist from the Harvard Medical School who has written a book, *Violence: Our Deadly Epidemic and Its Causes*, said there is a little-understood, overriding factor that is highly effective in predicting the likelihood of violent behavior in individuals.

Crime and violence are propelled by shame, Gilligan said. All of the known triggers — poverty, lack of education, child abuse, discrimination, drug abuse, out-of-wedlock births, lack of role models — play a role in what is governed by feelings of shame, rejection, humiliation, and degradation. “That’s the pathogen,” Gilligan said. “When a person is overwhelmed by those feelings, everything else follows from that.”

Gilligan visited the Capitol on Feb. 17 and 18 to address meetings of the House Judiciary Committee and its Judiciary Finance Division, and a House-Senate meeting on the Statewide Violence Prevention Media Campaign. His visit was at the invitation of Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights).

Gilligan said he first learned of the importance of shame in provoking criminal activity in his extensive work with violent inmates in correctional facilities. When asking prisoners why they had committed violent acts against others, the consistent answer was, “He disrespected me.” When Gilligan asked one extremely violent inmate what he wanted so badly that he was willing to sacrifice everything for it, the inmate told him “dignity and respect.”

Social factors explain a big part of the problem. “The biggest societal factor that leads to violence is ‘relative deprivation or poverty,’ in which an individual suffers when compared to others in the environment who have much more,” Gilligan said. There is a strong correlation between the size of the income gap between social and economic classes and the respective rates of crime and violence. The United States, among industrial nations, he said, has by far the biggest gap between the rich and poor and vastly exceeds all other industrialized countries in crime and violence. And, he added, the gap is growing. Further, the numbers don’t bode well for the youngest generation of Americans. The U.S. has the highest rate of child poverty of any industrialized country.



Dr. James Gilligan, author of *Violence: Our Deadly Epidemic and Its Causes*, spoke before the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 19 on the issues of crime and violence.

The trend bears out in examination of many countries. Consistently, Gilligan said, the bigger the income disparity, the more crime and violence a country experiences. Sweden and Japan, for example, where economic disparity is minimal, have correspondingly low crime rates.

A second societal factor: “Exposing people systematically to humiliation and shame through discrimination — particularly racial discrimination,” Gilligan said. The effects of systemic discrimination are compounded by a lack of access to other sources of pride and self esteem, such as education. “That’s why education is so important. The recidivism rate among prisoners who have been given a college education during incarceration is far lower than that of those who haven’t [had a college education],” Gilligan said.

Gilligan offered no easy solutions, but approaches crime and violence with a public health metaphor. If people are getting sick from contaminated water, it’s more effective to clean up the water than to continue treating only the sick individuals, he said. “The key is to alter social and economic conditions. There simply is no more important principal than an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. By the time an individual becomes violent, it’s too late, and a lot more expensive.”

Prisons, Gilligan said, are useful as a means

to quarantine dangerous offenders. As punitive devices, however, they only lead to more violent individuals. “Nothing is more useful at stimulating violence than punishment,” he said, while acknowledging society’s justifiable outrage at violent crime. “We haven’t made up our minds as a country on whether prisons are for rehabilitation and violence prevention or for punishment and shame.”

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) asked Gilligan for specifics on how his ideas can translate into policy.

Every legislative act is related to crime and violence either directly or indirectly, Gilligan said. “You can’t pass a law on taxes which isn’t simultaneously a law on violence,” he said. Tertiary solutions — such as changes within prisons — are the easiest, Gilligan said. In the middle are secondary changes, such as creating programs aimed at high-risk individuals and populations. Primary solutions — making change at the societal level — are hardest.

“The problem is extremely complex. There simply is no one program or panacea,” Gilligan said. “The major solutions, however, are going to come from people like you, not me.”

— Celeste Riley

Minnesota’s troubled kids

In 1994, 58,900 juveniles were arrested in Minnesota, ranking the state tenth in juvenile arrests, according to state information compiled in *Minnesota Crime in Perspective, 1996*. Of those, 2,159 were for violent crimes, including 34 murders, 216 rapes, and 1,253 aggravated assaults.

Juveniles were arrested 656 times for robbery; 17,143 times for property crimes; 2,136 times for burglary; 12,637 times for larceny and theft; and 2,127 times for motor vehicle theft, according to the study.

Wellstone urges lawmakers to close 'learning gap'

Children living in poverty face substantially more hurdles when it comes to learning than do their better-off peers, Sen. Paul Wellstone said to a joint session of the Minnesota Legislature Feb. 17.

"These children start life already behind," Wellstone said of the nearly 200,000 Minnesota kids living at or near the poverty level. "Their test scores are 11 to 25 points lower . . . and they are 11 times more likely to drop out of school than their more affluent classmates."

This growing "learning gap," Wellstone said, threatens not only Minnesota's economic well-being and criminal justice system, but the very fabric of the American Dream. He challenged policymakers to promote the growth of an educational environment that builds on a partnership between the classroom, the community, and the family.

Wellstone spoke at the invitation of House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Park). Focusing primarily on K-12 education, Wellstone endorsed statewide testing and discouraged legislators from using public dollars to support private schools. He also called on educators to teach a curriculum of values that reflects the "underpinnings of our democracy."

"I don't think anybody should be defensive about standards," or values, Wellstone said, adding that merely installing standardized tests should not allow lawmakers to relax their commitment to education. "We need to do everything possible . . . so children can meet or exceed those standards. . . . It can't just be a technical fix."

Wellstone also said the federal gov-



Speaker Phil Carruthers, rear, listens as U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone tells a joint meeting of the Legislature that they must do more to educate children. The event took place in the House chamber Feb. 17. Sen. Rod Grams also has been invited to address legislators at a later date

ernment must do a better job of funding early childhood development efforts, including programs such as Women, Infants and Children that provide for basic nutrition before children start school. Moreover, he said, initiatives such as Head Start don't reach all eligible children. Minnesota, he said, should be proud of its Early Childhood Family Education program, but should not rest on its laurels. Every child should

have the basic tools of learning — know the alphabet and numbers, recognize colors, etc. — before they start kindergarten.

Wellstone congratulated legislators on restoring the more than \$300 million in educational funding cuts that were scheduled to take effect this year, but pointed out that the move was not a windfall for Minnesota schools. No new money has been added, he said, but the current budget surplus provides an excellent opportunity to give schools a bigger slice of the fiscal pie.

He also lauded legislators for trying to simplify the complex education funding mechanism and, although he endorsed the creation of charter schools, disagreed with the idea of public dollars going to private schools, either in the form of vouchers or tax credits.

Ultimately, Wellstone challenged the Legislature and the citizens of Minnesota to become national leaders in closing the learning gap.

"Minnesota should be the first state to ensure that kids come to kindergarten ready to learn," he said. "Minnesota has the opportunity to light a candle and lead the way. We ought to be first in the nation to move on this agenda."

Afterwards, many legislators expressed agreement with Wellstone's remarks, although several pointed out that in many communities, churches and other private-sector institutions have already implemented some of his ideas.

U.S. Sen. Rod Grams also has been invited to address the Legislature, but a date has not yet been set.

— F.J. Gallagher



Bonnie Eversman, an advocate for battered women at the Women's Shelter in Rochester, listened to the testimony of several battered women during the "Battered Women's Action Day" in the Capitol rotunda Feb. 14.



During a Feb. 17 discussion of a bill that would make it a crime to play a car stereo too loudly, Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) posed a question important to anyone in the political world.

"I'm wondering about the loudspeaker systems that I've used in campaigns," Anderson said. "Would that be included?"

Indeed, the bill would prohibit the blaring of political slogans from speaker systems mounted on a motor vehicle. So ends an era in grassroots campaigning. (See related story on page 19.)

Economists oppose public financing of new stadium

A trio of prominent economists brought their perspectives to bear on the debate surrounding the proposed public financing of a new stadium for the Minnesota Twins Feb. 14.

“Professional sports are indeed a business, and a good business . . . but that doesn’t answer the question of who should pay for a new stadium,” said Prof. Edwin Mills of Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Business, adding that business investments in America have traditionally been a private-sector function. “Sports should be exactly that.”

Mills appeared in the state Capitol with Prof. Emeritus Wilbur Maki, of the University of Minnesota’s Department of Applied Economics, and Dennis Zimmerman, a specialist in public finance at the Congressional Research Service in Washington, D.C. Their remarks were part of an effort organized by Fans Advocating iNtelligent Spending Inc. (FANS Inc.), to oppose public financing for a new Twins stadium.

Gov. Arne Carlson, Twins owner Carl Pohlad, and Metropolitan Sports Commissioner Henry Savelkoul recently unveiled a plan to build the ball club a new stadium, complete with a retractable roof, at an estimated total cost of \$350 million. The project would be financed almost completely with public dollars, mostly derived from a proposed new cigarette tax (subject to the approval of the Legislature).

Pohlad has said that without the new stadium, the Twins cannot remain financially competitive in Major League Baseball and would be forced to move out of Minnesota. Carlson has called the Twins a vital part of Minnesota’s economy, well worth the public investment.

The economists, though, disputed the idea that professional sports are worth

such a massive public investment, primarily because the public doesn’t benefit from a new stadium.

“It’s my conclusion that most of the benefits of a new stadium accrue to those who attend the events,” Zimmerman said. Any funding decision for a stadium, he said, should reflect “the benefit principle” — that is, those who would benefit by the construction should pay for it. Zimmerman suggested raising most of the revenue from stadium-related activities such as ticket taxes, concessions, and parking. A tax on cable TV premium sports packages would tap those fans who watch the games at home.

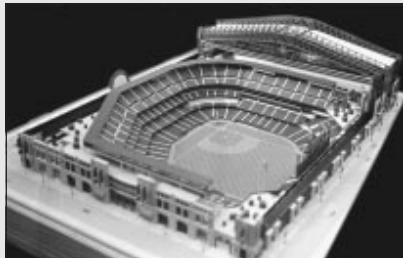
If the beneficiaries of the stadium are able to shift some or all of the costs to others, Zimmerman said, there is a temptation to ask for too much. “If you don’t have to pay for ice cream, you will probably eat too much,” he said.

As cities around the country have built new stadiums with public dollars, Mills said, a number of studies have been done purporting to show that the efforts have brought substantial economic benefit to the communities footing the bill. These studies, he said, are deeply flawed because they don’t take into account repayment of the public subsidy. Citizens pay more taxes to cover construction, he said, so they have less money to spend on other things, “and the benefits are just about washed out to zero.”

For his part, Maki pointed out that the entertainment industry already generates billions of dollars. Building a new stadium, he said, would merely transfer money from one sector of the industry to another — in this case, the Twins.

“The proper stand is to refuse to build the stadium,” Mills said.

—F. J. Gallagher



A recently unveiled plan to build the Minnesota Twins a new stadium, complete with a retractable roof, is estimated to cost \$350 million, according to officials. Economists discussed the plan at the state Capitol Feb. 14.

Minnesota State Agencies

Agriculture	297-2200
Commerce	296-4026
Corrections	642-0200
Education	296-6104
Employee Relations	297-1184
Job Information	296-2616
Finance	296-5900
Gaming	
Gambling Control Division ...	639-4000
MN State Lottery Division	635-8100
Toll Free	1-800-475-4000
MN Racing Commission	341-7555
Health	623-5000
Human Rights	296-5663
Toll Free	1-800-657-3704
Human Services	296-6117
Economic Security	296-3711
Labor and Industry	296-6107
Military Affairs	282-4662
Natural Resources	296-6157
Public Safety	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services ...	296-6911
Fire Marshal	643-3080
Liquor Control	296-6159
State Patrol	297-3935
Pollution Control	296-6300
Public Service	296-7107
Revenue	
Taxpayer Assistance	296-3781
Toll Free	1-800-652-9094
Trade and	
Economic Development	297-1291
Office of Tourism	296-5029
Transportation	296-3000
Veterans Affairs	296-2562
State Information	296-6013
House Information	296-2146
Senate Information	296-0504

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

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

This nonpartisan office provides: committee meeting schedules, legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* newsmagazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

Most of what this office publishes can be viewed on the Legislature’s World Wide Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

Rifenberg looking to address tax, family issues

Maybe it was predictable that Rep. Michelle Rifenberg (R-La Crescent) would one day wind up in the Legislature. As a child she was drawn to politics and the political process.



Rep. Michelle Rifenberg

Her choice of television program was often political in nature, and she remembers being glued to the national conventions when she was just 11 years old. Even today she can hardly get enough of politics.

"I'm a political junkie," she said. "I've always enjoyed intellectual debate and political discussions."

But just ingesting the world of politics wasn't enough for Rifenberg, especially when she would read something in the local papers that touched a nerve. "I used to be one of those people who would fire off letters to the editor."

She then decided to take her principles a step further and successfully won election to the District 32B seat, replacing 14-year veteran Virgil Johnson of Caledonia, Minn. Her overall outlook?

"I consider myself a mainstream conservative Republican. That means fiscally and socially conservative."

While she's political in nature, she also sees herself as a reflection of her constituency, which she feels may be one of her greatest qualifications for being a lawmaker. "I believe in a citizen Legislature," she said.

"It's important for people to know what they can do to serve community. I enjoy serving people."

For about 12 years before coming to the Legislature, Rifenberg also was active in the Republican party, serving as county party chair for three of those years.

She also campaigned for former state representative, now Congressman Gil Gutknecht. "I learned I enjoyed campaigning. I also learned it takes lots of physical energy. In my own campaign I never worked on anything harder," she said.

In the process, she learned a few things about her district, she said, which includes parts of Fillmore, Houston, and Winona counties. Part of her mission is to change how people are taxed.

"The people I talked with work hard for a living. They care very much about their families. They feel frustrated. The harder they work, the more the government takes," Rifenberg said. "My husband and I have set goals. We've worked hard to meet them. Taxes and government regulation make it difficult."

She promises to work for some form of family tax relief. "I particularly want to see some of that budget surplus returned to families," she said.

Second on her list of four legislative goals is improving the climate for small businesses in rural Minnesota. A third has already been completed: removing current statutory caps on K-12 school funding. Schools in rural

areas, she noted, are especially hard hit because of the smaller property tax base. Finally, Rifenberg wants to make Minnesota a better place to raise a family. She hopes these items will be her legislative legacy, she said.

Rifenberg's son, John, 14, "thinks it's pretty cool" to have mom in the House of Representatives, she said. When not preoccupied with the demands at the Capitol, the Rifenberg family, including husband, Robert, a laboratory supervisor at the Heileman division of the Stroh Brewery, enjoys taking family vacations and going to movies, she said.

Today, she said, she's learning to feel at home in the House, is happy with her committee assignments, and feels optimistic about the session ahead.

"The new members have had a good chance to settle in, learn the process, and feel like they belong," she said. Most of all, "it's exciting."

— Celeste Riley

District 32A

1996 population: 33,777
Largest city: La Crescent
County: Fillmore, Houston, Winona
Location: southeastern Minnesota
Top concern: "Family tax relief. That's based on feedback from going door to door. It's part of assuring a good quality of life. I also have a lot of small businesses in the district, who, along with agriculture, are feeling particularly burdened."
 — Rep. Michelle Rifenberg

Frequently called numbers

Secretary of the Senate
 231 Capitol 296-0271
 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 296-7159/6-1119
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 296-9208
Capitol Security
 B-4 Capitol 296-6741
Emergency 296-2100
TTY*, Senate 296-0250
 Toll free 1-888-234-1216
TTY*, House 296-9896
 Toll free 1-800-657-3550

New members . . .

Kubly vows to shepherd property tax, campaign reform

It has been said that the best way to avoid an argument is to stay away from the topics of politics or religion. For Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls), that could be tough:



Rep. Gary Kubly

The first-term legislator is also an ordained Lutheran minister.

"I asked the congressional president if he thought the congregation would approve of its pastor running for office, and he asked me with which party," Kubly said, chuckling. "I told him — and he said he thought it would be all right."

In fact, Kubly said, his congregations in rural southwest Minnesota reacted favorably when he announced his candidacy for the District 15B seat. What's more, their support transcended partisan politics, he said, with many parishioners donating time and money to his campaign.

The first-term representative is a product of rural life. He grew up on an Iowa farm near the Minnesota border, just south of Albert Lea, Minn., where he learned firsthand about the rigors that come with earning a living from the land. And although Kubly came to the Twin Cities in 1970 to go to the seminary, he has spent his professional life serving a rural flock — precisely what he hopes to accomplish as a legislator, particularly with regard to property tax reform.

The conventional wisdom, Kubly said, is that rural Minnesotans will have to shoulder a larger share of the property tax burden. He doesn't quite see it that way. The first-term legislator, though, enters the House as a

strong advocate for his district.

"Over my dead body," he said with an air of quiet determination. "Nobody in my district would support that . . . [property tax reform is] not metropolitan versus rural; it's what's fair for everybody."

Kubly's predecessor, former Rep. Roger Cooper, (DFL-Bird Island) held the seat for five terms and was instrumental in passing a number of programs that benefited Greater Minnesota constituents, including MinnesotaCare, tax breaks for ethanol plants, and better training for rural health care workers. Kubly, who has worked closely with farmers over the years, campaigned — and won — as a man who would pick up where Cooper left off.

Election to the Minnesota House of Representatives is not Kubly's first foray into the political realm. He challenged incumbent state Sen. Dean Johnson (R-Willmar) for the District 15 seat in 1992, coming within a few percentage points of beating the Senate minority leader. Indeed, in the 15B area, Kubly actually finished ahead of Johnson. Yet Kubly won his House seat in 1996 by an even narrower margin, finishing just 1.3 percent — a mere 202 votes — ahead of his Republican challenger.

The contest, Kubly said, turned ugly as the campaign drew to a close. In the days leading up to the election, the minister found himself on the business end of a series of mass mailings that allowed him no time to respond. Kubly also became the subject of a series of negative advertisements that aired well beyond the Minnesota border.

"I'm sure people in Wisconsin were wondering what was going on when they heard

political ads for this race in rural Minnesota," he said.

As a result of the negative campaign, Kubly has come to believe campaign laws need to be changed to prevent similar occurrences. A law could be written, he said, to prohibit a candidate from running any new advertisements 10 days before the election to ensure that the person targeted would have adequate time to respond.

"I still believe in free speech," Kubly said, but something needs to be done.

Although his faith serves as the foundation for his political ideology, Kubly said, a belief in "a beneficent Creator — God and what has been done for us" — shouldn't preclude the debate surrounding any issue. It's vital, he explained, that legislators allow one another the latitude to disagree, regardless of their religious views.

"I'm not sure there is a 'Christian' position," Kubly said. "It bothers me when someone says, 'This is the Christian position.' I don't think that there is a Christian position on most things, anyway. There are just Christians who hold views."

— F.J. Gallagher

District 15B

1996 population: 32,513

Largest city: Granite Falls

Counties: Chippewa, Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Renville, Yellow Medicine

Location: south central Minnesota

Top concern: "I think rural parts of the state need some representation when it comes to bonding."

—Rep. Gary Kubly



Richard Laurion, *right*, used sign language to interpret comments and questions from members of the House Education Committee for Bruce Hodek, *middle*, assistant director of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division, Department of Human Services Feb. 18. Hodek testified in support of a bill that calls for American Sign Language to be given equal status with other linguistic systems in the state's schools. Rep. Ruth Johnson, *left*, is sponsoring the bill.

Do you know?

Once a stopping point for voyageurs and fur traders, Minnesota's arrowhead region is home to one of the state's two national monuments.

Grand Portage, on Minnesota's northeastern tip, has always attracted travelers. In the 1700s, its location on Lake Superior's North Shore near the mouth of the Pigeon River made Grand Portage — or “great carrying place” — the entry point for a network of waterways and portage trails stretching deep into Canada. Along that route, trappers brought furs from the west and north to trade for money and manufactured goods from the east.

By the 1780s, Grand Portage had become the headquarters of the famous North West Company, a British-owned commercial network that extended from London to Alaska. In those colorful days, French “voyageurs” manned 36-foot freight canoes from Montreal to mingle with Indians and trappers at a lakeside “rendezvous” each summer at Grand Portage.

After passing ownership from one government or business interest to the next for more than a century, Grand Portage was finally ceded to its Indian inhabitants in the Treaty of 1854. The Ojibway community that had originally settled in the area as fur traders during the 1600s became the Grand Portage

Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe with their own 51,000-acre reservation.

The band struggled on the edge of poverty for decades. With the opening of Minnesota Trunk Highway 1 in the 1920s, Indian leaders realized that the historic location of their village could attract tourist dollars. But the band lacked the capital necessary to develop the site. Depression-era relief programs

1950s.

The reservation council finally decided to cede land for the historic site to the federal government. In 1958, Congress approved the land transfer, and in 1960, the Grand Portage National Monument was formally established. The first park superintendent arrived that year, charged with “major restoration projects to transform the monument to its appearance of 200 years ago.”

Today, Grand Portage is a popular tourist stop that includes a reconstruction of the old palisades, Great Hall, kitchen, and a number of other buildings, tents, and Indian lodges. Costumed interpreters describe life in the old trading post and help children try on voyageur clothing. Local Ojibway arts and crafts are sold and demonstrated at the site.

The Radisson Hotel that opened nearby in 1975 was taken over by the reservation council in 1980. The band added a marina, campgrounds, and ski trails. After gaming was introduced in 1990, the facility was renamed Grand Portage Lodge and Casino. Each summer Grand Portage again plays host to a stream of travelers and fortune seekers, just as it did over 200 years ago.



The Great Hall, reconstructed in 1974 on the basis of research into the design of the original building, is one of the attractions at Grand Portage National Monument.

Photo courtesy *The Grand Portage Story* by Carolyn Gilman, Minnesota Historical Society Press.

brought in some resources, and the North West Company depot was reconstructed in 1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. But by 1950, that project had fallen into disrepair.

Realizing that their lack of financial resources was causing the tourism potential of the site to be wasted, the band turned to the National Park Service for help. In 1951, the U.S. Department of the Interior designated Grand Portage a National Historic Site. But little government funding followed and the area continued to languish throughout the

For detailed site information, visit the Grand Portage National Monument home page at: <http://www.nps.gov/grpo>



When Minnesota State Auditor Judith Dutcher presented her office's 1997-98 budget to the House Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division Feb. 19, she noted that the request

contained an initiative to add a local area network administrator, along with some supportive hardware and software. It was, she said, the first technological initiative the auditor's office had ever put forth.

“I think when Gov. Carlson was auditor,” Dutcher said, “they were still using the abacus.”

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), though, corrected Dutcher, pointing out that she recalled a move to update the office's technology under Carlson.

“Yeah, they got a new abacus,” said Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls).

Bill Introductions

HF742-HF889

Monday, Feb. 17

HF742—Kahn (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Incinerator mercury emission testing requirements modified.

HF743—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
City public rights-of-way management provided related to telephone service providers.

HF744—Garcia (DFL)
Taxes
Apartment property improvements provided valuation exclusion for property tax purposes.

HF745—Wejcman (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Workforce service areas designated, and local workforce councils established and duties specified.

HF746—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Corrections department service contract limitations and conditions provided, and inmate work standards adopted.

HF747—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
State High School League Governing Board appointing authority provisions modified.

HF748—Tunheim (DFL)
Agriculture
University of Minnesota appropriated money for wheat and barley scab research.

HF749—Farrell (DFL)
Judiciary
St. Paul Police Department communications and surveillance equipment purchase provided, and money appropriated.

HF750—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
Autism advisory task force established.

HF751—McCollum (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Candidates in violation of the Fair Campaign Practices Act required to return public subsidies, early voting permitted at polling places, candidate conduct regulated, and penalties imposed.

HF752—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 701, Hibbing, grant authorized for expenses due to fire, and common teacher retirement date established.

HF753—Kubly (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Financial institution facsimile or electronic filings and certifications authorized, special purpose banks defined and regulated, and technical and conforming modifications provided.

HF754—Knoblach (R)
Judiciary
Deadly force; mandatory minimum term of imprisonment provided when deadly force is used in assaults against peace officers.

HF755—Otremba (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Sauk River Watershed District levy authorized.

HF756—Hilty (DFL)
Governmental Operations
State demographer population estimate procedures modified.

HF757—Harder (R)
Education
School district debt service equalization eligibility requirements modified, and money appropriated.

HF758—Long (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
State mandates on local units of government regulated.

HF759—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services
Swimming pool operator training requirement eliminated.

HF760—Wejcman (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Motor vehicle emission inspection waivers issued to disabled persons upon request.

HF761—Wejcman (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Cordial and liqueur brand labels prohibited from containing cartoons and caricatures, mandatory minimum civil penalty provided for sales of alcoholic beverages to minors, and home delivery of alcohol regulated.

HF762—Wejcman (DFL)
Judiciary
Youth community service grant program pilot project established in Hennepin and Ramsey counties, and money appropriated.

HF763—Tunheim (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Norman County Zion Lutheran Church and Cemetery designated as a historic place.

HF764—Winter (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Lewis and Clark rural water system developed, and money appropriated.

HF765—Dawkins (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Metropolitan Council transit operations employee retirement refund repayment permitted.

HF766—Tunheim (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing Home Geographic Group III expanded to include Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, and Roseau counties.

HF767—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
St. Louis County state land sale authority repealed.

HF768—Westrom (R)
Transportation & Transit
Farm work driver's license permit possession requirement exemption provided.

HF769—Schumacher (DFL)
Education
Omnibus K-12 education policy bill.

HF770—Hasskamp (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Joshua Renken/Stacy Schlosser Snowmobile Safety Act; registration fees modified, liability insurance and safety education required, night speed limit established, local snowmobile speed control provided, and money appropriated.

HF771—Long (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Contamination cleanup grant program requirements modified, redevelopment and job creation grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF772—Evans (DFL)
Education
Health and safety revenue program expanded to include indoor air quality, school construction project information requirements modified, indoor air quality task force established, and money appropriated.

HF773—Murphy (DFL)
Taxes
Aggregate material removal taxes authorized in Carlton and St. Louis counties.

HF774—Murphy (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Mahtowa in Carlton County state land sale authorized.

HF775—Huntley (DFL)
Education
Student opportunity grants established to provide financial support to students of low-income families, state lottery proceeds dedication provided, constitutional amendment proposed, and money appropriated.

HF776—Huntley (DFL)
Education
Student opportunity grant program established to provide financial support to students of low-income families, and money appropriated.

HF777—Lieder (DFL)**Education**

Independent School District Nos. 561, Goodridge, and 600, Fisher, health and safety revenue use provisions modified.

HF778—Clark (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Complementary medicine study required, and money appropriated.

HF779—Lieder (DFL)**Agriculture**

Hybrid tree management research funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF780—Clark (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Naturopathic physician licensure provided, and penalties prescribed.

HF781—Rukavina (DFL)**Labor-Management Relations**

Workers' compensation temporary partial disability time limit increased, and permanent total disability definition modified.

HF782—Dawkins (DFL)**Taxes**

Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF783—Larsen (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan Council, Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, Metropolitan Radio Board, and Metropolitan Mosquito Control District abolished, duties transferred, and money appropriated.

HF784—Leighton (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Unclaimed property uniform act adopted.

HF785—Carruthers (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Brooklyn Center appropriated money for Brookdale Center development.

HF786—Hilty (DFL)**Judiciary**

Human rights alternative dispute resolution mediation deadline suspended.

HF787—Hilty (DFL)**Labor-Management Relations**

Human Rights Department employer definition expanded to include certain temporary placements.

HF788—Workman (R)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Professional engineer licensure requirements modified.

HF789—Hasskamp (DFL)**Education**

Property tax rate reductions provided for commercial industrial property and for certain senior citizens, state aid increased for education, and money appropriated.

HF790—Wejcman (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Citizenship promotion program established, and money appropriated.

HF791—Carruthers (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Community rehabilitation program concentrated multi-unit rental housing improvements provided, and money appropriated.

HF792—Biernat (DFL)**Education**

Cigarette and tobacco product sales tax increased, and revenue dedicated to tobacco and drug use prevention programs.

HF793—Jaros (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Natural Resources Research Institute funded, and money appropriated.

HF794—Rest (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Minnesota Professional Firms Act adopted.

Thursday, Feb. 20**HF795—Koskinen (DFL)****Education**

Child care sliding fee program assistance priority provisions modified.

HF796—Delmont (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

MSRS; deferred compensation governance provisions modified.

HF797—Clark (DFL)**Education**

Early childhood learning and protection facility grant limitations clarified.

HF798—Dehler (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Unpaid municipal judgement penalty established.

HF799—Winter (DFL)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Wind energy conversion system property tax provisions modified.

HF800—McElroy (R)**Governmental Operations**

Legislative Capital Investment Commission established, and duties specified.

HF801—Garcia (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Employment law application extended to include legislative employees.

HF802—Carruthers (DFL)**Education**

Higher education institution gift income tax credit allowed.

HF803—Seifert (R)**Environment****& Natural Resources Finance**

Marshall flood control project funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF804—Milbert (DFL)**Local Government****& Metropolitan Affairs**

Municipal building permit fee amount regulated.

HF805—Swenson, D. (R)**Education**

Youth intervention program grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF806—Dehler (R)**Agriculture**

Agricultural product definition expanded to include fish for property tax purposes.

HF807—Olson, E. (DFL)**Taxes**

Property tax receipt, refund, investigation, local government performance aid eligibility, and aid reduction provisions modified.

HF808—Long (DFL)**Taxes**

Income, withholding, sales and use, and MinnesotaCare tax policy provisions modified, tax collection policy modified, and civil penalties provided.

HF809—Winter (DFL)**Local Government****& Metropolitan Affairs**

Regional economic development commissions regulated.

HF810—Wolf (R)**Labor-Management Relations**

Employment search firm bond requirements modified.

HF811—Entenza (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Minnesota Futures Fund appropriated money to provide technical assistance to nonprofit organizations.

HF812—Dawkins (DFL)**Local Government****& Metropolitan Affairs**

Municipal and school district local performance aid eligibility requirements modified.

HF813—Huntley (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

St. Louis County adolescent compulsive gambling prevention and education project grant provided through lottery proceeds, and money appropriated.

HF814—Koskinen (DFL)**Labor-Management Relations**

Unfair employment discriminatory practice reprisal provisions modified.

HF815—Rest (DFL)**Local Government****& Metropolitan Affairs**

Tax increment financing fiscal disparities contribution requirements modified.

HF816—Finseth (R)**Local Government****& Metropolitan Affairs**

East Grand Forks tax increment financing district duration extended.

HF817—Mariani (DFL)**Education**

Foodshelf program appropriated money.

HF818—Milbert (DFL)**Taxes**

Coin-operated car wash services provided sales and use tax exemption.

HF819—Wagenius (DFL)**Education**

First-grade preparedness program eligibility provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF820—Dehler (R)
Education

Public school guidance and counseling services provided at nonpublic schools.

HF821—Dehler (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Retail liquor establishment gambling prohibition modified related to dice.

HF822—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary

Employer reference check civil liability immunity provided.

HF823—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Nursing home short stay private pay rate provisions modified.

HF824—Dorn (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Comprehensive health association status clarified related to medical assistance and general assistance medical care, and money appropriated.

HF825—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services

Medical savings account federal income tax provisions adopted.

HF826—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Audiologists and speech-language pathologists exempted from hearing instrument dispenser certification and requirements.

HF827—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education

University of Minnesota grape and wine research center established, and money appropriated.

HF828—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Health technology advisory committee role redefined, and money appropriated.

HF829—Solberg (DFL)
Governmental Operations

Government meetings permitted via electronic means, and criteria established.

HF830—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Health professional peer review data use provisions clarified.

HF831—Biernat (DFL)
Education

Alternative education program equitable funding ensured.

HF832—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary

Professional malpractice action expert review certification required.

HF833—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary

Guardian ad litem appointment required in certain cases, and spouse debt liability provisions clarified.

HF834—Clark (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Youthbuild grant funding limit eliminated, and money appropriated.

HF835—Delmont (DFL)
Health & Human Services

County operated day training and habilitation program audit exception provided.

HF836—Evans (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Microenterprise loan technical assistance and loan administration provided, and money appropriated.

HF837—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

Toxic pollution prevention plan requirements modified.

HF838—Dehler (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Municipal annexation regulation provided.

HF839—Dehler (R)
Judiciary

Marijuana or drug paraphernalia possession in a school zone provided misdemeanor penalty.

HF840—Wagenius (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

Petroleum tank release cleanup program reimbursements authorized.

HF841—Dehler (R)
Transportation & Transit

Firearms safety training designation provided on drivers' licenses and identification cards.

HF842—Orfield (DFL)
Transportation & Transit

LUTRAQ; land use, transportation, air quality connection analysis required for any metropolitan area highway expansion project.

HF843—Clark (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Lead hazard reduction advisory task force established, and money appropriated.

HF844—Rest (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Birth defects information system established, criminal penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF845—Leighton (DFL)
Judiciary

DWI; felony penalty provided for repeat driving while intoxicated offenses.

HF846—Leighton (DFL)
Judiciary

Sexual abuse statute of limitations delayed discovery rule provisions clarified.

HF847—Entenza (DFL)
Education

School lunch program funded, and money appropriated.

HF848—Dehler (R)
Judiciary

Sentencing to service programs expanded, and money appropriated.

HF849—Weaver (R)
Judiciary

Emergency vehicle operation requirements modified.

HF850—Weaver (R)
Education

Compulsory education age requirement increase eliminated.

HF851—Folliard (DFL)
Health & Human Services

New Chance program established to provide services to young parents in Hennepin County who have dropped out of school and are receiving public assistance, and money appropriated.

HF852—McGuire (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

Ramsey County environmental education consortium developed, and money appropriated.

HF853—Clark (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Telephone assistance program expanded to provide assistance to low-income families with children.

HF854—Clark (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Telecommunication services purchasing cooperative establishment authorized.

HF855—Dehler (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Municipal board property owner definition modified.

HF856—Dehler (R)
Governmental Operations

Legislators' retirement law coverage provisions modified.

HF857—Rhodes (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Metropolitan Council cost allocation system for wastewater services modified.

HF858—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Health plan cost containment goals regulated, and disclosure requirements provided.

HF859—Opatz (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Dental goods and services exempted from MinnesotaCare provider tax.

HF860—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary

Corrections Department required to reimburse counties for apprehension and confinement of certain individuals.

HF861—Delmont (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Part-time psychology practitioner and emeritus registrant licensure requirements established.

HF862—Delmont (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language service medical assistance reimbursement rates increased.

HF863—Macklin (R)
Judiciary

Joint and several liability apportionment regulated.

HF864—McGuire (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Social work board provisions modified, and civil penalties provided.

**HF865—Schumacher (DFL)
Judiciary**

Joint and several liability apportionment abolished in certain cases.

**HF866—Milbert (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Legislature reduced in size to 50 senators and 100 representatives.

**HF867—Delmont (DFL)
Health & Human Services**

Medical assistance nursing facility provisions modified.

**HF868—Anderson, I. (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Persian Gulf War veteran bonus program established, penalties imposed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF869—Rest (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Municipal board member per diem reimbursement increased.

**HF870—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations**

Public employee equipment use permitted for electronic communication.

**HF871—Hilty (DFL)
Governmental Operations**

Electronic conduct of state business provided, and administration department approval of digital signatures authorized.

**HF872—Seagren (R)
Education**

Pupil Fair Dismissal Act provisions modified.

**HF873—Pugh (DFL)
Transportation & Transit**

Major transportation projects fund established, and eligibility requirements prescribed.

**HF874—Knoblach (R)
Environment & Natural Resources**

Water quality standards review procedures modified, and money appropriated.

**HF875—Tunheim (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Health plan enrollee health care services provider choice required.

**HF876—Erhardt (R)
Taxes**

Property tax statement refund notice provisions modified.

**HF877—Tompkins (R)
Education**

Education appropriation residency provisions modified.

**HF878—Bettermann (R)
Education**

Omnibus higher education appropriations bill.

**HF879—Seagren (R)
Education**

Adult basic education revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

**HF880—Hausman (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources**

Minnesota Nuclear Responsibility Act of 1997 adopted, and money appropriated.

**HF881—Seagren (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Health maintenance organizations permitted to provide coverage supplemental to medical savings accounts.

**HF882—Dawkins (DFL)
Education**

Neighborhood organizations provided stipends for the delivery of services to children and families, and money appropriated.

**HF883—Stang (R)
Governmental Operations**

Melrose Hospital and Pine Villa employees provided retirement options.

**HF884—McElroy (R)
Education**

School districts permitted to include attendance information on secondary student transcripts.

**HF885—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services**

Physical therapy board established, and license requirement provided.

**HF886—Milbert (DFL)
Health & Human Services**

Optician licensure requirement established.

**HF887—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Taxes**

Golf course property tax classification provisions modified.

**HF888—Peterson (DFL)
Education**

Independent School District No. 378, Dawson-Boyd, adult farm management levy provided.

**HF889—Evans (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade**

Mobile home park owner rights modified.

Continued from page 9

nile occupants are not wearing seat belts.

"To me, it's kind of frightening the way we have been chipping away at the personal freedoms we've had in this country for two centuries," Rukavina said.

Rhodes urged House members to consider the potential benefits of the bill.

"If this bill saves one child from being

Turn down the volume

A booming bass line could bring motorists a costly fine, under a bill approved Feb. 17 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

Bill sponsor Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), a Minneapolis police officer, said loud car stereos frequently disturb the peace in many neighborhoods.

"I hope strict enforcement of this [proposed] statute will help curtail this problem," he said. "This is one of those quality-of-life issues that I think is an excellent use of police resources."

Stanek's bill (HF86) would allow police to ticket motorists who play their car stereos at a volume that "unreasonably disturbs the peace and quiet of a person nearby."

Specifically, a violation would occur if sound from a radio, tape, or compact disc player is "plainly audible" at a distance of 50 feet or more from a vehicle. Violators would face a petty misdemeanor charge, which carries a fine of up to \$200.

Stanek said the residents of the neighborhoods where he works frequently complain about the racket coming from passing cars, regardless of the motorists' taste in music.

"I'm not going to discriminate between

rap and country music," Stanek said. "I'll tag equally for both."

Excessively loud car stereos can also create a hazard on the road, according to Stanek.

"If you've got that car stereo turned up, sometimes you can't hear an emergency vehicle as you are traveling down the roadway," he said.

Several cities, including Minneapolis and St. Paul, already have ordinances related to loud car stereos. Stanek's bill would provide a statewide standard for car stereo use, but it would not prohibit cities from enacting tougher ordinances.

The bill also would provide exceptions for devices producing loud but necessary sounds, such as car alarms and police sirens.

Committee members voted 20-2 to send the bill to the House floor.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
 For information updates, call
 House Calls at (612) 296-9283.
 All meetings are open to the public.
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MONDAY, Feb. 24

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: Briefings: Department of Public Service; and Budget Books/Department of Finance.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Instructional technology: presentations by Marvin Marshak, senior academic vice president, University of Minnesota; Rick Peifer, assistant director, General Biology Program, University of Minnesota; Sandra Balli, College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota; James Bensen, president, Bemidji State University; David Laird, president, Minnesota Private College Council; John Slorp, president, Minneapolis College of Art and Design; and Anedith Nash, Associate Academic Dean, Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: Discussion of debt service equalization aid. Overview of governor's budget recommendations-Article 2, Special Programs.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Budget hearing: Department of Natural Resources.

Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson
Agenda: HF230 (Erhardt) Senior citizens' property tax deferral program adopted, and money appropriated.
HF595 (Rhodes) Senior citizens provided property tax rate freeze.
HF633 (Murphy) Senior citizens' property tax deferral program adopted, and money appropriated.
HF732 (Rifenberg) Senior citizens' property tax deferral program adopted, and money appropriated.

10 a.m.

Joint AGRICULTURE/ ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Stephen Wenzel,
Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: Hearing on environmental impacts of feedlots/manure handling facilities in Minnesota. Testimony from Department of Agriculture; Department of Health; Pollution Control Agency; technical experts; and environmental and agricultural organizations.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Presentation of the governor's recommendations for Department of Human Services health care programs and operations.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: HF254 (Skoglund) Juvenile court open hearings and records provided in certain cases involving children in need of protection and delinquency.
HF252 (Skoglund) Juvenile court open hearings and records provided in certain cases.
HF253 (Skoglund) Juvenile court open hearings and records provided in certain cases involving children in need of protection, and delinquency.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Budget reviews: Veterans of Foreign Wars; Military Order of the Purple Heart; Disabled American Veterans; and Department of Veterans Affairs.

12:30 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: Child care: governor's recommendations.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert
Agenda: HF297 (Jennings) National guard member tuition and textbook reimbursement grant program provisions modified.
HF287 (Bakk) Hastings, Luverne, and Silver Bay veterans homes improvements provided through the use of donated funds.
HF444 (McCollum) Persian Gulf War veteran bonus payment program established, criminal penalty imposed for false application, and money appropriated.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson
Agenda: HF787 (Hilty) Human rights department employer definition expanded to include certain temporary placements.
HF271 (Rukavina) Employer wage reporting requirements modified related to re-employment insurance.
HF781 (Rukavina) Workers' compensation temporary partial disability time limit increased, and permanent total disability definition modified.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: HF387 (Wagenius) Transportation department claim payment provided and liability provisions modified, and eminent domain provisions modified.
HF458 (Juhnke) Highway service sign placement provisions clarified, transportation department exempt rules preserved, highway related definitions modified, and obsolete references corrected.
HF591 (Boudreau) Faribault highway easement transfer required from transportation department.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

**Working Group on Technology/
K-12 Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: Presentation on the governor's technology bill. Technology proposal, Rep. Alice Johnson. Presentation from Office of Technology. Presentation from Mark Manning, Department of Children, Families, and Learning.

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: Staff agency performance reports.

TUESDAY, Feb. 25

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Conceptual overview and demonstration of technology applications and Internet, Elizabeth Butler, Microsoft Corporation.

HF302 (Greiling) Learning year program approval required by State Board of Education.

HF130 (Carlson) Gopher state bonds; college savings bond program established, marketing plan development required, and bond sale authorized.

HF446 (Biernat) Driver's license issuance prohibited to persons under age 18 who have failed to receive a passing score on the state high school graduation test or meet other educational requirements.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Agency budget presentations: Private Detectives Board, Rep. Mary Murphy; POST Board, Rep. Michael Paymar, Rep. Sherry Broecker; Ombudsman for Corrections and Crime Victim's Ombudsman, Rep. Doug Swenson. Effect of Cambridge Bank settlement on agency fees for 1997-98 budget, Department of Finance. Use of electronic monitoring and evaluation of Intensive Probation. New results from Delinquent Under Ten Project, Janet Wiig, Hennepin County Attorney's Office. Report on Victim's Roundtable, Rep. Mary Jo McGuire.

**Transportation & Transit
Finance Division/**

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: Budget overview by Department of Transportation.

HF337 (Marko) Motor vehicle sales and registration tax proceeds dedicated to the Minnesota transportation fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 24 agenda.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: Discussion of the Sales Tax Advisory Council's Final Report (STAC Report), Rep. Ann H. Rest.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: HF647 (Jefferson) Public pension benefit accrual rates increased, defined contribution early retirement options authorized, homestead and agricultural credit aid modified, and money appropriated (informational hearing).

Discussion of executive branch charges for information.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: HF185 (Sykora) Child welfare and children's mental health collaborative provisions modified, privatization of adoption services for children under state guardianship provided, pilot projects established, and money appropriated.

HF402 (Huntley) Health maintenance organization regulatory provisions modified.

HF403 (Huntley) Speech-language pathologist, unlicensed mental health practitioner, alcohol and drug counselor, and hearing instrument dispenser licensure requirements modified.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: Governor's budget review. Performance review: Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Kit Hadley, commissioner.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: HFXXXX (Long) Department of Revenue policy bill.

12 Noon

Joint

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT/
State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS/
Senate**

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
& VETERANS/
Senate**

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
BUDGET DIVISION**

123 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Henry Kalis,

Rep. Tom Rukavina, Sen. James Metzen, Sen. Leonard Price

Agenda: Report from SGS Group/ Architectural Alliance on Department of Revenue Building.

12:30 p.m.

Subcommittee on

**Business Regulation/
COMMERCE, TOURISM
& CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Al Juhnke

Agenda: HF180 (Goodno) Moorhead liquor license issuance authorized.

HF193 (Murphy) Municipal off-sale intoxicating liquor sale time of day restrictions modified.

HF365 (Swenson, D.) Liquor sale practices restricted between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. to prohibit discounted prices, multiple drinks, and increased alcohol volume or percentage.

HF524 (Tunheim) Malt liquor importation permit required.

HF525 (Tunheim) Liquor retailer liability insurance requirements modified.

HF721 (Paulsen) Municipalities allowed to authorize on-sale of 3.2 percent malt liquor at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

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

Agenda: HF217 (Opatz) Land use mandatory comprehensive planning provided, capital improvement program established, and money appropriated.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: HF704 (Ozment) Electric power generating plant certificate of need proceeding exemption provided.

HF589 (Goodno) Moorhead telephone exchange construction vote required.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 26

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Briefings: Department of Labor and Industry budget.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Testimony from University of Minnesota students. Presentation on the allocation model, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU); faculty groups; and student groups.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Overview of governor's budget recommendations—Article 8, Nutrition Programs, Mary Begalle, Department of Children, Families and Learning.

HF652 (Johnson, A.) Targeted breakfast grant program established to analyze the nutritional components of school meals, and money appropriated.

HFXXXX (Entenza) School lunch funding.

Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF456 (Milbert) Real estate tax notice service provided.

HF497 (Rest) Proposed property tax notice and truth in taxation advertising provisions modified.

HF627 (Rest) Low-income housing property tax class uniform rules established, apartment and nonhomestead residential property tax class rates reduced, penalties imposed, rulemaking authorized, and money appropriated.

HF660 (Kelso) Proposed property tax notice provisions modified.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 24 agenda.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF419 (Tunheim) Watershed district project cost payment through tax levy authorized.

HF317 (Huntley) Municipal wastewater infrastructure eminent domain action authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF244 (Bishop) Individual sewage system requirements modified, and Pollution Control Agency rule compliance authority granted.

HF711 (Munger) Soil and water conservation districts provided annual funding allocation.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: HF645 (Tomassoni) Health plan mental health coverage minimum standards provided for determining medically necessary care.

HF740 (Juhnke) Insurance companies and agents regulated.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 24 agenda.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: HF92 (Skoglund) Tattoo removal pilot grant program established, and money appropriated.

HFXXXX (Entenza) Access to government telephone records.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Budget reviews: Department of Military Affairs; Capitol Area Architectural Planning Board (CAAPB); and Office of Administrative Hearings.

12:30 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: HF683 (Lieder) Civil action judgment creditor affidavit information requirements expanded.

HF440 (Chaudhary) Family support uniform interstate act enforcement provisions modified.

HFXXXX (Chaudhary) Relating to landlord tenant nuisance.

HF695 (Entenza) Child support enforcement provisions modified, financial institution data match system established, and civil penalties provided.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Child care: governor's recommendations.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: To be announced.

1 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: HF409 (Solberg) Direct reduction iron processing facility developed, and money appropriated.

HF422 (McCullum) Contaminated land industrial development provided, and money appropriated.

Economic Development - Past, Present and Future, Carl Kroening.

2:30 p.m.

Subcommittee on Land Sales/ ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Hausman

Agenda: HF551 (Sekhon) State land boundary line and trust sale provisions modified, property tax payment by natural resources commissioner provided, and public land sales authorized.

HF767 (Anderson, I.) St. Louis County state land sale authority repealed.

HF299 (Bakk) State park additions and name changes provided.

Subcommittee on Gaming/ REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Delmont

Agenda: HF285 (Delmont) Gambling device manufacturer inspection cost funding mechanism established.

HF471 (Delmont) Gambling Control Board granted license issuance and renewal authority.

HF495 (Osskopp) Gambling lawful purpose expenditures to include acquisition of property to replace property under threat of acquisition by eminent domain.

HF667 (Macklin) Lawful gambling separate tax refund and credit account requirement eliminated.

4:30 p.m.

Anoka County Delegation

546 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Satveer Chaudhary,
Rep. Kathy Tingelstad

Agenda: Local bills: Andover hazardous waste clean up, Fridley-Locke Lake Dam, Coon Rapids, Highway 10. Fiscal disparities bill, Rep. Myron Orfield. Anoka County update.

THURSDAY, Feb. 27**8 a.m.**

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: Briefings on brownfields.

EDUCATION
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: HF446 (Biernat) Driver's license issuance prohibited to persons under age 18 who have failed to receive a passing score on the state high school graduation test or meet other educational requirements.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Agency budget presentations: Courts-District Court, Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court, Rep. Thomas Pugh, Rep. Sherry Broecker, and Rep. Peg Larsen. Public Safety-Emergency Management and Fire Marshall, Rep. Michael Paymar; Gambling Enforcement & Liquor Control, Rep. Andy Dawkins.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 24 agenda.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES
300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson
Agenda: HF43 (Sviggum) High School League tournament admission sales tax exemption provided.
HF118 (Juhnke) Used farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently.
HF173 (Mahon) Aspirin substitute sales and use tax exemption provided.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 20 agenda. Rule 5.10 referral:
HF156 (Slawik) Secretary of State filing fees and procedures regulated.
HF450 (Rest) Legislative Audit Commission membership provisions modified.
HF610 (Macklin) Legislative Audit Commission membership provisions modified.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn
Agenda: HF487 (Greenfield) Hospital medical assistance surcharge tax eliminated, and hospital MinnesotaCare surcharge tax increased.
HF556 (Greenfield) Health care provider unique identifier implementation and identification provisions modified.
HF513 (Koskinen) Human services nonentitlement grant program consolidation authority provided.
HF209 (Vickerman) Human services child placement heritage or background provisions modified.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 25 agenda.

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

11:30 a.m.**The House meets in session.****12 Noon****The House and Senate meet in joint session.****After Session**

**Hennepin County
Legislative Delegation**
200 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Ron Abrams,
Rep. Linda Wejcman
Agenda: Health care.

12:30 p.m.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM
& CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim
Agenda: HF431 (Mullery) Corporation and limited liability company provisions modified, and domestic corporation and limited liability company mergers permitted.
HF379 (Abrams) Small corporate securities offering registration and regulation provided.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: To be announced.

FRIDAY, Feb. 28**8 a.m.**

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**
Tour
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Tour of University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

**K-12 Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: Overview of governor's budget recommendations-Article 2, Special Programs.

**Transportation & Transit
Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: Implications of future revenue and expenditures projections on the transportation system, Department of Transportation.

10 a.m.

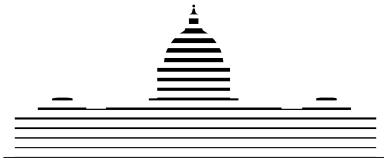
**Health & Human Services
Finance Division/
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 24 agenda.

**Subcommittee on Data Practices/
JUDICIARY**
400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire
Agenda: Overview of the Minnesota Data Practices Act, Don Gemberling, Department of Administration.

Subcommittee on School Facilities/EDUCATION
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Geri Evans
Agenda: HF772 (Evans) Health and safety revenue program expanded to include indoor air quality, school construction project information requirements modified, indoor air quality task force established, and money appropriated.

1 p.m.

**Subcommittee on DWI/
JUDICIARY**
300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Satveer Chaudhary
Agenda: Presentation on DWI law enforcement procedures/policies including use of intoxilyzers, PBTs, and field sobriety testing, Lt. Mark Peterson, State Highway Patrol. DWI law overview, Steve Simon, University of Minnesota Law School.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
 Majority Leader: Ted Winter
 Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota prisons and prisoners

Prison bed capacity of the new Rush City prison, under revised	
Department of Corrections plan	952
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Wage for inmates with a telemarketing job at Lino Lakes, per hour	\$7

Sources: Minnesota Department of Corrections; *Recidivism of Adult Felons, January 1997*, Office of the Legislative Auditor.

For more information



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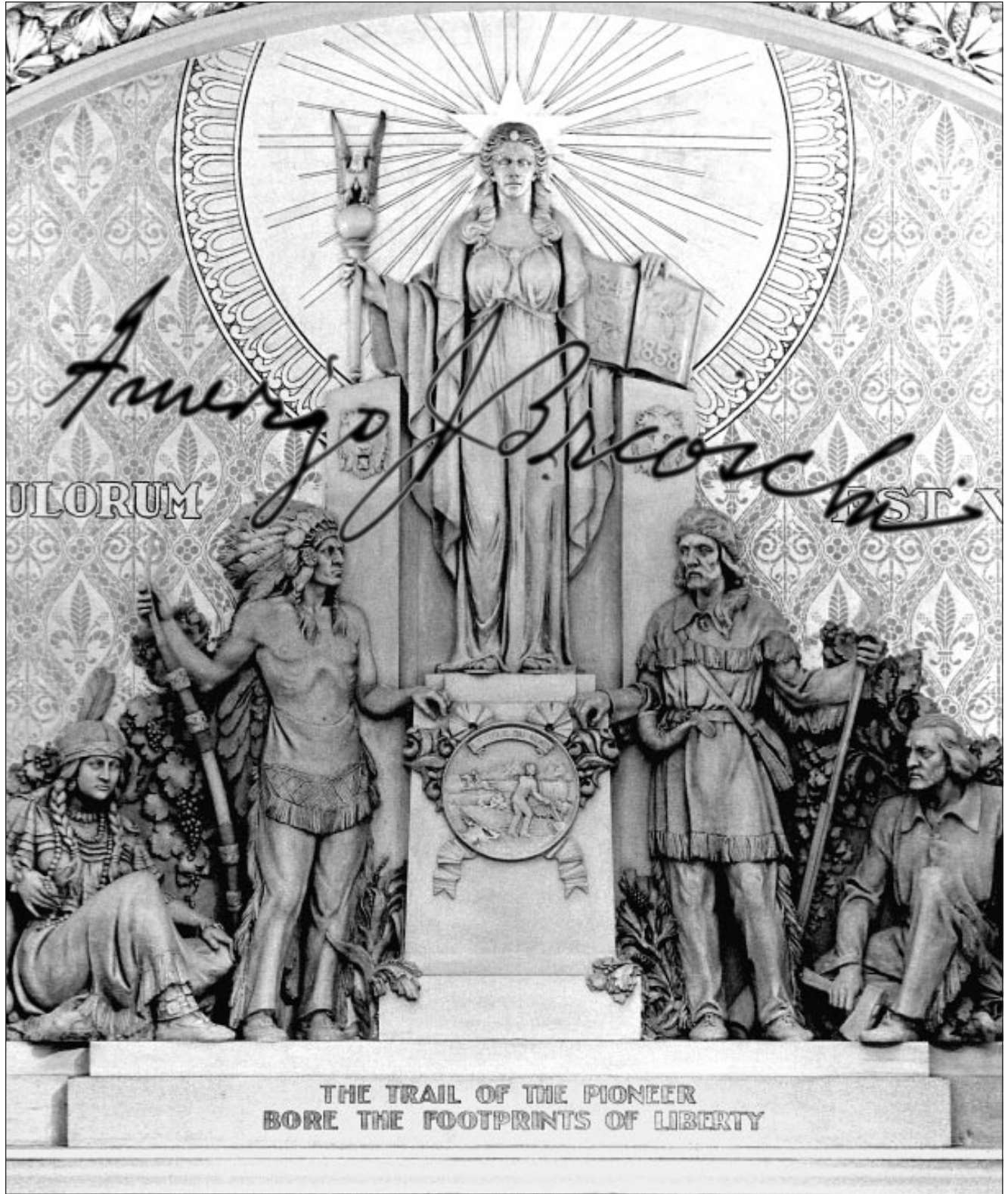
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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ February 28, 1997 ♦ Volume 14, Number 8



SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • February 28, 1997 • Volume 14, Number 8

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Update

Amerigo J. Brioschi died last week at the age of 89 years. Amidst the hubbub of daily life around the Capitol, his death mostly went unnoticed. Amerigo and his father, Carlo, an Italian immigrant, were the sculptors of the most prominent work of art in the House chamber, "Minnesota, Spirit of Government," some 25 feet above the House speaker's desk.

Seven years ago, Brioschi came to the Capitol for one of his last visits to the House chamber, and was present for its March 13, 1990, restoration celebration. His autograph from that significant day appears on the cover of this week's *Session Weekly*.

During another restoration of the chamber 59 years ago, Amerigo and his father were commissioned by the State Emergency Relief Administration to design statuary for a wall that would enclose a former visitors' gallery to create office space.

Carlo, who died March 27, 1941, was the artist who, in 1931, designed "With Ethnic Pride," the Christopher Columbus statue on the Capitol lawn that faces the State Judicial Center. (Some 25,000 people were on hand for the dedication in 1931.) Amerigo's statue of Floyd B. Olson was erected in 1958. It is located directly west of his father's work— across the lawn in front of the State Office Building.

The pioneering spirit of the Brioschis is depicted in the theme of their artwork and in its *trompe l'oeil* effect — deceiving illusions of two-dimensional blending into three-dimensional figures. Their monumental tribute to Minnesota's early residents and its government is highly visible to all who enter the chamber.

The Spirit of Government serves as a reminder to the diversity of its people, the natural richness of the territory, and a strong belief in a government ". . . of the people, by the people, and for the people." On their patterned gilded wall behind the painted and sculptured plaster are the words: *VOX POPULORUM EST VOX DEI* — "the Voice of the People is the Voice of God."

And so, Amerigo and Carlo Brioschi, your outstanding works do not go unnoticed; they are an integral part of Minnesota's rich history, and are much appreciated.

— LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: The autograph of St. Paul artist Amerigo J. Brioschi is superimposed over the work, "Minnesota, Spirit of Government," in memory of his death, Feb. 16, 1997. Brioschi and his father, Carlo, created the unique painting, sculpture, and gilded wall in the House Chamber in 1938.

— Photo illustration by Andrew Von Bank

Highlights

Juvenile court . . .

Public hearings — saving or shaming children?

Momentum is growing to open juvenile court proceedings — and records — to the public. On Feb. 26, the House Judiciary Committee approved a bill for a pilot program to open juvenile court proceedings in Hennepin County, the busiest of the state's judicial districts.

HF254 would open hearings involving children in need of protection services (CHIPS), a legal distinction that refers to children who have been exposed to abuse or neglect. Such cases are among the most severe in the juvenile court system. The pilot program would be in effect from Jan. 1, 1998, to Aug. 1, 2000. About 1,200 CHIPS cases are tried each year in the Hennepin County District Court.

Additional bills sponsored by committee chair Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL Mpls) would open most other areas of juvenile proceedings, such as delinquency proceedings, and records. No action has been taken on Skoglund's bills.

The issue has generated strong feelings on both sides of the debate.

"If the public had any idea of the kind of decisions being made for these vulnerable



Several court officials testified before the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 26 in favor of a bill that would open juvenile court proceedings and records to the public. Pictured, left to right, are Hennepin County District Court Judge Heidi Schellhas, Minnesota Court of Appeals Chief Judge Edward Toussaint Jr., and Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice Kathleen Blatz.

for what happens in this very difficult area. Too often we intervene way too late."

Others fear that opening the courts will expose children to further trauma and shame. Tamara Malik, a child protection worker, spoke of a case in which a girl was taunted at school after it became known she had been sexually abused by her father. The father lost his job, and the mother abandoned the fam-

The effort to shed light on the closed world of juvenile court is, in part, a response to a recent report from a Minnesota Supreme Court task force that recommended opening the proceedings unless there are "exceptional circumstances."

Skoglund and Schellhas also joined a group last August that visited Wayne County, Mich., which includes the Detroit area, where the juvenile court system is open for all to view.

"We talked to all the players," Schellhas said. "We wanted to hear problems. We thought our credibility would be hurt if we came back with only pros. But there were no cons."

Skoglund said there were no problems in opening the system. Family members who felt locked out of the closed system now participate and observe. "None of the fears about opening the system have been met. . . . We met with social workers, probation officers, referees [judges], court administrators, reporters. Every single person said the system was improved by being open," Skoglund added. "They said it has made life better for kids in desperate need of help."

Michigan and Oregon currently are the only states with open systems; Pennsylvania and Arizona are experimenting with pilot systems, and other states are exploring the issue, Skoglund said.

Under current Minnesota law, all juvenile

"The most compelling issue is to get the community to participate in setting the standards for what happens in this very difficult area. Too often we intervene way too late."

—Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman

children, the public would be outraged. I am," Heidi Schellhas, a judge in Hennepin County District Court, told the committee. "Children aren't being protected by closed proceedings; adults are."

Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman agreed.

"One reason we close the hearings is because society is uncomfortable with what goes on in those courtrooms," he said. "The most compelling issue is to get the community to participate in setting the standards

ily. "It's wrong to drag family crises to where school classes and neighbors can sit and listen," she said.

Fred Friedman, a public defender in Duluth, didn't want the names of juveniles to show up in the local papers. While major daily newspapers may honor an agreement to not publish children's names, it can't be assumed that every small community paper will do the same. "It would be a huge mistake to put names in the papers," he said. "We're talking about neglected and dependent children."

proceedings are closed. Judges also can close proceedings in other courts at their discretion, which **HF254** would not change. (Cameras are not allowed in any Minnesota courtroom.)

Rep. Andy Dawkins, (DFL-St. Paul.) asked what was wrong with the current juvenile court system. "Is it shoddy proceedings? Lack of resources? No funds for public defenders? Problems with child protection workers?"

"All of the above," Schellhas said, adding that without public awareness, the Legislature cannot get the support to make necessary changes.

Skoglund said that abuses do occur under the current system, and cited a case in which a judge kicked a child during a court proceeding. "The point is to raise the accountability of the people within the system. It's to make it more difficult for adults to fail children. As it is now, if they make a mistake, no one knows."

Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice Kathleen Blatz said those outside the court system need to demand information and monitor the statistics.

"We don't get changes because we don't get the data. We need fresh air in the system." With closed proceedings, children are "second-class citizens," she added, because they get less protection. "The biggest reason we continue to close them is [because] that's how it's always been done."

Only a small fraction — and the most severe — of the almost 40,000 cases referred to child protection agencies each year ever make it to court, Blatz said. And the nature of those cases remains a mystery to most citizens.

"The public at large doesn't know the gravity of the child welfare crisis," said Mark Toogood, a guardian ad litem, or advocate for children during court proceedings. "You've heard the horror stories. What you don't know is now pervasive it is. If something dramatic doesn't happen, the future of our society is in question. There are storm clouds on the horizon."

Media scrutiny can only serve to improve the situation, he said.

"The media spotlight galvanized the public against [the problem of] battered women. Children deserve the same protection."

Esther Wattenberg, director of the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, spoke on behalf of the minority on the state Supreme Court task force opposed to opening the system. "The notion is absurd that media scrutiny will help abused children," she said. "Opening the courts has made no difference in Michigan's staggering child welfare system."

"Opening the hearings to the public is a distraction from the problems that plague the child welfare system," she added, and will have a chilling effect on reporting by welfare workers reluctant to expose children to further harm.

HF254 now heads to the House floor.

— Celeste Riley



BUSINESS

Protecting payroll

The House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee recently moved to protect businesses from unscrupulous payroll service firms.

"**HF238** addresses an area that is long overdue for regulation — payroll service companies," said bill sponsor Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley). "This bill will become a model for the rest of the country."

Many small businesses use payroll firms instead of going to the expense of hiring their own payroll staff. The firms issue checks to employees and make income and other tax payments to the government.

Leppik's bill emerged after a number of payroll service companies declared bankruptcy, including one highly publicized action by Edina-based CFS Office Automation in 1996.

CFS, now the subject of an Internal Revenue Service criminal investigation, faces accusations that it defrauded more than 200 clients of nearly \$6 million in payroll tax payments. All of CFS's clients, along with the customers of the other bankrupt payroll services, remained liable for the tax payments, despite the fact that CFS told its clients the payments had been made.

HF238 would protect small businesses from such fraudulent practices, Leppik said, by requiring payroll service companies to register with the Department of Revenue. The companies would have to furnish the department with a monthly updated client list, make all tax payments electronically, and prove that all their customers' money is kept separately from the firms' operating funds.

The revenue department would in turn notify clients directly that their payroll company had not made payments and that the client is still responsible for the taxes. The department, under the bill, also could penalize firms that don't comply with the law, either by suspending or revoking their registration or assessing a fine of up to \$5,000 for each violation.

Most payroll services don't charge their clients directly for their work, Leppik said. Rather, they make their money by investing the client's tax payments and keeping the return. **HF238** also mandates that the revenue department notify clients of this practice and at the same time inform them that no state agency regulates the payroll services' financial solvency.

The Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee approved the bill, which would take effect on Jan. 1, 1998, and sent it to the House Taxes Committee.



CHILDREN

Placing wards of the state

The more than 1,700 children who are wards of the state may have their adoption odds increased under a bill approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 25.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), would allow the Department of Human Services to contract with licensed, private adoption agencies to find homes for these children.

Currently, county agencies are responsible for placing these children in adoptive homes. But too many county caseworkers are too busy responding to crisis child protection and abuse cases to have enough time to find adoptive homes, according to Erin Sullivan Sutton, interim director of the department's family and children services division.

As a result, 40 percent to 60 percent of these children do not get adopted, ever, according to the department.

The intent of **HF185** is to have private adoption agencies help counties in the effort to find adoptive homes for children, not to replace county workers. Some counties have dedicated staffers working on adoptions, some do not, Sullivan Sutton said.

Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids) successfully amended the bill to state that any state contract with a private adoption agency "must be designed to supplement existing county efforts, and shall not replace existing county programs" unless the county agrees.

Children who are wards of the state come from different backgrounds and their parents have relinquished their parental rights. Many were neglected, physically abused, or sexually abused. Some came from parents

who were incapacitated. Of the 1,700 children, some are being considered by families for adoption but nothing has been finalized. As of January, however, no one had shown an interest in 813 of those children.

Another section of the bill would allow the Department of Human Services to encourage local reforms in child welfare services by authorizing local pilot programs. Some ideas include developing a program to better identify which children are at risk and may need protection down the road. Another idea may be to develop an early intervention program that brings help into a child's home before a major abuse or neglect situation erupts.

Another provision would give individuals whom the department determines have, in fact, abused a child a chance to appeal during an agency hearing. That is, only if the abuse case is not pending before a juvenile court or adult criminal court.

Currently, the only recourse for people who believe they have been falsely found to have mistreated a child is to file a data practices complaint to get the department record stricken.

HF185 now moves to the House Health and Human Services Finance Division.

Childhood delinquency

Troubled children who are likely to engage in an escalating pattern of crime and violence can be identified early, according to a study presented to the House Judiciary Finance Division Feb. 25.

In January 1995, the Hennepin County Attorney's Office began studying 134 children under the age of 10 who reportedly committed 147 crimes, including criminal sexual conduct, assault, arson, shoplifting, theft, burglary, and damage to property.

The children were not arrested because Minnesota law does not allow for the arrest of a child under 10 years old.

The report, funded by a \$450,000 legislative appropriation, concludes that children who are likely to continue a pattern of criminal and violent behavior can be identified through the presence of a combination of predictors. They include:

- early encounters with police;
- the presence of abuse, neglect, violence, or criminal activity in the home;
- poor school attendance and/or school failure;
- an absence of positive relationships with adults and peers; and
- overall problems in family daily functioning, based on factors such as single-

parenthood, the number of other children in the home, and the age of the parent(s).

The goal of the study is to establish new prevention programs, including one which pairs police officers with troubled children to provide guidance.

The study is believed to be the only one of its kind in the country, according to Janet Wiig, assistant Hennepin County attorney. New groups of young children are studied as the members of the original group reach age 10.

Of the original study group, 44 have been referred to the criminal justice system for prosecution for additional crimes. Of those, half committed at least one new offense against a person. According to Wiig, the frequency and severity of the crimes are rising with the children's ages.



Morgan Jellison, a 3-year-old from Minneapolis, played hide-and-seek with other children Feb. 21 during Family Day on the Hill, an event sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council.

"It's those with the worst profiles who are coming back," Wiig said.

The study was commended by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), chair of the Judiciary Committee. "These kids face enormous odds," Skoglund said. "I hope we can stick with them."



CRIME

Guns in kids' hands

Acquiring a gun is like "ordering pizza," a juvenile with an arrest record told a joint hearing of the House Judiciary Committee and Senate Crime Prevention Committee Feb. 21. The committee met to consider ways to control escalating violence, especially gun violence, among youth in Minnesota, and strategies that have been successful in other regions.

Key testimony came from David Kennedy, a Harvard University senior research analyst and the director of a successful youth violence intervention program in Boston that resulted in a dramatic reduction in gun violence.

During a six-year period, the Boston Gun Project reported a drop in homicides among victims age 24 and under from 30 in 1990 to nine in 1996, and a citywide drop from 40 victims in 1990 to 16 in 1996.

Kennedy explained that the project first examined the routes by which guns came into the hands of youths, and learned that stopping the flow of illegal guns is a weak link in law enforcement.

"Curiously, that is the part of the problem we have the least focus on. Gun crimes — yes, but gun trafficking — no," Kennedy said. "We wanted to make that part of regular police business." The project traced every gun recovered from suspects under age 21.

"How closely is the illegal gun trade scrutinized?" Kennedy asked. "It's scrutinized so tightly that the perpetrators advertise" in newspapers and magazines. Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) suggested legislation to prosecute those who sell guns which are later used in crimes.

Second, the project in Boston mobilized community agencies to strictly enforce the law. The offending youths — mostly gang members well-known to police — were threatened with sanctions that the agencies were prepared to impose against anyone who committed a violent act. After following through a few times, the problems stopped, Kennedy said. In effect, "we told them to stop," he explained, and they did. Boston

subsequently experienced its lowest homicide rate since the 1960s, Kennedy said.

Committee members debated whether their focus should be on stopping the flow of guns or exploring the causes of youth crime. Several juveniles with police records testified. A recurring theme: Perpetrators are not sufficiently penalized.

"I've had 25 arrests and haven't spent a day of my life in jail," a young man told the joint committee. "When you catch someone, do something — not just probation or treatment."

"It's how you punish juveniles," another told the committee. "I could say 'Sorry, I have a problem with drugs or gangs,' and I'd get a fourth, fifth, or sixth chance, or I'd get treatment." He said it wasn't until he reached "extended jurisdiction juvenile" status, a last-chance designation meaning he would be treated as an adult upon the next arrest, that he stopped offending, he said. "You guys own my butt," he said.

Another juvenile told law enforcers: "As soon as you stopped watching me, I'd go back to the gang."

In 1995, Minneapolis recorded 17 fire-arms-related deaths of juveniles age 17 and younger, and six in 1996, during a record-breaking year in which 97 homicides occurred. An estimated 2,668 juveniles were murdered in the U.S. in 1994, 20 percent of them by other juveniles.

Inmates to share cells

The House Feb. 27 approved a bill that would require most inmates sent to a new prison planned for Rush City, Minn. to double up in their cells. The vote was 127-3.

HF268 repeals a statute that requires inmates be placed in separate cells whenever space allows in prisons with a security level similar to that of the planned Rush City prison. On a scale of 1 to 6 — 6 being a maximum-security prison — the Rush City prison would be a 4. The bill also reverses an earlier requirement specific to the Rush City prison that it be designed with mostly single occupancy units.

The bill now requires the opposite: that the new facility provide multiple-occupancy cells "to the greatest extent possible." The result is that only one-seventh of the beds at Rush City will be in single-occupancy cells.

The construction plans were revised so that the prison could be built within the \$89 million budget the Legislature appropriated. "They would have had to give up too much programming, common, recreational, and

educational space," said Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown).

Murphy said that Department of Corrections officials have said that they can manage security in the double-occupancy facility.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) offered an amendment that would have prohibited the plan at Rush City. "We all know of the need for additional bed space in our prisons. But the issues of safety of the guards and inmates; the implications for lawsuits as a result of assaults; and the cost of recidivism to society" have not been adequately examined, Paymar said. The amendment failed 118-12.

The new plan calls for three "pods" with 136 double-occupancy cells in each, and one pod with 136 single-occupancy units. The double-occupancy cells would measure 84.2 square feet. The new design would increase the facility's capacity to 952 inmates, up from 800.

The earlier plan had called for six single-occupancy pods. The two pods not requested in this latest proposal could be added later if needed.

HF268 now moves to the Senate.



DEVELOPMENT

Coordinated land planning

Urban sprawl has been gobbling up open land on the edges of the Twin Cities metropolitan area for decades. But now it is taking substantial bites out of Minnesota's rural areas as well. Statewide, urban development consumes about 68 acres per day.

Since the mid 1970s, the Metropolitan Council has planned and shaped development in the seven-county metropolitan area. The council periodically reviews its Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA) boundary. Inside the boundary, new development is provided with municipal utility services such as roads, water, and sewer. Outside the MUSA, development is more restricted and receives no such services.

A bill (**HF217**) discussed — but not voted on — Feb. 25 by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee attempts to curtail sprawl in the rest of Minnesota. The bill provides the legal framework and funding for state-mandated comprehensive planning in rural counties, cities, and townships under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB).

Bill sponsor Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) explained that developers are currently avoiding the restrictions imposed on them by the Metropolitan Council and are building in the surrounding counties. These developments often take the form of high-priced housing on five-acre plots of former farm land. "We like the Twin Cities," Opatz said. "But we want you [residents] to stay where you are."

Projections are that central Minnesota will get 100,000 new residents in the next decade, Opatz told the panel. "We will consume 25 square miles of open space. We have no plan for all of that growth."

Opatz said that local government officials are often reluctant to restrict land use when a friend, family member, or neighbor has something to gain from a new development.



State Patrol officers arrested a welfare rights demonstrator after about 35 people refused to leave the State Capitol rotunda at closing Feb. 26. The protesters rallied against cuts in welfare benefits for nearly seven hours.

A Chisago County resident confirmed Opatz's view. "Chisago County already has a comprehensive plan with wonderful goals which are supported by the public," Bill Newman said. "But developers put a lot of pressure on our local officials. Unsustained growth is being subsidized by the rest of us who have to pay for it."

HF217 would require all Minnesota counties outside the Metropolitan area to submit comprehensive land-use plans to the EQB. The plans must conform to 12 broad goals for sustainable development outlined in the bill.

Counties with a population density greater than 50 people per square mile and gaining population at a rate faster than the state as a whole would be considered "growth" counties. In growth counties, any land not included within a city municipal plan would be zoned as permanent agricultural land. Developments in such counties would be limited to one dwelling unit per 40 acres. Seven counties — Benton, Chisago, Isanti, Olmsted, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright — would currently qualify as growth counties.

Under the bill, any municipality that does not submit a comprehensive plan to its county board would have a plan prepared for it by the county. If a county board does not submit a plan to the EQB, the EQB would prepare a plan for the county.

Representing the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, Dave Olson said, "We're very pleased to see this debate move forward. Statewide planning is important but must be coordinated."

"Builders have long advocated for good planning," said Gary Laurent of the Builders Association of Minnesota in offering qualified support for the bill. Growth boundaries can drive up the cost of land and planning is best done at the local level, he said.

Officials from the Minnesota Association of Realtors and the Metropolitan Council also spoke in favor of the bill.

The bill also will appropriate an unspecified amount to the EQB for planning grants to local governments.

The committee's hearing on **HF217** will continue March 4.

Recycling polluted lands

Revenue now used to clean up old tire dumps would instead be channeled into reclaiming contaminated land under legislation approved Feb. 26 by the Economic Development and International Trade Committee.

Under current law, the state attaches a \$4 fee on the transfer of motor vehicles and uses the proceeds to dispose of used tires. The fee, which generates nearly \$4 million annually, is set to expire on July 1. **HF422** would extend the fee indefinitely and allow local governments to direct the money instead toward the rehabilitation of contaminated sites, known as "brownfields," once occupied by businesses such as auto salvage yards. The sites, in turn, could be used for expanding light industry businesses. The move, bill sponsor Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) said, would allow communities to develop land that was once useless.

"It's cost effective to recycle and reclaim this land," McCollum said, adding that manufacturers could expand into an area already supported by an infrastructure instead of locating in the suburbs, far from potential new employees. "It fits in wonderfully with welfare reform."

Other legislators, while supportive of the bill, questioned how much control the state will be able to exercise over the disposition of brownfields.

"Land that is being used for light industrial purposes doesn't need to be clean enough to grow organic vegetables for small children," said Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls). "We need to take a sensible approach [as] to how clean is clean."

That approach, Kahn said, could be hindered by an overzealous and inflexible federal Environmental Protection Agency.

HF422 now moves to the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.



EDUCATION

Pass or don't drive

Proponents of a proposal that would link teen driving privileges to academic performance say the bill would help motivate students.

HF446, sponsored Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), would require Minnesotans under age 18 to pass high school graduation tests and to stay in school to be eligible to receive a driver's license.

"I think this sends a strong message to students that education is important, these tests are important, and we want you to pass," Biernat said during a Feb. 27 House Education Committee hearing.

Under the bill, which was not acted upon, public school students would have to fulfill existing driver's education requirements and pass the state's basic skills tests in math and reading in order to be issued a driver's license.

Math and reading tests, required under Minnesota's graduation rule, are first given to students in eighth grade, when most students are 14 years old. Students who fail one or both of the tests are given another chance to pass at least once each school year.

Exceptions to the academic requirements could be made for special-needs students,



Sandra Ebensteiner, *holding sign*, and "Dr. I. Kleendirt," played by Sharon Horgan, who carried a container of dry ice representing pollution, performed a skit about "brownfields" before the Economic Development and International Trade Committee Feb. 26. Several groups joined forces to push for state money to help clean up vacant contaminated industry sites to make room for new businesses and new jobs. The skit was presented by Interfaith Action and the St. Paul Ecumenical Alliance of Congregations.

Note: The cover photo illustration on the Feb. 21, 1997, issue of the *Session Weekly* was rendered by Andrew Von Bank. His name was inadvertently omitted in the last issue.

under the bill. Private school students, who are not required to take the state's basic skills tests, would simply be required to document enrollment in school.

The bill also provides that the state could suspend the license of anyone under age 18 who drops out of school or is a habitual truant.

Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), who is co-sponsoring the bill, is a high school teacher and a driver's education instructor, a job he has performed for more than 25 years.

He said the bill aims to direct some of the enthusiasm students have for driver's education to their regular school work.

"It's unbelievable, the desire a youngster has to get that [learner's] permit," Mares said.

Mares also pointed out that academic performance is already linked to other privileges. Students must meet academic requirements to participate in extra-curricular activities such as sports, and insurance companies give better rates to students with good grades.

"In the long run, this [bill] would raise the educational skills of our young people," Mares added.

In 1988, West Virginia became the first state to adopt a similar so-called "no-pass, no-drive" law. Such laws are increasingly popular and are now on the books in a total of 15 states, including Wisconsin.

HF446 received support from school officials who testified during the hearing.

Requiring students to pass the basic skills test to get a driver's license would give school work "a direct tie to something important in the lives of students, said Dr. Ray Hoheisel, superintendent of the Cambridge-Isanti School District.

"This bill can make a difference," he said. "It can help improve the overall learning of a good number of students."

Some lawmakers expressed concerns about the impact the bill would have on special-needs students and others struggling to make it academically.

"It's just an awful lot of pressure," said Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee). "I think there are some marginal kids under a lot of pressure in different ways, and this may be going too far."

HF446 will be discussed further by the Education Committee on March 4.

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

Alternative school schedules

The House Education Committee approved a bill Feb. 25 that would make it easier for school districts to establish year-round school or other alternative schedules.

HF302, sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), would do away with a requirement in current law that makes districts receive the approval of the State Board of Education before establishing a flexible learning year program at a particular school.

Such a program could include a four-day school week or an elimination of the traditional summer vacation in favor of classes for 45 out of every 60 days.

Under current law, a district wishing to establish a flexible learning year for a school site must submit an application to the Board of Education, which has authority to review the plans and approve or disapprove.

Greiling's bill would give local school district officials the authority to establish a flexible learning year and relegate the Board of Education to a supervisory role.

The state board would retain responsibility for setting standards for flexible learning year programs, and those standards would require all programs to meet state requirements for testing and reporting.

"We feel that it is a nice balance," said Marsha Gronseth, executive director of the Board of Education. "It's probably the school districts that should be making the decision."

HF302 now goes to the House floor.



ENVIRONMENT

Snowmobile safety

Snowmobile safety concerns continue to stir up a flurry of legislative initiatives at the state Capitol.

One bill, the Joshua Renken and Stacy Schlosser Snowmobile Safety Act (**HF770**), named in honor of two young Minnesotans who lost their lives after being struck by snowmobiles this season, won approval from a House panel Feb. 21.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby), accompanied by the children's mothers, Lori Renken and Jan Schlosser, spoke before the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee on Feb. 19 and 21.

"I have been working on this bill for five years," said Hasskamp. "It is the least we could do to name it for the two young people who lost their lives totally unnecessarily."

The bill would impose a number of changes in current snowmobile laws. It requires that registration applications contain the legal name and address of every owner of the snowmobile. Current practice allows the use of nicknames and initials on registration forms, Hasskamp said. The bill also requires that registration numbers be clearly and visibly affixed to the snowmobile. Many snowmobilers now use fancy lettering to match their machine's logo style. Law enforcement officials find the wide variety of lettering styles often difficult to read, especially at high speeds. Registration fees also would be doubled from \$30 for three years to \$60.

Persons operating a snowmobile with an engine displacement of more than 440 cubic centimeters would be required to possess a valid driver's license.

Jan Schlosser had asked the committee to consider lowering the nighttime snowmobile speed limit to 30 miles per hour, down from the current 50 miles per hour maximum on public lands and waters. **HF770** proposes that, and would prohibit operating a snowmobile in a "careless, reckless, or negligent manner so as to endanger the person or property of another or to cause injury or damage."

The bill also allows counties, cities, and townships to set a snowmobile speed limit that is 10 miles per hour below the posted maximum for automobile traffic.

"We need more enforcement in rural areas so that we can stop these people [snowmobilers] who use rural streets and county roads," Jan Schlosser told the panel. "That's where the problem is at."

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and local snowmobile groups that receive state grants-in-aid would be charged with posting and improving safety signage on snowmobile trails, under the bill. Current trail posting and signs is inadequate, according to Hasskamp and Mike Grupa, of the DNR's enforcement division. "There are a lot of blind hills and curves that are very dangerous," Hasskamp said.

Funds from the snowmobile trails and enforcement account would be allocated according to a new formula with 50 percent going for the state's grant-in-aid trail program which makes grants to local snowmobile clubs for trail grooming. Another 25 percent would go to maintain the state's own recreational snowmobile trails. The final 25 percent would be earmarked for snowmobile enforcement purposes. The DNR would apportion some of the enforcement funds to local and county law enforcement agencies.



Revenue building

In 1988, Minnesota's Department of Revenue moved its hundreds of employees, along with all of its computers, furniture, and files, into a new building on the banks of the Mississippi River.

The state, however, did not own the structure. St. Paul's JLT Group owns it. The real estate company rented the space to the revenue department, offering a five-year lease that also contained five, one-year options to renew the agreement.

Now, nearly 10 years later, the department has outgrown the space at 10 River Park Plaza. In fact, according to a report written by the SGS Group, consultants the Legislature hired to study the idea of a new revenue building, the department will need even more space by 2010, when it has nearly 1,500 employees.

Unfortunately, said Jim Steinmann of SGS, the final one-year renewal expires Nov. 30, 1998, putting the Legislature in what is an uncomfortable position: begin construction on a new building or purchase and renovate the existing one. Either way, he said, each month that the Legislature delays a decision could cost the state as much as \$1 million in increased rent and future construction costs.

Rent would likely increase under a renegotiated lease.

"The timing is critical because . . . the solutions that are available to you may not be able to be done" by the time the state's lease expires on the current revenue building, Steinmann said. "The state does not have a comfortable time frame."

Steinmann, along with Carl Remick of the Minneapolis-based Architectural Alliance, presented their findings to a joint meeting of the Senate Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee, the Senate Governmental Operations Budget Division, the House State Government Finance Division, and the House Capital Investment Committee Feb 25.

The Department of Revenue moved from the Centennial Building in the Capitol complex to River Park Plaza in December 1988. That first year, the department paid JLT \$3.6 million in rent. Over the years, the amount of rent paid to JLT grew — by about 7 percent annually — even as the department itself did. Now, according to the Department of Administration, the state pays JLT \$6.3 million per year for the 299,000 square feet that house its 1,369 employees.

The bill also appropriates an additional \$250,000 annually from the general fund in fiscal years 1998 and 1999 to the DNR for snowmobile operation safety and enforcement.

"The bill is not going to bring back Joshua and Stacy, but it is going to help," Schlosser said.

HF770 now goes to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

Changes to state parks

Land would be added to four state parks, an additional park would get a new name, and another would be allowed to sell beer in its lodge, under a bill being considered by the Land Sales Subcommittee of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

Sponsor Rep. Thomas Bakk (DFL-Cook) presented the bill (HF299) Feb. 25. It would authorize the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to add land to the following state parks:

- Bear Head Lake State Park in St. Louis County would add 160 acres of adjacent undeveloped land, wooded with mature red and white pine trees. The addition would prevent a proposed housing development near the Taconite State Trail.
- Forestville State Park in Fillmore County would get an adjacent 40-acre parcel on the south branch of the Root River. The river is a designated trout stream and the

surrounding bluffs contain excellent habitat for the endangered timber rattlesnake.

- John Latsch State Park in Winona County would gain access to the Mississippi River with a 120-acre parcel that includes privately owned water access, a resort, and campground.
- Split Rock Lighthouse State Park in Lake County would acquire 80 acres of land along the Lake Superior shore northeast of the park. The land is currently owned by the Congdon family and includes Gold Rock Point, the largest of the few exposed granite cliffs on the North Shore. It also contains 3,700 feet of lake shore and access to the Madeira shipwreck, one of the most popular diving sites in the Great Lakes.

The bill also seeks to change the name of O.L. Kipp State Park in Winona County to Great River Bluffs State Park. Bill Morrissey, director of the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division, explained that O.L. Kipp is the first state park encountered by travelers entering the state from the east on Interstate 90. "It is our gateway park, and the current name doesn't attract people," Morrissey said. "Great River Bluffs is a more descriptive name that we believe will attract more tourists to the park."

Other provisions of the bill would allow Itasca State Park in Clearwater County to add beer to the wine menu in its restaurant. And visitors to Tettegouche State Park would be allowed to use the parking lot for one hour without buying a state park permit.

No action was taken on the bill, which will be discussed further in the weeks ahead.



Minnesota citizens concerned about nuclear power and the storage of nuclear waste wore paper storage casks and carried signs at a rally in the Capitol rotunda Feb. 25.

“The existing building . . . will become inadequate over time,” Steinmann said, “and an addition still wouldn’t deal with all the problems,” which include a limited electrical and data distribution system, water penetration problems, and an unreliable power system. In addition, Steinmann said, purchasing and renovating the River Park Plaza building would not achieve any significant savings.

According to the SGS report, renovating the existing building would cost nearly \$40 million, plus somewhere between \$22 million and \$44 million to buy it.

The consultants told the legislators that, as far as constructing a new building, they have essentially two options — the current site of the state’s motor pool at 13th and Robert streets or the downtown St. Paul block at East 11th and Wabasha streets. Of the two, Steinmann said, the motor pool site is the most workable and the least expensive. A building at the downtown site would cost nearly \$97 million to construct, Steinmann said, while a similar structure at the motor pool lot would check in at a little more than \$90 million.

Of course, Steinmann said, the state could always opt to purchase the existing building and rehabilitate it, but he argued against that move.

Not everybody, however, agrees with the SGS numbers.

Jerry Toolien, who owns the JLT Group called Steinmann’s report “ineffective and irrelevant.” The building, he said, could be renovated for half the amount the SGS Group said would be necessary.

“There isn’t anything wrong with that building,” Toolien said, adding that the building was appraised seven years ago and valued at \$47 million.

JLT, Toolien said, would love to do business with the state, but no state official has yet broached the subject.

“We know that the deal has to work for the state and the Minnesota taxpayers,” Toolien said, but “we can’t keep doing one-year deals. We can’t. It just doesn’t work.”

Snow removal costs

The House passed a proposal Feb. 27 to mark \$20 million to help cities and counties recoup some of their weather-related costs. The vote was 131-1.

Sponsored by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), **HF100** would authorize the commissioner of public safety, the governor, and the Legislature to appropriate grant money to cities, counties, and towns for recent se-

vere weather-related matters. Most of the appropriations would be matched by federal emergency funds.

The funds would be divided into three parts: \$7 million to the disaster areas; \$7 million to all units of government to cover this year’s costs; and \$6 million to handle spring floods.

“This was the worst winter in 50 years by some estimates; 100 years by others,” said Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), who spoke in favor of the funding. Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said township budgets in his district are overwhelmed by snow removal costs. “It illustrates that the funding is direly needed,” Seifert said.

Wenzel added that the money would be equitably distributed and said that more damage occurred this winter than the state could pay for.

HF100 now moves to the Senate.

HIGHER EDUCATION

U of M regents selected

After initially generating considerable controversy over the selection process, the Minnesota Legislature elected five new regents to the University of Minnesota without debate. The vote was conducted in a joint session of the House and Senate on Feb. 27.

The new regents are:

- **First District:** Bryan Neel, an incumbent regent and a doctor at Rochester’s Mayo Clinic (169 votes) over Thomas Stoa, a doctor practicing in La Crosse, Wis., (25 votes).

- **Fourth District:** David Metzen, superintendent of the South St. Paul schools (177 votes) over Carol Erickson, superintendent of the Roseville School District (18 votes).

- **Fifth District:** Michael O’Keefe, an incumbent regent and executive vice president of the McKnight Foundation (194 votes). No other candidates were nominated for the post.

- **Sixth District:** Maureen Reed, a doctor and HealthPartners medical director for contracted care (194 votes) over Harry Sieben Jr., a former House speaker (1 vote).

- **Seventh District:** Bob Bergland, a former secretary of agriculture (176 votes) over former state representative Bob Anderson (19 votes), who was nominated on the House floor by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int’l Falls).

The 12-member Board of Regents includes one person representing each of Minnesota’s eight congressional districts and four at-large members, including one U of M student (who is enrolled at the time of election).

Regents serve six-year terms that are staggered so that four seats come up for election by the Legislature in each odd-numbered year. Five seats were available this year because of the October 1996 resignation of Regent Jean Keffler. (Gov. Arne Carlson appointed O’Keefe to temporarily fill Keffler’s seat).

Ninety-one candidates applied for the open seats this year, and 23 of them were interviewed by the Regent Candidate Advisory Council, a panel created in 1988 to screen candidates for the board. (See Feb. 7, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 10.)



University of Minnesota regent candidate Bryan Neel, First Congressional District, kept a vote tally as members of the House and Senate voted to elect the University of Minnesota Board of Regents Feb. 27. Neel was elected along with four others.

Instructors and technology

College students on some campuses don't have to worry if they miss a lecture; they can review the material or consult with faculty members via their own computer stations. They can also find material on topics and subjects from sources around the world and gain access to leaders in a desired field of study. Students can learn a foreign language and even earn a degree through the electronic media.

Many schools use such services as a selling point to prospective students. Bemidji State University even uses multimedia to sell its campus — a CD-ROM can now replace the publication the school would normally send to potential enrollees.

Still, not everyone is sold on the benefits of the escalating use of technology for teaching students.

The subject was discussed Feb. 24 by the House Education Committee's Higher Education Finance Division. Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) said she has heard from college instructors who fear that technology will replace them. James Bensen, president of Bemidji State University, put those fears to rest.

"On our campus, the opposite is so. We thought we might have 20 faculty members opt to become involved in our electronic academy. Instead, we have 60. There is so much excitement because what they're seeing is not only a chance to interact with students on campus, but students anywhere in the world. It puts the faculty on the front end of the curve," Bensen said.

Marvin Marshak, vice president of Academic Affairs at the University of Minnesota, concurred. "You can't have students sitting by themselves at computers and learning that way," he said. "Technology relieves faculty of the repetitive, lower-value parts of teaching, and frees them to do the really important parts, which is to engage students, challenge them, help them question their ideas, and learn how to analyze problems."

Further discussion on the issue is expected, particularly in light of Gov. Arne Carlson's budget recommendations that call for a record number of dollars to be spent on technology in the schools.

Saving for education

A bill to help parents save for their children's college years was approved Feb. 25 by the House Education Committee.

HF130 would make affordable, tax-free bonds available from the state. Bill sponsor

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) said the aim of his proposal is to assist middle-income families who may not qualify for some financial aid programs but are hard-pressed to pay out-of-pocket for a child's college education.

Under the bill, the Department of Finance would be required to make the general obligation bonds sold to finance state construction projects available at a lower cost. Currently, the bonds are sold at a minimum \$5,000 denomination. The bill calls for bonds as small as \$500 to be made available.

Anyone could buy the smaller bonds, but the bill includes provisions designed to encourage their purchase for college savings.

First, the bill stipulates that up to \$25,000 in bonds would not count against a student when determining eligibility for state grants. Second, the bill would allow employees to use a payroll deduction plan to purchase the bonds, thus decreasing the employee's taxable income. (See Feb. 14, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 7.)

Carlson said his bill would set up a program, dubbed Gopher State Bonds, similar to ones already in place in 24 other states. The first state to try it was Illinois, Carlson said, and the response there was very positive.

The bill drew bipartisan support in the Education Committee.

"It just makes an awful lot of sense," said Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel), who praised the simplicity of the plan to allow parents to reap the benefits of the ongoing practice of state bond sales.

Carlson sponsored a similar bill in 1996, which passed the House but failed to win Senate approval.

The bill now goes to the House Capital Investment Committee.



INDUSTRY

Taconite help

Minnesota's taconite producers face substantial challenges in the coming years and need \$4 million from the Legislature to remain competitive, industry representatives told the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee Feb. 26.

HF409, sponsored by Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), would provide the industry with \$4 million from the state general fund to construct a new high tech processing facility that produces taconite pellets containing a much higher percentage of iron. Known as Direct Reduction Iron (DRI), the pellets contain 93 percent iron, compared to the 64

percent found in the product now in production.

"This is . . . a critical first step in saving an industry that doesn't need saving today or tomorrow, but possibly 10 or 20 years down the road," Solberg told the committee.

The entire facility, said Minnesota Iron and Steel Company (MIS) Chair and Chief Executive Officer Robert Greer, would cost more than \$650 million. The legislative dollars, he said, represent seed money to get the project off the ground. The plant, would almost assuredly be built by MIS.

Other industry representatives told the committee that the Iron Range is in danger of losing its place as a leader in the industry, which is why the Legislature must act now to provide the funding. Other facilities, located for the most part in foreign countries, are heavily subsidized by their governments and have already moved to DRI, putting Minnesota behind the competitive eight ball.

Moreover, the technology will shift again, to producing steel directly from taconite ore, said Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board Commissioner Jim Gustafson.

"The timing is very critical for the state of Minnesota," Gustafson said. "The window of opportunity is very narrow because everybody is going to be building these" new production facilities.

MIS, Solberg said, is working to line up private investors to finance the remainder of the project's cost, but the company may come back to the state for more money sometime down the road.

The committee approved **HF409** and sent the bill to its Economic Development Finance Division.



INSURANCE

Direct care for women

A bill that would forbid health insurers from requiring women to obtain a referral to see an obstetrician or a gynecologist passed the House Feb. 24. The vote was 132-0.

HF447, sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), would require that insurance companies and health maintenance organizations allow female enrollees direct access to obstetricians and gynecologists.

Under the bill, women would have to be allowed to schedule an appointment with an obstetrician or gynecologist without prior approval from the insurer or a referral from a "gatekeeper" primary care physician.

Direct access to an obstetrician or gynecologist would be required for annual examinations, any subsequent treatment deemed necessary by the specialist, maternity care, and treatment of acute or emergency conditions. Companies would be barred from charging women extra for direct access. (See Feb. 21, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 7.)

The bill now goes to the Senate.



TAXES

Senior tax break

Senior citizens struggling to keep up with burgeoning taxes in the face of increasing property values could defer their payments under three identical bills heard by the House Taxes Committee's Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division Feb. 24.

Many senior citizens on fixed or low incomes, said Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), who sponsored **HF633**, are "scared to death" that they will be forced to leave their homes because they can't pay their taxes. This legislation, she said, would provide them one more option.

The bills — **HF230**, **HF633**, and **HF732** — would allow senior citizens with incomes of under \$30,000 who are not delinquent in previous assessments to put off property tax payments that exceed 5 percent of their household income. The deferrals could not exceed three-quarters of the value of their home. The state would pay the tab and issue a lien, subject to a 5-percent interest rate, against the property for the deferred amount.

The deferral would end, and the taxes would be due within 90 days, when the property is sold, when the owner dies or chooses to opt out of the program, or when the property no longer qualifies as a homestead. The bills are similar to a measure passed by the House in both 1995 and 1996 that did not become law.

"This is not an answer, but an option for senior citizens if we're not going to do any serious property tax reform," Murphy said. "Rising property taxes should not be the deciding factor if they're going to leave their home or not."

The division referred **HF230** to the full Taxes Committee.



TRANSPORTATION

Tightening title transfers

Car buyers who fail to promptly transfer the title on the vehicle would face new penalties, under a bill approved Feb. 26 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

Bill sponsor Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina) said **HF609** would help the state to "squeeze down on those folks who are in violation" of state law.

Some car buyers do not transfer the title on a vehicle for a variety of reasons, Erhardt said. For example, the buyer may not want to pay for insurance or may not have a driver's license. (State law requires proof of insurance and a valid driver's license to obtain a title.)

When a title is not transferred, problems can arise for car sellers, who may be held liable for parking tickets or other infractions that occur after the vehicle has been sold.

Currently, it is a misdemeanor for a buyer to fail to apply for a title transfer within 14 days of acquiring a vehicle. The bill would give buyers just 10 days to apply for a title transfer and to pay the necessary fees.

The Department of Public Safety would

suspend the registration on the vehicle if the buyer does not transfer the title within 10 days of the sale, under the bill.

If the vehicle registration is suspended, the buyer would have to pay an additional \$5 reinstatement fee along with the normal title transfer charges. If, after 14 days, the buyer still has not transferred the title, an additional \$2 charge will be applied.

Also, law enforcement officers could impound a vehicle if the registration has been suspended because the buyer failed to transfer the title.

Erhardt sponsored a similar bill in 1995. The measure passed the House but stalled in a House-Senate conference committee.

HF609 now goes to the House floor.

Turn up the volume

A bill that would have allowed Minnesota police officers to ticket motorists who play their car stereos at a volume that "unreasonably disturbs the peace and quiet of a person nearby," failed on the House floor Feb. 27. The vote was 58-72.

Under **HF86**, sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), a violation would occur if sound from a radio, tape, or compact disc player is "plainly audible" at a distance of 100 feet or more from a vehicle. Violators would face a petty misdemeanor charge, which carries a fine of up to \$200.

Stanek, a Minneapolis police officer, said he wanted a law that "law enforcement could use to address quality-of-life issues."

But many members had reservations. "This bill could declare open season on kids," said Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm). "Anyone playing a stereo gives the police an open invitation to stop them. This is ridiculous."

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) saw otherwise. "It's ridiculous how others expand their own rights to stomp all over the peace and quiet of others."

The legislation would not have interfered with the right of municipalities to enact their own noise abatement laws. Several cities, including Minneapolis and St. Paul, already have ordinances related to loud car stereos. Stanek's bill would have provided a statewide standard for car stereo use.

Despite the House vote, **HF86** is not officially dead. After the floor vote, lawmakers reconsidered the bill and referred it to the House Judiciary Committee for more work.



Susan Downing, left, a St. Paul citizen concerned about education, talked with Mary Martin, a visiting scholar from the University of Minnesota's Center for Advance Feminist Study, during the Women Come to the Capitol event Feb. 24. Martin collected pieces of poetry, prose, collage, drawings, and photos to make a collaborative art form called a Zine (a photocopied publication) to commemorate the event.



VETERANS

Gulf War bonuses

The Minnesota Legislature has paid out bonuses to Minnesota veterans of every major war “since the beginning of time,” according to Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City). This session, Minnesota’s Persian Gulf War veterans came a step closer to receiving theirs.

Osskopp and Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) are sponsoring a bill that would spend \$17.3 million to pay bonuses to 44,000 Minnesota Gulf War veterans. It was approved by both the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee and the House Government Operations Committee Feb. 24 and Feb. 25, respectively.

Last November, voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment to allow the state to appropriate money to pay the bonuses. The bill, **HF444**, outlines how to distribute the money.

In addition to the \$17.3 million, another \$250,000 would be spent on the administrative costs of advertising the bonuses’ availability, the application process, and issuing the checks.

The bill would apportion bonuses at three levels. About 13,200 veterans who are eligible for the Southwest Asia Service Medal — essentially those who served within the war zone — would each receive \$600. Another 30,500 veterans who were preparing to be shipped overseas would receive \$300 each. The families of nine Minnesota soldiers killed in the war would receive \$2,000 each.

The bonuses are identical to those paid to veterans of the Vietnam War with one exception — families who lost a loved one during that war received \$1,000.

Only Minnesota veterans who served between Aug. 2, 1990, and July 31, 1991, would be eligible for the bonus money. Applications would be accepted from Nov. 1, 1997, to June 30, 1999. The program would be administered by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, which would make applications available through local service organizations, such as Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion groups.

Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) sought assurance that the bonus money could not be taken from homeless veterans to satisfy liens. The bill stipulates that the payments are tax-free and are not “subject to garnishment, attachment, or levy of execution.”

Wejcman and several other committee members also questioned how to handle payments to veterans in mental health, substance abuse, or other treatment programs.

Jeff Olson, deputy commissioner for the Department of Veterans Affairs, said that further study is required to determine if the bonus money could be withheld until program completion.

The timing of the bill’s passage from the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee coincided with the six-year anniversary of the first day of Gulf War ground action, according to Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin).

HF444 now moves to the House floor.



Speaking in support of a bill requiring rural cities and counties to work with the state on land-use planning, Glenn Dorfman of the Minnesota Association of Realtors said, “As a New York transplant to Minnesota, I think anything we can do to get passive-aggressive Minnesotans to talk to each other should be supported.”

Among the first women to serve in the Minnesota House of Representatives was a twentysomething “flapper” whose idealism and determination thwarted attempts to dismiss her.

Dubbed by the press as the “flapper legislator,” Myrtle Cain, a women’s labor union activist from Minneapolis, drew national attention by introducing legislation to combat the Ku Klux Klan, and she led an early attempt to pass equal rights legislation.

Historical documents are unclear about Cain’s precise age when, in 1923, she joined three other women in being the first females to enter the state House. Most records estimate she was born around the turn of century and was in her early 20s when she came to the Capitol.

Cain was raised in a working-class Minneapolis household and worked for the Telephone Operators Union, where she was a leader in its first strike in 1918. She also was active in the Women’s Trade Union League of Minneapolis and the National Woman’s Party.

In the wake of the success of the women’s suffrage movement, Cain felt compelled to seek public office. A pro-

Do you know?



Myrtle Cain, among the first women to serve in the Minnesota House of Representatives, was a twenty something “flapper” who introduced legislation to combat the Ku Klux Klan and led an early attempt to pass equal rights legislation.

Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

union platform won her election in 1922 from a labor stronghold in Minneapolis.

Cain’s youth, good looks, and liberal ideas brought her the “flapper legislator” and “working girl legislator” tags and provided grist for those clinging to the notion

that politics ought to be solely a man’s game.

However, her work in the Legislature demonstrated that she belonged. Cain authored an anti-Ku Klux Klan measure making it illegal to appear in public with a masked face. Fifteen states imitated Cain’s idea. (The Minnesota law was altered in 1995 to allow concealed faces for religious reasons and for protection from weather.)

After the 1923 session, Theodore Christianson, who served with Cain in the Legislature and later became governor, described Cain as “a quiet and painstaking worker who shunned the limelight consistently.”

In 1924, Cain, along with the three other female incumbents and six female newcomers, sought election to the House. Eight of the women lost that year, including Cain, who fell to a male opponent by a margin of 39 votes.

Cain was never again elected to public office, but she returned to the Capitol in 1973 to speak in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment, a national proposal similar to the measure she sponsored on the state level 50 years earlier.

Governor wants tax refund for all Minnesotans

A new state budget forecast predicting a surplus topping \$2 billion has Gov. Arne Carlson calling for a one-time tax refund and legislative leaders offering ideas of their own.

At a Feb. 27 press conference, Carlson revealed the specifics of the latest state budget forecast, which all sides agree paints a rosy picture of Minnesota's economic situation.

A forecast budget surplus last estimated in November 1996 to be \$1.4 billion has grown to \$2.3 billion on the strength of steady economic growth and lower than expected spending, according to the latest figures from the Department of Finance. (The forecast predicts the balance in state coffers at the end of the 1998-99 biennium based on spending and revenue estimates.)

The governor is pitching a plan to devote \$750 million to a tax refund program he says would return an average of \$400 to each taxpayer. The minimum refund would be \$50 and the maximum would be \$900 for a single filer or \$1,800 for a couple filing jointly.

"Bear in mind, this is their money," Carlson said. "This is their opportunity to celebrate, and this day really is for them."

Carlson also hopes to commit \$250 million of surplus revenues to what he described as "modest, incremental" property tax reform targeting commercial, industrial, and rental properties. Under Carlson's proposal,



House Republican Leader Steve Sviggum holds up a sample tax refund check for \$1,000 at a press conference Feb. 27. House Republicans are proposing to send \$1.3 billion of the state budget surplus back to the taxpayer through income tax rebates.

However, House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) and Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) both vowed to seek a different brand of tax reform from what Carlson is proposing.

"We're definitely interested in tax relief for the citizens of Minnesota," Carruthers said. "We want to focus on property tax relief."

"... We believe that this is an opportunity — one that we haven't had for a long time —

"It's wonderful growth, but we have to keep in mind that the economy is cyclical," he said. "We should put resources aside to deal with that."

House Republicans also have a plan of their own — one that is similar to the governor's. The House GOP plan calls for \$1.3 billion of surplus revenues to be devoted to taxpayer refunds, which would be capped at \$1,500 for a family of three.

"It's the taxpayers' money, and they should get it back. It's that simple," said House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon). "If we don't give it back, the Legislature will spend it."

"Instead of debating whether we have a rebate, we should be debating the size of the rebate."

Despite the differences of opinion, Carlson said he is optimistic that consensus can be reached on major issues, such as reforms in the property tax system and in education, during this legislative session.

In fact, the governor is so optimistic he said there is "no reason why we can't close [the session] earlier than expected."

At the same time, Carlson vowed to oppose legislative proposals that would require new, long-term spending commitments. Such spending, the governor said, could thrust the state into a situation similar to "the darkness of 1991," when he entered office facing a \$1.8 billion deficit.

"We believe that this is an opportunity — one that we haven't had for a long time — to make some fundamental property tax reform and relief and provide that to the citizens of Minnesota."

—House Speaker Phil Carruthers

that \$250 million would go toward property tax relief in 1999 as the first piece of a three-year, \$900 million property tax cut.

The governor also hopes to use surplus revenues to fund initiatives in early childhood development and education, including a proposed \$150 million for tax credits intended to help parents of school-age children to afford private school tuition or other educational expenses such as tutoring.

Leaders of DFL caucuses in both legislative chambers also welcomed the news of the latest economic forecast, and they echoed the governor's call for tax reforms.

to make some fundamental property tax reform and relief and provide that to the citizens of Minnesota."

Neither Carruthers nor Moe said they plan to support the governor's plan to send refunds to taxpayers.

"We don't believe that a one-time check to people is the kind of reform that will be meaningful," Moe said. Instead, he said, lawmakers should pursue "real property tax relief" that is not just "a short-term fix."

Moe also responded to the latest economic forecast with a call for caution among lawmakers.

— Nick Healy

Stadium proposal raises roof, lowers public risk

Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) and Sen. Jerry Janezich (DFL-Chisholm) announced Feb. 24 that they will soon introduce legislation creating a partnership between the state and the Minnesota Twins to build a new outdoor baseball stadium. Under the deal, the state would assume 49 percent ownership of the Twins.

The new proposal alters a previous plan announced by Gov. Arne Carlson Jan. 8, and is the result of ongoing negotiations between the two legislators, the governor's Chief of Staff Morrie Anderson, Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission President Henry Savelkoul, and representatives of the Pohlads family, which owns the Twins.

The new plan removes the retractable roof from the stadium. Otherwise, the building design remains much the same. Raising the roof lowers the total construction cost from around \$350 million to about \$285 million, not counting land acquisition costs. "The ballpark was designed to work with or without the roof," said Twins President Jerry Bell.

"With no roof, there will be lost revenues," Bell said. "We're not giving up



Twins president Jerry Bell, left, watches as Twins stars past and present Harmon Killebrew, center, and Paul Monitor, right, unveil the model of a new Twins baseball stadium during a recent press conference at the Mall of America, the former site of Minnesota's last outdoor professional ballpark.

would have to repay. Many lawmakers regarded the wording as misleading. Bell said that calling the \$82.5 million a "contribution" in the original plan was business lingo for "financing" and had been misinterpreted. "It was a mistake," Bell said.

If the state decides to add the roof later, the Pohlads would still make the

million and under the proposal would be paid for by a 10-cent-per-pack cigarette tax hike and by an unspecified ticket tax.

Local government, presumably Minneapolis, would be responsible for providing a site for the stadium and an additional \$3 million annual subsidy.

In return for its \$250 million, the state would get a 49-percent share of the Twins operation, and the team would sign a 30-year lease on the stadium. The Twins' current estimated market value is \$105 million. An appraisal will be conducted to determine the team's true value.

The Pohlads would be locked into the agreement through April 1, 2006. At that time, they could ask the state to buy out their share of the Twins.

"I would say there is substantially less risk to the public [in the new plan]," said Anderson.

Acknowledging that the plan has few supporters in the Legislature, Rest said, "We are committed to changing one mind at a time."

— Steve Compton

"The retractable roof is something we can discuss later."

—Rep. Ann H. Rest

on the roof, but we see that it's impractical at this time to keep it in the proposal."

"The retractable roof is something we can discuss later," Rest said.

Along with the roof, the Pohlads also are removing an \$82.5 million loan from the table. Originally presented to lawmakers and the public as a contribution, it was later revealed that the money was intended to be a loan which the state

\$82.5 million loan available.

This time, the Pohlads are offering a no-strings-attached \$15 million donation to the project. The Twins also relinquish their claim on up to \$25 million of up-front project revenues from naming and concession rights. Unlike the previous plan, the Pohlads would assume all responsibility for operating losses.

The state's portion of the construction cost is estimated to be about \$250

Conflicting public opinion makes lawmaking tough



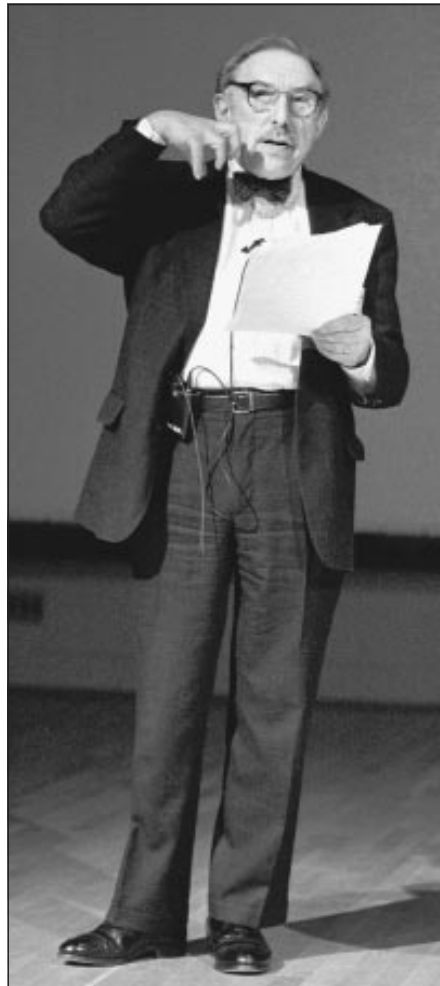
According to public opinion, America is a seething mass of contradictions — politically, economically, and socially — more so now than ever, and policymakers would be wise to understand that, a prominent pollster told a group of legislators Feb. 25.

“Public opinion is a very important part of our country,” said Charles H. White, whom President Bill Clinton appointed to the National Commission for Employment Policy in August 1994. “In many ways, it’s more important now . . . because it’s a good indicator of how the American people feel about how things are going.”

White is the vice chair of Yankelovich and Partners, which provides research and consulting services to a variety of corporations and government agencies. He has been an outspoken advocate for the nonprofit sector. White made his remarks at the Minnesota History Center’s 3M Auditorium, the third speaker in the Capitol Forum Series sponsored by Minnesota Technology, Inc. and the McKnight Foundation. The series is designed to present legislators with a more expansive view of the circumstances in which they make policy decisions.

White opened his lecture by explaining what he called the “complicated process” that determines public opinion. He outlined four distinct phases through which an issue travels before it registers on the societal consciousness: awareness, identification, formation of attitudes, and behavior.

This process, he said, extends to all aspects



Politicians should be careful not to dismiss public opinion in the U.S. because no matter how contradictory, “it’s a good indicator of how the American people feel about how things are going,” according to Charles H. White, vice chair of Yankelovich and Partners, which provides research and consulting services to a variety of corporations and government agencies. He spoke as part of the Capitol Forum Series Feb. 26.

“He’s talking about what public opinion is. It’s up to us, as public officials, to tie into that public perception, to try and understand, ‘Why does someone feel that way?’ and to try and turn the tide.”

—Rep. Phil Krinkie

of society — politics, business, nonprofits, ethics, and social issues — and, upon closer examination, reveals that Americans have experienced a profound transformation since the 1950s. A nation that once believed what’s good for General Motors is good for the country now views corporations as faceless

entities driven relentlessly by the bottom line with no regard for the consequences of their actions.

Similarly, many people believe they are better off now than their parents were at the same age, but feel that their children won’t be. Contradictions such as this abound, White said.

In an effort to explain the seeming reversal of attitudes, White traced a brief social history. He contrasted the relatively naive attitudes of the 1950s and early 1960s with the cynicism that emerged in the late 1960s and bloomed into dark flower with Watergate and the 1980s corporate, free-for-all frenzy.

“We came to a point at which it became clear that some of our policies caused high divorce rates and increased drug use and drop-out rates,” White said. “The whole morality question became one for all of us.”

As a result, he said, people feel positively about the country, but not too deeply. They want big changes in education and a devolution in government. They’re down on big business, particularly corporate media monopolies, yet they want more information quicker — they just won’t always use it. They want a better quality of life, but they’re unsure of how to measure it.

All of these conclusions, White said, have implications for legislators, who must redefine the role government plays in people’s lives. Government, he said, does not bear all the responsibility for the social ills and cannot shoulder all the burden of addressing them.

Government can focus on the lopsided economy and welfare system, which White called the “defining challenge of our time.” It can also define goals and a means of measuring success; it can organize itself and the nonprofit sector more effectively to deal with problems.

“Thousands are suffering,” White said, “but we haven’t put together the government, the nonprofits, and the idea of individual responsibility.”

Indeed, White’s comments rang true, several legislators said after the lecture, but noted that White was not the first to present them.

“A lot of it is information we’ve had in the past,” said Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda). “I think the salient issue he had is the performance evaluators . . . the value of government can’t be sold if there’s not some way to show it.”

And there’s certainly no disputing the value of well-conducted public opinion polling, said Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview).

“He’s talking about what public opinion is,” Krinkie said. “It’s up to us, as public officials, to tie into that public perception, to try and understand, ‘Why does someone feel that way?’ and to try and turn the tide.”

— F.J. Gallagher

New members . . .

For Westfall, fewer laws often can be a better solution

It seems some Minnesota lawmakers were born political, reared in households where opinions on current events were passed at the dinner table along with the potatoes and



Rep. Bob Westfall

green beans. Others were not, and talk of family and farming dominated meals.

"I grew up in a family that wasn't very political," said Rep. Bob Westfall (R-Rothsay).

His parents didn't discuss politics at home and wouldn't tell their children who they voted for. "They said that was a secret."

But since 1962, when he attended his first precinct caucus, Westfall has not been shy in expressing his opinions among the Republican faithful. At that first caucus, he was elected a delegate to the county convention. "I don't think I've missed a caucus or convention since then," he said.

Westfall's first run for public office led to a six-year stint on the Rothsay School Board in the 1970s. Later, he served four years on the board of the West Central Education Cooperative Service Unit (WCECSU) at Fergus Falls. WCECSU is one of nine Education Cooperative Service Units in the state that provide a range of shared educational services to schools.

He was first exposed to the Legislature on lobbying trips to St. Paul for WCECSU in the early 1980s. But he said those lobbying trips

didn't whet his appetite to become a lawmaker. "It just didn't appeal to me at the time," Westfall said.

He did, however, answer the Republican party's call to duty and challenged District 9 Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon) in 1990.

"The party needed a candidate, and nobody else wanted to run," Westfall said. He lost by nearly 6,000 votes.

Two years later, Westfall again was recruited, this time to challenge District 9B DFL incumbent Rep. Marvin Dauner. He lost by more than 2,500 votes.

In a second shot at Dauner's seat in 1994, however, Westfall came within 543 votes of winning. The term would be Dauner's last. He announced that he would not run again in 1996.

Westfall's persistence paid off in 1996 when he defeated the DFL-endorsed candidate John Young by 321 votes for the vacant seat.

With his wife, Darlene, and his oldest son back home minding the family's crop and livestock farm, Westfall is now devoting his full attention to representing his district's concerns at the Legislature. Along the North Dakota border in the west central Minnesota district, property taxes are a big issue.

"Property tax reform, everybody wants it," Westfall said. The solution is to hold the line on spending. "Our mentality is that someone else is going to pay for it. People have to realize that if we are going to spend, we [all] have got to pay for it."

He is also hearing from retailers back home

who are upset about Gov. Arne Carlson's proposal to pay for a new stadium for the Minnesota Twins with a 10-cent tobacco tax increase. "They say they are already getting too much competition from the Indian casino." (Nearby Shooting Star Casino is able to sell tobacco free from state taxes.)

Westfall also campaigned on term limits for state officials and plans to introduce pertinent legislation, although he admits its chances of passage are slim.

While some have come to the Capitol with a detailed agenda, Westfall subscribes to the theory that no government action can often be a better solution.

"If there is a need, I'll definitely do the best I can," said the Republican farmer from Rothsay, Minn. "But I didn't come [to the Legislature] with the idea of being the first out of the chute with a bill."

— Steve Compton

District 9B

1996 population: 34,572

Largest city: Breckenridge

Counties: Becker, Clay, Otter Tail, and Wilkin

Location: northwestern Minnesota

Top concern: "I think we need to keep some of our school funding local, so that we can control [the schools] locally. School boards spend too much time on state mandates. I don't think any state mandate should go out without the funding to back it up."

—Rep. Bob Westfall



Marquis Maggiefeld, left, and Ho Nguyen, fifth graders at Anderson Open School in Minneapolis, testified before the K-12 Education Finance Division of the Education Committee Feb. 26 in support of a bill that would expand a pilot breakfast program established in 1994.

New members . . .

Paymar brings urban voice to help all Minnesotans

It's no coincidence that the office of Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) belonged to his predecessor, fellow DFLer and District 64B Rep. Howard Orenstein.



Rep. Michael Paymar

"I asked for it. I felt it would be good karma," Paymar said. That's because Orenstein not only served as co-chair of Paymar's campaign committee, he left office well-liked after a decade of service. "If, after I've served in office, people talk about me the way I heard them talk about Howard, I'll be very happy."

While the Capitol hallways are new to Paymar, he is no stranger to elective politics. He served eight years as a member of Duluth's city council, including a term as president, which gives him a fairly good handle on the legislative process, he said. Still, he's struck by the difference in mass between state and city governing bodies.

"In Duluth, I was one of nine members. Now I'm one of 134, plus the Senate and all the departments and commissions. The state is huge. It's an awesome responsibility."

Having grown up in the Duluth area and living now in St. Paul, Paymar said he has a broad perspective on state policy issues. His family background has made him sensitive to even larger themes.

"My mother did a lot to help me see the impact of racism and discrimination. She was very angry about racism, and that strongly influenced who I am. It made me determined to do my part to stop injustice," he said.

Part of his mother's perspective came from

losing family members to the Holocaust. "I was born eight years after [World War II] ended. I was indoctrinated on the Holocaust," Paymar said. It led to civic activism and the peace and civil rights movements while still in his teens, starting with a memorial march after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Neighborhood activism and work on environmental causes would follow.

Paymar moved to St. Paul in 1989 when his wife, Susan Askelin, took a job in Dakota County. Their children, Jason, 28, and Nicole, 22, also live and work in the Twin Cities. Paymar said the peace and stability of the Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods that he represents do not insulate him from concern about the city's overall health. From his seat on the Judiciary Committee, Paymar is in a position to help.

"I have a 15-year history in working against domestic violence. I hope to influence the way we approach crime prevention. It's a critical issue in St. Paul," Paymar said.

Paymar has written two books: *Violent No More: Helping Men End Domestic Abuse*, a self-help book for violent and abusive men who want to change their behavior; and *Education Groups for Men Who Batter: The Duluth Model*, an academic book for practitioners who work with men who are violent. The model is being used by over 300 programs throughout the country, Paymar said.

Property tax reform is another of his other priorities.

"One thing I heard over and over during the campaign is frustration that reform gets discussed, argued over, and debated, but nothing ever happens." He worries that the heavy tax burden will drive people from St.

Paul and into the suburbs, only worsening urban sprawl — another issue of concern to him. He said the property tax code should be simplified so that people can better judge whether it's fair. He also believes that there is widespread, bipartisan support for the state to assume a greater portion of public education funding, which would reduce the amount that comes from property taxes.

Paymar said he'd fight urban sprawl by strengthening the authority of the Metropolitan Council and having its members be elected, rather than appointed. Addressing urban concerns — across party lines — can benefit all Minnesotans, he said.

"This is a pivotal time for the metro area, in which we have to address the social problems creeping into the entire state. There will be less rancor and political bickering between the parties, and more cooperation this session. All of us need to be sympathetic to the needs of legislators throughout the state."

— Celeste Riley

District 64B

1996 population: 32,468

Largest city: St. Paul

County: Ramsey

Location: inner city

Top concern: "All neighborhoods need to work together for stronger community. It's important to expand the tax base, increase the quality of the schools, assure safe streets, and provide opportunities for our children. I'm going to do what I can to assure that the state is furthering those goals."

—Rep. Michael Paymar

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

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

House Index Department

211 State Capitol (612) 296-6646

The House Index Department, a part of the Chief Clerk's Office, has a computerized index available for public use. House Index

lists bills by committee, topic, author, file number, and other categories. The office can also give you the current status of legislation.

House Television Services

216C State Capitol (612) 297-1338

This office is responsible for live coverage of House floor sessions and some committee hearings. Since 1996, such coverage has been aired in the Twin Cities area on

KTCI-TV, Channel 17. Beginning in mid-March 1997, the House will broadcast via satellite statewide. Outstate residents should check with local cable operators for time and channel information or the office's Web site at: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/htv/htv.ssi>

All televised floor sessions and committee hearings are close-captioned for people with hearing impairments.

Bill Introductions

HF890-HF1087

Monday, Feb. 24

HF890—Entenza (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
New motor vehicle dealer licensure requirements provided.

HF891—Harder (R)
Education
Independent School District No. 638, Sanborn, authorized to enter into an interdistrict cooperation agreement.

HF892—Rukavina (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Minimum wage increased, and large and small employer requirements specified.

HF893—Delmont (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 12, Centennial, class size reduction project established, and money appropriated.

HF894—Olson, E. (DFL)
Education
Minnesota undergraduate college and university tuition scholarship trust fund established, and money appropriated.

HF895—Kinkel (DFL)
Education
State colleges and universities board of regents and board of trustees provisions modified.

HF896—Sykora (R)
Education
Community and school services and children and family support program funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF897—Greiling (DFL)
Education
School district superintendent performance contracts authorized, and salary increases provided.

HF898—Tompkins (R)
Health & Human Services
Health plan company willing provider acceptance required, and expanded network and point-of-service options eliminated.

HF899—Bishop (R)
Judiciary
Dodge-Fillmore-Olmsted community corrections agency productive day pilot project operation provided, and money appropriated.

HF900—Erhardt (R)
Governmental Operations
Legislators retirement defined contribution plan coverage provided.

HF901—Wejcman (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Minnesota employment center for deaf and hard-of-hearing people funded, and money appropriated.

HF902—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
Public official telephone record data classification provisions modified.

HF903—Peterson (DFL)
Agriculture
Infected cattle herd identification program established, and money appropriated.

HF904—Larsen (R)
Education
Student tobacco use reporting required.

HF905—Pugh (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Legislature reduced in size, term limits imposed, partially unicameral legislature provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF906—Kuisle (R)
Transportation & Transit
Farm machinery tax exemption provisions modified, and farm machinery speed limit increase provided.

HF907—Garcia (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Richfield Fire Department relief association benefit increases provided.

HF908—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Prison inmate lawsuit provisions modified and clarified.

HF909—Pugh (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Campaign finance candidate spending limit provisions modified.

HF910—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Indian child welfare defense corporation provided grant to promote compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act, and money appropriated.

HF911—Koppendrayer (R)
Education
Independent School District No. 473, Isle, permitted to begin school year prior to Labor Day.

HF912—Sviggum (R)
Judiciary
Public official communication record data classification provisions modified.

HF913—Kubly (DFL)
Agriculture
Livestock odor research program developed at the University of Minnesota, and money appropriated.

HF914—Rostberg (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Commercial property improvement property tax abatement allowed.

HF915—Osskopp (R)
Health & Human Services
Wabasha County intermediate care facility size reduction pilot project authorized.

HF916—Entenza (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Wine tasting event restrictions modified, and malt liquor consumption authorized at wine tasting events.

HF917—Vickerman (R)
Health & Human Services
Children's mental health programs appropriated money.

HF918—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
DWI; electronic alcohol monitor use mandated during pretrial release and following conviction for certain driving while intoxicated violations.

HF919—Sykora (R)
Health & Human Services
Children in need of protection or services petition uniform process provided, child data access provisions modified, parental right termination grounds modified, father registry established, and child abuse administrative review provided.

HF920—Hilty (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Pine County categorical social service programs provided an alternative grant application process.

HF921—Haas (R)
Health & Human Services
Chemically dependent persons, fugitives, parole violators, and persons with a history of felony drug convictions excluded from general assistance and general assistance medical care programs.

HF922—Juhnke (DFL)
Agriculture
Farmers exempted from tax on gasoline and special fuel received in on-farm bulk storage tanks.

HF923—Seagren (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
State-chartered financial institutions authorized to act as trustees of federally qualified medical savings accounts.

HF924—Abrams (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Health plan companies required to disclose certain information to enrollees relating to financial arrangements.

HF925—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
Child support obligor data classified, and child support reporting contractor report required.

HF926—Sviggum (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Municipal tax increment financing district addition provisions modified.

HF927—Evans (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Bridges program; rental housing assistance program for persons with a mental illness or families with an adult member with a mental illness appropriated money.

HF928—Wejcman (DFL)**Education**

Child care service integration demonstration projects established, and money appropriated.

HF929—Orfield (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Patient protection act adopted, health care consumer assistance program established, and money appropriated.

HF930—Juhnke (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Nursing facility reimbursement rate modified.

HF931—Clark (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Community health clinics allowed to offer health care services on a prepaid basis.

HF932—Wejcman (DFL)**Judiciary**

Public nuisance definition expanded to include zoning and business license violations.

HF933—Olson, M. (R)**Judiciary**

Correctional facility for recidivists feasibility study provided and task force established, and money appropriated.

HF934—Wejcman (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Neighborhood revitalization program provisions modified.

HF935—Marko (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan transit powers transferred from Metropolitan Council to transportation department, and money appropriated.

HF936—Kahn (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Major league baseball franchise purchase and community ownership provided, stadium construction conditions established, task force created, and money appropriated.

HF937—Carlson (DFL)**Education**

School district interim superintendent retirement provisions modified.

HF938—Murphy (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Corrections employee retirement benefit coverage extended to include certain employees of the Cambridge Regional Human Services Center.

HF939—Anderson, B. (R)**Judiciary**

DWI; maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered for operation of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, motorboats, and while hunting.

HF940—Winter (DFL)**Capital Investment**

Tourism and exposition center previous appropriation provisions modified.

HF941—Nornes (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Mayor and fire chief offices may be held by the same person under certain circumstances.

HF942—Wenzel (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Disaster relief account established.

HF943—Knight (R)**Governmental Operations**

Legislators retirement defined contribution plan coverage provided.

HF944—Knight (R)**Health & Human Services**

Dental services exempted from MinnesotaCare provider tax.

HF945—Jaros (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Independent living centers funded, and money appropriated.

HF946—Hasskamp (DFL)**Judiciary**

Domestic abuse protection orders from other states provided enforcement, and penalties provided.

HF947—Wagenius (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Toxics in packaging regulations modified.

HF948—Wagenius (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Mercury emissions consumer information act of 1997 adopted.

HF949—Wagenius (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Electric relay and device manufacturers deemed responsible for the waste management costs of these devices.

HF950—McCollum (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Native ecological habitat information collected and disseminated, and money appropriated.

HF951—Knight (R)**Governmental Operations**

Unfunded state mandates prohibited.

HF952—Knight (R)**Education**

University of Minnesota Board of Regents made an elective body, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF953—Knight (R)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Legislature reduced in size, term limits imposed, legislative committee organization provided, legislative leaders service limited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF954—Swenson, D. (R)**Judiciary**

Corrections ombudsman jurisdiction clarified and extended.

HF955—Huntley (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Medical Assistance performance based contracting demonstration projects established for recipients of services from intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation or related conditions.

HF956—Osthoff (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Port development assistance project eligibility criteria modified, project review procedure exemption provided, and money appropriated.

HF957—Hausman (DFL)**Education**

School district operating learning year program total operating capital revenue provisions modified.

HF958—Rukavina (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

St. Louis County unorganized territory attachment authorized.

HF959—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Health care policy rates regulated.

HF960—Rukavina (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Blind Minnesotans board established, and money appropriated.

HF961—Greiling (DFL)**Education**

Education supervisory personnel code of ethics established.

HF962—Schumacher (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Manufactured home park municipal zoning provisions modified.

HF963—Wagenius (DFL)**Education**

Early reading instruction included as part of teacher candidate curriculum, challenge grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF964—Murphy (DFL)**Education**

Interactive television revenue use by school districts expanded.

HF965—Delmont (DFL)**Education**

Community collaboratives for children and youth provided grants, and money appropriated.

HF966—Garcia (DFL)**Labor-Management Relations**

Employer wage and payment requirement definitions expanded to include the state.

HF967—Tomassoni (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Horse racing licensee allowed to conduct card club activities.

HF968—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
Special transportation service provider medical assistance reimbursement eligibility provisions clarified.

HF969—Chaudhary (DFL)
Judiciary
Criminal alert network responsibilities expanded, and money appropriated.

HF970—Wejcman (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Minneapolis building contractor licensing requirement exemption expiration removed.

HF971—Mullery (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Hennepin County radio system facility lease by commercial wireless system authorized.

HF972—Hausman (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Ramsey County personnel director eligibility certification provisions modified.

HF973—Solberg (DFL)
Judiciary
Human rights commissioner duties specified, data privacy provisions modified, and cost reimbursement provided.

HF974—Jennings (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Noise abatement standard exemption provided for city streets, county highways, and town roads.

HF975—Hilty (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Aitkin County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF976—Winter (DFL)
Health & Human Services
CALs; comprehensive advanced life support program funded, and money appropriated.

HF977—Mullery (DFL)
Governmental Operations
State agency construction contract design-build requirement provided.

HF978—Goodno (R)
Taxes
Omnibus property tax reform bill, and money appropriated.

HF979—Swenson, D. (R)
Education
School district lease purchase or installment buy definitions modified.

HF980—Davids (R)
Education
School district debt service equalization eligibility provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF981—Broecker (R)
Taxes
Motor vehicles transferred by gift to nonprofit organizations provided sales tax exemption.

HF982—Dawkins (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Public Safety Department liquor control and gambling enforcement divisions consolidated, and technical corrections provided.

HF983—Tuma (R)
Education
Public post-secondary education funding state payment limits provided.

HF984—Tuma (R)
Education
Higher education student association audits required.

HF985—Bettermann (R)
Judiciary
Firearm carry permit issuance provided, and issuance criteria established.

HF986—Haas (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Political campaign sign posting time limit established.

HF987—Kubly (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Biomass electric energy generation personal property use taxation exemption provided.

HF988—Wejcman (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Economic Security Department extended employment program procedures modified.

HF989—Greiling (DFL)
Education
State high school league interschool competition authority modified.

HF990—Haas (R)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare loss ratio standards modified, universal coverage provisions modified, eligibility requirements modified, integrated service network provisions repealed, and money appropriated.

Thursday, Feb. 27

HF991—Clark (DFL)
Education
Child care facility improvement grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF992—Murphy (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Thomson detached banking facility establishment authorized.

HF993—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
Court reporter transcript and copy sales provided sales tax exemption.

HF994—McElroy (R)
Taxes
Relative homestead property tax treatment provided in cases of involuntary absences.

HF995—McElroy (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Joint truth in taxation hearings allowed.

HF996—Carruthers (DFL)
Judiciary
Northwest Hennepin County community law enforcement project appropriated money.

HF997—Pugh (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Rental-purchase agreements regulated, cost-of-lease charges limited, cash price evidence provided, and definitions modified.

HF998—Biernat (DFL)
Education
School district superintendent licensure requirement exemption provided.

HF999—Seifert (R)
Education
Public high school graduation rule profile of learning requirement eliminated.

HF1000—Long (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Community-based planning act adopted providing sustainable metropolitan development, Metropolitan Council requirements specified, advisory council established, and money appropriated.

HF1001—Tomassoni (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Insurance company exclusive agencies regulated, penalties provided for agent rights violations, and enforcement of agreements against terminated agents prohibited.

HF1002—Farrell (DFL)
Judiciary
Fire protection industry regulation modified, and civil penalty provided.

HF1003—Milbert (DFL)
Judiciary
Dakota County family group conferencing pilot project established, alleged offender diversion provided, and money appropriated.

HF1004—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
DWI; alcohol presence determination test requirements modified, implied consent hearing process modified, accident injury reports required, and penalties provided.

HF1005—Tomassoni (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Minnesota insurance guaranty act state law conformance provided with the post-assessment property and liability insurance guaranty association model act of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

HF1006—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
State lottery proceeds dedication to Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund duration extended indefinitely, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1007—Pelowski (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Presidential primary elections conducted by mail.

HF1008—Tuma (R)
Education

Higher education state grant student share reduced, living and miscellaneous allowance increased, work-study provided for grant recipients, and money appropriated.

HF1009—Commers (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Legislature reduced in size to 53 senators and 106 representatives.

HF1010—Tomassoni (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Taconite industry technology research grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1011—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary

Presentence domestic abuse investigation procedures and terminology modified.

HF1012—Paymar (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Contamination Cleanup Grant program requirements modified, and money appropriated.

HF1013—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary

Parent education and cooperation provided in marriage dissolution proceedings involving children, and money appropriated.

HF1014—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Film production jobs program established, and money appropriated.

HF1015—Lieder (DFL)
Transportation & Transit

Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation provided, bond issuance authorized, and appropriation increase provided.

HF1016—Leighton (DFL)
Judiciary

Child support enforcement provisions modified, driver's license suspension provisions modified, most wanted list published, mandatory jail time required for certain offenders, data disclosure required, and money appropriated.

HF1017—Dawkins (DFL)
Education

Youth Community Service Program participant eligibility requirements modified, and money appropriated.

HF1018—Koppendrayner (R)
Education

Independent School District No. 473, Isle, capital grant authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1019—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary

Pistol and semiautomatic military-style assault weapon possession regulated by local units of government.

HF1020—Entenza (DFL)
Education

High school graduation incentives grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1021—Mariani (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Jobs-plus welfare pilot project established in Ramsey County.

HF1022—Mariani (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Legal immigrants in Ramsey County provided job training, english language education, and citizenship education, and money appropriated.

HF1023—Clark (DFL)
Judiciary

Women leaving systems of prostitution provided support services, and money appropriated.

HF1024—Clark (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Patient medical record data use by state agencies restricted.

HF1025—Clark (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Physicians allowed to prescribe marijuana and tetrahydrocannabinols for the treatment of specified medical conditions.

HF1026—Clark (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Senior citizen assisted living services pilot project developed, and money appropriated.

HF1027—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes

Apartment property tax class rate reduced.

HF1028—Dawkins (DFL)
Education

Youth Works program repeal removed, Youth Works commission director selection provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF1029—Mares (R)
Education

Teacher background check working group recommendations adopted.

HF1030—Peterson (DFL)
Agriculture

Milk transport vehicles provided exemption from local road weight restrictions.

HF1031—Hasskamp (DFL)
Judiciary

Alex and Brandon Frank Child Safety Act adopted, and money appropriated.

HF1032—Entenza (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Commerce department powers and duties specified, regulatory provisions modified, and technical corrections provided.

HF1033—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary

Consumer and charitable solicitation fraud, deceptive trade practices, and false advertising against elderly or handicapped victims provided criminal penalties.

HF1034—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary

Animal cruelty penalties increased and definitions provided.

HF1035—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations

Fair Labor Standards Act wage definition modified.

HF1036—Macklin (R)
Judiciary

Government data practices program integrity initiatives established, and child support enforcement registry access provided.

HF1037—Daggett (R)
Environment & Natural Resources

Becker County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF1038—Goodno (R)
Labor-Management Relations

Employee wage protection act adopted, wage protection account established, and money appropriated.

HF1039—Finseth (R)
Judiciary

Firearm carry permit issuance eligibility criteria established.

HF1040—Mariani (DFL)
Environment

Mississippi River vegetation restoration provided, and money appropriated.

HF1041—Mulder (R)
Agriculture

Farmers exempted from tax on gasoline and special fuel received in on-farm bulk storage tanks.

HF1042—Mulder (R)
Taxes

Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF1043—Farrell (DFL)
Education

Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, community-based school construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1044—Farrell (DFL)
Education

Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, community-based school construction provided, and money appropriated.

HF1045—Farrell (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance

Insurance surcharges prohibited for automobile accidents in which the insured is a passenger in a bus, taxi, or commuter van.

HF1046—Tingelstad (R)
Environment

Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota appropriated money for electronic environmental education network.

HF1047—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Education

South Central Minnesota talented youth program appropriated money.

HF1048—Farrell (DFL)
Judiciary

Private detective and protective agent mandatory dismissal provisions modified.

HF1049—Workman (R)**Transportation & Transit**

Household good mover safety standards established, service area restrictions removed, file tariff requirement provisions modified, and complaint resolution procedures established.

HF1050—Dorn (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Mankato tax-forfeited land conveyance authorized.

HF1051—Smith (R)**Judiciary**

Child support and assistance accounting required in marriage dissolution proceedings.

HF1052—Koppendrayner (R)**Education**

Post-secondary enrollment options act extended to include nonpublic school students.

HF1053—Pelowski (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

First responder registration program established.

HF1054—Tunheim (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Individual sewage treatment system requirements modified.

HF1055—Molnau (R)**Judiciary**

Firearm carry permit issuance eligibility criteria established.

HF1056—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Nursing home and certified boarding care home receivership provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF1057—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Medicare maximization program certification requirement repealed.

HF1058—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare technical, policy, and administrative modifications and corrections provided.

HF1059—Gunther (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Individual sewage treatment system statewide cost-share program established, and money appropriated.

HF1060—Smith (R)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Homeowner insurance policy nonrenewal provisions modified.

HF1061—Chaudhary (DFL)**Judiciary**

DWI; criminal penalties, minimum sentences, and administrative sanctions increased for driving while intoxicated offenders with an alcohol concentration of 0.20 or more.

HF1062—Tomassoni (DFL)**Education**

Historic building revenue eligibility provided to school districts that maintain a school building listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and money appropriated.

HF1063—Tomassoni (DFL)**Education**

School district retired employee health benefit levy increase provided.

HF1064—Leppik (R)**Education**

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities mission statement clarified.

HF1065—Weaver (R)**Judiciary**

Same-sex marriages not recognized or allowed.

HF1066—Greenfield (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Seat belt use failure violation provided primary offense designation.

HF1067—Wenzel (DFL)**Agriculture**

Milk; President and Congress memorialized to adjust the federal milk marketing order system related to Minnesota family dairy farmers.

HF1068—Wenzel (DFL)**Agriculture**

Soy-based biodiesel use pilot project provided, and money appropriated.

HF1069—Pawlenty (R)**Judiciary**

Employer reference check civil liability immunity provided.

HF1070—Knoblach (R)**Judiciary**

Employer reference check civil liability immunity provided.

HF1071—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services**

Psychology board education, supervision, and patient confidence provisions modified.

HF1072—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services**

Psychology board enforcement provisions modified, and criminal penalties provided.

HF1073—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services**

Psychology board licensee part-time practice and emeritus registration provided.

HF1074—Peterson (DFL)**Taxes**

Truth in taxation hearings abolished.

HF1075—Pugh (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Professional health services regulated under the professional corporation act.

HF1076—McGuire (DFL)**Judiciary**

Seat belt and child restraint system use civil action evidence admissibility provisions clarified.

HF1077—McGuire (DFL)**Judiciary**

Judges appointed by Governor, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1078—Koskinen (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Displaced local government employee rights and procedures provided.

HF1079—Garcia (DFL)**Taxes**

Low and moderate-income housing construction material sales and use tax exemption provided, and money appropriated.

HF1080—Jennings (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Plumber and water conditioning contractor licensing provisions modified.

HF1081—Carruthers (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare antitrust exemption not applicable for health plan companies.

HF1082—Osthoff (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Hunting and fishing license fees modified, aquatic farming fees and requirements modified, and commercial fishing and netting provisions modified.

HF1083—Seifert (R)**Environment****& Natural Resources Finance**

Lazarus Creek/LQP-25 floodwater retention project appropriated money.

HF1084—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Taxes**

Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1085—Farrell (DFL)**Taxes**

Mentoring income tax credit provided.

HF1086—Ness (R)**Taxes**

Tax appeal cost and disbursement provisions modified.

HF1087—Rukavina (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Attorney general required to investigate unfair drug price discrimination, prescription drug price negotiation authorized, and money appropriated.

Check your local listings to watch the House committee and floor sessions on TV.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

For information updates, call

House Calls at (612) 296-9283.

All meetings are open to the public.

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MONDAY, March 3

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Budget hearing: Department of Economic Security.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Presentation on the allocation model, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU); faculty groups; and student groups.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Overview of governor's budget recommendations-Article 6, Education Organization and Article 7, Education Excellence.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Budget hearing: Department of Natural Resources.

Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF627 (Rest) Low-income housing property tax class uniform rules established, apartment and nonhomestead residential property tax class rates reduced, penalties imposed, rulemaking authorized, and money appropriated.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: HF463 (Kubly) Passing on the Farm Center services expanded, and money appropriated.

HF265 (Molnau) Farm crisis assistance personnel employment status clarified.

HF779 (Lieder) Hybrid tree management research funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF361 (Solberg) Wholesale food processor and manufacturer fees modified.

HFXXXX (Wenzel) Bio-diesel fuel test program established.

HFXXXX (Wenzel) Dairy resolution to Congress.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF718 (Folliard) Conservation corps youth corps advisory committee provisions modified.

HF632 (Solberg) Environmental learning centers previous appropriation provisions modified.

HF852 (McGuire) Ramsey County environmental education consortium developed, and money appropriated.

HF704 (Ozment) Electric power generating plant certificate of need proceeding exemption provided.

HF436 (Wagenius) Reduction and recycling advisory council established, duties specified, and duration provided.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Public testimony: Public responses to governor's proposed budget for Continuing Care and Community Support Grants. (Call 296-0173 or 2962317 to sign up to testify.)

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: HF163 (Skoglund) Criminal gang council and strike force established, grants authorized, and money appropriated.

HF482 (Farrell) Criminal gang council and strike force established, grants authorized, and money appropriated.

HF25 (Stanek) Omnibus crime prevention and judiciary finance appropriations bill.

HF434 (Swenson, D.) Omnibus judiciary finance and corrections appropriations bill.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Tour

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Tour and site briefing of the Minnesota Children's Museum. (Buses will leave from the east entrance of the State Office Building.)

12:30 p.m.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

Agenda: SF35 (Wiger); HF212 (McCollum) Ramsey county soil and water conservation district supervisor election requirements modified.

HF74 (Osthoff) Absentee ballot voting provisions modified.

HF78 (Rest) State primary election name changed, candidate party support required, primary election date changed, and election procedures, terms, and deadlines modified.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: HF787 (Hilty) Human rights department employer definition expanded to include certain temporary placements.

HF814 (Koskinen) Unfair employment discriminatory practice reprisal provisions modified.

SF145 (Runbeck); HF312 (Jefferson) Reemployment insurance technical and administrative modifications provided.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: HF842 (Orfield) LUTRAQ; land use, transportation, air quality connection analysis required for any metropolitan area highway expansion project.

HF40 (Leppik) State identification card created for persons under the age of 21.

HF242 (Juhnke) Recreational equipment registration and taxation provisions modified related to slip in pickup truck campers, and vehicle registration information access restricted, vehicle dealer purchase receipt requirements modified.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: Governor's forecast and supplemental budget.

TUESDAY, March 4

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: HF260 (Delmont) School immunization and health record provisions modified.

HF872 (Seagren) Pupil Fair Dismissal Act provisions modified.

HF961 (Greiling) Code of ethics for school supervisors.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Agency budget presentations: Courts - Administration and Technology; Legal Services; Community Dispute Resolution and Victim Mediation Services, Rep. Thomas Pugh, Rep. Sherry Broecker and Rep. Peg Larsen.

Public Safety - Emergency Management and Fire Marshall, Rep. Michael Paymar; Gambling Enforcement & Liquor Control, Rep. Andy Dawkins; Law Enforcement and Community Grants, Rep. Michael Paymar, Rep. Sherry Broecker; Crime Victim's Services, Rep. Mary Jo McGuire, Rep. Peg Larsen, Rep. Rich Stanek; Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Rep. Wes Skoglund, Rep. Doug Swenson; Employee Concerns, Rep. Thomas Pugh.

Transportation & Transit Finance Division/ TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: Implications of future revenue and expenditures projections on the transportation system, Department of Transportation.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Continuation of March 3 agenda.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HF43 (Sviggum) High school league tournament admission sales tax exemption provided.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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

Agenda: HF197 (Leppik) Administrative procedure act rulemaking procedures modified (committee action on league rules authority). HF747 (Kahn) State high school league governing board appointing authority provisions modified (testimony only).

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: HF259 (Slawik) Community and

statewide immunization registry creation authorized and penalties provided.

HF487 (Greenfield) Hospital medical assistance surcharge tax eliminated, and hospital MinnesotaCare surcharge tax increased.

HF556 (Greenfield) Health care provider unique identifier implementation and identification provisions modified.

HF513 (Koskinen) Human services nonentitlement grant program consolidation authority provided.

HF209 (Vickerman) Human services child placement heritage or background provisions modified.

HF367 (Davids) Omnibus mortuary science regulation bill.

Housing & Housing Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: Continuation of Minnesota Housing Finance budget review.

HF592 (McElroy) Affordable neighborhood design and development initiative funded, and money appropriated.

HF843 (Clark) Lead hazard reduction advisory task force established, and money appropriated.

12:15 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Tour
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Tour of the buildings for lease to the Department of Revenue. (Buses will leave from the east entrance of State Office Building at 12:15 p.m.)

12:30 p.m.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HF1075 (Pugh) Relating to health; defining professional health service under the professional corporation act.

HF335 (Jennings) Building and construction contracts, payments and retainages, and mechanics liens regulated.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

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

Agenda: HF217 (Opatz) Land use mandatory comprehensive planning provided, capital improvement program established, and money appropriated.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: HF211 (Sviggum) Telephone extended area service installation authorized within combined school districts. Review and discussion of the Telephone Assistance Plan/Lifeline Program.

3:30 p.m.

Joint St. Paul House/Senate Legislative Delegation

5 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Jim Farrell,
Sen. Ellen Anderson

Agenda: Testimony from Gene Washbush, St. Paul Teacher's Retirement Association and Dick Wasco, retired teacher.

4:30 p.m.

Permanent School Fund Advisory Committee

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Investment policy and forestry proceeds.

7 p.m.

EDUCATION

Room To Be Announced
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: HF446 (Biernat) Driver's license issuance prohibited to persons under age 18 who have failed to receive a passing score on the state high school graduation test or meet other educational requirements.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

Room To Be Announced
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: HF740 (Juhnke) Insurance companies and agents regulated.

HF753 (Kubly) Financial institution facsimile or electronic filings and certifications authorized, special purpose banks defined and regulated, and technical and conforming modifications provided.

WEDNESDAY, March 5

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Budget hearing: Department of Commerce.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Budget process presentation, Doug Berg, Fiscal Analyst.

HF648 (Johnson, R.) Law school loan repayment assistance program established, and money appropriated.

HF775 (Huntley) Student opportunity grants established to provide financial support to students of low-income families, state lottery proceed dedication provided, constitutional amendment proposed, and money appropriated.

HF776 (Huntley) Student opportunity grant program established to provide financial support to students of low-income families, and money appropriated.

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Overview of governor's budget recommendations-Article 10, Libraries.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF)
Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF744 (Garcia) Apartment property improvements provided valuation exclusion for property tax purposes.

HF627 (Rest) Low-income housing property tax class uniform rules established, apartment and nonhomestead residential property tax class rates reduced, penalties imposed, rulemaking authorized, and money appropriated.

HF6 (Wenzel) Commercial industrial first-tier property tax class rate reduced, and additional state aid provided.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Continuation of March 3 agenda.

10 a.m.

The House meets in session.

10:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF244 (Bishop) Community rehabilitation program nonprofit organization participation allowed, and money appropriated.

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

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Presentation of governor's proposed budget for Department of Human Services health care programs.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: HF31 (Skoglund) Chronic misdemeanor offender arrest and detention allowed in lieu of citation and release.

HF97 (Skoglund) Controlled substance crime sale amount aggregation authorized.

HF96 (Skoglund) Methcathinone classified as a schedule II controlled substance.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Budget reviews: Military Order of the Purple Heart; Governor's Office; Secretary of State; and Minnesota Planning Agency.

12:30 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: HF695 (Entenza) Child support enforcement provisions modified, financial institution data match system established, and civil penalties provided.

HF1013 (Biernat) Relating to marriage; changing visitation dispute resolution procedures.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: HF763 (Tunheim) Norman County Zion Lutheran Church and cemetery designated as a historic place.

HF582 (Hausman) Humanities commission teacher training institute building rental permitted.

HF599 (Skare) Bemidji railroad depot purchase and conversion to historical museum provided, and money appropriated.

HF692 (Tingelstad) Andover contaminated land cleanup funded, and money appropriated.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Gaming/
REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Delmont

Agenda: HF700 (Delmont) Lawful gambling gross profit expenditure provisions modified, gambling control board rules modified, and paddleticket and bingo limits and restrictions modified.

**Subcommittee on Land Sales/
ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Hausman

Agenda: HF190 (Hasskamp) Crow Wing county tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF115 (Kinkel) Cass County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF424 (Koppendrayer) Mille Lacs County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF975 (Hilty) Aitkin County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

4:30 p.m.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Continuation of 10:30 a.m. meeting agenda

HF518 (Entenza) Sign language interpreters provided for meetings with legislators.

HF256 (Slawik) State department earnings report submission, cash flow resources advancement, and litigation and settlement money use provisions modified, and rulemaking exemptions renewed.

HF401 (Greiling) State employee parking fee provisions modified.

7 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: Continuation of 12:30 p.m. meeting agenda.

7:30 p.m.

**Legislative Commission on
Pensions and Retirement**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: Election of officers. Mandated studies: Review of draft report formulated on behalf of the special task force on investment performance attribution reporting. Review of draft report on the comparison of defined contribution pension plans and defined benefit pension plans. Review of draft report on the study of providing pension plan coverage for educational breaks in service for regional treatment center and related Department of Human Services employees. Report on the use of Police State Aid to fund PERA-P&F pension coverage for salaried firefighters.

THURSDAY, March 6

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Budget hearing: Department of Trade and Economic Development.

**Subcommittee on
Education Planning & Transitions/
EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Ruth Johnson,

Rep. David Tomassoni

Agenda: Report from Vocational High School Planning Council.

**Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/
EDUCATION**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza

Agenda: HF643 (Olson, E.) Pine Point school provided permanent status.

HF239 (Tuma) Independent School District No. 721, New Prague, permitted to begin school year prior to Labor Day.

HF557 (Tuma) School districts authorized to hire nonlicensed teachers without board of teaching approval, and nonlicensed teacher background checks provided.

HF720 (Westfall) Independent School District Nos. 21, Audubon, and 24, Lake Park authorized to begin the school year prior to Labor Day.

HF911 (Koppendrayer) Independent School District No. 473, Isle, permitted to begin school year prior to labor day.

HF543 (Entenza) Child and family program outcome accountability mechanism established and working group established, report required, and money appropriated.

Other bills may be added.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Continuation of March 4 agenda. Agency budget presentations: Public Defense Board, Rep. Thomas Pugh, Rep. Doug Swenson. Department of Corrections - Institutions, members report on individual institutions.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Budget hearing: Pollution Control Agency.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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

Agenda:

HF747 (Kahn) State high school league governing board appointing authority provisions modified.

HF182 (Greiling) Legislative Coordinating Commission assigned responsibility for review of legislative rules.

HF197 (Leppik) Administrative Procedure Act rulemaking procedures modified.

Bills referred under Rule 5.10.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: HF159 (Jennings) Welfare reform; human services and public assistance programs and eligibility requirements modified, and money appropriated.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: HF889 (Evans) Mobile home park owner rights modified.

HF834 (Clark) Youthbuild grant funding limit eliminated, and money appropriated.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Presentation by developers on Department of Revenue building.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM
& CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HF890 (Entenza) Relating to motor vehicles; requiring persons to obtain a license to engage in certain business practices.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

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

Agenda: HF483 (Olson, E.) Municipal emergency service fee establishment authorized.

HF507 (Olson, E.) Partition fence cost share apportioned to the state and counties.

HF564 (Olson, E.) Becker County economic development authority established.

HF601 (Wenzel) Municipal boundary commissions established.

HF637 (Abrams) Minnetonka housing development account established and expenditures authorized.

HF656 (Holsten) Washington County property taxpayer personal information use restricted.

HF658 (Marko) Washington County recorder and auditor/treasurer appointment permitted.

HF685 (Rest) Local government innovation and efficiency program established, and money appropriated.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: HFXXXX (Jennings) Conforms definitions with the Federal Communications Act; eliminates rate of return for local telephone companies.

2 p.m.

**Working Group on Technology/
K-12 Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Alice Johnson,
Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: School district testimony on technology proposals.

2:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on
Information Technology Policy/
WAYS & MEANS**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Overview of new technology. Discuss base cost for each division. Estimate of tails.

7 p.m.

Joint

**Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY/
Senate JUDICIARY**

123 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Andy Dawkins,
Sen. Jane Ranum

Agenda: Tort law education forum.

FRIDAY, March 7

8 a.m.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Higher Education Services Office (HESO) budget.

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Overview of governor's budget recommendations-Article 7, Education Excellence.

**Transportation & Transit
Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: Continuation of March 4 agenda.

10 a.m.

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

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Continuation of March 5 agenda.

**Subcommittee on Data Practices/
JUDICIARY**

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

Agenda: To be announced.

**Subcommittee on DWI/
JUDICIARY**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Satveer Chaudhary

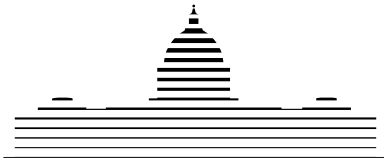
Agenda: To be announced.

1 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: To be announced.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
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Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
 Majority Leader: Ted Winter
 Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Juvenile courts and crime

Age that children could be punished “precisely like adults” in the United States, 1801	7
Public institutions for wayward children, nationwide, 1801	1
Year that Minnesota enacted its first juvenile court law	1905
Year that the Minnesota’s “mothers’ pension law” was enacted, to allow juvenile court judges to pay abandoned or widowed mothers with county funds to help raise the kids	1913
Residential facilities for juveniles licensed by the Department of Corrections	13
Bed capacity of those facilities	800
Additional facilities (mostly private) licensed by the Department of Human Services	40
Bed capacity of those facilities	1,200
Number of Department of Corrections and Department of Human Services licensed “secure,” or locked treatment facilities for juveniles	9
Total number of beds in those facilities	193
Average length of stay at Bar None Residential Treatment Center, longest of the nine secure facilities, in months	9.9
Number of residents sent to secure facilities between January and July 1996	448
Average age of residents sent to facilities between January and July, 1996, in years	16.2
Individuals placed for assault, most common offense	80
Individuals placed for felony offenses	127
Individuals placed with 15-18 prior offenses	5
Amount appropriated by the 1994 Legislature for construction of new secure juvenile detention facilities (and secured beds), in millions	\$20
Additional secure beds added since	24
Kids under 18 murdered in the United States, 1980-1994	30,200
As a percent of all murders during that time period	9
Percent of all juveniles murdered by a stranger	11
Juveniles murdered nationwide, per day, 1980	5
in 1994	7
Juveniles killed by a juvenile offender, 1994	1 in 5
Juveniles arrested for violent crimes who were female, 1994	1 in 7

Sources: *The Origin and Development of the Minnesota Juvenile Court*, Edward F. Waite; *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1996 Update on Violence*, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice; *Residential Facilities for Juvenile Offenders*, Office of the Legislative Auditor; *Secure Treatment Facilities for Juveniles*, Minnesota Department of Corrections.

For more information



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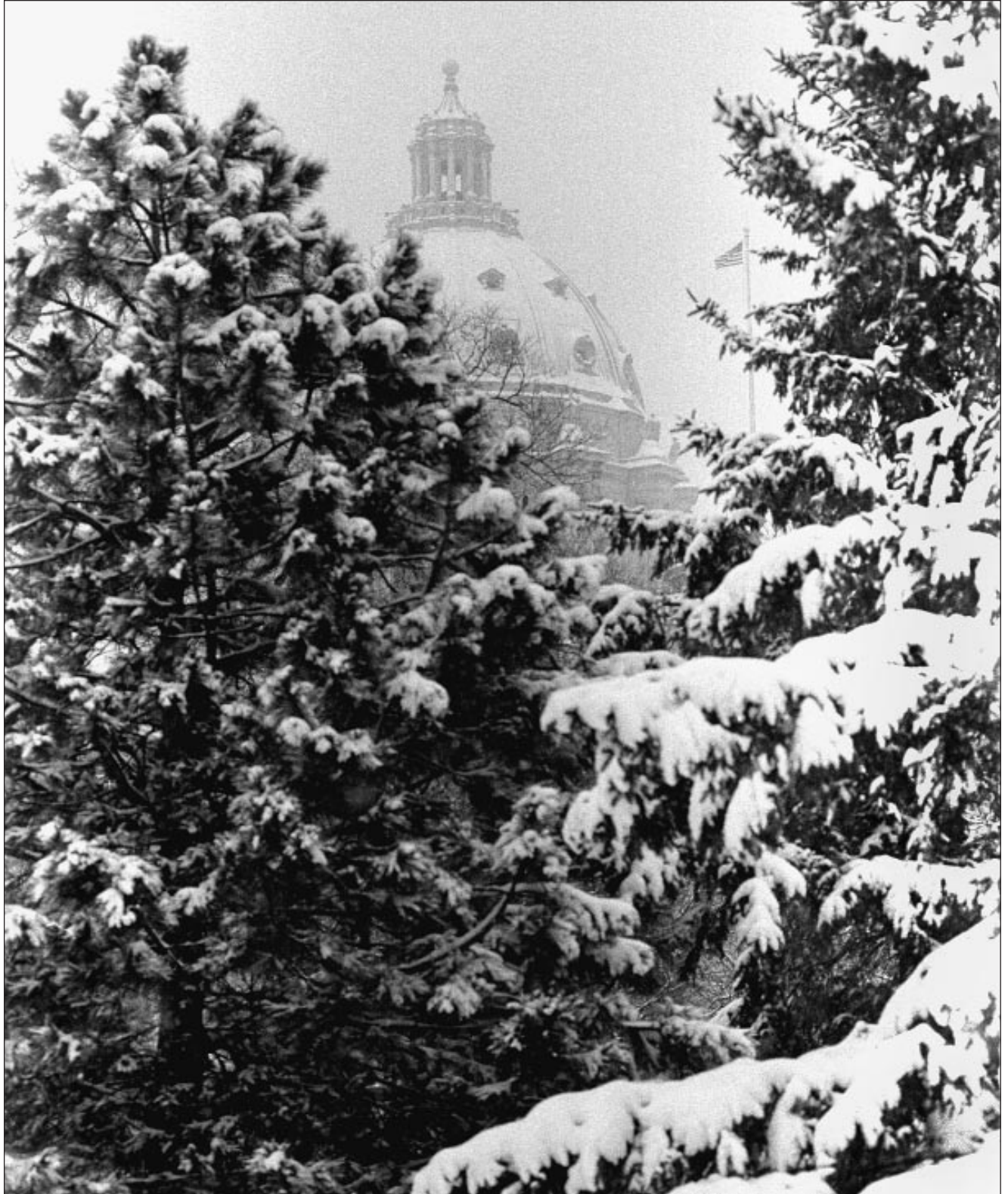
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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ March 7, 1997 ♦ Volume 14, Number 9



SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • March 7, 1997 • Volume 14, Number 9

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Update

Most individuals are noted for celebrating odd holidays or the occurrence of some unique event in history. For Minnesota legislators, Groundhog Day is not one of them. Even if the woodchuck did not see its shadow on Feb. 2, spring does not come to the Capitol for members and staff until well after March 26, the first deadline for bills to be out of committee and on their way to the floor for open debate.

But February was observed as a celebration of Black History Month and March is devoted to Women's History Month. In honor of women's history, you will find some updated information on page 28 of this issue of *Session Weekly*. Much of the index pertains to Minnesota women elected to the Legislature, including the first four elected in 1922.

Likewise, a tribute is paid here to a small group who were, or are presently part of a racial minority in the Legislature. The first to be elected was J. Francis Wheaton in 1898. Much of his district included Bloomington, Edina, and Richfield. He served for one term.

No other person of color was elected for 74 years until B. Robert Lewis became the first black senator in 1972 from St. Louis Park. Lewis died in office in 1978. Also in 1972, Ray O. Pleasant was elected to the House from the suburb of Bloomington. He served until 1982.

Others included Conrad Vega, a Latino from South St. Paul, elected to the Senate in 1976, and Frank Rodriguez Sr., to the House in 1979, from St. Paul's Mexican-American community. Randy Staten was elected in 1981. For three terms, he represented Minneapolis' near north side. The total population of members of color dropped to one in 1986, when Richard Jefferson took the seat left open by Staten.

The election year of 1990 brought in three new legislators and raised the minority caucus to four. Harold "Skip" Finn, the first Native American in the Legislature from Cass Lake served for two terms in the Senate. Across the way, the House celebrated the arrival of Edwina Garcia, representing Richfield, and Carlos Mariani, whose district encompasses downtown and the west side of St. Paul.

Garcia and Mariani continue to serve along with Jefferson, and first-term representative Satveer Chaudhary, an East Asian-American from Columbia Heights. With 39 women now in the House and four legislators of color, one of them recently noted that "It may not seem like the opportunity is there for everyone, but the promise of a truly democratic society definitely is."

—LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: Despite recent balmy temperatures offering tempting hints of spring, a powdery but deep March 4 snowcover reminded all Capitol visitors that winter has not yet relinquished its grip.

— Photo by Laura Phillips

Highlights

Property tax reform . . .

Easing burden for businesses, homeowners, landlords

Owners of low-income housing, older apartment buildings, and commercial-industrial properties would see a cut in their property taxes under bills approved by the House Taxes Committee's Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division March 5.

HF627, sponsored by Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope), would reduce property tax rates for low-income housing by creating a new assessment

classification that would enjoy a 1.5 percent property tax rate. Other low-income properties that don't qualify for the new classification, primarily residential, non-homestead buildings containing up to three units and non-subsidized apartments with four or more units, would also get a tax break phased in over three years beginning in 1998. By 2000, the non-homestead buildings would be taxed at 2 percent and the non-subsidized complexes at 2.8 percent. Currently, those rates stand at 2.3 percent and 3.4 percent, respectively.

The bill also extends homestead status to some low-income housing, imposes rent restrictions on landlords seeking to qualify for the new, lower rates, and sets the percentage of rent that may constitute property tax at 20 percent.

Under HF627, more than \$14 million in property tax revenue would be lost during the coming 1998-1999 biennium and nearly \$60 million over the 2000-2001 period, according to a Department of Revenue analysis. To offset a potential tax loss to local communities, the bill contains a provision for increased Homestead and Agriculture Credit Aid (HACA).

Low-income housing is now subject to a "tremendously complex" property tax structure, Rest said. HF627 "brings uniformity and consistency to that property tax type." Moreover, she continued, the bill would help preserve Minnesota's dwindling stock of affordable housing.

On the other hand, Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) felt HF627 did not go far enough in that direction, particularly with respect to federal programs already in place. He introduced a series of amendments that would have required a percentage of the units receiving the tax break to be occupied by Section 8 renters. Section 8 is the federal subsidy to low-income tenants.

"This is a good bill," Dawkins said, "but it misses on one issue. It still allows properties that don't qualify for Section 8 to receive the tax break."

The percentage of landlords who accept the federal subsidy is already startlingly low and HF627 would do nothing to change that, Dawkins argued. Indeed, it would discourage more landlords from participating in the Section 8 program by rewarding them with a lower property tax, he said.

Ultimately, the division rejected the idea

tax increment financing for qualifying property owners. HF744 would exclude the value of improvements to a property from assessment for a five-year period, then phase in the increase over a subsequent five-year term. To qualify, a property must be a residential apartment building with four or more units, at least 30 years old, certified as "affordable" by the MHFA, and located in the seven-county metro area. Several other caveats also apply.

Richfield City Manager Jim Proctor said the bill would help his community maintain its stock of affordable rental housing by encouraging the owners of aging buildings to reinvest in their property.

While the bill would provide some incentive to keep apartment buildings in good repair, a Department of Revenue representative said, it could have some unintended



A bill (HF627) that would significantly lower the property tax rate on aging apartments and low-income housing won approval from the Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division March 5.

of tying a specific number of units to the Section 8 program and Dawkins had to settle for an amendment merely requiring the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) to monitor changes in the number of landlords accepting Section 8.

HF744, sponsored by Rep. Edwina Garcia (DFL-Richfield), also seeks to protect affordable housing.

The bill provides a mechanism similar to

consequences for landlords if they confused routine maintenance with actual, substantive improvements.

"If you have an apartment complex and you're putting in a swimming pool — that's an improvement," said Michael Wandmacher, director of the revenue department's property tax department. "If they're changing the carpeting, that's maintenance."



Robert Feuling, a small-business owner in Little Falls, Minn., testified March 5 before the Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division in favor of a bill (HF6) that would reduce the tax rate on commercial-industrial property.

HF6, sponsored by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) would reduce the property tax burden on commercial-industrial property by slashing the rate at which the first \$100,000 of value is taxed.

Under current law, the first \$100,000 of regular commercial properties is subject to a 3-percent property tax, while similar parcels located in enterprise zones are taxed at 2.3 percent on the first \$50,000 and 3.6 percent for the next \$50,000. Wenzel's bill would effectively do away with the enterprise-zone distinction and tax both classes at 1.5 percent.

All three measures move to the full Taxes Committee for consideration in the 1997 omnibus tax bill.

— F.J. Gallagher



AGRICULTURE

Feedlot problems

Lawmakers heard warnings of environment peril and assurances of good stewardship during a hearing on the impact of hog feedlots.

The House Agriculture Committee and the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee conducted joint hearings on the controversial issue Feb. 24 and Feb. 28.

Officials from agricultural organizations said Minnesota does not face the kind of

feedlot problems occurring in other states, but environmental leaders said odor problems and threats to ground and surface water demand tighter regulatory oversight.

"The smell robs us of our quality of life," said Monica Kahout, a Renville County farmer and member of the Land Stewardship Project. "When the neighborhood has to plan their day around wind direction, something is wrong."

A feedlot is any building or lot where animals are confined and manure can accumulate, including manure lagoons used to store waste. There are an estimated 45,000 feedlots in Minnesota.

Gov. Arne Carlson's proposed budget calls for \$580,000 to be committed to feedlot odor and waste research during the 1998-99 biennium, and several legislative proposals related to feedlots are expected to be debated this session.

Kahout and her family raise hogs on their farm, and like many in rural communities, they trace the problems with feedlots to the advent of large, so-called corporate farms.

In Renville County, large hog operations and the problems that sometimes accompany them began to appear in the early 1990s. The large hog farms, with manure lagoons covering as much as 10 acres, are a nuisance and a health threat, according to Kahout.

"Stewardship and family farms have always tried to go hand in hand," she said. "We have had livestock on our farm for almost 20 years, and neighbors have not found our setup offensive."

Kahout urged lawmakers to support improvements in state feedlot regulations, to see that they are consistently enforced, and to allow local government units the authority to enact tougher requirements.



Julie Jansen of Renville County told a Feb. 28 joint hearing of the Agriculture and Environment and Natural Resource committees about the problems she and her family have suffered living near a liquid manure pond.

However, an official from the Minnesota Pork Producers Association said the state's existing corporate farming laws and environmental standards have prevented serious hazards.

"Farmers are not in it for a quick buck. They're in it for the long haul," said David Preisler, executive director of the organization. "If we do damage the environment, then we're not going to be in business for very long."

Minnesota's current feedlot regulations are already far ahead of other states where serious problems have arisen, according to Preisler. The lack of such laws allowed corporate hog operations to develop unfettered in places such as North Carolina, where leaking lagoons have fouled rivers and lakes.

"Those types of producers have absolutely no place in the future of our industry," Preisler said.

Dwight Hasselquist, vice president of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, urged lawmakers to avoid regulatory changes that would hurt financially strapped family farmers.

"As regulations increase, the costs of meeting those regulations increase," Hasselquist said. "It becomes more and more difficult for the small operator."

The problem with current state oversight of manure lagoons is that it focuses on design of the facilities and does not pay enough attention to their construction and operation, said Marie Zellar, organizing director for Clean Water Action Alliance.

"We don't have the regulation to protect the environment, and we don't have the regulation to protect public health," Zellar said.

Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), who chairs the Agriculture Committee, said the feedlot issue is of vital interest to the state's agricultural industry.

"We can have in Minnesota a strong agriculture economy and simultaneously protect the environment," Wenzel said.

Farm in the family

The House Agriculture Committee approved a bill March 3 that would provide continued funding for a program that aims to keep farms in the family.

HF463, sponsored by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls), would provide \$200,000 to the Passing on the Farm Center at Southwest Technical College in Granite Falls, Minn.

The funds would keep alive a program that assists families and others who are in the

process of transferring a farm from one generation to the next.

In 1995, the Legislature passed a law to create the Passing on the Farm Center by expanding an existing local program into a statewide effort. But Gov. Arne Carlson line-item vetoed the \$100,000 appropriation for the center.

Lawmakers passed a separate piece of legislation in 1996 providing \$50,000 for operation of the center during fiscal year 1997, and the governor signed the bill.

Prior to 1996, the project operated on grant funding from the Southwestern Minnesota Initiative Fund, Sisters of Notre Dame, and several other organizations and was limited to southwestern Minnesota.

The program has an annual operating budget of about \$125,000. Under Kubly's bill, the state would provide \$75,000 in fiscal year 1998, with the other \$50,000 coming from outside grants, and the state would pick up the full tab of \$125,000 in fiscal year 1999.

Between 200 and 300 families have received some kind of assistance through the program since it came under the state's umbrella July 1, 1996, according to Ivan Anderson, program manager for the Passing on the Farm Center.

The bill now moves to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

Poor milk pricing

The House Agriculture Committee approved a resolution March 3 asking the federal government to provide relief for Minnesota dairy farmers currently feeling a financial squeeze.

HF1067, sponsored by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), would require the state to send a resolution to Congress, the president, and the Department of Agriculture asking for changes in the federal milk pricing system.

Minnesota dairy farmers in recent months have seen a significant drop in the prices they get for their products, while the state's consumers continue to pay exceptionally high retail prices for milk.

Low prices paid to farmers are driving them out of the dairy business, according to Wenzel. The state is losing an average of about three dairy operations a day.

"It is not inconceivable to have this industry disappear from Minnesota," Wenzel, who chairs the Agriculture Committee, said. Currently, the dairy industry generates \$3.5 billion in annual gross revenues in the state and

provides employment for about 39,000 people.

The proposed resolution calls for an end to a pricing system that is, according to the resolution, "profoundly unfair and discriminatory against Minnesota and Upper Midwest dairy producers."

It also requests that Minnesota and neighboring states be allowed to form a compact to guarantee dairy farmers a fair minimum price if a similar compact already formed by northeastern states is allowed to stand.

HF1067 now moves to the House floor.



CHILDREN

Special-needs adoptions

A bill to better reimburse licensed private adoption agencies who help place children, often from abusive homes, with new adoptive families is on its way to the governor.

The bill, which would reimburse agencies up to \$16,000 per child, passed the House March 5 on a vote of 129-0. It passed the Senate Feb. 24 on a vote of 62-0.

Currently, the Minnesota Department of Human Services reimburses licensed private adoption agencies a maximum of \$4,000 per case and the cap hasn't increased since the 1980s. Today, it costs agencies from \$8,000 to \$13,000 to place a single child with special needs, according to Bob DeNardo, a supervisor in the department's family and children services division.

The current \$4,000 cap discourages private agencies, especially the small ones, from actively seeking families for special needs kids because they cannot recoup their costs, said Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud) who sponsored the bill (HF374/SF274*) in the House.

The adoption reimbursement helps compensate the private agency for recruiting families, matching them with the right special needs child, and preparing the family for the child through education, counseling, and home visits.

Special needs children are part of the Adoption Assistance Program, and in many cases, have been severely neglected or abused and their parents have relinquished their parental rights to the state. The child may not only suffer from physical problems but from behavioral, mental, and emotional ones as well.

These children often wait in foster care until someone wants them, DeNardo has said.

Currently, there are 1,700 children who are considered wards of the state. Some are

being considered by families for adoption but nothing has been finalized. As of January, however, no one has shown an interest in 813 of those children.

Last year, more money was set aside for reimbursement for private adoption agencies, but steps to remove the cap have been tied up by a departmental rulemaking procedure. The longer state officials wait to make the change, the greater the risk that fewer children with special needs will be placed. The bill is designed to speed things up.

(See Feb. 14, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 4 and Feb. 21, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 5.)

Child support update

The House Judiciary Committee's Civil and Family Law Division March 5 discussed a bill to revise the state's child support laws.

Many of the provisions of HF925 — which was not voted on — are mandates of the Federal Welfare Reform Act, which is designed, in part, to reduce the number of families on welfare who are owed support payments, and to step up enforcement on those who owe them.

"The underlying message is that parents are responsible for the support of their children," said Laura Kadwell of the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). "There is no longer guaranteed cash assistance in this country. Child support is the one that is left and is being asked to pick up the slack. People are coming to the county, the state, and the Legislature and saying, 'I need child support. How do I get it?'"

The intent is to draft the federal requirements "as conservatively as possible to avoid misgivings about how far we're going" regarding changing current law, Kadwell said. The changes will become part of an omnibus child support bill later this session, said Rep. Andy Dawkins, (DFL-St. Paul), committee chair.

Christa Anders of the DHS said that the federal provisions coincide with the direction in which Minnesota law was heading and that none are radical departures from Minnesota child support policy.

The federal mandates and the bill cover almost every aspect of child support law. Some areas the committee discussed are: provisions for keeping financial data on parents who owe support payments; sanctions on employers who fail to report relevant information about those who are to provide support payments; and mandatory community service for an unemployed parent with a child or children on welfare.

The bill also includes details for reinstating the "most wanted" list of parents who are delinquent in their payments. The new list would be restricted to those who owe the most money and those whom the state cannot find. Its primary function would be to help locate those parents, Kadwell said.

Some provisions are unbalanced, according to Timothy Theisen, who testified on behalf of R-KIDS, an advocacy group for non-custodial parents. Theisen said those requiring blood tests to prove paternity are too broad and do not reflect the rights of those ordered to undergo them. The provisions of HF925 also fall short regarding a parent's rights in areas such as revoking driver's licenses for failure to pay; rules governing banks when they keep a debtor's financial records, and the criteria for determining a non-custodial parent's income, he said.

Christina Huson, a St. Paul attorney with experience in child support cases, said that some of the new rules fail to take into account the realities of trying child support cases and enforcing support provisions. She wrote a list of items that Dawkins said the committee will review.

Dawkins said the committee will make further modifications to the child support bill before passing HF925 on to the full Judiciary Committee.

Later, the committee will address visitation rights. "At issue is how do we enforce visitation orders with the same vigor we do support obligations," he said.

It takes a steady hand

He had two minutes and 30 seconds to complete the job. It would be close, but Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) thought he could do it.

Working the levers from his perch up in the crane's cab, Osskopp tried his best to grab a brick with the machine's shiny silver claw. After several attempts, he finally snared one and began to move his prize over to the hopper which would dump the brick on a conveyor belt, down a chute, and into a bin. He had less than one minute left until the mechanical hand automatically released its grip. The hopper, only five feet above the pile of rock, might have been a mile away.

"I'm no good at these," Osskopp said as the load began to swing wildly on the cable. "I can never win at these things."

Hoping against hope, Osskopp let the brick go, but the load was moving too fast. It clanged against the side of the hopper and tumbled back down into the pile, to be picked



Rep. Mike Osskopp made a strong impression on a wall of pins during the State Government Finance Division's March 3 tour of the Minnesota Children's Museum in St. Paul.

up another day by some young visitor to the World Works Display at the Minnesota Children's Museum in St. Paul.

Osskopp, along with a handful of the other members of the House Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division, visited the museum March 3 at the invitation of Ann Bitter, museum president. The committee recommends the amount of the museum's budget, and Gov. Arne Carlson's 1998-99 biennial request contains a \$270,000 initiative for the institution, which Bitter said would allow the museum to expand on its mission to improve learning readiness in the state's children.

Before legislators toured the museum, Bitter outlined several of their learning readiness efforts, including one called "Bedtime Book Reading." The program takes place in the early evening hours, just before most children's bedtime. Kids in their pajamas, accompanied by their parents, can come to the museum, Bitter said, to hear books read by celebrity readers.

"We can't teach them how to read," Bitter said, "but we can make them want to read."

With that, the legislators were off to see the displays, including Habitot, which Bitter described as one of the few galleries in the world set up for children between the ages of 6 and 48 months; and One World, an exhibit that teaches the value of respect and cooperation by recreating public areas where children might encounter people of different ethnic backgrounds.

Debate on the museum's budget will occur when the division's omnibus funding bill is assembled.

CRIME

Battles on the drug front

Two bills approved by the House Judiciary Committee would give law enforcement officers additional tools to fight illegal drug use and sales. Adopted March 5, both will be added to the omnibus crime bill to be voted on later this session.

HF97 would address a method that drug pushers now use to circumvent the law. Current law treats possession of small quantities of drugs as a lesser offense than larger amounts. As a result, some drug dealers have learned to carry only small amounts with them for sale on the streets, according to Minneapolis Police Chief Robert Olson. "Our police officers are faced night after night with arresting the same faces," Olson said. "Every time we develop an investigative technique to stop them, they find a way around it." With a change in the law, the criminals will find that "those small amounts have suddenly become large," he said.

That's because the bill allows the amounts of drugs discovered in each arrest to stack over time, eventually resulting in a more serious offense. "Sales or acts of possession by the same person . . . within a 180-day period . . . may be aggregated," the bill reads.

Initially, the bill's sponsor and committee chair Rep. Wes Skoglund, (DFL-Mpls) had asked for a 90-day period. The typical offender, he said, "isn't hard to find," and is picked up several times during that period. But Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), a Minneapolis police officer, suggested that the 90-day period was too limiting and successfully offered the 180-day amendment.

Steve Cramer from the Project for Pride in Living, said that the small dealers undermine the fabric of neighborhoods. The “revolving door” of repeat offenders is the most dispiriting factor for neighborhoods trying to maintain peace and stability. “We’re trying to build a quality of life that once existed,” he said. “We have to disrupt this pattern of commerce that is making life miserable” for law-abiding neighbors and businesses, he said.

The committee also approved HF96, which adds several drugs to the list of Schedule II controlled substances.

Methcathinone and cathinone are prescription drugs that increasingly are being stolen during robberies and are being manufactured for illegal use. Schedule II drugs are those with a high potential for abuse; have accepted medical uses; and may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence. Opiates and amphetamines are also on the list. Making them Schedule II drugs will make current criminal laws apply to their possession and sale.

“There are new drugs out there that aren’t being grown,” Skoglund explained. “Instead, they’re made of chemicals that people are buying in quantity and mixing. The behavior of those who take them is terrible.” The use of the drugs is spreading beyond the inner city, he added.

“These are very potent drugs,” said detective John Lageson of the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office. “In some circles it’s called ‘bathtub speed’ because it’s so easy to make and to buy the ingredients. They’re more addictive than methamphetamines.”

Fighting gangs statewide

A proposal six months in the making to target criminal gang activity had its first committee hearing March 3.

HF163 would form a commission of the top law enforcement officials from across the state that would develop a strategy and establish a strike force to fight the growing problem of gang crime. The measure was discussed — but not voted on — during a crowded meeting of the House Judiciary Committee.

Gang crime is not only exploding within the Twin Cities metro area, but is increasingly felt in smaller towns and rural communities throughout Minnesota, according to Hennepin County Sheriff Pat McGowan. A coordinated effort is needed because gang and criminal activity do not honor city or county boundaries, he added. “If we don’t let gangs in Minnesota know that we mean



Left to right: Nick O’Hara, superintendent of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension; Patrick McGowan, Hennepin County sheriff; and Bob Fletcher, Ramsey County sheriff, testified before the House Judiciary Committee March 3 in favor of a bill (HF163) to establish a criminal gang council and strike force.

business, we will have failed,” he said.

“No areas are immune to the juvenile delinquency evolution to gangs,” said Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher.

The bill specifies that those serving on the commission would be: the commissioner of public safety; the superintendent of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension; the attorney general; Hennepin, Olmsted, Ramsey, and St. Louis county attorneys and sheriffs; and chief law enforcement officers for Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth

“This is the most significant gang-fighting measure this Legislature has ever taken,” said Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), the bill’s sponsor. “Every gang member in the state will be targeted.”

Dennis Flaherty, executive director of the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, praised the measure because it coordinates resources on a statewide basis in addition to enabling local law enforcement agencies to focus personnel on local problems.

According to Minnesota Attorney General Hubert Humphrey III, the national homicide rate for juveniles age 14-17 has jumped 163 percent in 10 years, mostly due to criminal gang activity. “Kids are being robbed of their youth, their sense of safety, and, too often, their lives,” he said. “This provides an opportunity for law enforcement agencies to come together in a comprehensive plan to target and combat gang activity.”

“America has the most violent children in the world,” Fletcher said. “They’re three times worse than any other industrialized country. But their behavior can be modified by a strong law-enforcement response. . . . We know who the bad guys are. We just don’t have the resources to focus on them,” he added.

The bill authorizes the council to award

grants for additional officers and other personnel and equipment. Skoglund estimated that up to 40 new officers would be hired. No specific appropriation has been established.

Continued discussion of HF163 is expected.



EDUCATION

No-pass, no-drive

A proposal to link driving privileges to academic performance has drawn criticism from high school students who say the plan would do nothing to improve learning or reduce dropout rates.

“Why should you punish students who have been putting forth the effort, but they just can’t pass the test?” asked Terrance Clark, a senior at Minneapolis South High School. “This will be another strike against students who are striving hard to graduate.”

Clark was one of several teenagers who urged the House Education Committee to reject the “no-pass, no-drive” proposal during a March 4 hearing on the matter.

The committee took no action on the bill, but the subject is expected to be taken up again soon.

HF446, sponsored Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), would prohibit the state from issuing a driver’s license to anyone younger than 18 who has not passed the state’s basic skills graduation tests and who is not regularly attending school.

Biernat said the bill would provide additional motivation for students by tapping into the enthusiasm most young people have for getting a driver’s license.

But the bill drew opposition from students, parents, teachers unions, and school officials.

“The parents should decide if a kid is ready to drive,” said Beau Brown, a youth



Shanina James, a junior at Edison High School in Minneapolis, gave the thumb's down on a bill (HF446) that would prohibit the issuance of a driver's license to students under the age of 18 who have failed pass the state's high school graduation tests. She testified March 4 before the House Education Committee.

worker at North View Junior High School in Brooklyn Park. "I think the state has gotten involved in too many things that are parental decisions."

Math and reading tests, required under Minnesota's graduation rule, are first given to students in the eighth grade, when most students are 14 years old. Students who fail the tests are given another chance to pass at least once each school year.

Exceptions to the academic requirements could be made for special-needs students, under the bill. Private school students would simply have to provide evidence that they are enrolled and making progress in school.

Students who are dismissed (suspended or expelled) from school for more than five days would have their licenses suspended for 30 days for a first-time dismissal and 90 days for each subsequent dismissal.

Dropouts and habitual truants would have their licenses suspended by the Department of Public Safety until they turn 18.

Shania James, a junior at Edison High School in Minneapolis, told the committee that the bill would not prevent struggling students from dropping out.

"They're just going to wait until they are 18 to get their driver's license or they'll just drive anyway," James said.

Bill supporters have touted the proposal as a part of an effort, which includes the basic skills tests and a move toward new statewide

testing efforts, to increase accountability in public education.

Some students who testified during the hearing agreed that Biernat's bill would encourage students to focus on school.

"If you can't concentrate in school you're not going to be able to concentrate when you're on the road," said Autumn Nomeland, a 15-year-old ninth grader at Menlo Park Alternative School in Minneapolis who recently received her learner's permit.

Unlicensed teachers?

An education subcommittee March 6 rejected a proposal to allow districts to hire nonlicensed teachers without approval from the State Board of Teaching.

"There are some things that local school districts can do better, but this is not one of them," said Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), a member of the House Education Committee's Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives.

The panel threw a roadblock in front of HF557, a bill sponsored by Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) and backed by Gov. Arne Carlson and the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

The bill, which would alter current law allowing nonlicensed community experts to teach in public schools, is part of a push for local control and increased accountability, Tuma said. It is not an assault on licensed teachers or teachers unions.

"There is no bogeyman in the closet," Tuma said. "... This is a community decision, and community safeguards are already there."

But the bill drew opposition from the Board of Teaching, the state's largest teachers union, and individual teachers.

"The effect really is to allow untrained or partially trained people to serve in the capacity of a teacher," said Cheryl Furrer, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Education Association.

Since 1985, state law has allowed districts to hire nonlicensed experts to teach on a limited basis, but districts first must get approval from the Board of Teaching.

The board must base its decision on the individual's qualifications, the district's need to hire someone other than a licensed teacher, the amount of time the expert would spend in the classroom, and other factors.

Districts have filed 15 applications to hire nonlicensed experts since the law took effect and 13 of those applications have been approved, according to Judy Wain, executive secretary for the board.

Tuma's bill would allow districts to make final decisions about hiring nonlicensed individuals, but districts would have to comply with a new requirement that they report to the Board of Teaching on the performance of the individuals.

The proposal also would add a requirement that districts conduct a criminal background check on nonlicensed applicants for teaching positions.

The bill would not "dismantle or weaken teacher licensure," said Susan Heegaard, director of intergovernmental affairs for the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

Rather, Heegaard said, the bill would simplify the process allowing districts to tap into pools of expertise often cut off from the classroom. She pointed out that a legislator who does not have a teaching license cannot teach a high school government class but a teacher who has never been to the Capitol can.

"We need those who have real-world experience and those who have lots of classroom experience," Heegaard said. "You need to have both types of teaching to occur to better prepare kids."

Opponents of the bill said current law allows nonlicensed experts into the classroom, while providing oversight that ensures consistency on a statewide basis.

"The Board of Teaching has no desire to be obstructionists. That is not our position," said Board Member Marilu Theodore. "This is a valuable process. It is not cumbersome, unwieldy or unduly bureaucratic. And it works."

Changing school schedules

The House passed a bill March 3 that would make it easier for school districts to establish year-round school or other alternative schedules. The vote was 129-0.

HF302, sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), would do away with a requirement in current law that makes districts receive the approval of the State Board of Education before establishing a flexible learning year program at a particular school.

Such a program could include a four-day school week or an elimination of the traditional summer vacation in favor of classes for 45 out of every 60 days.

Under current law, a district wishing to establish a flexible learning year for a school site must submit an application to the Board of Education, which has the authority to review the plans and approve or disapprove.

Greiling's bill would give local school district officials the authority to decide whether to establish a flexible learning year and would relegate the Board of Education to a supervisory role.

HF302 now goes to the Senate.



ELECTIONS

Absentee voting

A bill that would ease voting by absentee ballot cleared the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee March 3, after failing to gain approval several weeks ago.

HF74 would eliminate the existing qualifications for voting by absentee ballot that require people to provide a reason for their inability to go to the polls. Instead, any voter could request to vote by absentee ballot.

"This is a simple bill that would allow people to vote statewide without [providing specific] qualifications," said Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), the bill's sponsor.

Under current law, voters must provide one of several reasons to vote outside an official polling place: an expected absence from the precinct; illness; disability; religious discipline; observance of a religious holiday; or service as an election judge in another precinct. The new legislation would read: "Any eligible voter may vote by absentee ballot as provided in this chapter."

Opening the process of absentee balloting



Secretary of State Joan Anderson Grove answered questions on a bill (HF74) during a March 3 meeting of the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee that would make it easier to vote by absentee ballot.

is intended to increase voter participation, according to Osthoff and Secretary of State Joan Grove, who also testified before the committee. In Ramsey County, where a four-year pilot program for unrestricted absentee balloting began in 1993, absentee voters have grown to 12 percent, compared with a state-wide average of 6 percent.

The bill's sponsors believe that eliminating the inconvenience of getting to a polling place will encourage some people, such as the elderly, to vote.

The absentee ballot initiative is not the same as a vote-by-mail program, Osthoff said. In the latter, ballots are automatically sent to all registered voters. Participants must request ballots to vote by absentee ballot under the pending legislation.

HF74 now moves to the House floor.



EMPLOYMENT

YouthBuild builds lives

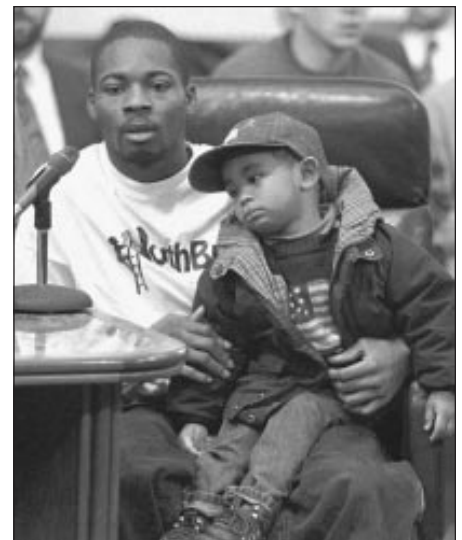
Minnesota's YouthBuild Program helps at-risk youth turn their lives around by gaining skills and experience in the construction trades and completing their educations, its proponents say. But due to inadequate funding, the program is turning away many eligible youth, witnesses told the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee's Housing and Housing Finance Division March 6.

A bill (HF834) sponsored by division chair Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) would add \$400,000 to the \$600,000 that Gov. Arne Carlson already has recommended for the program in his biennial budget.

YouthBuild participants must be between 16 and 24 years old and considered "at-risk." Target groups include dropouts and potential dropouts, youth involved with the juvenile justice system, chemically dependent youth, those with disabilities, youth in foster care, teen parents, and public assistance recipients.

A unique requirement of the program is that work projects must result in the expansion or improvement of residential units for homeless people and very low income families or social service, educational, or health facilities that primarily serve these populations. YouthBuild has the cooperation of several building trade unions including those representing carpenters, bricklayers, and pipefitters.

In 1996, 324 youth participated in YouthBuild, according to the Department of Economic Security. More than 80 percent of



Jerome Jones held his 2-year-old nephew, Tyreese Rohr, while testifying before the Housing and Housing Finance Division March 6 in support of a bill (HF834) that would increase funding for the state's YouthBuild program. The program is helping Jerome earn his GED and improve his communication skills.

the participants successfully completed the program. A recent follow-up study indicated that 70 percent had obtained their high school diploma or GED, 15 percent enrolled in postsecondary schools, 15 percent entered the building trades, and 50 percent were employed at a starting wage averaging \$7 per hour. Approximately 375 homeless and low-income people and families also benefitted from the work done by YouthBuild.

Jerome Jones told the panel that YouthBuild helped him turn his life around. "In 11th grade I was incarcerated for four years," he said, holding his nephew on his lap. "When I got out I ran into YouthBuild. It gave me an opportunity to think about my future. I took advantage of it to leave the bad crowd alone and come to the good crowd. I got my GED and a scholarship to go to trade school. I've set goals for myself and they are going to get achieved."

Another program participant, Jewel Jones, left welfare, finished her GED, and received a full scholarship to study bricklaying at a technical school. "The program really needs the proper tools," she said.

Tony Evans, YouthBuild program manager at Summit Academy in Minneapolis, said that he sees many more youth than the program can currently serve. "When I do an orientation, I get 70 or 80 eager applicants and can only let five in. You wonder what will happen to the others."

Next, the bill will be taken up by the Economic Development and International Trade Finance Division.



GOVERNMENT

Privacy vs. Technology

Envision this: You get up in the morning and almost every action is recorded or controlled through electronic technology. Your speed on the freeway, your arrival in your office, the phone calls you make, the time you spend in the bathroom, and the time you leave the office are all duly noted. If you call in sick to work, your insurance company is notified.

Some will recognize the scenario as not all that far-fetched. The technology exists to perform each function, and in varying capacities, is already in use. Who is controlling that information and who has a right to access it?

That was the topic of discussion at the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Data Practices meeting Feb. 28.

Living in an information society is affecting our lives in an increasing number of ways, according to Don Gemberling, director of the Public Information Policy Analysis Division of the Minnesota Department of Administration.

Gemberling outlined Minnesota's Data Practices Act for members, which, since 1974, has addressed privacy issues and what information can be released by the government. What began as a three-page law now consumes nearly 70 pages in *Minnesota Statutes*.

"Increasingly at issue is the disposition of governmental records," he said, as the ability to collect data grows.

With the advent of the Internet and other electronic media, the question of data control has grown more complicated. One area of concern in this environment is medical records, which Gemberling said can be used and disseminated in an uncounted number of ways.

"I'm careful to never leave a hair or a fingernail where anyone else can get it. Someone could map your entire DNA structure," he added, only half-jokingly. "Once you move any function into the electronic arena, you create records, trails, and data."

Gemberling also mentioned the advent of "smart cards," which people eventually will carry in their wallets and will contain a computer chip with detailed information about the individual. Bills have been introduced this session to fund a pilot project using the cards. State employees would serve as the experimental subjects.

"Some day we may all be asked to carry these," Gemberling said. "They'll have on them thousands of pieces of information

about us which we cannot read. We'll have to go to someone else and trust that they have our interests at heart and will tell us the truth. We've never had a comparable thing in history."

The availability of electronically acquired data can both enhance or interfere with citizens' rights, he said. The most powerful tool citizens have is the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, which, Gemberling said, presumes that all government data are public and that citizens have a right to free access. "I don't know how we could make representative democracy work without it," he said.

The subcommittee drafts a bill each year to amend the state's Data Practices Act. The assembly of this year's proposal will occur later in the session.

Governor's phone bills

In the first official face-to-face meeting since a telephone bill controversy sprouted several weeks ago, representatives from the governor's office and members of the Legislature met March 5 to discuss the problem.

At issue is how much of the cellular telephone bills generated by the governor's office should be open to the public. In responding to a request for the bills, the governor's office censored portions that detailed the locations and telephone numbers of the incoming calls.

Tanja Kozicky, the governor's legal counsel, told the House Judiciary Committee's Data Practices Subcommittee that the deleted information was confidential and that the governor's office was constrained by law from revealing it.

"We don't object to releasing records we're required to release. But we can't release individual telephone numbers that are protected in the Data Practices Act," Kozicky said.

A bill (HF902) sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) would specify that the cellular phone bills of legislators, the governor, and other state employees and officeholders which are paid for by taxpayers would be — in their entirety — public data. The proposal would be retroactive to May 1993.

The retroactive provision creates more problems, Kozicky said, because the people whose identities could be revealed had a right to be warned. "People gave us information with the understanding that it would be used responsibly," Kozicky said.

The request also covers an estimated 133,000 calls and would require the

governor's office to take the time and expense of sorting through each to determine which are protected.

But Entenza and Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) suggested that the governor's office was asking for a different standard from that the Legislature follows.

"The Legislative phone records have been open for four years and we haven't seen any problems," Entenza said. "Present law holds that the phone records should be open to the public. Why would the governor's office find that the openness we've had wouldn't work for them? They should come forward with specific reasons why we should exempt some records."

Skoglund asked: "Are your calls more sensitive than ours?"

"We receive calls from whistleblowers," Kozicky said. "The governor's office is often the forum of last resort." Kozicky said another relevant scenario is when the governor's office becomes involved in negotiations to attract a company to Minnesota or in persuading an existing business to stay. In such cases, she said, "confidentiality is absolutely key".

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights), committee chair, said the law favors openness, but concurred with Kozicky that the Data Practices Act could stand review. But, she added, "Three years ago, we heard much more public sentiment to open records than to keep them private."

The committee did not vote on HF902 but will discuss it at a future date.



HEALTH

Keeping track of shots

A bill to create a statewide immunization registry for all Minnesota children was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee March 4, but some lawmakers promised to amend it as it moved through the process.

The registry would remind parents when immunizations against measles, Hepatitis A and B, polio, and other diseases are due and allow the records to follow children throughout their lives even if they move to a different county or change doctors or health plans.

At issue is whether creating a statewide registry intrudes on a family's right to privacy and whether there is enough flexibility in the bill to allow for a family to opt out of the registry.

As the bill stands now, there is no option for a family to opt out. Consent is not needed before enrolling an individual on the registry.

The bill (HF259) is on its way to the Judiciary Committee where amendments pertaining to data privacy are expected.

Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood), sponsor of the bill, said a statewide registry is very important, especially since families today are much more mobile and the list of necessary immunizations has grown considerably.

She noted that if families were allowed to boycott the registry, it would be difficult for the Department of Health to know who hasn't been vaccinated and notify them in the event of an outbreak.

The bill permits the Department of Health to create a statewide registry using information from community-based registries throughout Minnesota. Several community registries already are up and running. So far 33 Minnesota counties have access to a registry to keep track of who is immunized and for which disease.

In Hennepin County, for example, a group of 160 clinics are tracking some 20,000 children, said Scott Giebink, chair of pediatrics at the University of Minnesota who testified in favor of the bill. In northwestern Minnesota, 13 counties have joined together and are tracking some 2,500 births per year. The bill, however, does not make it mandatory that a county or group of communities set up a registry.

Giebink said a statewide registry is important because each community-based registry needs to be linked to be effective and share information. And, he pointed out, despite educating parents, doctors, and health plans, some 30 percent of 2-year-olds are under immunized.

Under the bill, immunization data that would be shared with the state and among other registries would include the patient's name, date of birth, gender, address, legal mother's name, and any indicators that suggest a vaccine is not advisable for a particular patient.

The Department of Health also would be instructed to come back to the 1998 Legislature with recommendations on who should have access to the immunization data, how to certify community-based registries, and how an individual can appeal the sharing of his or her immunization data.

The bill also requires doctors, health plans, and other health care providers to report immunization data to the certified registry in their area. Not only must data be reported

on children born in the area but on people who move into the community as well.

Several groups testified against the bill, including the Minnesota Family Council. Tom Prichard of the council questioned the need for a registry because many children are up-to-date with all their shots.

He also said that state involvement in immunizations would usurp parental responsibility.

Jim Van Horn of the Christian Science Church said he was concerned how such a registry "might be used in a negative way" by government.

He said that people of his religious affiliation do not feel that they are putting their children in danger if they choose not to immunize them.

Although the bill does not require immunizations by those who claim medical, religious, or other exemptions, it does not allow them to opt out of being placed on the registry.

Members of the committee agreed that immunizations are very important, but not everyone agreed on what role the state should play.

Rep. Tom Huntley (DFL-Duluth) remembers the polio epidemic and life before a vaccine. "There were seven or eight cases of polio on my block," he said. Pools were closed and quarantine signs were widespread.

A statewide immunization registry would "help make sure that those few kids who are left [not immunized]... get the vaccine they need," he said.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), the only physician in the Legislature, said immunizations are absolutely necessary but added "I do have a little problem with a state registry" as it relates to data privacy.

He began an immunization program decades ago in Lincoln County and achieved 100 percent immunization in the schools.

After a stop at the Judiciary Committee, HF259 is expected to travel to the Health and Human Services Finance Division where a price tag is expected to be attached to the proposal.



HOUSING

Addressing lead contamination

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, lead poisoning is the number one environmental threat to America's children. Exposure to even an infinitesimal amount of lead can have devastating effects on a small child, and can lead to a lower growth rate, lower intelligence, impaired hearing, behavioral problems, and severe metabolic problems.

A bill (HF843) sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) would establish an advisory task force on lead hazard reduction, and appropriate \$1 million to fund lead cleanup efforts already in place. The bill was approved March 4 by the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee's Housing and Housing Finance Division.

House Gallery



On March 5, Rep. Bill Haas tacked up the last piece of artwork he received from his district's Monroe Elementary School of Brooklyn Park. This marks the 10th exhibit — which Haas changes monthly — of student creativity to adorn his walls.

In addition to representatives from the Legislature and state government, the 15-member task force would include landlords, tenants, attorneys, parents of lead-poisoned children, insurers, educators, doctors, realtors, the Children's Defense Fund, the federal Environmental Protection Agency, and local health boards.

The task force would study and propose a program to certify residential rental property as lead-safe (meaning that no lead contaminants are accessible to children). The group would also propose essential maintenance practices to ensure that a residence remain lead-safe after certification. The legal rights and liabilities of tenants and landlords also would be studied in regard to providing lead-safe housing and in cases where a child is lead poisoned.

Mary Johnson of the Phillips Lead Prevention Project told the panel about the lead poisoning of her child. "A few weeks after I moved into a house in the Phillips neighborhood [of south Minneapolis] I started noticing changes in my 16-month-old daughter," Johnson said. "She started getting gray strands in her hair, her joints ached, and she had stomach pains."

Johnson's daughter was tested and found to have an elevated level of lead in her blood. The source was lead paint chips in the bathroom and kitchen of the home. Johnson moved to a safe house while her landlord addressed the lead problem, but when she moved back, her daughter's blood-lead level rose again due to the higher volume of lead dust the work had stirred up. They later found a new apartment that was certified as lead-safe. "Three months after we moved [to the new apartment] my daughter's lead level finally went down," Johnson said.

She and other witnesses urged the passage of HF843 to restore funding for the "swab team" approach to help families and communities deal with the lead problem. Swab teams are called in when a home with children is identified as having a lead problem. The team takes measures to make the home lead-safe rather than lead-free. Lead-based paint is typically wet scraped and covered with a latex enamel. The home is then vacuumed with a machine equipped with special filters that trap the finest particles of lead dust. Experience has shown that this is the safest and most cost effective approach, said Clark.

The measure now goes to the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee.

Housing discrimination?

A bill to study whether discrimination is occurring on a widespread basis in the rental housing market won approval from a House panel March 6.

The proposal (HF552) comes on the heels of a report on the rental housing markets in two Minneapolis neighborhoods last year which found that prospective tenants were being discriminated against because of their race in 70 percent of the cases studied. The report was conducted by the Minnesota Fair Housing Center for the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights.

In the study, two people who were nearly identical, except for their race, were sent to the same place to look for housing. Their experiences were recorded, and then compared by a testing coordinator to determine if there were any differences in treatment. Of the 72 properties tested, 52 showed a difference in treatment based on race, family status, or public assistance status.

The discrimination ranged from the rental agent making overtly race-based comments to imposing more stringent requirements on the African-American prospective tenants. Often neither visitor was aware of the discrimination, which emerged only when the test results were compared. African-American clients were often shown inferior apartments in the same building and not encouraged to fill out rental applications, while white applicants were offered better units and urged to fill out rental applications before leaving.

Some of the cases resulted in civil rights charges being filed against the discriminating property owners.

"When I first read this report, I was quite shocked," said bill sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul). HF552 would mark \$50,000 for the state Department of Human Rights to conduct similar studies. The bill was approved by the Economic Development and International Trade Committee's Housing and Housing Finance Division.

"It is a good idea to conduct these tests," he said, "because it lets landlords know that they can't get away with discrimination. It also sends a message to our communities of color that they can live where they choose in Minnesota."

Human rights spokesman Dan Nicolai told the panel that the department agrees that testing needs to be done and would contract the work to organizations that have a track record conducting such tests.

The bill now goes to the Judiciary Committee.

Designing affordable housing

In 1995, the Legislature passed an initiative to develop innovative affordable housing designs through an architectural competition. However, no money was appropriated to run the contest.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), sponsor of the original initiative, has introduced a bill (HF592) which would provide approximately \$100,000 for the contest. It was approved by the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee's Housing and Housing Finance Division March 4.

If the measure passes, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency would announce a "designed affordable" housing competition open to architects, architectural schools, and non-profit and for-profit housing developers. "Designed affordable" means that state-of-the-art materials and construction techniques are used to bring down the total cost of housing units, said McElroy. The per-unit cost could be reduced by as much as \$3,000 to \$5,000 with a good design, he said.

As an example, McElroy cited new wall materials that eliminate the laborious taping, mudding, sanding, and painting needed to finish a conventional wall. "They attach the wall panels and put paper directly over that," he said. "It looks better than a conventional finish."

"Since you first introduced this idea two years ago, members of my extended family have gotten homes like this," said Rep. Barbara Sykora (R-Excelsior). "They are very nice homes and were very reasonably priced."

Traditionally, affordable housing has been achieved by either letting older housing deteriorate until it is affordable or by subsidizing new construction, McElroy said. "The contest would challenge the state's best and brightest architects to come up with some innovative cost-saving designs for new housing."

Prizes of \$50,000, \$35,000, and \$25,000 would be offered for first, second and third place winners of the design contest, McElroy said. All the designs would become the property of the state and would be made available to local developers of affordable housing.

HF592 will be included in the omnibus housing finance bill to be taken up later this session.



LABOR

Human rights loopholes

Two bills approved by the House Labor-Management Relations Committee would extend human rights protection to those who now fall through loopholes in the law.

HF787 would establish that those controlling the work environment are responsible for everyone working at that location, and therefore, are also accountable if any discrimination takes place.

Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson), the bill's sponsor, explained that many businesses now contract jobs out to individuals or service providers for services such as security, accounting, or payroll to be done on the business' premises but with another organization's employees. The state's Human Rights Act now defines an employer as a person with "one or more employees." If a business is charged with discrimination against a contract employee, it can argue that since the person is actually employed by an outside agency, the contracting business is not responsible for any discriminatory acts perpetrated against them.

The agency providing services, which is the employer of record in these cases, also denies responsibility, said Hilty, because they are not in control of the workplace where the discrimination took place.

Such cases consume an inordinate amount of the department's time and resources because the current law is unclear, said Ken Nicolai of the Department of Human Services. "We ran into a situation where a security guard was working at a firm where there was some discrimination. After we investigated and found probable cause, we discovered there was a problem with the law."

A second bill (HF814/SF323*), sponsored by Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids), adds "individuals" to the list of groups prohibited from engaging in acts of reprisal against those who file discrimination complaints.

Under the current law, individuals are covered only if they are employees. If they quit or are fired, they are free to engage in reprisals against those who complained against them.

"The situation that pointed out the problem to us involved a student attending one of Minnesota's colleges," Nicolai said. "She filed a sexual harassment complaint against a professor who was subsequently fired by the college. He then took several actions against her, including filing a lawsuit. We found it

constituted reprisal, but that we had no jurisdiction over such individuals."

Both bills now move to the House Judiciary Committee.



LAW

Under-21 ID cards

The House Transportation and Transit Committee approved a bill March 3 that would clearly mark state identification cards for people under the legal drinking age.

HF40, sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), would require state identification cards for people under age 21 to include markings similar to drivers' licenses for that age group.

"We are putting so much effort into trying to curtail the sale of alcohol and tobacco to minors," Leppik said. "This is one way we can help in that effort."

Under the bill, identification cards for people under the legal drinking age would be a different color and would be labeled "Under-21." The cards would expire on the holder's 21st birthday.

Minnesota identification cards, which provide a form of legal identification for non-drivers, are issued by the Department of Public Safety. There is a \$12.50 fee to receive an identification card, and cards for people under age 65 are normally valid for four years. Senior citizens are issued cards that are good indefinitely.

The bill now moves to the House floor.



OUTSTATE

Calling schools long distance

The decades-long trend of combining rural school districts has resulted in at least one unforeseen problem. By blending areas with different telephone exchanges, students often meet friends who require a long-distance telephone call to reach. Calling the school can mean long-distance charges for parents, and vice versa, even over distances of just a few miles. The effect is burdensome phone bills for some rural school districts and many of their residents.

In southern Minnesota, the towns of West Concord, Claremont and Dodge Center combined to form the Triton School District.

"When we formed Triton, we formed a community," Superintendent John Hornung told the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee. "The [merger] has been

great for the community, but our phone bills are atrocious." Hornung has installed toll-free lines into each of the district's schools at a cost of about \$6,000 a year. But that solves only one part of the problem.

HF211, which would make it easier for rural communities to eliminate such long-distance costs, received the committee's approval March 4.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), would change the way customers within a school district can petition the Public Utilities Commission to install extended area service (EAS), which would localize the exchanges and eliminate the long-distance charges. Its most important provision would eliminate a requirement that at least half of the customers make at least three phone calls per month to exchanges outside of their own to qualify for EAS service, Sviggum said. School district residents would need to vote on the phone service change, and at least 10 percent of the customers in each affected phone exchange must live within the combined school district.

"The bill will enhance the success of combined school districts in Minnesota," Sviggum said, adding that the telephone situation is one of the biggest problems they face.

But Victor Dobras of the Sprint Corporation and president of the Minnesota Telephone Association, said that EAS was not the most practical alternative for the communities. The association opposes the bill on four grounds:

- New rules are currently in progress regarding calls between exchanges, which makes the EAS effort premature.
- The law would invite many more EAS petitions.
- Without the threshold test, the EAS petition may fail.
- EAS is overkill.

Using 1-800 service is one solution, Dobras suggested. Furthermore, he said, "The bill may or may not make a significant difference in the speed of the process. You still need traffic and cost studies."

HF211 now goes to the House floor.

**Send e-mail comments
regarding *Session Weekly* to:
session@house.leg.state.mn.us**

We thank you for your input.

The editors

Mondale details prescription for global success



The United States, now the world's "technology pioneer," could lose that status to a Japanese government bent on becoming the global economy's dominant player, former Vice President and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale told a gathering of Minnesota legisla-

tors March 4.

"A good measure of their determination is money," Mondale said. "Last summer, the Japanese cabinet approved a plan to spend an additional \$155 billion on government science and technology programs over the next five years."

That increase, he said, represents only slightly less than our government's entire civilian research and development budget for the same period.

Mondale, in addition to his turns as vice president and ambassador, served as a Minnesota's U.S. senator and attorney general. He is currently a partner in the Minneapolis-based law firm Dorsey and Whitney. He made his remarks at the Minnesota History Center's 3M auditorium as the fourth speaker in the Capitol Forum Series. The series, sponsored by Minnesota Technology and the McKnight Foundation, is designed to present legislators with a more expansive view of the circumstances in which they make policy decisions.

America, Mondale said, has drawn on its rich history of entrepreneurship and belief in the potential of the individual, combined with a long-standing commitment to higher education and research, to achieve its position of technological dominance.

Conversely, Japan has traditionally relied on its group-oriented culture and bureaucratic meritocracy, operating in a strictly regulated and overprotected economy.

It would seem, he said, that the United States' innate ability to adapt quickly would provide a natural competitive advantage in the global economy. But that is not necessarily so.

In fact, Mondale said, our position is threatened. Japan's strategy to overtake the U.S. is fourfold. It includes:

- doubling the government's allocation

of tax dollars to science and technology programs, especially basic research;

- reforming the education system to promote more independent thinking;
- expanding the amount of available venture capital; and
- targeting certain foreign technologies for Japanese development.

There are, he said, already signs that the Japanese effort is succeeding. For example, the latest list of the top 10 patent recipients from the U.S. Patent Office contained the names of eight Japanese corporations. Moreover, Japan has made substantial gains in seven critical technology categories.

Meanwhile, Mondale said, America continues to "permit the very basis of our wealth to disintegrate" by neglecting to support science and technology efforts, particularly in the area of K-12 education.

"We need to do a much better job of public education in both America and Minnesota," Mondale said. "We can no longer afford to waste the talents of countless young people."



Former U.S. Senator, Vice President, and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale spoke to an audience at the Minnesota History Center about Japan and Minnesota's role in the expanding Pacific Rim economy. He spoke as part of the Capitol Forum Series March 4.

To remain economically strong, Mondale said, the U.S. needs to place a renewed emphasis on science and math education and our schools must prepare students for a future in which the Pacific Rim nations will play a much larger role.

Japan, Mondale said, also represents a fantastic economic opportunity for Minnesota and the U.S. Indeed, he continued, we should do everything possible to encourage Asian investment instead of instinctively tightening up our markets. Partnerships with Japanese companies could prove extremely profitable.

Certainly, Japan is coming on strong, but fundamental differences exist between the two countries, Mondale said. As long as America builds on its strengths — individuality, entrepreneurship, and education — the country will continue to thrive in the global economy.

"As legislators . . . you are in a superb position to persuade Minnesotans of the crucial role that science and technology will play in the future of our citizens," Mondale said. "High technology is the essential element of economic growth. It is America's crucial advantage in international commerce."

Many legislators said they were intrigued by Mondale's remarks.

"The idea of Japan as an opportunity rather than a threat is an interesting thought," said Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville). "The emphasis on creativity is important."

McElroy said he doesn't know of any of his constituents who do business in Japan, and the few companies he is aware of that do usually employ agents.

Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) said the scenarios outlined by Mondale presented policymakers with an opportunity to implement further welfare reform. Legislators, he said, could target some education dollars toward providing instruction in technological fields to people now receiving government assistance.

"With the technological age we're moving into," Westrom said, "there's going to have to be a commitment to that."

— F.J. Gallagher

Exclusive interview . . .

Former U.S. Senator, Vice President, and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale has returned to his home state of Minnesota, where he was interviewed on issues both state and global before his Capitol Forum Series speech March 5 at the Minnesota History Center.

Session Weekly: Have you had a chance to stay in touch with the issues confronting Minnesota?

Mondale: I would say not very much. I always read the local papers when I was in Japan, but it's always once removed and I'm not as up to date on specific issues as I may once have been.

Session Weekly: Given the state of the Japanese stock market and their economy right now, and looking at ours, which is just raging — very much like theirs was maybe a decade or so ago — is there something that we could, or perhaps should, learn from Japan?

Mondale: You know, Japan is in a period of trouble now, there's no question about it. It's had sluggish growth, the stock market's cratered, they've got a lot of bad debts and all sorts of things like that so, like all complex societies, there are some things that aren't working. It needs badly to deregulate, open up and so on. But I would say the topic of today's speech, centering on technology, also points out some of its strengths. Japan is the largest reserve nation in the world. It has enormous cash reserves and it's decided to increase support for the sciences by almost the same amount that we spend a year — just in the increases over the next five years — and while it's got other problems in their scientific field, this will help them move forward in science technology. In their schools, they have a very strong program in sciences — in K-12 — and they get results from that. It's got other handicaps, but the Japanese are a resilient, diligent people and while they're having some difficulties now, the economy — particularly the export side — is doing very well and some of that is pretty advanced stuff.

Session Weekly: To that point, I'm sure you're familiar with the dispute between [Japan-based] NEC and [Minnesota-based] Cray over the supercomputer being purchased by the National Atmospheric Research Center. Would it be wise for the

United States government to institute a U.S.-only policy with regard to supercomputers?

Mondale: No, I don't think so. One of the great strengths of the United States is that we have been willing to permit competition, but it has to be competition according to the international rules. The question in the Cray/NEC case that you refer to involves the charge "dumping." That is, the charge is — there haven't been any hearings — that NEC came in and charged a price that had to be beneath their cost. Now, I think NEC has refused to submit to the proceedings, so what's going to happen, I don't know. But let me go back to my basic point. I think that keeping open American markets while insisting others play by the rules has served our country well because you can't hide, and if you do, the others will quickly take the example and

define its role in terms of the U2000 policy — are we a research institute or are we a teaching institute. Where do you see the University in Minnesota's economy as we try to become a player in this global economy?

Mondale: Well, the University is what one of our presidents once called the "jewel in the crown" of our state. It is essential to all of our hopes. There are many, many other important institutions, I don't wish to be misunderstood, but the University has those graduate schools, they have the centers of research and excellence. If you look at the number of companies in Minnesota, high-tech companies, that directly or indirectly come from that relationship, you get an idea of how heavily our future is bound up. So I would say, you know, that the university has many, many different roles to play. One is the undergraduate role. I was an undergraduate there, first at Macalester College, and then I went to the University of Minnesota Law School. It gave me my chance and it has done the same for thousands and thousands of young people for well over, what, 140 years or so. So I wouldn't pick out one

We've got problems, but I wouldn't want to trade our situation for anybody's. Japan's got a lot of problems, Europe's got a lot of problems [but] we should not be cocky because we're no longer the world's sole repository of science and technology. . . . I think we're the best, but we have to continue to invest in that and insist on that and work on that. That's the challenge for our time.

— former U.S. Ambassador Walter F. Mondale

go clear beyond. The United States has a lot at stake in a more open international trading and financial system. We're doing very well; we're the most productive nation on earth. We're the most advanced scientific and technological nation. I think we're the best agriculture nation, all sorts of bests. This world-global idea is made for us. We've got to master it.

Session Weekly: You're a newly elected member of the University of Minnesota Foundation's Board of Trustees. The University right now is really struggling to

area and say, "you have to be good here," and forget the others, but I will be emphasizing in my remarks the importance of pushing forward in high technology, science and research.

Session Weekly: Now, you mentioned the University giving you your chance. Many people, young people now entering the job market for the first time, particularly those with graduate degrees, are doing so with staggering burdens of debt. Is there anything that can be done to help these people out?

Mondale: Well, I think this is one place where people ought to take a good look at the president's program. He's talking about tax deductibility, and I think some tax credits, for community colleges in the early years; he's talking about some kind of pattern on Georgia, some kind of special grant for young people that do well, and he's talking about increasing the investment in K-12 and in other ways trying to close the gap some. . . . He's also going to increase the basic opportunity grants — the so-called Pell grants, so that good students, but poorer students, in terms of economics, will get a larger grant to cover some of this gap when they go to college, and he's talking about something like \$50 million. It's a big program. But I don't think it will totally close that gap. The problem is called money. At the same time, we're trying to bring the deficit down and so on, but I think that's the most significant proposal on the table right now.

Session Weekly: **The President has said he wants to wire every classroom in the country. Is that technology for technology's sake? Is that something we need to watch out for when we consider technology education?**

Mondale: You know, I don't know the answer to that question. I know that the idea behind his proposal is to permit the young people in school, all over the country, no matter where they live or the wealth of their parents, to be able to connect with the world.

Session Weekly: **To sort of level the playing field?**

Mondale: Well, it levels it up, so to speak. It's not leveling it down. It will allow people to hook in to all these forms of international communications and that strikes me as a good idea. Beyond that, I don't have any grasp of the details.

Session Weekly: **In terms of America's place in the global economy, particularly with a unifying Europe, where do you see America's greatest challenge, and then Minnesota's challenge, as things are constantly shifting?**

Mondale: I think that we have to stay, obviously, the scientific and technological leader of the world or we'll slip behind — and there's no reason why we should lose that edge because we're ahead of the others in

many, many ways. . . and I think our goal has to be to do better. We have to build on our strengths which are just right for this new world, and we have to make certain that our K-12 kids get a better chance, get a better education, more kids can go on to college . . . that entrepreneurship is encouraged and that we honor and support education and responsible individuals and all the rest. We've got problems, but I wouldn't want to trade our situation for anybody's. Japan's got a lot of problems, Europe's got a lot of problems [but] we should not be cocky because we're no longer the world's sole repository of science and technology. There are a lot of other good students . . . around the world. I think we're the best, but we have to continue to invest in that and insist on that and work on that. That's the challenge for our time. Minnesota has the same sort of problems at the state level. We have to stay out ahead. Practically every one of these high-tech companies, you can trace to somebody from the University of Minnesota or one of our other institutions that had an idea, they created it, and now it's a big business. We have to keep that energy and level of sophistication. That's the key.

— F.J. Gallagher

During the last two presidential campaigns, Americans flirted with the idea — primarily in the form of Ross Perot — of embracing a candidate who is neither Republican nor Democrat. While no third-party hopeful has ever become president, Minnesota voters elected Gov. Floyd B. Olson in 1930, the state's first Farmer-Labor chief executive, to the first of three terms.

The only child of Scandinavian immigrant parents, Olson exhibited a healthy mistrust of authority in his youth. As a student at the University of Minnesota, he refused to participate in what were then compulsory military drills. Ultimately, Olson left the university after only one year, choosing to instead become a student in the school of hard knocks.

He spent the next 12 months working a variety of blue-collar jobs, learning first-hand about the market forces that produced both fantastic wealth and grinding poverty — apparently indiscriminately, in his view. By all accounts, Olson's experiences during this period of his life brought to the forefront the young man's already strong social conscience.

At the beginning, according to *The*

Do you know?

Political Career of Floyd B. Olson by George H. Mayer, Olson maintained his official status as a Democrat, even seeking the party's nomination in the congressional races of 1918 and 1920. Yet his first political appointment came from the Republican-controlled Hennepin County Board, who named him assistant county attorney in 1919. Eighteen months later, the board chose Olson to finish out the term of the Hennepin County attorney, who had been removed for charges of misconduct. Olson held the job for 10 years, using the post to build a strong political base.

Politics in the Midwest has always been closely tied to agriculture, and the hall-



Third-party Gov. Floyd B. Olson

mark of Olson's era was a fiery brand of economic populism with its roots in the Grange and Greenback movements. Farmers organized and reorganized in an astonishing array of coalitions, each with the aim of reforming the system and taking it out of the hands of controlling corporate interests.

From his position outside traditional party circles, Olson held a natural appeal for reformers, and when the Farmer Labor Federation emerged in 1924, its leaders picked Olson to run for governor on the party ticket. He lost to Republican Theodore Christianson by the narrowest of margins.

In 1930, though, Olson reappeared as a candidate for the Farmer Labor Association, which had risen out of the ashes of the now-defunct Farmer Labor Federation. This time, Olson won, beating his Republican opponent by nearly 25 percent, the largest margin of defeat for a Republican gubernatorial candidate up to that time.

Olson won re-election twice after that, firmly establishing the upcoming farmer-labor movement as a legitimate political force, and went on to become one of Minnesota's most beloved governors.

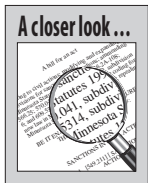


The faces of Minnesota welfare recipients.

—Photo-illustration by Tom Olmscheid

Tackling welfare . . .

Debate begins on initial welfare reform legislation



After months of learning a new welfare alphabet and deciphering all the cuts in a 1996 federal welfare law, the Minnesota House has begun debating a bill that outlines how to cope with the

changes.

The Health and Human Services Committee March 6 heard HF159, the House's early answer to the tough new federal law.

The bill, as it stands now, requires poor families to work to receive welfare, restores some of the federal cuts to immigrants, limits how long a person on welfare can attend school instead of work, and shares federal penalties with counties if Minnesota fails to move enough people into work.

The bill, however, is by no means a done deal, said sponsor Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris). "There is no agreement on this bill. This is open to amendments."

States across the country are hurrying to pass new welfare laws after the federal government scrapped the long-standing welfare system in August 1996.

The federal law does away with monthly welfare checks and food stamps for many legal immigrants and eliminates disability cash assistance for people with drug and alcohol addictions. It also eliminates cash assistance for children with certain behavioral disabilities and requires able-bodied adults, ages 18-50, who receive food stamps to work.

Perhaps the most significant change involves poor families with children. The law

requires these parents to get a job and sets a five-year-lifetime limit on their welfare benefits. States that do not move these parents to work will be penalized by the federal government. Specifically, they'll lose some of their federal aid.

While the federal law prescribes some of what states are required to do, it leaves each state to decide how to design its own welfare system. For instance, states are free to restore some of the cuts if they choose, but they must use their own money to do it.

The Health and Human Services Committee is expected to debate HF159 over the next several days and, if all goes well, vote the bill up or down March 13.

Below is a summary of some of the bill's highlights.

Work for welfare

For several years, Minnesota has experimented with a welfare pilot program in eight counties that requires poor families with children to work if they want public assistance.

Under the bill, that experiment would become permanent beginning Jan. 1, 1998, and spread to all 87 counties in Minnesota.

The Minnesota Family Investment Program, (MFIP) allows families to accept lower-paying jobs while receiving some public assistance, such as extra monthly cash and subsidized child and health care. In theory, allowing someone to work while still receiving benefits helps a low-skilled parent gain work experience and eventually obtain a better job.

MFIP statewide would replace the traditional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program done away with by the 1996 federal welfare law. And, in keeping with federal law, the bill sets a five-year, lifetime limit on receiving MFIP welfare checks.

There are some exceptions to the five-year limit. For example, the bill exempts certain victims of domestic abuse who need time to find safety before they can settle into a job.

MFIP began in 1994 as a pilot project in seven counties—Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Sherburne and Todd. Ramsey County was added in July 1996. So far about 4,500 families receive welfare under MFIP and preliminary study results suggest that those people are more likely to work than those under the old AFDC system.

Under the statewide MFIP proposal, a parent or guardian would be required to develop a job search and employment plan and accept any suitable job once they've completed all the steps in their plan. As is the case now, the state would continue to pay for employment and job training services, but not at the same level.

Currently, the state spends about \$2,000 per person on employment and job training services in the MFIP pilot counties. Most officials agree, however, that the state cannot afford to spend that much if it takes the program statewide.

Just how much the state will spend on employment and training is expected to be outlined in a separate bill. Money to expand

child care aid for families now required to work also is expected in a separate bill.

Under HF159, there would be penalties for adults who do not work. For the first offense, the state would use a family's grant to directly pay off rent and utility bills. The state would then give the balance — minus a 10 percent penalty — to the family. On the second offense, the money leftover after rent and utility bills are paid would be cut by 25 percent. On the third offense, the money leftover would be cut by 35 percent.

In terms of schooling, the bill limits the amount of postsecondary education a person may receive while on MFIP. Under the current AFDC welfare program, some parents are allowed to attend college for four years while still receiving their monthly welfare check, and subsidized child and health care.

That would end under HF159. Generally, the bill limits approved postsecondary or training programs to a year or less but does allow for up to two years if the diploma or degree can be shown to help the welfare parent earn a better income, and he or she agrees to pay a portion of the money back.

Current AFDC parents who are in the middle of their degree programs would get a break, however. Under the bill, those AFDC parents enrolled in a degree program as of March 1, 1997, would be allowed to continue in school for up to two years after being placed on MFIP.

The bill does set income limits on how much a family can earn on the job and still continue to receive a monthly MFIP check.

For a family of three, for instance, the bill sets a limit of \$1,163 a month. A family of three in the current pilot MFIP program, can earn up to \$1,554 a month before being cut off. Officials maintain the state couldn't afford the higher cut-off income if the program goes statewide.

Due to the new federal welfare law, states are under a great deal of pressure to move people off the welfare rolls and HF159 plans to share that pressure with counties.

Under the new federal law, beginning with fiscal year 1997, each state must show that 25 percent of families on welfare are working at least 20 hours per week. By fiscal year 2002, the requirement jumps to 50 percent working at least 30 hours per week. There are cash penalties for states that do not meet the percentages.

Mirroring the federal law, HF159 would penalize counties. Specifically, the bill would force counties to share in the federal penalty.

Although the bill calls for MFIP to go statewide by Jan. 1, 1998, counties have the

option of beginning earlier and would receive a bonus of \$100 for each person they move into a job.

Immigrant help

Despite being cut off from most welfare programs in the federal law, some legal immigrants in Minnesota would be taken care of by state dollars, under the bill.

The measure, however, requires that the income of a legal immigrant's American sponsor be considered when determining eligibility for public assistance. This is in keeping with the federal law.

Under the bill, legal immigrants would be eligible for most welfare programs including:

- Medical Assistance (MA), a joint state-federal program that helps people who can't afford health care. State dollars, however, would have to pay for legal immigrants who, under the federal law, are cut off from the program.

- MFIP, the state's new welfare-to-work program. States receive federal dollars for their welfare reform programs but they are not allowed to use federal money for many legal immigrants. Minnesota would use state dollars to pay for that population.

- General Assistance (GA), a state program that offers help to those in poverty who do not qualify for other state or federal welfare programs. The average benefit is about \$203 a month.

- General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC), a state program that pays for necessary health care for those who are ineligible for MA or other health care programs. Specifically, elderly, blind or disabled legal immigrants cut off from a federal program known as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) would be eligible for Minnesota's GAMC as long as they cooperate with the Immigration and Naturalization Service and work toward becoming a citizen or meet some other standard that would qualify them for the federal dollar portion of MA.

Legal immigrants cut off from SSI also may qualify for some help with their housing costs. The bill would set aside a pot of money meant to make up the difference between a \$203 monthly state GA check and the \$378 monthly federal SSI check many elderly and disabled immigrants currently receive.

Jennings said there are about 400 or 500 immigrant families (mostly in the metropolitan area) who will need the help or lose their housing.

The bill also calls for immigrants cut off from the federal food stamp program to receive \$63 per month for food. In Minne-

sota, an estimated 16,000 legal immigrants will lose their food stamps in 1997, under the federal cuts. The average person receives \$63 per month in food coupons.

To qualify for the money, legal noncitizens must be enrolled in a citizenship, literacy or English class, have applied for such classes, or applied for a waiver from citizenship requirements from the INS.

Potpourri

Some of the bill's other highlights would:

- Mandate a 30-day residency requirement to receive welfare and require that, for the first year, families who move to Minnesota receive either the benefit amount they would have received in their previous state, or Minnesota's rate, whichever is less.
- Eliminate the \$1,500 cap on the value of a welfare recipient's vehicle. Many argued that the low value too often meant unreliable transportation and could cost people their jobs. HF159 would allow each working adult in a household to own a vehicle valued up to \$4,600.
- Tap into the rental subsidies of some families on welfare. Specifically, the bill would count \$100 of a welfare recipient's rental subsidy as part of their income, thus potentially reducing their overall welfare benefit. This provision helps pay to expand MFIP statewide but it has been criticized as shuffling benefits from one poor person to help another.
- Prohibit certain people from receiving MFIP or other welfare help such as GA. People convicted of felony drug possession, for instance, would be barred for five years from receiving MFIP.

Parole violators and felons on the run would be barred completely from receiving welfare. Those convicted of fraudulently attempting to receive benefits in two or more states at one time would be barred for 10 years.

- Make children with behavioral disorders cut off from the federal SSI program eligible for Minnesota's GA welfare program. GA, however, will not make up for the entire federal cut. These children averaged \$406 a month while on SSI and GA pays out about \$203 a month.

- Make drug and alcohol addicts cut off from SSI eligible for GA as long as they are in treatment or on a waiting list. They averaged about \$470 a month while on SSI.

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

Bill Introductions

HF1088-HF1250

Monday, March 3

HF1088—Hasskamp (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Candidate name rotation allowed on ballots.

HF1089—Garcia (DFL)
Taxes

Metropolitan areawide tax base homestead property inclusion provided.

HF1090—Clark (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Medical assistance nursing facility reimbursement rate provisions modified.

HF1091—Mullery (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Home equity conversion counseling grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1092—Mullery (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Learn to earn summer youth employment program grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1093—Macklin (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Metropolitan town election date change authorized.

HF1094—Boudreau (R)
Judiciary

DWI; driver's license revocation period doubled for persons who violate driving while intoxicated laws with a blood alcohol level of 0.20 or greater, and penalty assessment provided.

HF1095—Abrams (R)
Education

University of Minnesota Board of Regents selection procedures established.

HF1096—Westfall (R)
Health & Human Services

Temporary assistance for needy families and general assistance cash assistance prohibited for persons convicted of drug felonies.

HF1097—Garcia (DFL)
Judiciary

Convenience business surveillance security camera use required for crime prevention purposes, and penalties prescribed.

HF1098—Swenson, D. (R)
Environment & Natural Resources

Washington County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF1099—Folliard (DFL)
Governmental Operations

Hopkins Police Department retiree and surviving spouse optional annuity election authorized.

HF1100—Tuma (R)
Education

Higher Education Services Office powers and duties modified.

HF1101—Swenson, D. (R)
Education

General education basic formula allowance increased, pupil transportation funding enhanced, referendum subtraction removed, school year lengthened, compulsory instruction age lowered, and money appropriated.

HF1102—Leighton (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

Used motor oil and filter collection and recycling plan revised.

HF1103—Van Dellen (R)
Taxes

Property tax classification rates modified, education homestead credit provided, property tax statement information requirements modified, senior citizen property tax refund provided, and money appropriated.

HF1104—Leppik (R)
Education

University of Minnesota citizen's regent candidate advisory council established, student regent requirement removed, and money appropriated.

HF1105—Nornes (R)
Education

Independent School District No. 544, Fergus Falls, fund transfer authorized.

HF1106—Leighton (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations

Employers required to recognize employee representatives.

HF1107—Tuma (R)
Education

Options plus teacher support pilot program extended, and money appropriated.

HF1108—Bettermann (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Douglas County tourism facility tax increment financing exemption provided.

HF1109—Farrell (DFL)
Judiciary

Criminal trial final argument prosecution rebuttal provided.

HF1110—Rukavina (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations

Minimum wage increased, and large and small employer requirements specified.

HF1111—Weaver (R)
Transportation & Transit

Recreational vehicle combination definition expanded to include vehicles drawing trailers carrying off-highway motorcycles, off-road vehicles, snowmobiles, or all-terrain vehicles.

HF1112—Pelowski (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Legislator terms of office lengthened, staggered elections provided, legislature size reduced, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1113—Luther (DFL)
Governmental Operations

Intergovernmental information systems advisory council appropriated money for development of the multiple jurisdiction law enforcement network project.

HF1114—Boudreau (R)
Education

Minnesota state academies provided technology improvements, and money appropriated.

HF1115—Tunheim (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Sign contractor licensure required, rule adoption and penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF1116—Sekhon (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Architecture, engineering, land surveying, landscape architecture, geoscience, and interior design board provisions modified.

HF1117—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Nursing board and practice provisions modified.

HF1118—Sekhon (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

Municipal water use permit established.

HF1119—Clark (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Jungle Theatre grant matching requirements clarified.

HF1120—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education

Multicounty multitype library systems appropriated money.

HF1121—Delmont (DFL)
Education

Child development education and training loan program established, child care provider training initiatives funded, and money appropriated.

HF1122—Finseth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources

Big game and turkey hunting permitted with a crossbow by persons 65 years of age or older.

HF1123—Delmont (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Telecommunication company slamming and loading prohibited, and penalties provided.

HF1124—Schumacher (DFL)
Education

Regional library basic system support grant distribution formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF1125—Murphy (DFL)
Education

Minnesota undergraduate college and university tuition scholarship trust program established, trust fund established, and money appropriated.

HF1126—Jennings (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Hazardous products labeling law repealed.

HF1127—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Public employee individual retirement account plan provisions modified.

HF1128—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Higher education supplemental retirement plan employee and employer contribution provisions modified.

HF1129—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Teachers Retirement Association employee and employer contribution provisions modified.

HF1130—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Higher education individual retirement account plan provided administrative changes, and advisory committee established.

HF1131—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
Southeastern Minnesota quality assurance pilot project established for programs treating persons with developmental disabilities, and money appropriated.

HF1132—Ness (R)
Education
Technical college diploma and certificate provisions modified.

HF1133—Kielkucki (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Hubert H. Humphrey museum planning provided, and money appropriated.

HF1134—Knight (R)
Governmental Operations
Administration department elevator regulation, building code, lease, and manufactured home installer licensure provisions modified.

HF1135—McCullum (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Massage and Oriental bodywork therapist licensure requirement established, and penalties provided.

HF1136—Biernat (DFL)
Education
Community crime prevention program grant award procedures modified, learn and earn graduation incentive grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1137—Lieder (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Red River Basin Board water management planning grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1138—Lieder (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipalities authorized to enlist private emergency snow removal assistance, and assumption of liability provided.

HF1139—Lieder (DFL)
Education
Independent School District Nos. 561, Goodridge, and 600, Fisher, revenue use permitted.

HF1140—Orfield (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Campaign finance independent expenditure definition modified, campaign report electronic filing provided, spending limit provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF1141—Orfield (DFL)
Taxes
Dependent care income tax credit expanded, and money appropriated.

HF1142—Tunheim (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Thief Lake Wildlife Management Area interpretive display construction provided, and money appropriated.

HF1143—Tunheim (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
County financial statement publication requirements modified.

HF1144—Tunheim (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
County boards authorized to assign duties of auditor and treasurer.

HF1145—Milbert (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Court administrator financial responsibility eliminated over deputy registrars.

HF1146—Trimble (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, teacher retirement coverage choice provided.

HF1147—Leighton (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Health care provider workers' compensation claim terminology use requirement provided.

HF1148—Wolf (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Scott County auditor, recorder, and treasurer appointment permitted.

HF1149—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Domestic abuse victim civil cause of action provided.

HF1150—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
HIV Hepatitis B; corrections guards and peace officers provided testing for HIV and hepatitis B under certain circumstances, hypodermic needle sales permitted without prescription, and money appropriated.

HF1151—Van Dellen (R)
Judiciary
HIV virus transmission action against health care providers time limit imposed.

HF1152—Swenson, D. (R)
Judiciary
Governor's council on data practices reform established, and money appropriated.

HF1153—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Theft and burglary crimes expanded to include certain crimes on railroad property or property in transit by a common carrier, and penalties provided.

HF1154—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Bomb disposal expense reimbursement provided, and money appropriated.

HF1155—Long (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Child care center employment and training provided for recipients of temporary assistance for needy families, and money appropriated.

HF1156—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Petroleum product above ground storage tank secondary containment methods studied, and task force established.

HF1157—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
County prepaid Medical Assistance and General Assistance Medical Care capitation rates modified.

HF1158—Greiling (DFL)
Education
Children's library service and regional public library system grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1159—Greenfield (DFL)
Education
HIV/AIDS prevention education demonstration project established, grants provided to school districts, and money appropriated.

HF1160—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
HIV; prenatal HIV transmission prevention education campaign provided, HIV and Hepatitis B testing provided, and money appropriated.

HF1161—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Public facilities authority revenue bonding authority increased.

HF1162—Koppendrayner (R)
Governmental Operations
Employee relations department technical corrections bill.

HF1163—Long (DFL)
Education
University of Minnesota Regent Candidate Advisory Council membership and duties modified.

HF1164—Juhnke (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Bus definition expanded to include special transportation service vehicles.

HF1165—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Juvenile court records and peace officer records on children data practice provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF1166—Clark (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Minnesota 1997 employment and economic development program established, and money appropriated.

HF1167—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services

Public health provisions modified, state core function fees established, infant inborn metabolic error testing requirements modified, food and beverage definitions modified, enclosed arena inspection required, and money appropriated.

HF1168—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary

City charter commission member removal provided.

HF1169—Carlson (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Brooklyn Center; Brookdale regional center redevelopment provided, and money appropriated.

HF1170—Jennings (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

Chisago County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF1171—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Telephone, telecommunication, and cable system regulations modified, and civil penalties provided.

HF1172—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 state goals provided.

HF1173—Lieder (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Rydell national wildlife refuge access provided, and money appropriated.

HF1174—Carruthers (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Tobacco self-service merchandising prohibited.

HF1175—Clark (DFL)
Judiciary

Restorative justice programs authorized, increased penalties provided for repeat misdemeanor violations, grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1176—Hausman (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

St. Paul Civic Center improvements provided, and money appropriated.

HF1177—Schumacher (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

Municipal waste processing debt retirement grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1178—Davids (R)
Environment & Natural Resources

Border-to-border state trail study provided, and money appropriated.

HF1179—Davids (R)
Environment & Natural Resources

Petroleum tank upgrade assistance program established.

HF1180—Murphy (DFL)
Governmental Operations

State government ombudsman services provided.

HF1181—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary

Title insurance company certificates of release regulated.

HF1182—Orfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Health care provider prohibited contract provisions modified.

HF1183—Pugh (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Real estate referral compensation regulated.

HF1184—Milbert (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Heritage and historic subdistrict creation authorized within tax increment financing districts.

HF1185—Van Dellen (R)
Taxes

Two-thirds legislative majority vote required for new taxes or tax increases, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1186—Tunheim (DFL)
Agriculture

Bakeries in retail food stores provided equipment and ventilation requirements.

HF1187—Kubly (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Buffalo Lake wastewater treatment facility construction contract bid requirements modified.

HF1188—Anderson, B. (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance

Hassan detached banking facility establishment authorized.

HF1189—Greiling (DFL)
Transportation & Transit

Public safety department rules modified.

HF1190—Rest (DFL)
Taxes

Economic efficiency and pollution reduction act adopted, and money appropriated.

HF1191—Rifenberg (R)
Rules & Legislative Administration

Balanced budget; Congress memorialized to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to balance the budget.

HF1192—Leighton (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Corporate aid moratorium established prohibiting grants, tax incentives, and financial assistance to corporate entities.

Wednesday, March 5

HF1193—Swenson, D. (R)
Judiciary

Motor vehicle registration suspension provided under certain circumstances, and title certificate form use required.

HF1194—Carlson (DFL)
Education

Student financial aid determination asset consideration provisions modified, and state grant determination formula provided.

HF1195—Jaros (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

Duluth area old growth forest protection provided.

HF1196—Weaver (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Voters allowed to prevent public dissemination of address information.

HF1197—Weaver (R)
Judiciary

County attorney administrative subpoena powers expanded to include subpoena of computer network records.

HF1198—Weaver (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Political contribution refund recipient names made public.

HF1199—Peterson (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Housing Finance Agency applicant income limits not based upon geographic location.

HF1200—Pugh (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Legislative and congressional district coordination provided.

HF1201—Jaros (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Simulated elections provided for minors.

HF1202—Tuma (R)
Judiciary

Harassment restraining order violation penalties increased.

HF1203—Peterson (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Upper Minnesota Valley River Regional Visitors Center development provided, and money appropriated.

HF1204—Stang (R)
Agriculture

Milk producer well water testing requirements modified.

HF1205—Murphy (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance

Lyme disease health plan coverage provisions clarified.

HF1206—Murphy (DFL)
Education

Independent School District No. 99, Esko, community health and physical fitness center funded, and money appropriated.

HF1207—Paymar (DFL)
Judiciary

Private corrections treatment facility liability limits provided.

HF1208—Rostberg (R)
Environment & Natural Resources

Community forest improvement grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1209—Sviggum (R)
Environment & Natural Resources

Stagecoach trail established in Steele, Dodge, and Olmsted counties.

HF1210—Kraus (R)
Education

Year-round school/extended week or day/pilot program study extended, and money appropriated.

HF1211—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
DeafBlind Services Minnesota Inc. appropriated money for services to deaf-blind children.

HF1212—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Judiciary
Human services department employee assault by certain persons deemed fourth degree assault.

HF1213—Goodno (R)
Education
Moorhead land transfer authorized.

HF1214—Koppendrayner (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Crow hunting season established.

HF1215—Mullery (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Consumer Fraud Act jurisdiction extended to include loans.

HF1216—Entenza (DFL)
Education
Limited English proficiency program funding increased, statewide revenue cap removed, student instructor ratio lowered, and money appropriated.

HF1217—Larsen (R)
Education
School district referendum allowance reduction discontinued.

HF1218—Van Dellen (R)
Judiciary
Heroin sale and possession law conformity provided with cocaine sale and possession law.

HF1219—Van Dellen (R)
Judiciary
Government tort liability law peace officer provisions modified.

HF1220—Van Dellen (R)
Judiciary
Pistol illegal possession by minors provided mandatory minimum penalty, public assistance benefits limited for persons convicted of felony offenses, obstruction of justice crime expanded, and money appropriated.

HF1221—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement and Minnesota Resources Commission membership provisions modified.

HF1222—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
Reverse referendum allowed for property tax levy increases in counties and certain cities.

HF1223—Rest (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Impounded vehicle notice period provisions modified.

HF1224—Kinkel (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Liquefied petroleum gas delivery vehicles exempted from seasonal weight restrictions.

HF1225—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
Neighborhood Assistance Program contribution income tax credit provided.

HF1226—Broecker (R)
Judiciary
Ramsey County enhanced probation law enforcement community partnership pilot project grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1227—Swenson, D. (R)
Judiciary
Graffiti vandalism civil cause of action established, and juvenile crime data release authorized.

HF1228—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Hmong language speaking employee position established within Labor and Industry Department.

HF1229—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary
Crime victim information release discretion granted to prosecutors.

HF1230—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Independent School District No. 77, Mankato, teacher authorized service credit purchase.

HF1231—Ness (R)
Education
Students dismissed from school provided attendance options, and teacher liability provisions modified.

HF1232—Lieder (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Wild Rice Watershed District levy extended.

HF1233—Opatz (DFL)
Education
St. Cloud Hospital/Mayo Family Practice Residency Program funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1234—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Public safety department film rental rules repealed.

HF1235—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Knowingly driving without insurance violation liability provisions modified.

HF1236—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Accident report evidentiary use allowed by peace officers.

HF1237—Dawkins (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Great Northern Corridor Community Development Act adopted, and money appropriated.

HF1238—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Registered nurse anesthetist certification provided.

HF1239—Hasskamp (DFL)
Taxes
Residential property market value increases limited.

HF1240—Pugh (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Dakota County Human Services minimum reimbursement provided.

HF1241—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Dakota, Hennepin, and Ramsey County school-based probation pilot program established, and money appropriated.

HF1242—Rest (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Education Now and Babies Later (MN ENABL) teen pregnancy prevention program expanded, and money appropriated.

HF1243—Tingelstad (R)
Transportation & Transit
Snow plowing vehicle annual overwidth permit issuance authorized by local road authorities.

HF1244—McCollum (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Campaign finance definitions clarified, reporting requirements modified, public subsidy return required, and penalties provided.

HF1245—Hasskamp (DFL)
Education
Higher education women's athletic budget conditions specified.

HF1246—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Mental health or substance abuse treatment provider peer review required.

HF1247—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Child support order retroactive modification permitted.

HF1248—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Older Minnesotans Ombudsman activities expanded and clarified, and money appropriated.

HF1249—Murphy (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Red Wing Sexual Psychopathic Personality Treatment Center employees included in a temporary retirement election option.

HF1250—Sykora (R)
Taxes
Low-income housing property tax class rate reduction provided.

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

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

This nonpartisan office provides: committee meeting schedules; legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* newsmagazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

Most of what this office publishes can be viewed on the Legislature's World Wide Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
 For information updates, call
 House Calls at (612) 296-9283.
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**Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance
 (TIF) Division/TAXES**
 200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson
Agenda: Tax Incidence Study.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE
 200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel
Agenda: HF162 (Tunheim) Seed potato
 inspection fund appropriated money.
 HF148 (Tunheim) Turf grass research and
 development support continued, and money
 appropriated.

HF748 (Tunheim) University of Minnesota
 appropriated money for wheat and barley
 scab research.
 HF729 (Finseth) University of Minnesota
 appropriated money for wheat and barley
 scab research.

HF578 (Kubly) Animal feedlot and manure
 management advisory committee expiration
 date designated, and food safety advisory
 committee membership provisions
 modified.
 HF913 (Kubly) Livestock odor research
 program developed at the University of
 Minnesota, and money appropriated.

**ENVIRONMENT &
 NATURAL RESOURCES**

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: HF269 (Bakk) State owned iron-
 bearing material and stockpiled metallic
 minerals material ownership provisions
 modified.
 HF1208 (Rostberg) Community forest
 improvement grants provided, and money
 appropriated.

HF760 (Wejman) Motor vehicle emission
 inspection waivers issued to disabled persons
 upon request.
 HF880 (Hausman) Minnesota Nuclear
 Responsibility Act of 1997 adopted, and
 money appropriated.

**Health & Human Services
 Finance Division/**

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
 10 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Presentation of governor's proposed
 budget for Department of Human Service
 health care programs.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: HF29 (Skoglund) Probationers and
 parolees from other states residing in Minnesota
 without permission under the interstate
 compact provided criminal penalties.

HF95 (Skoglund) Sex offender federal prison
 release community notification plan and
 report required.
 HF472 (Bishop) Sex offender release
 community notification cost reimbursement
 provided to local units of government, and
 money appropriated.
 HF541 (Bishop) Sex offender release
 community notification provisions clarified.
 HF163 (Skoglund) Criminal gang council
 and strike force established, grants
 authorized, and money appropriated
 (time permitting).
 Additional bills may be added.

**State Government Finance Division/
 GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Budget hearings; Office of
 Administrative Hearings; and Office of the
 Attorney General.

12:30 p.m.

**Family & Early Childhood Education
 Finance Division/EDUCATION**

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: Overview: Community Education;
 Extended Day; Adults with Disabilities;
 Hearing Impaired Adults; and Family Service
 Collaboratives.

**GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS
 AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS**

300N State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert
Agenda: HF78 (Rest) State primary election
 name changed, candidate party support
 required, primary election date changed, and
 election procedures, terms, and deadlines
 modified.
 HF85 (Anderson, I.) State primary election
 date changed, and candidate filing
 requirements modified.
 HF1088 (Hasskamp) Candidate name
 rotation allowed on ballots.
 HF1093 (Macklin) Metropolitan town
 election date change authorized.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson
Agenda: HF560 (Tuma) Workers' compensation
 benefit payment dispute arbitration provided.
 HF966 (Garcia) Employer wage and payment
 requirement definitions expanded to include
 the state.
 HF1147 (Leighton) Health care provider
 workers' compensation claim terminology
 use requirement provided.
 HF892 (Rukavina) Minimum wage increased,
 and large and small employer requirements
 specified.

MONDAY, March 10

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
 Finance Division/
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: HF413 (Rest) Job training income
 tax credit provided.
 HF679 (Gunther) Omnibus economic
 development appropriations bill.

**Higher Education
 Finance Division/EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Higher Education Services Office
 (HESO) budget.

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

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: Overview of governor's budget
 recommendations: Minnesota State
 Academies for the Deaf and Blind; and Lola
 and Rudy Perpich Minnesota Center for Arts
 Education.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
 NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Budget hearing: Pollution Control
 Agency.

HF1038 (Goodno) Employee wage protection act adopted, wage protection account established, and money appropriated.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: HF454 (Johnson, A.) Collector motor vehicle single license plate issuance and display allowed.

HF242 (Juhnke) Recreational equipment registration and taxation provisions modified related to slip in pickup truck campers, and vehicle registration information access restricted, vehicle dealer purchase receipt requirements modified.

HF906 (Kuisle) Farm machinery tax exemption provisions modified, and farm machinery speed limit increase provided.

HF457 (Juhnke) Transportation department federal construction project payment provisions modified, bridge inspection provisions clarified, procurement pilot project extended, municipal air transportation service assistance provided, technical corrections.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

7 p.m.

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: House budget resolution.

TUESDAY, March 11

8 a.m.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Agency budget presentations: Department of Corrections - Institutions, members report on individual institutions; Health Care, Rep. Andy Dawkins; Education, Rep. Mary Jo McGuire; Institution Support Service, Rep. Doug Swenson. County Issues, Reps. Sherry Broecker, Thomas Pugh. Legislative Relations and Juvenile Services, Reps. Mary Jo McGuire, Peg Larsen, Rich Stanek, Thomas Pugh. Community Services, Reps. Doug Swenson, Wes Skoglund, Sherry Broecker. Crime Victim and Prevention Services, Reps. Mary Jo McGuire, Peg Larsen, Rich Stanek, Andy Dawkins, Doug Swenson. Management Services, Reps. Michael Paymar, Peg Larsen. Employee Concerns, Rep. Thomas Pugh.

Subcommittee on Education Planning & Transitions/ EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Ruth Johnson,
Rep. David Tomassoni

Agenda: HFXXXX (Carlson) Lifework learning centers.

HFXXXX (Winter) Heron Lake/Okabena applied learning pilot program.

Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/ EDUCATION

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza

Agenda: HF961 (Greiling) Education supervisory personnel code of ethics established.

HF904 (Larsen) Student tobacco use reporting required.

HF891 (Harder) Independent School District No. 638, Sanborn, authorized to enter into an interdistrict cooperation agreement.

HF543 (Entenza) Child and family program outcome accountability mechanism established and working group established, report required, and money appropriated.

HF310 (Koppendrayner) Teachers employment contract provisions modified.

Transportation & Transit

Finance Division/ TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: HF20 (Lieder) State patrol operating appropriations to originate from state general fund, traffic and overweight vehicle fine deposit in general fund provided, and gasoline tax revenue non-highway use study required.

HF1015 (Lieder) Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation provided, bond issuance authorized, and appropriation increase provided.

HF873 (Pugh) Major transportation projects fund established, and eligibility requirements prescribed.

HF609 (Erhardt) Motor vehicle buyers to notify registrar of transfer within ten days of purchase, and fees and penalties imposed.

HF841 (Dehler) Firearms safety training designation provided on drivers' licenses and identification cards.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Continuation of March 10 agenda.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: Presentation of the 1997 Minnesota Tax Incidence Study, Department of Revenue. Public testimony on the report.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Rule 5.10 referral:

HF272 (Wejcman) Human services program

licensure requirements modified, and civil penalties imposed and modified.

HF450 (Rest) Legislative Audit Commission membership provisions modified.

HF756 (Hilty) State demographer population estimate procedures modified.

HF188 (Long) Coya Knutson memorials designed and constructed, and money appropriated.

HF747 (Kahn) State High School League governing board appointing authority provisions modified.

HF182 (Greiling) Legislative Coordinating Commission assigned responsibility for review of legislative rules.

Rule 5.10 bills may be added.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: HF159 (Jennings) Welfare reform; human services and public assistance programs and eligibility requirements modified, and money appropriated.

Housing & Housing Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: Rental property tax bills:

HF306 (Olson, E.) Rental residential property tax class rate reduced.

HF627 (Rest) Low-income housing property tax class uniform rules established, apartment and nonhomestead residential property tax class rates reduced, penalties imposed, rulemaking authorized, and money appropriated.

HF636 (Pugh) Residential rental property tax class rate reduced.

HF744 (Garcia) Apartment property improvements provided valuation exclusion for property tax purposes.

This Old Apartment.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: Informational hearing on the governor's tax initiatives for 1997.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Higher Education Asset Preservation and Renewal (HEAPR) reports from the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU). Capital Asset Preservation and Replacement Account, Department of Administration.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HF784 (Leighton) Unclaimed property uniform act adopted.

HF1032 (Entenza) Commerce department powers and duties specified, regulatory provisions modified, and technical

corrections provided.
Additional bills may be added.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

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

Agenda: HF427 (Dawkins) St. Paul, Ramsey County, Independent School District No. 625 joint property tax advisory committee duration extended.

HF662 (Anderson, I.) Local government unit apportionment permitted between two or more contiguous government units.

HF698 (Rukavina) St. Louis County division vote provided.

HF685 (Rest) Local government innovation and efficiency program established, and money appropriated.

HF809 (Winter) Regional economic development commissions regulated.

HF812 (Dawkins) Municipal and school district local performance aid eligibility requirements modified.

HF962 (Schumacher) Manufactured home park municipal zoning provisions modified.

HF995 (McElroy) Joint truth-in-taxation hearings allowed.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: HF1172 (Jennings)

Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, state goals provided.

HFXXXX (Jennings) Reorganizing and renaming the Legislative Electric Energy Task Force as the Legislative Commission on Utility Competition.

Additional bills may be added.

4 p.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: HF446 (Biernat) Driver's license issuance prohibited to persons under age 18 who have failed to receive a passing score on the state high school graduation test or meet other educational requirements.

5 p.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: HF367 (Davids) Omnibus mortuary science regulation bill.

HF58 (McElroy) Birth parent adoption or placement notification required, grandparent visitation provided, and adoption record privacy provisions modified.

HF257 (Dorn) Ambulance service licensing requirements established, emergency medical services statutory provisions relocated, and money appropriated.

HF496 (Slawik) Ambulance service financial data collection system established, and money appropriated.

HF511 (Otremba) Rural hospital grant and

loan program established, physician license surcharge eliminated, health care commission membership modified, and money appropriated.

HF673 (Vickerman) Nursing facility authorized to qualify for interim and settle up payment rates.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

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

Agenda: HF422 (McCollum) Contaminated land industrial development provided, and money appropriated.

HF692 (Tingelstad) Andover contaminated land cleanup funded, and money appropriated.

HF771 (Long) Contamination cleanup grant program requirements modified, redevelopment and job creation grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1237 (Dawkins) Great Northern Corridor Community Development Act adopted, and money appropriated.

WEDNESDAY, March 12

8 a.m.

Economic Development

Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Budget hearings: Minnesota Humanities Commission; and Minnesota Historical Society.

Higher Education

Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Continuation of March 10 agenda. HF1194 (Carlson) Student financial aid determination asset consideration provisions modified, and state grant determination formula provided.

HF671 (Entenza) Higher education state grant student share reduced, living and miscellaneous allowance increased, work-study provided for grant recipients, and money appropriated.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Local education finance bills.

Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF807 (Olson, E.) Property tax receipt, refund, investigation, local government performance aid eligibility, and aid reduction provisions modified.

HF994 (McElroy) Relative homestead

property tax treatment provided in cases of involuntary absences.

HF1027 (Milbert) Apartment property tax class rate reduced.

HF887 (Anderson, I.) Golf course property tax classification provisions modified.

HF1084 (Anderson, I.) Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF137 (Haas) Permanent and total disability homestead property tax classification requirements modified.

HF709 (Rest) Seasonal recreational residential property tax class rate reduced.

HF722 (Dawkins) Relocated residence improvements provided valuation exclusion.

HF636 (Pugh) Residential rental property tax class rate reduced.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Continuation of March 10 agenda.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Budget hearings: Office of Governor; Minnesota Racing Commission; Lawful Gambling Control Board; Minnesota State Lottery; Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation.

HF329 (Leighton) Uniform partnership act adopted, and money appropriated.

HF56 (Kahn) Minnesota electronic authentication act adopted; electronic signature and message transmission use, validity, and security provided, and penalties prescribed.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF948 (Wagenius) Mercury emissions consumer information act of 1997 adopted.

HF949 (Wagenius) Electric relay and device manufacturers deemed responsible for the waste management costs of these devices.

HF742 (Kahn) Incinerator mercury emission testing requirements modified.

HF707 (Rukavina) Toxics in products requirements and enforcement provisions modified.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: HF924 (Abrams) Health plan companies required to disclose certain information to enrollees relating to financial arrangements.

HF929 (Orfield) Patient protection act adopted, health care consumer assistance

program established, and money appropriated.

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

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Continuation of March 10 agenda.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: HF504 (Murphy) Probation defined, probation service provider jurisdiction clarified, and probation policies adopted.
HF93 (Skoglund) Probationer or parolee concealment or harboring provided criminal penalties.
HF350 (McGuire) Emergency 911 telephone call interruption prohibited, and criminal penalty provided.
HF94 (Skoglund) Emergency telephone call disruption or interference provided criminal penalties.
Additional bills may be added.

**Subcommittee on Land Sales/
ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Hausman
Agenda: HF424 (Koppendrayner) Mille Lacs County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.
HF975 (Hilty) Aitkin County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.
HF1098 (Swenson, D.) Washington County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.
HF1170 (Jennings) Chisago County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.
HF299 (Bakk) State park additions and name changes provided.

12:30 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins
Agenda: HF661 (Biernat) Landlord and tenant law recodified, clarified, and relocated.
HF686 (Paymar) Tenants provided right to seek police and emergency assistance, and penalties provided.
HF932 (Wejcman) Public nuisance definition expanded to include zoning and business licensure violations.
HFXXXX (Chaudhary) Relating to landlord tenant nuisance laws.
HFXXXX (Chaudhary) Relating to landlord tenant law, prohibiting the taking of fraudulent application fees.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros
Agenda: HF988 (Wejcman) Economic Security Department extended employment program procedures modified.

HF544 (Kahn) Economic Security Department extended employment program procedures modified.
HF960 (Rukavina) Blind Minnesotans board established, and money appropriated.

**Family & Early Childhood Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: Overview: CAPs; MEOG; Headstart; Weatherization; and energy programs.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: HF330 (Luther) School bus safety provided through bus monitors, seat belts and video cameras.
HF687 (Marko) Motorcycle helmet use admissibility into evidence prohibited.
HF90 (Lieder) Commercial motor vehicle drivers working as relief, replacement, or emergency snow plow operators exempted from drug and alcohol testing requirement.
HF1066 (Greenfield) Seat belt use failure violation provided primary offense designation.

2:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on
Business Regulation/
COMMERCE, TOURISM
& CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Al Juhnke
Agenda: HF761 (Wejcman) Cordial and liqueur brand labels prohibited from containing cartoons and caricatures, mandatory minimum civil penalty provided for sales of alcoholic beverages to minors, and home delivery of alcohol regulated.
HF916 (Entenza) Wine tasting event restrictions modified, and malt liquor consumption authorized at wine tasting events.
HF982 (Dawkins) Public Safety Department liquor control and gambling enforcement divisions consolidated, and technical corrections provided.
Additional bills may be added.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance
(TIF) Division/TAXES**

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson
Agenda: Continuation of 8 a.m. agenda.

**Subcommittee on Gambling/
REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Delmont
Agenda: HF613 (Pugh) Cribbage; card game tournaments permitted and maximum prize amount designated.
Additional bills may be added.

6 p.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn
Agenda: Continuation of March 11 agenda.

THURSDAY, March 13

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: Budget hearing: Department of Public Service.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Continuation of March 11 agenda.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Budget hearings: State Board of Investment; all retirement funds.

**Subcommittee on
Education Planning & Transitions/
EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Ruth Johnson,
Rep. David Tomassoni
Agenda: To be announced.

**Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/
EDUCATION**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza
Agenda: HF519 (Mares) Health and physical education instruction required, and health education included in teacher preparation programs.
HF884 (McElroy) School districts permitted to include attendance information on secondary student transcripts.
HF575 (Weaver) School districts authorized to hire nonlicensed teachers without board of teaching approval, and nonlicensed teacher background checks provided.
HF897 (Greiling) School district superintendent performance contracts authorized, and salary increases provided.
HF309 (Koppendrayner) School boards authorized to contract for instructional and non-instructional services.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Budget hearing; Department of Agriculture.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES
300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson
Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: HF120 (Kahn) Office of technology established as a state agency, North Star information access account created, and money appropriated.
Bills referred under Rule 5.10.
Continuation of March 6 and March 11 agendas.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn
Agenda: Continuation of March 11 agenda.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
Agenda: HF699 (Dawkins) St. Paul rental tax equity pilot project reinstated, property tax refunds provided, and money appropriated.
HF927 (Evans) Bridges program; rental housing assistance program for persons with a mental illness or families with an adult member with a mental illness appropriated money.
HF1091 (Mullery) Home equity conversion counseling grants provided, and money appropriated.

TAXES
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Continuation of March 11 agenda.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: Bridge Bonds, Rural Finance Authority. Railroad Improvement Bonds, Department of Transportation.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM
& CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim
Agenda: HF335 (Jennings) Building and construction contracts, payments and retainages, and mechanics liens regulated.
HF1115 (Tunheim) Sign contractor licensure required, rule adoption and penalties provided, and money appropriated. Additional bills may be added.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: HFXXXX (Rest) Stadium financing.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: HFXXXX (Jennings) Providing for development of utility rates for sale of electricity generated from renewable energy resources, and for recovery of the cost of electricity generated from renewable energy sources through automatic energy adjustment clauses.
Additional bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

FRIDAY, March 14

8 a.m.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) budget.
HF319 (Pelowski) Higher education institution gift income tax credit allowed.
HF655 (Opatz) Firefighter relief association trustee training video production authorized, and money appropriated.

**K-12 Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: Continuation of March 12 agenda.

**Transportation & Transit
Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Liedler
Agenda: Preliminary budget considerations.

10 a.m.

**Health &
Human Services
Finance Division/
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Continuation of March 10 agenda.

**Subcommittee on Data Practices/
JUDICIARY**
400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire
Agenda: HF1165 (Skoglund) Juvenile court

records and peace officer records on children data practice provisions modified, and money appropriated.
HF116 (Skoglund) Public assistance and housing agency data made available to law enforcement agencies.
HF583 (McGuire) Unwed mother government data access provisions modified.
HF227 (Goodno) Human Rights Department investigative data reclassification provided.
Additional bills may be added.

**Subcommittee on DWI/
JUDICIARY**
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Satveer Chaudhary
Agenda: HF918 (Skoglund) DWI; electronic alcohol monitor use mandated during pretrial release and following conviction for certain driving while intoxicated violations.
HF1061 (Chaudhary) DWI; criminal penalties, minimum sentences, and administrative sanctions increased for driving while intoxicated offenders with an alcohol concentration of 0.20 or more.
HF1004 (Entenza) DWI; alcohol presence determination test requirements modified, implied consent hearing process modified, accident injury reports required, and penalties provided.
HF506 (Swenson, D.) School bus safety regulated, student school bus conduct requirements developed, accident reporting provided, and penalties provided.

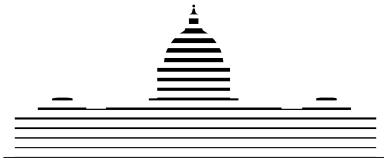
TAXES
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Presentation by authors of property tax reform proposals.

12 Noon

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: HF1190 (Rest) Economic efficiency and pollution reduction act adopted, and money appropriated.

**K-12 Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: Overview of governor's budget recommendations-Department of Children, Families and Learning agency budget.

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MINNESOTA INDEX

Women in politics

Women now serving in the Minnesota Legislature, of 201 seats	61
As a percentage of all members, 1997	30
Women in the Minnesota Legislature, as a percentage of all members, 1971	1
National average, women in state Legislatures, 1997	21
DFL women, current Minnesota members	39
Republican women, current Minnesota members	22
Women in the U.S. Senate, record high	9
Women in the U.S. House	51
Governors, nationwide, who are women	2
Women candidates for the Minnesota Legislature, 1996	105
Races in which two women opposed each other in the general election, 1996	15
Minnesota Districts in which women now compose the entire legislative delegation, (one senator, two representatives)	4
Number of the six statewide constitutional offices now held by a woman	3
Women elected to the Legislature prior to 1922	0
Women in state history who have served as Lieutenant Governor	3
Women who have served as governor, attorney general, or state treasurer	0
Number of the 447 county commissioner posts statewide held by women	66
School board seats statewide (of 2,593) held by women	780
Cities statewide	856
Women serving as mayors, 1995	107
City council seats statewide	3,477
Number of seats held by women, 1994	790
Women elected to represent Minnesota in Congress (Coya Knutson)	1
Women appointed to represent Minnesota in Congress (Muriel Humphrey)	1
Percentage of judges in Minnesota who are women	23
Number of Minnesota's seven Supreme Court justices who are women, 1997	3
State Supreme Courts besides Minnesota, dominated by women, 1993-1994	0
Statewide, positions on task forces, advisory councils and commissions appointed by the governor	1,597
Percent who are women	47

Source: Commission on the Economic Status of Women, Newsletter #217, December 1996/January 1997.

For more information



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SESSION WEEKLY

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SESSION WEEKLY

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Update

Back in 1923, Rep. Mabeth Hurd Paige felt welcomed when she and Rep. Hannah Johnson Kempfer were invited by a male legislator to sit next to him in the House chamber. Paige found out later that the seats were the worst places in the room to hear legislative debate. Reps. Myrtle Cain and Sue Metzger Dickey Hough did not get great seats either. Such was an introduction of the first four women elected to the Minnesota Legislature. They often endured insults from those who felt that making laws was a process for men only.

But the first four won. So did 118 others including the 61 females who now serve in the House and Senate. Even in the '20s, women played key roles. They authored bills to increase wages, blocked the Ku Klux Klan from wearing hoods, and promoted welfare for the indigent. Paige served for 22 years and became the first woman to chair a committee — Public Welfare and Social Legislation.

Kempfer served for 18 years, supporting conservation and the welfare efforts of her colleagues. Welfare bills were tough to pass because the committee was looked down on by men. "Mother Kempfer," as she was called, once made an impassioned speech in support of children. To complete silence in the chamber, Kempfer informed the body that she was an illegitimate child and was once an orphan. The bill passed.

Rep. Helen McMillan was the only female in the Legislature in 1971. During this term, the majority leader said that female employees could not wear pantsuits. McMillan minimized the issue by stating that his demand was "utterly ridiculous" and even threatened to wear them on the House floor in protest.

In 1973, she was joined in the House by five females. As a group, they laid the foundation for many others to seek office. Rep. Ernee McArthur served for only one term; Rep. Mary Forsythe served nine terms; Rep. Linda Berglin served in the House for four terms and continues to serve as a senator; Rep. Phyllis Kahn continues to serve and chairs Governmental Operations. The sixth legislator, Rep. Joan Growe, served for three terms before she was elected as the present Secretary of State.

By 1992, women in the Legislature were no longer uncommon. Nor did they have to leave the House floor for personal needs. They now had their own restroom off the Retiring room — something the visionary Cass Gilbert did not foresee. Reps. Connie Levi and Ann Wynia had already served as majority leaders. Dee Long was the newly elected Speaker of the House, making her one of two female presiding speakers in the country. Long now serves as chair of the Taxes Committee.

Seventy-four years later, women have earned their rightful niche in the Legislature. And when they are not serving as legislators, they are biophysicists, teachers, home-makers, visual artists, farm owners, CPAs, and for fun, two even play on the co-ed Capitol ice hockey team.

Much is attained when "... all persons share in government to the utmost."

— LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: Parents and children packed the Capitol rotunda for Early Childhood and Family Education's Parent Rally Day March 11.

— Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Highlights

Play ball . . .

Proposed Twins stadium bill in play in the House

After weeks of private debate over public financing of a new Minnesota Twins ballpark, Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) has put a stadium bill into play. **HF1367** received its first hearing in the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee March 13.

The bill retains many of the ideas proposed in the original deal announced earlier this session by Gov. Arne Carlson and the Twins. Snuffed out is the 10-cent-per-pack cigarette tax the governor proposed to pay for the stadium. "I didn't believe the cigarette tax could survive [in the Legislature]," Rest said last week.

Instead, Rest substitutes a 10-percent tax on professional sports team memorabilia and clothing with team logos sold in Minnesota. No estimates are as yet available on the revenue potential of the taxes, but Rest said it would probably not generate as much as the \$33 million annually expected from a cigarette tax.

The bill drops the retractable roof included in the original stadium design, which reduces the overall pricetag of \$424 million to \$330.9 million, according to Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission figures. Additionally, Minneapolis would be designated as the site for the new stadium, and the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome would be operated by the Minnesota Vikings.

Other provisions of the bill would implement or expand elements of the original deal.

The proposal would replace the Minnesota Sports Facilities Commission with a statewide body to oversee construction of the new facility and the public's 49-percent interest in the Twins. The 11-member commission, appointed by the governor, would have a broad charge to negotiate with the Twins. By mutual agreement, the commission and the Twins would determine the size, amenities, and design of the stadium, as well as the selection of the architect and general contractor. The commission would be empowered to negotiate with the city of Minneapolis and Hennepin County to provide the necessary infrastructure for the fa-



Before lawmakers could take a swing at voting on a 10-cent-per-pack cigarette tax increase to help pay for a new Twins outdoor baseball stadium, a bill heard March 13 replaced that tax with one on memorabilia and clothing bearing the logos of professional sports teams.

— Photo-illustration by Andrew Von Bank.

— Stadium painting by Terrence Fogarty, commissioned by Ed Villaume, Minnesotans for Outdoor Baseball.

cility. The commission also would be authorized to issue up to \$25 million in revenue bonds for preparing the specified site for construction.

The bill would require the Twins to sign a 30-year lease for the stadium and turn over 49 percent of their net operating profits to the commission. The commission would take part in the team's budgeting process and in setting performance criteria for the team and ballpark.

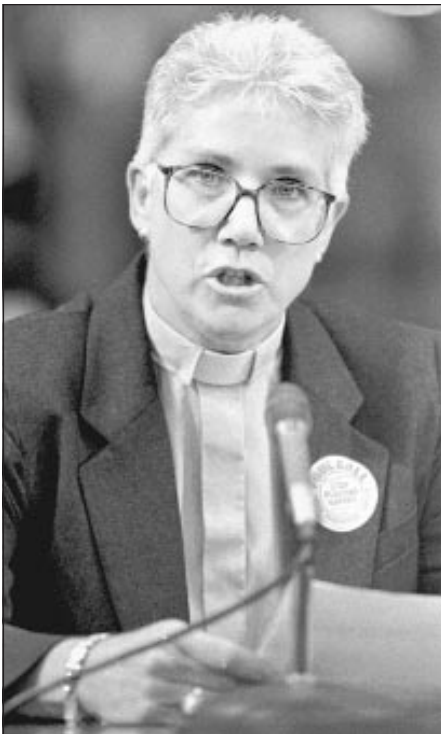
The Pohlads family, owners of the Twins, would make a gift of \$15 million to help finance the stadium and assume all liability for any operating losses of the team. The Twins also would dedicate \$25 million from the sale of naming rights and concessionaire payments to help pay for the building.

The bill also requires private sector participation for the deal to go forward. By Dec. 31, 1997, at least 80 percent of the private

boxes would have to be sold for a minimum of 10 years. (The existing design calls for 52 suites.) At least 80 percent of the club seats would have to be leased or sold for the opening season. (The proposed design calls for 4,900 such seats.) And the sale of 22,000 season tickets would have to be pledged. The new stadium would be slated to be completed in time for the season opener of 2001.

Under the bill, the Pohlads could sell their interest in the team to the state for \$105 million no sooner than five years after the first regular home game in the facility.

John Pacheco, vice chair of the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, presented the panel with an analysis of stadium options prepared by his group. "We concluded that there is a need for a new ballpark," Pacheco said. "The Metrodome was built as a football stadium. It hasn't worked well for the Twins financially."



Rev. Ricky Rask, of Fund Kids First, testified against a new outdoor baseball stadium for the Minnesota Twins before the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee March 13.



Frank Quilici, a former player and manager for the Minnesota Twins, testified in favor of a new outdoor baseball stadium for the ball club before the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee March 13.

The commission also recommends that the retractable roof be put back on the park, Pacheco said.

“This is not an issue of rich people or poor people,” said Jim Pohlad, representing the Twins ownership. “This is about keeping professional baseball in Minnesota.”

When questioned by Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley) about any plans to move the team, Pohlad insisted that no such plans exist. “We have not solicited any proposals.”

Twins President Jerry Bell told the panel that of the 28 teams in Major League Baseball, the Twins’ stadium revenues are the worst. “The top revenue-generating teams all have new outdoor ballparks.”

Stadium revenues from parking, suites, signage, concessions, and a strong season-ticket base have become the key growth areas for sports teams, Bell said. “In the Metrodome, not only are we last in parking and suite revenues, we have no parking or suite revenues,” he said.

Speaking against public funding of the ballpark was Rev. Ricky Rask of St. Paul representing Fund Kids First. “We believe

that when every child in Minnesota has a healthy neighborhood, a solid education, a nurturing home, and a good job prospect, then we can attend to new professional sports facilities,” Rask said.

Rask contrasted the stadium debate with the current discussion of welfare reform. “How can we talk about cutting food stamps for the elderly poor, and then talk about providing a public subsidy to an elderly billionaire?” she asked in reference to Twins owner Carl Pohlad.

Jon Commers of Fans Advocating iNtelligent Spending also spoke against the legislation. “The Minnesota Twins and the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission have made little effort to explore private financing for a new ballpark,” he said.

Commerz also questioned the expected economic benefit claimed for the new stadium. “Entertainment dollars in our area are finite. If more people go to Twins games, they are not spending their money elsewhere.”

The committee is expected to vote on the bill next week.

— Steve Compton

Other stadium bills

Three other stadium-related bills have been introduced in the House this session. Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope), chair of the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee and sponsor of the main stadium bill (HF1367), has said that she does not plan to hear the other bills in her committee. She has indicated some openness to incorporating ideas from the other bills into her legislation.

The other bills:

- **HF107:** Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) would sell the old Met Center land in Bloomington and use the revenue to pay off the Metrodome’s debt. The Vikings would then be offered the Metrodome for \$1. The bill also abolishes the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission.
- **HF936:** Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) would appropriate \$100 million to buy the Twins. The state would then seek a new private owner committed to keeping the team in the state. Any new stadium subsequently built would be with private money and tax revenues derived from the stadium.
- **HF1309:** Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth) would authorize the Minnesota State Lottery to create games based on the results of sporting events. Proceeds would go to fund a new stadium.



AGRICULTURE

Fairness for farmers

The House passed a resolution March 10 asking the federal government to provide relief for Minnesota dairy farmers currently feeling a financial squeeze. The vote was 127-2.

HF1067, sponsored by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), would require the state to send a resolution to Congress, the president, and the Department of Agriculture asking for changes in the federal milk pricing system.

Minnesota dairy farmers in recent months have seen a significant drop in the prices they get for their products, while the state’s consumers continue to pay exceptionally high retail prices for milk.

Low prices paid to farmers are driving them out of the dairy business, according to

Wenzel. The state is losing an average of about three dairy operations a day.

The proposed resolution calls for an end to a pricing system that is, according to the resolution, "profoundly unfair and discriminatory against Minnesota and Upper Midwest dairy producers."

It also requests that Minnesota and neighboring states be allowed to form a compact to guarantee dairy farmers a fair minimum price if a similar compact already formed by northeastern states is allowed to stand.

(See Jan. 31, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 4.)

HF1067 now goes to the Senate.

Scab research

A proposal to spend \$1.6 million to continue research into a plant disease that has cost Minnesota farmers millions was approved March 10 by the House Agriculture Committee.

HF748, sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), would provide funds to continue the search for scab-resistant varieties of wheat and barley.

Scab, the common name for *Fusarium head blight*, began causing problems for Minnesota wheat and barley farmers in the early 1990s. Estimated losses caused by the disease from 1993 to 1996 totaled about \$1.2 billion.

"It has cost us an awful lot of money, and it has cost farmers an awful lot of heartache," said Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus), who is co-sponsoring the bill.

The state has spent nearly \$1.5 million on scab research since 1995. Tunheim's bill matches Gov. Arne Carlson's budget recommendation for continued research conducted through the University of Minnesota.

The bill now moves to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

Measuring foul odors

The House Agriculture Committee approved a bill March 10 that would provide funding for an effort to measure foul odors.

Specifically, the bill (**HF913**) would provide \$400,000 for University of Minnesota researchers to create an odor rating system to compare odors of livestock facilities.

The rating system would be used to develop property setback requirements and to examine management practices and technologies used to control livestock odor.

Odor problems associated with livestock feedlots and manure lagoons have become

an increasing concern in rural Minnesota, where questions have been raised about the health effects of such odors.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls), now moves to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.



CRIME

Making notification work

The House Judiciary Committee on March 10 approved a series of bills that would refine and strengthen the new Minnesota Community Notification Act. That law authorizes local law enforcement agencies to disclose information to the public concerning potentially dangerous sex offenders who are about to be released from prison or a treatment facility.

HF541, sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), is, in part, a response to the first Minnesota case in which the community was notified of a released sex offender. According to John Curry of the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, confusion was caused by the way information about the offender's criminal history filtered to the public in the Egan, Minn., case. Because many of the offender's crimes were committed as a juvenile, authorities were unclear about which information they could provide. The initial lack of information caused many to ask why the offender was subject to the notification law.

"Our office received quite a few calls from people very interested in this offender, but we were unable to provide all the information. People were perplexed as to why he was so dangerous," Curry said.

HF541 would make it clear that authorities have the right to release all information that the Department of Corrections (DOC) uses to write its report about an offender, including any offenses committed as a juvenile. The reports are written upon release to assess an offender's risk level and are sent to relevant law enforcement agencies.

Further, **HF541** would clarify the process of notification. It would require that a residential treatment facility notify appropriate authorities within 48 hours of finalizing an offender's relocation plan, and that those authorities give local law enforcers the information within five days of receiving the notice.

The committee also approved **HF472**, sponsored by Bishop, which appropriates

\$500,000 from the general fund to help local law enforcement agencies cover the costs of community notification. In addition to the initial notification, according to Will Alexander of the DOC, agencies would have to repeat the process in any community into which an offender moves for up to 10 years after being released or placed on probation.

The extent of the information and to whom it is provided is determined by the offender's risk level, which is set by a panel before the person's release into the community. A Level I offender's release will cause local law enforcers, victims and witnesses to be notified. Level II offenders generate notification to the above, as well as public and private educational institutions, day care facilities, and any other facilities that serve individuals likely to be victimized by the offender. Level III offenders will cause members of the community whom the offender is likely to encounter to be notified.

In a third bill (**HF95**), the committee added sex offenders released from federal prisons to those covered by the notification act.

"When the federal government passed the law [mandating that states develop notification plans] they left a group out — their own prisoners," said Rep. Wes Skoglund, (DFL-Mpls), committee chair and the bill's sponsor.

While sex offenders make up a small percentage of federal inmates, Skoglund pointed out that they can roam freely upon release, without a requirement that authorities inform communities of their presence.

HF95 says the DOC shall collaborate with federal authorities to develop a community notification plan regarding sex offenders released from federal prisons who intend to live in Minnesota.

All three bills will be added to an omnibus crime prevention bill to be voted on later this session.

Abetting offenders

It may seem a given that aiding, abetting, or harboring a criminal is illegal, but in truth, that's not always the case.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) discovered a loophole in the law that prevents authorities from filing charges against someone who harbors an offender who is on probation.

Skoglund, chair of the House Judiciary Committee, sponsored a bill (**HF93**) that specifies helping a felon on supervised release, probation, or parole to avoid or escape arrest is a felony crime with a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a \$5,000

fine. The committee approved the bill at its March 12 meeting.

While current law makes it a crime to help someone being sought for a felony, it is silent about abetting a convicted felon on probation who is being sought for suspected probation violations. Violations, for example, could mean failing to keep meetings with a probation officer; being spotted at a crime scene; flunking a urine test for drug use, or violating an order prohibiting contact with children.

Authorities have discovered the hard way that someone can, without penalty, help the offender elude authorities.

“What a lot of people didn’t know is that if a person is on probation or parole and you want to aid them in eluding authorities, it’s not illegal,” explained Skoglund. “They could be a murderer or rapist and there’s no law against helping them hide.”

HF93 will become part of the omnibus crime bill to be voted on later this session.

Offenders crossing borders

Every state has laws making it a crime to violate court-ordered probation or parole, such as leaving the state without permission. But not every state has a law making it illegal for the same offender to enter their borders.

That may change in Minnesota with **HF29**, sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund, (DFL-Mpls), which was approved by the House Judiciary Committee March 10.

The bill would make it a felony, punishable by up to five years in prison, for anyone on parole or probation in another state to

live in Minnesota without permission under the interstate compact, an agreement between states regulating the transfer of offenders. States have a right to refuse or accept an offender under the compact.

According to the Minnesota Department of Corrections, in 1996, Minnesota accepted 871 requests from other states to accept probationers and parolees, and rejected 515. The state sent 648 probationers and parolees to other states, and 316 requests were rejected.

Most commonly, a request from another state is on behalf of a Minnesota resident who committed a crime in another state, according to Kent Grandlienard of the Department of Corrections. “They’re coming back home,” he said.

Minnesota’s border states — Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota — request the majority of transfers to Minnesota, with Illinois, Texas, and California providing another sizeable chunk. Those states also receive the most requests from Minnesota.

The purpose of the bill, however, is to deal with those offenders who choose not to heed the decisions of the authorities. The offender most at issue is the smalltime criminal, Skoglund said. “If it’s a high-level offender, the other state is going to want them back anyway,” Skoglund said. “But if it’s a low-level offender, the other state may not care. It may be glad to be rid of him.” The new law would give states an additional tool to deal with those individuals should they re-offend in Minnesota, he added.

HF29 will be added to the omnibus crime prevention bill to be voted on later this session.

Calling 911

Two bills that would prohibit interference with attempts to make 911 emergency phone calls were approved March 12 by House committees.

HF350, sponsored by Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights), responds to a growing concern about domestic abuse situations. Mike Buske, a Plymouth police officer, told the House Judiciary Committee that he has encountered numerous situations in which a woman has been blocked in her effort to call 911 during a violent domestic dispute.

“I respond to domestic calls every day,” Buske said. “The most important thing a victim can do is call police. The act of an abuser interfering with an attempt for help should be penalized. Under current law, the abuser has nothing to lose by stopping the attempt and everything to gain.”

HF350 says that interrupting, disrupting, or otherwise interfering with a 911 call is a gross misdemeanor that could result in a year in jail and a fine of up to \$3,000.

One of the benefits of the law, said Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), would be to add the crime to any other offenses of the abuser, which could, down the line, result in more severe sentencing for future violations.

In a related bill, the House Judiciary Committee’s Civil and Family Law Division approved **HF686**, which would prohibit landlords from discouraging tenants from making 911 calls.

Under the bill, a landlord could not include a provision in a lease that bars or limits a tenant’s right to call for police or emergency assistance and may not penalize a tenant for doing so.

Bill sponsor Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) said the problem is growing as landlords try to stay clear of ordinances that would penalize them for having too many police visits to their properties. In the most frequent scenario, Paymar said, a woman has been warned by a landlord not to call police to respond to domestic abuse.

“Landlords were putting language in their leases that a resident could not call police if they were being assaulted, and that it would be grounds for eviction. It puts women in a very dangerous position,” Paymar said.

According to Cass Welsh, of the attorney general’s office, the warnings have been in written and verbal form. Her office has heard from at least 30 women who have been threatened with eviction for making the calls, and some have been evicted, she said.

Committee members pointed out that

Lowering the limit



Janie and Jim Case of St. Joseph, Minn., told members of the House Judiciary Committee’s DWI Subcommittee March 7 about the 1994 death of their 14-year-old daughter, Lisa, framed picture, caused by a driver whose blood alcohol level was 0.09. They testified in support of a bill that would lower the legal blood alcohol limit from 0.10 to 0.08 for adults.

while prohibiting a tenant from making a 911 call is already illegal, some landlords have made tenants think they have to follow such a prohibition, and that the added legislation is necessary.

HF686 now heads to the House Judiciary Committee. **HF350** will be added to the omnibus crime bill to be voted on later this session.



DEVELOPMENT

Tax credits for training

A bill that would give employers who hire workers from certain job training programs a tax credit was approved by the House Economic Development Finance Division March 10.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope), would provide \$1.7 million in tax credits over five years.

She told committee members that the measure (**HF413**) should help in the welfare reform effort by training disadvantaged people and helping them become self-sufficient.

Companies would pay nonprofit job training programs — such as Minneapolis-based Twin Cities Rise — to hire program graduates. In the case of Twin Cities Rise, the charges would amount to \$12,000 to hire the trained employee and \$9,000 per year for up to two years, to retain the employee.

Of those amounts, the bill would grant the employer a state tax credit of \$8,000 for initially hiring the worker and \$6,000 per year (for two years) for retaining the worker. The maximum tax credit per employee would be \$20,000 which means the bill would provide credits for about 85 employees.

The bill also states that the jobs must pay at least \$9 per hour in the first year and \$10 per hour in the second and third year.

Rest said that she included in her bill a sunset of the tax credit in 2002 so the program could be reviewed to find out if it works.

Steve Rothschild, president of Twin Cities Rise, a nonprofit work skills development program, said the credits would not only help Minnesota with welfare reform, but provide the marketplace with skilled workers in high-demand areas and the state with more tax-paying workers.

Twin Cities Rise has been in existence for about two years and will place its first employees this year. Rothschild said his organization already has working relationships with employers and has discussed placement and retention fees in advance.

Participants, he said, are trained to work in a variety of high-demand fields such as computers, precision machine operation and repair, and health care services.

Division chair Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) noted that the program seemed “fairly pricey” and asked Rothschild where the expenses come in.

Rothschild explained that the program involves assessing the skills and the needs of the participant, identifying job interests and learning disabilities, teaching basic skills and language classes when necessary, one-on-one coaching with a work skills coach on such issues as conflict resolution and personal responsibility, and in some cases, paying for diploma or degree programs at a technical or community college.

He told the committee that everyone is required to work while participating in Twin Cities Rise whether that means folding laundry or custodial work. Their pay, he added, may also be supplemented by the program until the participant is hired in the marketplace.

Some lawmakers didn't see the wages required under the bill as justified.

Rep. Doug Reuter (R-Owatonna) questioned whether the \$9-per-hour starting wage was too high and possibly a way to begin setting a new, higher minimum wage across the state. “To me this seriously flaws this program.”

Rep. Michelle Rifenberg (R-La Crescent) agreed. She said her husband hires college graduate microbiologists and they earn \$9 or \$10 per hour.

HF413 is now on its way to the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee.



EDUCATION

No license for truants

A bill advancing in the House would allow high school students to maintain driving privileges as long as they stay in school.

The House Education Committee on March 11 rejected a proposal to require high school students to pass graduation tests before becoming eligible to receive a driver's license.

However, the committee approved a bill that would allow the state to suspend the licenses of 16- and 17-year-old dropouts and truants.

When introduced, **HF446**, sponsored by Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), called for driving privileges to be linked to the state's mini-

num standards tests for reading and math.

Under the original bill, students under 18 years old would have been required to pass the tests, which are first given in the eighth grade, in order to be eligible for a driver's license.

The committee removed the testing requirements from the proposal. Biernat offered separate amendments to put the testing provisions back into the bill and to form a working group to study the issue, but both amendments were defeated.

Opposition to the testing provisions came from several legislators concerned about the impact such a law would have on students who are from low-income families and already struggle at school and at home.

Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) said the bill would have a more significant impact on low-income students, especially those who depend on driving to get to their jobs.

The bill also drew opposition from students, parents, teachers unions, and school officials during earlier committee hearings. (See March 7, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 7.)

Biernat said the testing provisions would provide additional motivation for students by tapping into the enthusiasm most young people have for getting a driver's license.

As it now stands, the bill would affect only students who are 16 or 17 years old and do not regularly attend classes. The state would be allowed to suspend the license of students who withdraw from school, are dismissed, or are habitually truant.

Students who are dismissed (suspended or expelled) from school for more than five days would have their licenses suspended for 30 days for a first-time dismissal and for 90 days for each subsequent dismissal.

Dropouts and habitual truants would lose their licenses until they turn 18.

The bill now moves to the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

Attracting superintendents

A House subcommittee has approved two bills that aim to help school districts attract and retain quality superintendents.

HF897 would lift the state's salary cap for school superintendents, and **HF937** would double the amount of time districts are allowed to keep interim superintendents.

Both bills were approved March 13 by the Quality Initiatives Subcommittee of the House Education Committee.

Current state law caps the salary of school superintendents at 95 percent of the governor's salary of \$114,506 per year. School

districts have complained that the cap hurts their ability to compete with districts in other states for top superintendent candidates.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), who is sponsoring **HF897**, said the existing salary cap amounts to state "micro-managing" of decisions that should be made by local school boards.

"The intent of this is not to pay superintendents huge amounts," Greiling said. "It's to have local control."

Describing the proposal as "needed but unpopular," Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee) said there is no doubt Minnesota districts must compete for superintendents with those in other states that have no such salary limits.

"The pool of experienced urban superintendents across the nation is a pretty small pool," Kelso said.

Greiling's bill also would allow districts to negotiate superintendent contracts that include required performance results, such as improvements in student achievement and curriculum.

Bob Meeks, a lobbyist for the Minnesota School Boards Association, said the bill would provide local control and would assist districts facing an increasingly competitive market for qualified superintendents.

"It puts accountability where it should be," he said.

Meeks also supported **HF937**, which would double the current 90-working-day limit on the tenure of interim superintendents and lift a provision in current law that allows individuals to fill the interim role no more than three times.

Bill sponsor Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) said his proposal would allow districts more time to search for permanent superintendents and would ensure that the best people are allowed to serve on an interim basis.

Both bills now move to the full Education Committee.

Busted for tobacco

Teachers would be required to report students who use, or are suspected of using, tobacco products on school premises, under a bill advancing in the House.

HF904, sponsored by Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland), was approved March 11 by the House Education Committee's Quality Initiatives Subcommittee.

The bill would expand current law requiring teachers to report students whom the teachers know or have reason to believe are using or possessing alcohol or controlled substances.

Also, local law enforcement agencies would be required to report the names of students who violate laws governing the use and possession of tobacco products. Law enforcement is already required to report drug and alcohol violations.

"We think [the bill] sends a message to young people that tobacco violations will be dealt with seriously," said SuzAnn Stenso-Velo, a Washington County public health specialist who testified in support of the bill.

Reports of tobacco use or suspected use would be made to the school's chemical abuse preassessment team, a group designed to provide intervention for students facing troubles with alcohol or drugs.

Chuck Briscoe, principal of Stillwater Area High School, said the bill would put "a little teeth" in school efforts to combat tobacco use. Schools have anti-tobacco education programs in place, he said, but the number of violations of tobacco restrictions continues to increase.

Officials from teachers unions expressed some reservations about the bill.

"We only have so much time in a day," said Cheryl Furrer, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Education Association. "Do we want to

spend the time reporting on tobacco use or do we want to spend the time planning and working on strategies that will improve learning?"

Furrer questioned a provision that would require tobacco use or suspected use to be reported "immediately," and that teachers could be held liable if they fail to make such reports.

Larsen said she is willing to make changes to the bill to ensure that teachers are not held liable for failing to make reports related to tobacco use.

The bill now moves to the House Education Committee.



EMPLOYMENT

Minimum wage increase

A bill to raise Minnesota's minimum wage won approval from the House Labor-Management Relations Committee March 10.

HF892, sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), would raise Minnesota's minimum wage for large businesses from \$4.25 to \$5 per hour on April 1, 1997, and to \$5.40 on Sept. 1, 1997. For small businesses, the wage would go from \$4 to \$4.75 on April 1 and to \$5.15 on Sept. 1. (In both cases, that's 25 cents per hour more than the federal minimum wage which was increased last fall.)

The threshold separating a large from a small business also would change under the bill, from \$362,500 to \$500,000 in annual gross sales. This would conform with federal definitions for minimum wage purposes.

The bill would prohibit employers from paying the reduced wage rate to employees under 20 years of age, which is allowed under federal law. It also lacks provisions for tip credits contained in the federal law. Under federal law, tipped employees can be paid a minimum of \$2.13 per hour.

Beth Hargarten of the Department of Labor and Industry spoke against the bill. "The governor would like to see the state law conform to the federal law," she said. "That means the same wage rate, same employer's definition, [same] allowance for training, and [same] allowance for a tip credit."

Tom Newcomb, of the Hotel and Restaurant Association, spoke against the bill and told the panel that his organization supported a tip credit amendment sponsored by Rep. Hilda Bettermann (R-Brandon). The amendment, which would have set different rates for tipped employees, failed.

Newcomb said a survey conducted by his

ECFE rally



Fifteen-month-old Heleen van Evert found the lap of Susan Peterson, St. Paul, a cozy spot during a rally for Early Childhood and Family Education (ECFE) March 11 in the Capitol rotunda. ECFE is a community-based program that provides learning experiences for both parents and their children to promote good childhood development. The rally was intended to heighten legislators' awareness of the program's positive impact on life-long learning and to encourage policymakers to support increased funding.

organization indicated that restaurant servers earn an average of \$14 per hour when tips are included.

Jaye Rykunyk of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, Local 17, challenged that figure, which was gathered by asking employers to estimate what they think their employees are earning including tips.

Rykunyk offered a survey of Local 17's 1,000 members, which is based on copies of employee W2 tax forms. "We came up with an average wage of \$7.80 per hour," she said. "We do have a few servers who make very good wages in very exclusive restaurants, but they are not the norm."

Rykunyk also pointed out that Minnesota has not had a tip credit in place for the past 10 years and business has not been hurt. "During that time the [hotel and restaurant] industry has expanded by 27 percent," she said.

HF892 now moves to the House floor.

Employee wage protection

When a group of restaurant workers in Moorhead, Minn., showed up for work one Monday morning, they found the doors locked and an "out of business" note awaiting them. They had neither notices nor final paychecks from their employer. That incident set in motion a piece of legislation (**HF1038**) that would offer such workers relief.

Sponsored by Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), the Employee Wage Protection Act would create a special state fund in the Department of Economic Security to ensure payment of employee wages when an employer goes out of business. Employees could receive wages for up to four weeks work or \$2,000, whichever is less.

"Many of these workers live paycheck to paycheck," Goodno told the House Labor-Management Relations Committee, which approved the bill March 10. "This type of situation creates a crisis in their lives."

The Department of Economic Security also would be authorized to sue recalcitrant employers for amounts paid from the account, plus costs, and a 25-percent penalty. No appropriation to the fund is specified in the bill at this time. According to Goodno, when money is appropriated, it will be used to create a revolving fund which can be replenished with money collected from employers.

The bill now moves to the Governmental Operations Committee.



ENERGY

Nuclear Responsibility Act

Minnesota would have its own nuclear regulatory panel under a measure approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee March 10.

The Minnesota Nuclear Responsibility Act of 1997 (**HF880**), sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), would establish the state's Nuclear Waste Council. The 23-member group, composed of state officials, legislators, and Indian tribal officials would be charged with establishing a process to develop technically sound transportation and siting criteria for the storage of high-level radioactive waste produced in Minnesota.

The council also would recommend site criteria for the storage of high-level radioactive waste in Minnesota, including compensation for residents of the affected area. Its activities would be paid for by a special assessment to Northern States Power Co. (NSP) customers.

Minnesota has two nuclear power plants — at Prairie Island and Monticello — that produce high-level radioactive waste. Both are owned and operated by NSP.

The issue of where to store nuclear waste and how to safely get it there stems from the actions of the 1994 Legislature, which authorized nuclear waste to be stored in dry casks outside the Prairie Island plant. The adjacent Prairie Island Mdewakanton Sioux community strongly objected to the plan. Largely at issue was how long the waste would remain at the site.

The Legislature also required NSP to find an alternative storage site in Goodhue County. NSP tried, but after protests from county residents, the state's Environmental Quality Board (EQB) halted the alternative site plan in Oct. 1996, also citing transportation concerns.

HF880 would repeal the alternate storage facility requirement of the 1994 legislation, but would make NSP demonstrate to the EQB that the dry casks it is using are capable of being safely unloaded.

"NSP is disappointed and dismayed to see this bill," said Cathy Gjerme, a senior engineer with NSP. "We have complied with the state's alternative siting process which was stopped by the EQB. That process cost our rate payers and your constituents \$3 million. This new plan also will cost NSP rate payers a lot of money. . . . It is redundant with other federal and state agencies and programs. And NSP is dismayed to see that we would not be represented on this council."



Joe Campbell, a member of the Prairie Island Environmental Protection Committee, testified March 10 in favor of a bill that would create Minnesota's own nuclear regulatory panel to deal with nuclear waste storage during a hearing of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

The federal government already has a plan in place to accept waste storage by January 1998, Gjerme said. "We support that process."

Since 1982, the federal government has been seeking a long-term, high-level radioactive waste storage site. Because no state has agreed to accept such a facility, no permanent site has been announced.

"There is no such thing as a contractual agreement with the federal government," said Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls). "They can do whatever they want. We need to admit that we are stuck with NSP's nuclear waste and we have to deal with it."

"I'm amazed that NSP is not supporting this bill," said committee chair Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth). "It is in your best interest."

HF880 now moves to the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee.

Need to know the House File number or the chief author of a bill?
Call the House Index Office at
(612) 296-6646

Taxing wind energy

The House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee approved a bill March 11 that would increase the property tax burden on wind energy facilities.

Current law exempts most wind-generating facilities from property taxes in an effort to encourage investment in what was considered a fledgling industry. But Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), sponsor of **HF799**, said that the tax policy encourages the industry at the expense of the communities in which the facilities are located — mostly rural, cash-strapped areas. The measure simply brings those facilities into balance with how other states tax wind-power plants, Winter said, and with how other energy-producing facilities are taxed. The tax could provide those communities with hundreds of thousands of dollars in badly needed revenue, he said.

“They’re some of the poorest counties in the state,” Winter said. “The bill reflects more of the actual value of the facilities, and allows us to pass the costs to the actual users, just like the rest of the world does.” (Affected utility companies would be allowed to recover the increases through their rates.)

Winter said that rural areas were made to believe that the plants would be a revenue boon. No boon has happened, however, especially compared to the impact other industries, particularly power industries, would normally have.

But Rep. Mike Osskopp, (R-Lake City) said that the tax would discourage the use of the environmentally friendly energy source. “If you want to encourage the industry and discourage nuclear power, why treat it the same as nuclear power?” he asked.

Local officials, however, would welcome the added revenue.

“You can add incentives [to build] in other ways,” said Randy Jorgenson of the Southwest Regional Development Commission. “Exempt corporate income, or sales tax, [for example]. Incentives don’t have to be at the expense of local government.”

Audrey Zibelman of Northern States Power Co. said her company doesn’t necessarily own the wind-energy facility on which it would pay the added taxes and, in contrast to Winter’s figures, said Minnesotans already pay more for wind-generated electricity than those in other states.

The amount that would show up on a customer’s bills, however, would be relatively small — about \$1 per year — but would vary between customers, Zibelman said.

“The last thing we want to do is penalize

people for locating wind generators in Minnesota,” she said. “The bill clearly goes in the wrong direction.”

HF799 would divide the facilities into three categories, each taxed differently.

Small-scale wind systems — those that produce two or less megawatts of energy — would be tax-exempt, as they are under current law.

The bill would allow the foundation and support pads in mid-sized systems — those producing between two and 12 megawatts of energy — to be taxed at market value, and protective structures would be taxed at 30 percent of their market value. Other equipment, such as turbines, blades, and transformers, would be exempt.

Large-scale wind energy systems would be taxed at 30 percent of market value for all of their wind energy conversion property, including the foundation and support pad, support and protective structures, and related equipment. Large-scale systems produce more than 12 megawatts of energy.

The provisions apply to wind energy systems built after Jan. 1, 1991, and would affect taxes payable in 1998 and thereafter.

HF799 heads next to the House Taxes Committee.



Mercury emissions regulated

Three bills addressing mercury emissions were approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee March 12.

Edward Swain, a research scientist with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), explained to members that mercury is a potent neurotoxin that can permanently damage the nervous systems of developing fetuses and children. Since mercury is an element, it does not degrade in the environment. Airborne mercury eventually returns to earth and contaminates the watershed. It also accumulates in animal tissue as it moves up the food chain, Swain said. Consumption of fish from 90 percent of Minnesota’s lakes is currently restricted because of mercury contamination.

The Mercury Emissions Consumer Information Act of 1997 (**HF948**), sponsored by Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), would require electricity producers to provide the MPCA with statements of mercury emissions from their operations. The disclosure must be made quarterly for the first year the act is in effect and annually thereafter.

Patty Leaf, an environmental scientist for

Northern States Power Co. (NSP), told the panel that providing quarterly emissions data for all of NSP’s plants would be difficult, but the annual reporting requirement would not be a problem. The first disclosure deadline the bill would set is July 1, 1997.

The measure now goes to the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee.

A second bill (**HF949**), also sponsored by Wagenius, adds “electrical relays and other electrical devices” to a list of products from which mercury must be removed for reuse or recycling prior to disposal. “When we originally passed the bill to regulate mercury recycling in products, we left out electrical relays,” said Wagenius.

The law currently regulates such devices as thermostats and switches, which contain mercury. A sample relay containing 40 grams of mercury was passed around for committee members to examine. “These relays are showing up in the waste stream and need to be included [in the law],” Wagenius said.

HF949 now moves to the House Governmental Operations Committee.

Mercury testing procedures will be relaxed for incinerators with a proven track record of low emissions under a third bill.

HF742, sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), requires smokestack testing for mercury every three months on new incinerators. The bill allows incinerator operators with emissions below 50 percent of their permitted mercury limit for three consecutive years to cut back testing to once every three years. Most mercury in the environment originates from incinerator smokestacks.

“The purpose of this bill is to reward superior performance,” said Peter Torkelson, a staff engineer for the MPCA.

HF742 next goes to the Governmental Operations Committee.

Steam plant on the move

Urged by officials from the University of Minnesota and the city of Minneapolis, the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee approved a bill March 12 that would provide the school with \$6 million to relocate its obsolete steam plant.

The university, which now has more than 18 million square feet of buildings to heat, has long sought a solution to its need for a modernized system. The school’s Board of Regents had planned to retrofit the existing plant to meet the demand, calling the idea the quickest and easiest answer to a problem that needed an immediate response.

Minneapolis officials, on the other hand, have long coveted the river's east bank site for recreational use. During the last session, they asked the Legislature for \$34 million to help fund the plant's relocation. The new request, said **HF544** sponsor Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), "is the result of significant negotiations that took place over the summer between the university and the city's people."

The state money would become available only after the city and the school secure enough funding to complete the \$155 million relocation. According to documents supplied by the university, the shortfall stands at more than \$40 million — provided that **HF544** wins final approval from the Legislature — compared to the cost of updating the existing plant.

Gov. Arne Carlson has already come out in favor of relocating the plant and turning the riverfront into a recreational area.

Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, though, told the committee that relocating the plant would do much more than open the river's east bank up to recreational uses: It would become an engine of economic development.

"The city could grow 8,000 jobs in the area," Sayles Belton said, "and the university would be able to sell energy to businesses in the southeast industrial area."

The city needs the \$6 million, she continued, to clean up and deliver the new site to the university.

HF544 now moves to the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.



GAMBLING

Harmless fun or gambling?

Winter lasts a long time in Minnesota, and you can't blame a group of senior citizens if they get through it by playing a few card games.

That was part of the message members of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee's Subcommittee on Gambling heard March 12.

The subcommittee approved **HF613**, sponsored by Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul), which classifies some games as social skill games, as opposed to gambling. Committee chair Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington) said the committee's task was to create a bill that allowed the games to continue without expanding gambling law.

The games in question — cribbage, pinochle, euchre, gin, 500, whist, and others — are generally held at VFW posts, American Legion halls, Moose and Elk lodges, Knights of Columbus halls, and senior citizen centers. Often, a fee is charged for participation in the games, and the winner or winners in the games may win part of the door fee. Even so, the games are harmless fun, said a group of proponents from around the state. Money, they said, is not a part of it.

That, however, has not kept the games from being reported to the Department of Public Safety's Gambling Enforcement Division, which has warned the groups to stop. A group of cardplayers from throughout the

state lobbied the committee to adopt a bill that would allow them to continue.

Importantly, said Arnold Groskreutz, a senior citizen from Wells, Minn., the host organization does not keep any money. "One hundred percent goes back to the players," he said. That is one key difference between their games and gambling, he said.

Further, the committee was told, the games require skill, unlike gambling, which generally involves chance.

"These are tournaments and are different from gambling," said Dot Magnuson, of White Bear Lake. "People at the games are senior citizens. They're not spending their rent money. They're just having fun. We senior citizens can't do a lot of things as well as we used to, but we can play cribbage better than ever."

HF613 says that gambling rules do not apply to tournaments or contests of cribbage, euchre, pinochle, gin, 500, smear, or whist, on the condition that the promoter or organizer of the event receives no share of the entry fees, wagers, or winnings.

"I think it's a shame that we're at a point in Minnesota that we have to enact language like this at the Legislature," said Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater).



GOVERNMENT

Price of Government

The House of Representatives adopted a Price of Government resolution March 13 containing revenue targets aimed at reducing the financial burden on Minnesota taxpayers over the next four years.

Expressed as a percentage, the Price of Government figure shows the maximum amount of personal income to be collected in taxes and other revenue to pay for state and local government services. **SR7**, approved by a 68-64 vote, would cap the taxpayers' contribution at 18.2 percent in 1996 and 1997, 17.8 percent in 1998 and 1999, and 17.7 in 2000 and 2001.

Members approved the numbers, as required by the state's Price of Government law, after voting down two Republican-led efforts to lower them.

The Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy had approved **SR7** earlier in the week at its March 11 meeting.

Local governments use the price of government primarily to determine the size of their local levies, Keith Carlson, a Senate tax analyst, told the commission. In addition, Carlson said, the Legislature can use the

King singers



Jeff Kobernusz, left, dressed as a Norse King, joined others from the "Madrigal Group" from Winona State University to sing medieval songs in the Capitol rotunda March 12.

figures to assess the efficacy of tax reform proposals.

The ceilings, though, are by no means binding. Indeed, Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Park), who chairs the commission, said March 11 that the percentages in **SR7** emerged as a by-product of Gov. Arne Carlson's budget process.

"The fact is, this is just some sort of goal that is non-binding," Carruthers said, noting that Carlson's price-of-government number dropped two-tenths of a percent with February's revenue forecast. "A lot changed between January and February, and a lot will change between now and the end of the session."

Severe weather relief

The House passed a revised plan on March 13 to help cities and counties recoup some of their weather-related costs from the winter of 1996-1997. The vote was 131-1.

Sponsored in the House by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), **HF100** provides \$20 million in grant money to cities, counties, and towns for recent severe weather-related matters. Much of the appropriations would be matched by federal emergency funds.

The state funds will be divided into three parts: \$6 million to the 54 Minnesota counties declared disaster areas; \$11 million divided between all counties; and \$3 million to help pay for anticipated spring floods.

An additional \$16 million has been earmarked for road repairs by the Department of Transportation, plus \$95,000 for overtime costs for state troopers.

The bill was criticized by some members for offering too little in relief, especially for floods, but Wenzel said the committees that handled the bill fought hard to target the money where it would be needed most.

HF100 now awaits the governor's signature.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Aid for college students

The House Education Committee's Higher Education Finance Division heard two bills on March 12 that would substantially increase financial aid to low- and middle-income college students.

The formula prescribed in **HF1194**, sponsored by Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), would result in maximum combined grants of more than \$8,000 for the poorest

students compared to about \$6,000 now. A central element of Carlson's bill would separate state aid from federal aid, or Pell Grants. Currently, having a Pell Grant award results in lowering the amount of a state grant.

"It's clear we need to improve financial aid and access to low-income students," Carlson said.

The bill also would change the way state grants are calculated by excluding \$25,000 in savings and other family assets when determining grant eligibility.

Overall, state financial aid would increase by \$44 million over current levels, making aid possible for an additional 2,000 students. It also would protect current recipients from losing award money, Carlson said, simplify the financial aid process, and offer the maximum "bang for the buck"

"Student debt has skyrocketed in recent years," said Brent Glass, of the Minnesota State University Students Association, who spoke in favor of Carlson's bill. "**HF1194** will help tens of thousands of students who need aid."

A proposal by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) would help students by reducing their share of attendance costs from 50 percent to 40 percent. **HF671** also requires that grant recipients get first shot at work-study jobs and would expand the number of jobs available. "I'm particularly concerned as a St. Paul legislator that students are having to borrow more and receive less in grants," Entenza said. Recent years have seen a drop of 20 percent in enrollment by low-income students, he added.

Entenza's bill would increase financial aid by \$89 million over current levels in fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and another \$50 mil-

lion to boost work study programs. It would provide a maximum award of \$7,700 per student in addition to expanding work-study opportunities.

This session, the Higher Education Division has discussed at length the need to improve access to higher education for minority and low-income students, who are believed to comprise the fastest growing population in the state, especially within the Twin Cities.

The amount of money available for financial aid in the coming biennium has not yet been determined. The committee's financial aid plan will be included in an omnibus higher education package to be voted on later this session.



INSURANCE

Managing managed care

When Dianne Shea's husband died in March 1993, the official cause of death was a heart attack. But, she said, other factors unknown to her at the time played a role in her family's tragedy.

Shea's 40-year-old husband, Patrick, had been aware of his family's history of heart disease and was concerned about warning signs such as shortness of breath and dizziness.

What kept Mr. Shea from receiving the medical care he needed was a financial arrangement between the Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) in which the family was enrolled and the family's doctor, according to Mrs. Shea.

"They saved the cost of bypass surgery at the expense of Pat's life," she said. "The

Tuition rally



Susan Schiro, lower right, and Lori Wortman, along with other public college and university students, rallied for lower tuition March 12 on the State Capitol steps.



Dianne Shea, who told members of the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee March 12 that her husband suffered a fatal heart attack as the result of undiagnosed heart disease, listened as Lois Wattman, of Allina Health Systems, testified against a bill that would require health insurers to disclose to enrollees any financial agreement that gives the doctor an incentive to restrict care.

doctors, the clinic, and the HMO all made more money because of Pat's death."

Shea, who is now involved in a court battle with her husband's doctors and the HMO, testified in support of a bill that would require health insurers to disclose to enrollees any financial agreement that gives the doctor an incentive to restrict care.

The bill (HF924), sponsored by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), was one of two proposals approved March 12 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee. Both measures aim to provide new protection for managed care consumers.

Abrams' bill is focused on the disclosure of arrangements between doctors and insurance companies. It would require that all health plan enrollees receive an annual statement of all financial arrangements that provide incentives to minimize care.

"I believe this is an important first step," Abrams said. "Hopefully, we will get better-educated consumers out of it."

Shea told members of the committee that things might have been different for her husband if they were aware of the arrangements that existed between his doctor and the HMO.

"Had Pat and I known this conflict of interest existed, our course of action would have been very different," she said. "We would have been able to understand that our physician was influenced by his own financial outcome, and with that knowledge, we would have had the opportunity to make other health care choices that would have saved Pat's life."

The same disclosure requirements are in-

cluded in a separate bill (HF929) that also would set up a variety of new requirements designed to protect patients.

Sponsored by Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls), the bill would forbid managed care providers from having so-called gag rules to prevent doctors from talking with patients about their medical coverage and any incentives created by the health plan company to minimize care.

Orfield's bill also would require health insurance companies and HMOs to have internal appeal procedures to handle patient complaints and would set time limits for insurers to respond to patient appeals.

An alternative dispute resolution process would be created to handle disputes between the insurer and patients that cannot be resolved internally. The bill calls for a statewide program, including a toll-free telephone line to field complaints, to be established to help consumers.

Other provisions in Orfield's bill would ensure that an enrollee's care from a specific doctor is not interrupted by a change in the health plan's network and would ensure that enrollees with certain medical conditions have standing referrals to specialists.

HF929 now moves to the House Governmental Operations Committee. HF924 goes to the House floor.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Encouraging innovation

Local units of government would be encouraged to find more efficient ways to provide services under a bill approved by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee March 12.

The bill (HF685), sponsored by committee chair Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope), would establish the Local Innovation and Efficiency Program (LIEP) under the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation. The bill would appropriate \$25 million each year for fiscal years 1998 and 1999.

Local governments could apply to the board for grants of up to \$75,000 per year to fund innovation and efficiency programs. The funds could be used for any cost-saving initiative, including combining local services such as water, sewer, garbage pickup, 911-response, law enforcement, fire fighters, ambulance services, or new ways of collecting local utility bills or property taxes.

"This [LIEP] could create economies of scale that would save the taxpayers millions in the long run," said Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin. The Association of Minnesota Counties initiated and supports the bill, McLaughlin said.

Rep. Kevin Knight (R-Bloomington) asked, "If it is in their interest, shouldn't local governments already be doing this [innovation]?"

"Yes, but unfortunately they don't do it," replied Rest.

Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) offered an amendment to change the word "collaborate," which appears several times in the legislation, to "cooperate." The amendment passed.

The bill now moves to the Taxes Committee.



OUTSTATE

Cheaper phone calls

The House approved a bill March 13 that aims to help residents of large rural Minnesota school districts cut down on costly telephone bills. The vote was 126-4.

The trend of combining rural school districts has resulted in at least one unforeseen problem. By blending areas with different telephone exchanges, students often meet friends who require a long-distance telephone call to reach.

Calling the school can mean long-distance charges for parents, and vice versa, even over distances of just a few miles. The effect is burdensome phone bills for some rural school districts and many of their residents.

HF211, sponsored by Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), would make it easier for rural communities to eliminate such long-distance costs.

The bill would change the way customers within a school district can petition the Public Utilities Commission to install extended area service (EAS), which would expand local exchanges and eliminate the long-distance charges.

Its most important provision would eliminate a requirement that at least half of the customers make at least three phone calls per month to exchanges outside of their own to qualify for EAS service, Sviggum said. School district residents would need to vote on the phone service change, and at least 10 percent of the customers in each affected phone exchange must live within the combined school district. (See March 7, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 13)

HF211 now goes to the Senate.



TAXES

State rebate for education

Families who set aside money for their children's or grandchildren's college education would see a 15 percent annual match from the state, up to \$300, under a proposal from Gov. Arne Carlson.

It is expected to be introduced as a second component to the governor's education investment fund plan, perhaps as an amendment to his tax bill currently before the Legislature.

Department of Revenue spokesman John Haugen unveiled the proposal March 11 before the House Taxes Committee. Specifically, he outlined **HF716**, which contains Carlson's tax initiatives for the next biennium.

"This was thought to be a viable option to what was called Edvest One," Haugen said, explaining that the new state matching dollars proposal would be more attractive to some investors because deposits in the accounts would be tax-free and withdrawals could be made in the child's name — and most likely, at a lower tax bracket — rather than the parents', effectively lowering the rate.

Edvest One, as Haugen called it, works something like an Individual Retirement Account. Parents or grandparents could save money for a child's higher education and

deduct the deposits from their Minnesota taxable income, although they would still be subject to the federal assessment.

Ideally, Haugen continued, the two programs would run concurrently and provide Minnesota parents with even greater choices when it comes to covering the soaring cost of higher education.

When members of the committee pressed Haugen about some of Edvest's details, he admitted that the program would primarily benefit those in the upper income brackets.

"A lot of the savings would be going to people with incomes over \$100,000 a year," Haugen said, "because they're the ones with the wherewithal to save."

According to estimates provided by the revenue department, **HF716** would cost the state almost \$420 million over the next four years: \$220 million in the coming biennium and nearly \$200 million in the following. The Edvest initiative would receive nearly \$67 million of the total during the two biennia.

Carlson's education credit and deduction proposals claim the majority of the bill's funding — an estimated \$316 million through 2001.

A tuition and tutoring credit would allow a dollar-for-dollar individual income tax credit for fees paid to a private school, tutors, summer schools, or other classes that meet criteria defined by the state. This credit would be limited to households with income less than \$39,000 per year and to \$1,000 per child or \$2,000 per family.

The deduction allowed for school-age dependents also would rise, from \$650 to \$1,950 for K-6 students and from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for those in grades 7-12. Parents could also

deduct the cost of tutors, summer school, home computers, and educational software.

Further discussion on **HF716** is expected.



TRANSPORTATION

Safer school buses

The state would spend \$10 million to improve safety on school buses, under a bill approved March 12 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

HF330, sponsored by Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Center), would provide grant funding for school districts to hire adult school bus monitors, install video cameras inside buses, or install strobe lights on buses.

"It is our responsibility to ensure that each child's school day starts and ends in a safe environment," Luther said. "By providing for their safety, we provide for our future."

Luther buttressed her case with statistics: During the 1995-96 school year, there were more than 1,000 accidents involving school buses in Minnesota. More than 240 children were injured in the accidents and five were killed, according to Luther.

Bob Wakanabo, who lost his daughter to a 1985 school bus accident, also testified in support of the bill. Now a member of the state's School Bus Safety Advisory Committee, Wakanabo led a successful effort to put adult safety monitors on buses serving a school on the Leech Lake Reservation.

He said adult monitors improve bus safety by working as a team with bus drivers. Together, they are better able to control kids inside the bus, reduce distractions for driv-

Bonus signing



Kirby Puckett and Rep. Ann H. Rest, chief author of the stadium bill, share a light moment as the former Twins hero signs 8-year-old Dillon DeBoer's baseball card prior to a stadium briefing for House members March 12.



Leslie Thompson, a sixth-grade school bus patrol officer at Gordon Bailey Elementary School in Woodbury, told the House Transportation and Transit Committee March 12 about the unruly behavior on the bus that she rides to school. The committee heard a bill that would provide adult monitors and video cameras on school buses.

ers, and watch out for children getting on or off the bus.

"I don't want to see another parent go through the loss of their kid," Wakanabo said. "These are not accidents. These are bus killings. They could be prevented."

Under the bill, \$6.5 million in grants would help school districts to hire adult safety monitors. Districts would be eligible for \$4,000 annually for each monitor they hire.

Monitors at least 18 years old would have to clear a criminal background check and be trained in school bus regulations and methods to ensure safety.

Another \$3 million in grants would pay for the installation of video cameras and video camera boxes on school buses. Cameras are considered an effective method of controlling student behavior on buses.

Finally, \$500,000 in grants would help districts install exterior strobe lights, which are touted for their ability to improve the visibility of school buses when they are stopped to let children on or off.

Members deleted a section of the bill that called for lap and shoulder safety belts to be installed on school buses beginning in 1998. Concerns were raised about the availability of seat-belt-equipped buses and the practicality of such a requirement.

The bill now moves to the House Education Committee.

Legislative Commissions

Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC)

85 State Office Building
296-1121

LCC Central Accounting

60 State Office Building
296-8890

Claims (Joint Subcommittee on Claims)

55 State Office Building
296-0099

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Oversight Office/ Subcommittee

85 State Office Building
296-0098

Legislative Advisory Commission (LAC)

Fourth Floor, Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155
296-4207

Audit Commission/Office of Legislative Auditor

First Floor, Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155
296-4708

Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women

85 State Office Building
296-8590
Toll-free number
1-800-657-3949

Joint Subcommittee on Employee Relations

85 State Office Building
296-2963

Legislative Commission on Health Care Access

375 State Office Building
296-0173*
G-9 Capitol
296-4261*

Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR)

65 State Office Building
296-2406

Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement

55 State Office Building
296-2750

Legislative Commission on Planning & Fiscal Policy

463 State Office Building
296-4936

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)

P.O. Box 441, Highway 53
Eveleth 55734
218-749-7721

Mississippi River Parkway Commission

Pioneer Building, Suite 1513
336 Robert St., St. Paul 55101
224-9903

Electric Energy Task Force

321 Capitol
296-1767*
479 State Office Building
296-7175*

Great Lakes Commission

569 State Office Building
296-2228*

State Advisory Council on Metropolitan Airport Planning

G-24 State Capitol
296-3205*
515 State Office Building
296-5091*

Regent Candidate Advisory Council

85 State Office Building
296-9002

Board of Trustees Candidate Advisory Council

85 State Office Building
296-9002

Where to find information

Senate Information Office

231 State Capitol (612) 296-0504

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

Senate Media Services

B-44 State Capitol (612) 296-0264

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

Metrodome history . . .

Pre-stadium debates bear striking resemblances



Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, both the Vikings and the Twins played in Bloomington's Metropolitan Stadium.

As the Legislature considers public funding for a new Minnesota Twins stadium, echoes of the debate that preceded the building of the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome are haunting the State Capitol. As Yogi Berra once said, "It's like *deja vu* all over again."

In 1971, the Minneapolis City Council first considered a plan for a 70,000-seat downtown stadium requested by the Minnesota Vikings. That proposal started a decade-long process that culminated with the opening of the Metrodome in 1982.

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, the Vikings and the Twins both played in Bloomington's Metropolitan Stadium. The Met was originally built in 1955 as a home for the Minneapolis Millers minor league team. It was expanded for the Minnesota Vikings in 1961 and again in 1965 for the Twins.

The 48,700-seat Met was one of the smallest and most antiquated sports arenas in professional athletics. Sightlines for football were poor. End zone bleachers were a makeshift construction of blocks and girders. Minnesota weather could make outdoor playing conditions range from mildly unpleasant to totally unbearable for both players and fans. The Vikings had to practice in a variety of small pastures and public playgrounds. And most importantly, neither the Vikings nor their NFL opponents were happy with the small profits the Met games generated.

The team that had taken the state to within bragging distance of a Super Bowl championship felt it deserved to play in a first-class arena. The Vikings threatened to leave Minnesota unless they got a new covered stadium.

Yet the Met was a popular stadium among fans. Its surrounding asphalt prairies pro-

vided ample space for pregame tailgating and postgame celebrating.

City officials and business leaders believed that a domed stadium in Minneapolis would bring more customers to downtown restaurants, bars, and hotels while ensuring that professional sports remained in the state. Former Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce president Harvey Mackay summed up the business community's position when he declared: "If the Vikings and the Twins were to leave the Twin Cities, we'd be well on our way to becoming a frozen Omaha."

Many state residents were unconcerned by the possible departure of the Vikings. Polls showed that the majority of voters adamantly opposed public financing for a new stadium. In addition, business and commu-

nity leaders from Bloomington and St. Paul were opposed to the downtown Minneapolis site.

In 1972, the Minneapolis City Council approved a stadium plan and began arranging to borrow money. Minneapolis Mayor Charles Stenvig, who privately supported the stadium, vetoed the measure in a bow to public opinion, assuming that the council would override his veto. Grassroots organizers in Minneapolis collected enough petition signatures to force a vote on a new city charter amendment requiring that the city hold a referendum for any project costing more than \$15 million. The measure passed in June 1973. The dome's prospects in Minneapolis had effectively been killed.

Stadium proponents were persistent, however, and in 1975, their efforts switched to the Legislature. Proposals ranged from expanding the University of Minnesota's Memorial Stadium into a \$28 million open-air football structure to a \$126 million multipurpose dome. There was even a proposal to build a recessed "earth" stadium in Lakeville.

The fear of losing either major sports franchise was a big concern for many legislators. In April 1975, the Senate's Metropolitan and Urban Affairs Committee decided that something had to be done to keep the Twins and Vikings in Minnesota. In 1976, the Joint House-Senate Subcommittee on Sports Facilities concluded that remodeling Bloomington's Met or the University of Minnesota's Memorial Stadium would cost more than building a multipurpose stadium.

As the stadium issue worked its way through both legislative houses, financing and location became key issues. Many outstate legislators resented a proposed ho-

Full of hot air

One of the more imaginative alternatives to the Metrodome was proposed in 1977 by a firm calling itself New Jerusalem Life Style and Air Mattress Company. At a time when the cities of Minneapolis and Bloomington had site proposals in play, this company claimed it could solve the problem with a portable, inflatable arena. Football fans could watch the first half of a Vikings game in Minneapolis, then deflate the stadium, load it on a truck, and move to Bloomington for the second half. If the Vikings made good on their threat to leave Minnesota, they could take the stadium with them. "We're as serious as the rest of the developers who have submitted proposals," said company official Peter Kramer.

tel-motel tax, saying their constituents shouldn't pay for something they would seldom use. South suburban legislators didn't want their constituents paying a tax to support a Minneapolis stadium. And Minneapolis and St. Paul legislators had their own rivalries. At one point early in the stadium controversy, someone proposed building a stadium with one goal line in Minneapolis and the other in St. Paul, to be fair to both cities. That plan never developed.

But a bill specifying no site for a 65,000-seat stadium did prevail and was signed into law by Gov. Rudy Perpich in May 1977. That same year, a hotel-motel liquor tax was levied over the seven-county metro area to finance the stadium.

In 1978, however, the law, which would have created public debt, was ruled unconstitutional by a district judge because it wasn't passed by 60 percent of both houses. The 2-percent liquor tax in the bill also was ruled unconstitutional.

But once again, the setback didn't kill the issue. A year and much political wrangling later, Gov. Al Quie signed a bill for a \$55 million domed stadium in Minneapolis to be financed, in part, through a more limited hotel-motel and liquor tax, local business

donations, and revenues from a special tax district surrounding the dome site.

Despite more legal challenges, continued criticism from citizen groups like Minnesotans Against the Downtown Dome, and even a collapsed roof, the Metrodome was finished for the Twins' home opener in 1982. The 65,000-seat facility was the last two-sport stadium built in the United States.

From the beginning, the Metrodome was criticized by baseball teams and fans alike. The Twins tried to schedule all Saturday games for the evenings because the dome tended to heat up on sunny summer afternoons. *Chicago Tribune* writer John Margolis described the stadium as "an abomination, an affront to taste, humanity, culture, America, and who knows, maybe even the gods." The dome's environmental quirks, including lighting, turf, and air patterns were said to wreak havoc on the game of baseball. After the New York Yankees lost several games to the Twins in the dome, Yankees manager Billy Martin declared: "The park should be banned from baseball."

This year the Minnesota Legislature may do just that.

—Steve Compton

It's a fact!

In recent years, both federal and state governments have made life more spartan and trying for prisoners. Growing public discontent has led to cable television blackouts, a resurgence in chain gangs, and cuts in prison programming. In 1994, Congress declared inmates ineligible for educational Pell Grants. Minnesota lawmakers made prisons smoke-free with a 1996 law.

But those behind bars didn't always face such conditions, particularly inmates with ample means.

One such example is the Marquis de Sade, whose outrageous and deviant behavior landed him in the hoosegow for much of the late 18th century.

In 1784, de Sade was held in the Bastille, where on March 8 he complained to his wife that the conditions were "much worse than at Vincennes," where he previously had been held on numerous occasions.

Hard to imagine, since the latest issue of the *New Yorker* tells us de Sade was permitted to bring his own "furniture, tapestries, and family portraits to his cell."

In December of the same year, he also requested a list of "needed items" including: "Twelve raven's quill pens, two pounds of chocolates and a box of chocolate pastilles. . . . A hair ribbon and a ponytail ribbon. A pot of beef marrow and a loaf of the same."

No word on whether de Sade was an avid weightlifter when not primping his ponytail.

Deja vu all over again

Then

Vikings almost win two Superbowl championships before asking for a new stadium.

Met stadium criticized for having poor sightlines for football.

Vikings owners complain that profits are too small in the Met.

Some fans complain that outdoor Met Stadium not suited to wintertime football games.

Vikings threaten to leave Minnesota if they don't get a new football stadium.

Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce president Harvey Mackay says that without professional sports, Twin Cities will become a frozen Omaha.

Sin tax (on liquor) proposed to pay for the Metrodome.

Downtown Minneapolis Metrodome site touted as a boon to economic development.

Attempting to ride on the Vikings coattails, the Twins say they want to be included in the Metrodome deal.

Public overwhelmingly opposed to public financing for Metrodome.*

**Minneapolis Star* polls, Feb. 1972, Dec. 1972.

Now

Twins win two World Series championships shortly before asking for a new stadium.

Metrodome criticized for having poor sightlines for baseball.

Twins owners complain that profits are too small in the Metrodome.

Some fans complain that indoor Metrodome not suited to summertime baseball games.

Twins threaten to leave Minnesota if they don't get a new baseball stadium.

Gov. Arne Carlson says that without professional sports, Twin Cities will become as dead as Des Moines.

Sin tax (on tobacco) proposed to pay for the new Twins stadium.

Downtown Minneapolis Twins stadium site touted as a boon to economic development.

Attempting to ride on the Twins coattails, the Vikings say they want to be included in any new stadium deal.

Public overwhelmingly opposed to public financing for new Twins stadium.**

***Star Tribune*, Minnesota Poll, Jan. 26, 1997.

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

The Chief Clerk's Office provides copies of bills at no charge, all agendas for House sessions, and the *Journal of the House*.

House Index Department

211 State Capitol (612) 296-6646

The House Index Department, a part of the Chief Clerk's Office, has a computerized index available for public use. House Index lists bills by committee, topic, author, file number, and other categories. The office can also give you the current status of legislation.

Juhnke paves the way to west-central prosperity

When it comes to the world of farming, Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) has done everything but farm. He grew up in the agricultural community of Wells, Minn., and



Rep. Al Juhnke

remembers the first time he drove a tractor at age eight. He studied soil science at the University of Minnesota. Later, he sold fertilizer and agricultural chemicals for the ConAgra Company. Today, he serves on the House Agriculture Committee. "I'm a frustrated farmer," Juhnke said. "I've always been involved in agriculture. I just wasn't born on a farm."

At the Legislature, however, he has quickly become associated with a separate cause: "I'm 'Mr. Road,'" he said. That's because he's working to have a stretch of Highway 23 between Willmar and St. Cloud expanded from a two-lane to a four-lane road to improve the travel route to the Twin Cities and facilitate the area's growth. "Willmar is one of the fastest-growing areas in Minnesota," Juhnke said. "This is one of my front-burner issues. Overall funding in west-central Minnesota has been behind for about 60 years."

Juhnke also identifies with small-business people. With a background in real estate, he runs a business conducting appraisals on farms and commercial properties from his office, which is in a building he owns in

downtown Willmar. "I understand what small businesses go through with the rules and regulations and personnel," he said. "Rural Minnesota is basically small business. Overall, the climate is good, but there's always room for improvement." Ideally, he said, that means maintaining a balance between free enterprise and regulation. "Government shouldn't be too intrusive or make it too hard to do business."

Juhnke said others may not be aware of another growing problem some rural communities face — that of juvenile crime. "It's three or four times what it was not long ago. We need to find out why." Juhnke said he thinks one explanation is a "too-lenient" judicial system. "I've seen kids get in trouble and then not see a judge for six or eight months. Then, they get slapped on the wrist. Kids used to have more fear of being caught and punished," he said.

Juhnke's position in the Legislature isn't his first encounter with elective politics. He has served as a Dovre Township precinct chair and executive board member for Kandiyohi County.

As a newcomer to the Legislature, he's struck by how issues are thoroughly debated. "It's a very slow, deliberative process, which is good. It's part of our democracy. But I think people tend to think everything gets shoved through," he said.

When Juhnke isn't occupied with legislative acts, he may be found just acting. He's a

long-term member of the Barn Theatre in Willmar. "I'm hoping to get back to it this summer. Willmar is great for community theater."

Or, he may be found at home participating in another favorite activity: music. "I like all kinds of music. I play guitar and trombone," he said. "I'm also into your basic '70s rock and roll." Both avocations may be inherited: Juhnke's father was a vocal music instructor and his mother teaches art and plays the organ in church. Juhnke's home, which he shares with his wife, Claire, a commercial artist, and children, Zachary, 13, and Shannon, 9, is north of Willmar in Dovre Township.

"My dad always told me I had the ability to lead," Juhnke said. "He told me to be careful and keep moving in the right direction. I've always kept that in mind."

— Celeste Riley

District 15A

1996 population: 34,926

Largest city: Willmar

County: Kandiyohi

Location: west-central Minnesota

Top concern: "Economic development. That encompasses everything — education, roads, airports, housing. That's the concern in my area as well as throughout greater Minnesota."

—Rep. Al Juhnke

Less than a block from the State Capitol, at 117 University Avenue, stands a red brick structure called the Ford Building.

It once housed the Minnesota Law Library and is now home to Minnesota's Bookstore, where one can purchase a set of *Minnesota Statutes* for \$185 or a bread board in the shape of a loon for just \$18.95. In the 1930s, the building was a "place where families went to view and buy the car of multitudes, the Ford," according to the Department of Administration's World Wide Web site. Emblazoned across the top of the building, which faces University Avenue, was

Do you know?

the familiar Ford script still found on the company's logo.

The bookstore was established in 1957 to provide State of Minnesota agencies with a centralized service for the sale and



The Ford Building circa 1930.

distribution of agency-produced publications. It receives no funding from the Legislature.

After Ford pulled out and before the bookstore moved in, the building is said to have housed a bar in the basement and served as a dog pound as well.

Today, the only dogs are found on the shelf — prairie dogs, that is — in the text, *And Prairie Dogs Weren't Kosher, Jewish Women in the Upper Midwest Since 1855*, by Linda Mack Schloff.

View other available bookstore selections on the Internet at (<http://156.99.245.30/index1.htm>), or call 297-3000 for more information.

Photo courtesy Minnesota Department of Administration

New members . . .

Kielkucki examines issues through a moral lens

Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) grew up surrounded by DFL politics. It was the party of choice for the great majority of his East St. Paul neighbors, he said. His uncle, a DFL activist and union organizer, is one whom Kielkucki attributes with planting the seeds of his own interest in politics.



Rep. Tony Kielkucki

“My family members were very politically vocal and always put their convictions into practice. They were steeped in the DFL,” he said.

Yet Kielkucki comes to the House of Representatives as a Republican and a conservative. “I changed parties when I felt the party left me,” he said.

The decision came during a county convention in the 1980s. “I made some suggestions at the meeting, and someone responded that I sounded more like a Republican — and said that I should join them. So I did.”

It wasn’t the only time Kielkucki followed his convictions. He spent almost 11 years as a seminary student studying to be a priest before opting for civilian life. “I knew I’d always be committed to working with the church,” he said. “But I wasn’t sure about the priesthood all the way through. I kept giving it another year.”

Instead, he’s given 22 years to teaching, most of them at Holy Trinity High School in Winsted, Minn., where he teaches junior and senior high and chairs the religious stud-

ies program. He was attracted to the parish years ago because it offered a K-12 educational program for his children, who are now 20, 16, and 12. His children, as well as his students, are accustomed to his frequent reminders that you have to get involved if you want to make change. It’s part of the lesson he teaches in a class in which social issues are examined through a moral lens. “The kids gave me a bit of a hard time. They said I should put my money where my mouth is.”

Before running for the Legislature, Kielkucki was an active participant in precinct caucuses and the campaigns of others.

Today, Kielkucki has five areas where he’d most like to have an influence as a legislator, his pro-life stance being foremost.

He’s also concerned about education. “I think the whole approach in the public schools needs change.” Teachers no longer are free to adequately discipline students, he said. The students know they can get away with poor behavior, and the learning environment is destroyed. Kielkucki thinks the system in the United States could learn from that in Europe, where, he said, there is a greater emphasis on basics and less on extracurricular activities.

Next comes welfare reform. Kielkucki would add work requirements and time limits. “We don’t want to hurt the people who need it, but we’ve been enabling too many for too long.”

On the crime issue, Kielkucki would focus on juveniles and swift penalties for breaking the law. “There should be consequences the first time someone steals a car, not the fourth.”

Finally, there’s tax reform: “We’re taxed too much, period.”

Kielkucki added that his teaching background is helping him in his new role. “The reading, lesson plans, workshops, term papers, and learning to digest what’s important — it’s all the same learning model . . . Today, my job is to listen, digest, and look for ways to address needs,” Kielkucki said. “In 10 years, what I hope they say about me is that I’m honest, I listen, and that I effectively work for change.”

— Celeste Riley

District 20B

1996 population: 33,701

Largest city: Norwood Young America

Counties: Carver, McLeod, Wright

Location: south-central Minnesota

Top concern: “The number one thing my constituents have requested is property tax relief. Local units of government are having to assume more and more responsibility for the cost of government, and everyone’s taxes have increased — even while education spending hasn’t. Local government is paying for more state mandates now.”

— Rep. Tony Kielkucki

Minnesota State Agencies

Agriculture	297-2200	Human Rights	296-5663	Public Service	296-7107
Commerce	296-4026	Toll Free	1-800-657-3704	Revenue	
Corrections	642-0200	Human Services	296-6117	Taxpayer Assistance	296-3781
Education	296-6104	Economic Security	296-3711	Toll Free	1-800-652-9094
Employee Relations	297-1184	Labor and Industry	296-6107	Trade and	
Job Information	296-2616	Military Affairs	282-4662	Economic Development	297-1291
Finance	296-5900	Natural Resources	296-6157	Office of Tourism	296-5029
Gaming		Public Safety	296-6642	Transportation	296-3000
Gambling Control Division ...	639-4000	Driver and Vehicle Services ...	296-6911	Veterans Affairs	296-2562
MN State Lottery Division	635-8100	Fire Marshal	643-3080	State Information	296-6013
Toll Free	1-800-475-4000	Liquor Control	296-6159	House Information	296-2146
MN Racing Commission	341-7555	State Patrol	297-3935	Senate Information	296-0504
Health	623-5000	Pollution Control	296-6300		

Bill Introductions

HF1251-HF1544

Monday, March 10

HF1251—Kelso (DFL) Education

Bell museum K-12 education science curriculum delivery provided, and money appropriated.

HF1252—Westrom (R) Health & Human Services

Temporary assistance for needy families and general assistance cash assistance prohibited for drug or alcohol abusers.

HF1253—McElroy (R) Taxes

Property tax reform provided, general education tax rate reduced, and money appropriated.

HF1254—Winter (DFL) Transportation & Transit

Trunk Highway No. 60 designated as the Don Rickers Memorial Highway.

HF1255—Milbert (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Local government state mandate report grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1256—Goodno (R) Taxes

Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF1257—Winter (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Luverne cemetery body removal and reinterment authorized.

HF1258—Garcia (DFL) Taxes

Property tax refund uniform income percentage threshold established, maximum refund amounts eliminated, and special property tax refund eliminated.

HF1259—Entenza (DFL) Education

School districts restricted from beginning the school day prior to 8 a.m.

HF1260—Clark (DFL) Judiciary

Child in need of protection or services petition provided for certain children in certain licensed facilities.

HF1261—Schumacher (DFL) Transportation & Transit

Passenger motor carrier and personal transportation provider deregulation provided, technical corrections provided, and money appropriated.

HF1262—Olson, E. (DFL) Education

Independent School District No. 601, Fosston, fund transfer authorized.

HF1263—Rest (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

County capital improvement bond sunset date extended.

HF1264—Pawlenty (R) Education

Crime-related cost education property tax levy provisions modified.

HF1265—Swenson, H. (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Gaylord tax increment financing district enlargement and duration extension authorized.

HF1266—Ozment (R) Transportation & Transit

Passing a school bus on the right side prohibited while the bus is displaying flashing amber prewarning signals, and criminal penalty provided.

HF1267—Osthoff (DFL) Governmental Operations

St. Paul fire and police consolidation accounts pension and survivor benefit recipient benefit floor provisions revised.

HF1268—Van Dellen (R) Judiciary

Same-sex marriages not recognized or allowed.

HF1269—Evans (DFL) Health & Human Services

Nursing home licensing and certification moratorium exception established.

HF1270—Kahn (DFL) Governmental Operations

State colleges and universities pension provisions modified, teachers retirement reporting and remittance requirements modified, and higher education supplemental retirement plan provisions modified.

HF1271—Juhnke (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade

New London Little Theater project grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1272—Kelso (DFL) Education

Professional teaching standards promotion established, grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1273—Knoblach (R) Governmental Operations

Local police and paid fire relief association legal expense treatment clarified.

HF1274—Knoblach (R) Regulated Industries & Energy

Legal gambling age raised to 21, and governor required to request tribal governments to raise legal gambling age to 21.

HF1275—Ozment (R) Taxes

Residential structures provided to migrant workers provided agricultural building property tax classification.

HF1276—Trimble (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade

Community rehabilitation fund program and affordable rental investment fund program appropriated money.

HF1277—Tomassoni (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Alcoholic beverage importation restrictions provided.

HF1278—Clark (DFL) Financial Institutions & Insurance

Financial institution reasonable account fees required.

HF1279—Johnson, R. (DFL) Health & Human Services

Regional treatment center staffing plan provided, advisory committee established, and money appropriated.

HF1280—Tomassoni (DFL) Education

School district employee instructional day provisions clarified.

HF1281—McCollum (DFL) Health & Human Services

Civil commitment; public apology provided to all persons with developmental disabilities who have been involuntarily committed to state institutions.

HF1282—Bradley (R) Health & Human Services

Autism; demonstration project established and grants provided for behavioral therapy services for children with autism.

HF1283—McGuire (DFL) Judiciary

Firefighter background investigations authorized, employment information disclosure required, employer immunity provided, and civil and criminal penalties prescribed.

HF1284—McGuire (DFL) Judiciary

Battered women community advocacy programs funded, and money appropriated.

HF1285—Westrom (R) Agriculture

Agricultural cooperative investment tax credit provided.

HF1286—Opatz (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources

Big Fish Lake natural waterway acquisition and restoration provided, and money appropriated.

HF1287—Delmont (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy

Utility deposit interest payments regulated.

HF1288—Reuter (R) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Motor vehicle broker licensure requirement established, and new motor vehicle dealers permitted to contract for motor vehicle broker services.

HF1289—Clark (DFL) Education

Public library staff skill improvement program authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1290—Tomassoni (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

County tax nonpayment redemption period expiration provided.

HF1291—Tomassoni (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

St. Louis County court bailiffs added to the unclassified service.

HF1292—Dawkins (DFL) Taxes

Comprehensive tax reform provided modifying property, income, sales, business, and agricultural taxes, and money appropriated.

HF1293—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services

American Indian chemical dependency tribal account provisions modified, medical education and research trust fund provided funding, and family and children health care provisions modified.

HF1294—Jefferson (DFL)
Judiciary

Ballistic tracking system database established by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Minneapolis firearm dealers required to supply spent bullets for new weapons, and firearm carry permit restrictions modified.

HF1295—Hausman (DFL)
Transportation & Transit

Counties authorized to sell county state-aid highway bonds to fund maintenance building construction.

HF1296—Rhodes (R)
Transportation & Transit

Omnibus traffic regulation bill, vehicle code established, and traffic regulation violation penalties modified.

HF1297—Entenza (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Sign language interpreter certification required, standards established, and penalties provided.

HF1298—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Electric utility personal property tax replacement fee authorized.

HF1299—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Electric Energy Task Force renamed the legislative commission on utility competition, and electric industry restructuring review process established.

HF1300—Holsten (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Video lottery terminals authorized at licensed horse racing track, terminal revenue use regulated, and penalties provided.

HF1301—Slawik (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

St. Paul and Ramsey County joint public health department personnel provisions defined.

HF1302—Chaudhary (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Attorney general required to investigate unfair drug price discrimination, prescription drug price negotiation authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1303—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
Comprehensive health services system provided.

HF1304—Clark (DFL)
Judiciary

Pretenancy rental property walk-through and checklist provided, and restitution required for tenant criminal damage to property.

HF1305—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Carver County intermediate care facilities reconfigured.

HF1306—Hausman (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Health plan coverage required for off-label drug use, and advisory council established.

HF1307—Dehler (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Holders of multiple on-sale liquor licenses allowed to have uniform licensing periods.

HF1308—Murphy (DFL)
Judiciary

DARE; Drug Abuse Resistance Education funding provided, advisory council expiration extended, and money appropriated.

HF1309—Jaros (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy

State lottery sports pool games established, professional and amateur sports account established, and proceed dedication provided.

HF1310—Carlson (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy

Fire relief association gambling license renewal authorized.

HF1311—Kelso (DFL)
Education

Extended instructional time state aid established, and money appropriated.

HF1312—Carlson (DFL)
Education

Student loan interest accrual provisions modified, higher education tuition income tax credit provided, and money appropriated.

HF1313—Dehler (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Municipal road snow and ice removal vote required.

HF1314—Hausman (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

Scrap motor vehicle facility regulations modified.

HF1315—Kalis (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board duties modified, and money appropriated.

HF1316—Dawkins (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Legal voting age lowered to 17, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1317—Marko (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Local government roles and responsibilities advisory council established, and money appropriated.

HF1318—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary

DWI offender maximum stay of sentence provided.

HF1319—Slawik (DFL)
Judiciary

Motor vehicle insurer record availability to law enforcement agencies provided.

HF1320—Jefferson (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Tuskegee Airmen; Red Tail project appropriated money for project honoring the Tuskegee Airmen.

HF1321—Folliard (DFL)
Education

Desegregation magnet school funding provided, bond sales authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1322—Pugh (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
ATM; automated teller machine use fees limited.

HF1323—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary

Marriage dissolution parenting plan procedures and terminology modified.

HF1324—Paulsen (R)
Health & Human Services

Temporary assistance for needy families rent and utilities vouchers established.

HF1325—Daggett (R)
Environment & Natural Resources

Deer; nonresident youth permitted to hunt deer for resident fee.

HF1326—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations

Public pension plan fiduciary economic interest statement filing failure penalty provided.

HF1327—Delmont (DFL)
Governmental Operations

State agency service contracts reviewed by employee relations commissioner.

HF1328—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary

Third- and fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct expanded to include acts involving school employees and students.

HF1329—Kalis (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Chemical dependency fund appropriated money for detoxification centers.

HF1330—Koskinen (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Coon Rapids economic development authority tax increment financing district duration extension provided.

HF1331—McCullum (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Diabetes; American Indian diabetes prevention advisory task force established, and money appropriated.

HF1332—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

Leased public lakeshore land sale required.

HF1333—Knoblach (R)
Health & Human Services

Health care policy rates and conversion rights regulated, and health plan company requirements modified.

HF1334—Hausman (DFL)
Judiciary

Controlled substance crime evaluation task force established, and money appropriated.

HF1335—Hausman (DFL)
Judiciary

State drug policy consolidation advisory task force established, and money appropriated.

HF1336—Long (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Metropolitan public safety radio communication system sales tax exemption provided.

HF1337—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary

Community justice services act adopted.

HF1338—Molnau (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Municipal consolidation authorized.

HF1339—Ness (R)
Education

Pupil transportation formulas restored, inflation factors established, and money appropriated.

HF1340—Olson, E. (DFL)
Transportation & Transit

Speed limits increased on freeways and expressways.

HF1341—Osskopp (R)
Environment & Natural Resources

Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Fund use provisions modified.

HF1342—Osskopp (R)
Agriculture

Dairy farm mercury manometer replacement program established, and money appropriated.

HF1343—Knoblach (R)
Labor-Management Relations
Re-employment Insurance definitions modified related to taxi cab drivers.

HF1344—Trimble (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Public utility regulation appropriations approval required.

HF1345—Paymar (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Workers' compensation occupational disease definition expanded to include corrections officers.

HF1346—Mariani (DFL)
Education
Early childhood family education program revenue increased.

HF1347—Smith (R)
Judiciary
Child support, visitation, and joint custody compliance periodic review required.

HF1348—Wagenius (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Metropolitan Council Transit Operations appropriated money.

HF1349—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Grandparent visitation rights expanded, procedures specified, and mediation required.

HF1350—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Crime victim rights guaranteed, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1351—Hasskamp (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Personal watercraft nuisance control act adopted.

HF1352—Hasskamp (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Personal watercraft nuisance control act adopted.

HF1353—Rhodes (R)
Transportation & Transit
Delinquent traffic offense fine notification, recording, and collection system established, and money appropriated.

HF1354—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
State park trail accessibility survey provided, and money appropriated.

HF1355—Solberg (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Nashwauk Police Relief Association survivor benefit authority provisions modified.

HF1356—Slawik (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Mental health case management services for children and adults provisions modified.

HF1357—Jefferson (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Minneapolis Police Relief Association fund source clarification provided.

HF1358—Dawkins (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Great Northern Corridor Community Development Act adopted, and money appropriated.

HF1359—Dawkins (DFL)
Education
Great northern corridor community development act adopted, and money appropriated.

HF1360—Dawkins (DFL)
Economic Development-Housing & Housing Finance Division
Great northern corridor community development act adopted, and money appropriated.

HF1361—Dawkins (DFL)
Economic Development-Economic Development Finance Division
Great northern corridor community development act adopted, and money appropriated.

HF1362—Dawkins (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Great northern corridor community development act adopted, and money appropriated.

HF1363—Juhnke (DFL)
Judiciary
Willmar child guide prevention program funded, and money appropriated.

HF1364—Bettermann (R)
Education
Private career school act adopted.

HF1365—Wejzman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health care consumer assistance program established, and money appropriated.

HF1366—Winter (DFL)
Education
Small school viability pilot project implemented, and money appropriated.

HF1367—Rest (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Major League Baseball stadium construction and maintenance provided, taxes authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1368—Ozment (R)
Education
Firefighter training standards board established, firefighter training financial assistance program provided, and money appropriated.

HF1369—Swenson, D. (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Intoxication of minors civil third-party liability imposed.

HF1370—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Excavation notification planning provisions modified.

HF1371—Orfield (DFL)
Capital Investment
Agricultural and economic development board bond issuance provisions modified.

HF1372—Biernat (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
St. Paul and Minneapolis school boards directed to develop a transportation plan using public transportation.

HF1373—Wagenius (DFL)
Judiciary
MinnesotaCare program family definition modified, child custody provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF1374—Stanek (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Cellular 911 emergency call response provisions modified.

HF1375—Ness (R)
Governmental Operations
Legislative approval of proposed rules required.

HF1376—Trimble (DFL)
Governmental Operations
High school league rulemaking provisions modified.

HF1377—Hasskamp (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
University of Minnesota tourism center research provided, and money appropriated.

HF1378—Leighton (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Rental residential property heating requirements provided.

HF1379—Huntley (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Duluth Miller-Dwan Medical Center assets and liabilities transferred.

HF1380—Huntley (DFL)
Capital Investment
Duluth family practice residency program authority transferred to the Duluth economic development authority.

HF1381—Juhnke (DFL)
Agriculture
Veterinary services lien provisions modified.

HF1382—Dehler (R)
Labor-Management Relations
Show boiler and engine inspection provisions modified.

HF1383—Kinkel (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Occupational safety and health notice service provisions modified.

HF1384—Nornes (R)
Health & Human Services
Fergus Falls veterans home appropriated money.

HF1385—Bettermann (R)
Education
Physician loan forgiveness program provisions modified.

HF1386—Knoblach (R)
Governmental Operations
Public land and building acquisition and improvements provided, and money appropriated.

HF1387—Chaudhary (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
University of Minnesota international commerce research and development provided, Minnesota internet center funded, and money appropriated.

HF1388—Knoblach (R)
Capital Investment
Bond issuance reporting required.

HF1389—Jennings (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Public employee and official salary and compensation provisions modified.

HF1390—Solberg (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Floodwood Joint Recreation Board tax levies regulated.

HF1391—Long (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Political subdivisions permitted to define dependent for employee benefit purposes.

HF1392—Kinkel (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Exempt real property and fire state aid property tax provisions modified.

HF1393—Long (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Brownfields coordination office established.

HF1394—McGuire (DFL)
Education
Higher education office center on violence and abuse challenge grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1395—Juhnke (DFL)
Taxes
Employer contribution for employee housing tax credit provided.

HF1396—Jefferson (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Pothole relief emergency expenditures provided, and money appropriated.

HF1397—Osthoff (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Petroleum-contaminated site cleanup provided, and money appropriated.

HF1398—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Taconite Harbor project appropriated money.

HF1399—Milbert (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Statewide public ice facilities program appropriated money.

HF1400—Kahn (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Professional sports; Congress memorialized to discourage use of public resources for the movement of professional sports franchises.

HF1401—Rifenberg (R)
Rules & Legislative Administration
Legislative committee and division chair rotation provided.

Thursday, March 13

HF1402—Weaver (R)
Judiciary
DWI; repeat driving-while-intoxicated offender minimum mandatory incarceration eligibility criteria clarified.

HF1403—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Education
First-grade preparedness program grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1404—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Civil-action sanction provisions expanded and modified.

HF1405—Mariani (DFL)
Education
Head Start program account provisions clarified, and money appropriated.

HF1406—Seagren (R)
Education
Adults with disabilities program aid provided, and money appropriated.

HF1407—Dorn (DFL)
Education
Mankato model school for truants appropriated money.

HF1408—Peterson (DFL)
Education
School district fundraising foundations established, professional staff assistance provided, and money appropriated.

HF1409—Kubly (DFL)
Agriculture
Animal feedlot rules provided legislative review.

HF1410—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
Child care licensure exclusion provisions modified.

HF1411—Leppik (R)
Taxes
Revenue department exempt rule duration extension provided.

HF1412—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Adult mental health pilot project information provided to employee-exclusive bargaining representatives.

HF1413—Workman (R)
Judiciary
Flogging punishment authorized for habitual driving while intoxicated offenders.

HF1414—Leighton (DFL)
Judiciary
Probate guardian and conservator appointment provisions modified.

HF1415—Pugh (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Snowmobiles required to be equipped with strobe lights.

HF1416—Pugh (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Dakota County intermediate care facility licensure exception provided.

HF1417—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Newborn infant hearing loss screening required.

HF1418—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
State trail accessibility survey provided, and money appropriated.

HF1419—Finseth (R)
Education
Secondary vocational aid guarantee provisions modified.

HF1420—Swenson, D. (R)
Judiciary
DWI; vehicle forfeiture provided for violations of aggravated driving-while-intoxicated law or repeat driving-while-intoxicated violations.

HF1421—Wenzel (DFL)
Agriculture
Dairy technology services grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1422—Larsen (R)
Health & Human Services
Dental goods and services exempted from MinnesotaCare provider tax, and provider tax reduced.

HF1423—Weaver (R)
Judiciary
Sentencing guidelines proposed modifications regarding increases in durations at severity levels I through VI shall not take effect.

HF1424—Ness (R)
Education
Hutchinson technical college appropriated money for additions and remodeling, and bond sale authorized.

HF1425—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Apartment property tax class rate reduced.

HF1426—Peterson (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Rural highway economic development impact study required, and money appropriated.

HF1427—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Homeowner additional property tax refund provided.

HF1428—Dehler (R)
Education
Central Minnesota area learning center established, and money appropriated.

HF1429—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medicare mandatory assignment provisions modified.

HF1430—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Deaf and hard-of-hearing adult nonprofit service agency appropriated money.

HF1431—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medical Assistance elderly waiver program expanded.

HF1432—Peterson (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Volunteer firefighter relief association actuarial valuation requirement removed.

HF1433—Peterson (DFL)
Taxes
Business property tax market value exclusion allowed.

HF1434—Delmont (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Physician license surcharge requirement repealed.

HF1435—Rukavina (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Dental service medical assistance reimbursement rates increased.

HF1436—Wenzel (DFL)
Judiciary
Marijuana sale and possession penalties modified.

HF1437—Dempsey (R)
Health & Human Services
Goodhue County intermediate care facility size reduction pilot project established.

HF1438—Carlson (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Automobile insurance claimant medical examination provisions modified.

HF1439—Larsen (R)
Judiciary
False crime report penalties increased.

HF1440—Broecker (R)
Judiciary
Peace and police officer soft body armor reimbursement amount index provided.

HF1441—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health insurance loss ratios limited, health care commission repealed, health technology advisory committee modified, MinnesotaCare program eligibility expanded, and Medicare assignment provisions modified.

HF1442—Pelowski (DFL)
Education
Omnibus property tax and education financing reform provided, and money appropriated.

HF1443—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Food Stamps; temporary hunger prevention and community development initiative established for individuals terminated from the federal food stamp program, and money appropriated.

HF1444—Wejcman (DFL)
Agriculture
Minnesota-grown food coupon program established in conjunction with the temporary hunger prevention and community development initiative program, and money appropriated.

HF1445—Ozment (R)
Taxes
Residential agricultural property tax classification provided.

HF1446—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Commercial-industrial property tax parcel limitation provisions eliminated.

HF1447—Wenzel (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Partial-birth abortions prohibited and criminal penalties provided.

HF1448—Carruthers (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Senior citizens permitted to fish without a license.

HF1449—Knoblach (R)
Health & Human Services
Welfare reform; residency criteria and eligibility requirements provided for General Assistance, Medical Assistance, Temporary Assistance For Needy Families, and MinnesotaCare.

HF1450—Pugh (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Franchise registration provisions modified.

HF1451—Kuisle (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Deer hunting licenses provided free of charge to certain agricultural landowners for hunting on their own property.

HF1452—Tunheim (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Personal watercraft operation requirements modified, safety certificate required, and money appropriated.

HF1453—Ness (R)
Transportation & Transit
Highway access management policy study provided.

HF1454—Jennings (DFL)
Education
Open enrollment technology project established, and money appropriated.

HF1455—Wejcman (DFL)
Judiciary
Female genital mutilation crime exception added for certified nurse midwives.

HF1456—Carruthers (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Unicameral legislature provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1457—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Personal care attendant use allowed for respite care, and personal care attendant sharing authorized.

HF1458—Marko (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Newport improvement project economic impact study provided, and money appropriated.

HF1459—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Police chief and law enforcement agency director minimum education requirement established.

HF1460—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Government data classification and access provided.

HF1461—Entenza (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Uniform business identifier system established, and money appropriated.

HF1462—Pawlenty (R)
Judiciary
Fourth-degree assault scope expanded to include harm inflicted upon corrections facilities employees.

HF1463—Mahon (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Local office candidate campaign contribution limit provisions clarified.

HF1464—Juhnke (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Municipal and cooperative utilities authorized to form joint ventures for the provision of utility services.

HF1465—Pugh (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Delinquent traffic and parking fine notification, recording, and collection system established, and money appropriated.

HF1466—Leppik (R)
Education
Public library and school media center data access program established, and money appropriated.

HF1467—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Drugfire; Hennepin County sheriff and Minneapolis police provided grants for operation of the FBI Drugfire bullet analysis computer program.

HF1468—Clark (DFL)
Judiciary
Bias-motivated crime prosecution training provided to peace and police officers, and hate-based violence prevention and response public education campaign provided.

HF1469—Rukavina (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
White tax increment financing district duration extension and expansion provided.

HF1470—Rukavina (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Virginia area ambulance district establishment authorized, levy authorized, and local approval required.

HF1471—Anderson, B. (R)
Transportation & Transit
Pedestrian-bicycle overpass construction required on Highway 169 in Elk River.

HF1472—Juhnke (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Air transportation service marketing program established.

HF1473—Clark (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Minnesota corporate subsidy reform commission established.

HF1474—Opatz (DFL)
Education
University of Minnesota and Minnesota state colleges and universities libraries appropriated money.

HF1475—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Personal and dependent nonrefundable income tax credit provided.

HF1476—Hasskamp (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Abortion data reporting provisions modified, and criminal penalties provided.

HF1477—Evans (DFL)
Judiciary
Independent contractors protected from unfair discriminatory employment practices.

HF1478—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Firearms repeat violation minimum sentence provisions clarified.

HF1479—Clark (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
HIV/AIDS; housing provided for persons with HIV or AIDS, and money appropriated.

HF1480—Anderson, B. (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Buffalo tax increment financing district duration extended.

HF1481—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Attorney general required to investigate unfair drug price discrimination, prescription drug price negotiation authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1482—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
DWI; preliminary breath test result permissible use broadened, and DWI forfeiture law scope expanded.

HF1483—Rifenberg (R)
Judiciary
Criminal trial final argument prosecution rebuttal provided.

HF1484—Hausman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Block nurse program expanded, and money appropriated.

HF1485—Solberg (DFL)
Education
Itasca County Greenway Readiness program for early childhood family education and early childhood special education appropriated money.

HF1486—Olson, E. (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Wild rice lessee purchase of state lands authorized.

HF1487—Peterson (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Affordable rental investment fund program appropriated money.

HF1488—Knight (R)
Taxes
Personal and dependent income tax credit provided.

HF1489—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Municipal tort liability provisions modified related to officers, employees, and agents.

HF1490—Sekhon (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Metropolitan regional parks maintenance and operation funded, and money appropriated.

HF1491—Peterson (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health plan managed care agreements regulated.

HF1492—Jefferson (DFL)
Education
Adolescent parenting and prevention pilot program established, and money appropriated.

HF1493—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health coverage mandate assessment process established.

HF1494—Wenzel (DFL)
Agriculture
Soil and water conservation district technical support grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1495—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health plan company and provider exclusive contracts restricted, and penalties provided.

HF1496—Finseth (R)
Health & Human Services
Public-assistance recipient utility deposits returned to counties.

HF1497—Broecker (R)**Education**

Higher education institution gift income tax credit allowed.

HF1498—Leighton (DFL)**Education**

Summer food service replacement aid provided, school breakfast outreach programs established, and money appropriated.

HF1499—Milbert (DFL)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Lawful gambling gross receipt tax schedule modified.

HF1500—Marko (DFL)**Transportation and Transit**

Municipal transportation state aid qualification provisions modified.

HF1501—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Indecent exposure while confining or restraining another person deemed a felony, and sex offender registration required.

HF1502—Carruthers (DFL)**Taxes**

Use tax de minimis exemption expanded.

HF1503—Luther (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Pawn broker charges limited, and pledges or sales of property to pawnbrokers by persons under age 21 prohibited.

HF1504—Pugh (DFL)**Judiciary**

Sex offender probation term extension authorized.

HF1505—Jefferson (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Legislators' retirement plan actuarial funding provided.

HF1506—Kahn (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Metropolitan State University reemployed annuitant health benefit provision exemption provided.

HF1507—Bakk (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Cook County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF1508—Kubly (DFL)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Minnesota alternative energy development authority established.

HF1509—Dawkins (DFL)**Education**

National service scholars program scholarship matching grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1510—Dawkins (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Brownfields coordination and planning for certain areas of St. Paul.

HF1511—Dawkins (DFL)**Education**

Great Northern Corridor Community Development Act adopted, charter schools established, and money appropriated.

HF1512—Bakk (DFL)**Labor-Management Relations**

Educational building construction, improvement, or remodeling designated a project.

HF1513—Wenzel (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Morrison County rural development finance authority grant matching fund requirement repealed.

HF1514—Tomassoni (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Municipalities authorized to allow on-sale liquor license holders to dispense intoxicating liquor at community festivals.

HF1515—Carlson (DFL)**Education**

Cooperative school district state aid pilot program provided.

HF1516—Chaudhary (DFL)**Judiciary**

Housing nuisance calendar program mediation program established, lessor and lessee covenant against unlawful activity provided, unlawful detainer action expedited process provided, and money appropriated.

HF1517—Rukavina (DFL)**Taxes**

State tax structure study authorized.

HF1518—Chaudhary (DFL)**Education**

MnNet; telecommunications council MnNet use requirement eliminated, telecommunication network development and extension provided, and money appropriated.

HF1519—Chaudhary (DFL)**Judiciary**

Landlords required to return rental application fees or provide reason for rental denial in writing, and penalty provided.

HF1520—Chaudhary (DFL)**Taxes**

Corporate franchise tax research credit rate increased.

HF1521—Greiling (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Liquor brand registration requirements modified.

HF1522—Lieder (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

State and local bridge repair, rehabilitation, and replacement provided, and money appropriated.

HF1523—Jaros (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

International affairs office established, and money appropriated.

HF1524—Seifert (R)**Environment****& Natural Resources Finance**

Marshall flood control project funded, and money appropriated.

HF1525—Jennings (DFL)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Electric utility service contract customer-specific terms provided.

HF1526—Rest (DFL)**Education**

Learning year revenue authorized for half-day kindergarten pupils.

HF1527—Westrom (R)**Education**

Independent School District No. 264, Herman-Norcross revenue restoration provided.

HF1528—Murphy (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Infant care home visiting programs established, and money appropriated.

HF1529—Jefferson (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Minneapolis Convention Center expansion authorized, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1530—Knoblach (R)**Governmental Operations**

Public employee health coverage elective abortions prohibited.

HF1531—Kahn (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

State Capitol renovation appropriations reallocated.

HF1532—Skare (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

American Indian history museum appropriation provisions modified.

HF1533—Jennings (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Heating and ventilating advisory council established, penalties prescribed, and money appropriated.

HF1534—Tunheim (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Vertical heat exchanger contractor licensure requirement established.

HF1535—Sviggum (R)**Taxes**

Budget reserve account revenue allocation provided, and refundable income tax credit provided.

HF1536—Wagenius (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Economic policy and strategic planning survey provided, and money appropriated.

HF1537—Carlson (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

New motor vehicle license plate motto and state flag design advisory task force established.

HF1538—Molnau (R)**Transportation & Transit**

Well-drilling machine gasoline and fuel sales tax exemption provided.

HF1539—Workman (R)**Transportation & Transit**

Motorcycle helmet use admissibility into evidence prohibited in personal injury litigation.

HF1540—Murphy (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Drivers required to reduce speed when approaching stopped authorized emergency vehicles.

HF1541—Chaudhary (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Youth-oriented driver improvement clinics established, graduated licensing system provided, motorcycle driver instruction permit provisions modified, and technical modifications provided.

HF1542—Solberg (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Public employment labor agreements ratified, technical modifications provided, and definitions modified.

HF1543—Weaver (R)**Judiciary**

DWI; snowmobile, motorboat, and all-terrain vehicle operator alcohol concentration test refusal deemed a crime.

HF1544—Dawkins (DFL)**Taxes**

Municipal truth-in-taxation notice modification permitted related to mergers of services.

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HF1545-1570 were not available at press time.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
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MONDAY, March 17

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: HF476 (Kalis) FarmAmerica provided
operating grants, and money appropriated.
HF409 (Solberg) Direct reduction iron
processing facility developed, and money
appropriated.
HF793 (Jaros) Natural resources research
institute funded, and money appropriated.
HF1010 (Tomassoni) Taconite industry
technology research grant program established,
and money appropriated.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: HF273 (Pelowski) Virtual U
Minnesota established to develop lifelong
learning opportunities, and money
appropriated.
Higher Education Services Office (HESO)
budget, Dr. Robert Poch, director.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: Englis-as-a-second-language working
group recommendations. Site-based financing
working group recommendations

Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson
Agenda: HF1084 (Anderson, I.) Education cost
financing with property taxes prohibited, and
constitutional amendment proposed.
HF625 (Solberg) Taconite tax relief area fiscal
disparities program modified.
HF995 (McElroy) Joint truth-in-taxation
hearings allowed.

HF1250 (Sykora) Low-income housing
property tax class rate reduction provided.
HF320 (Paymar) Property tax increase
disclosure and vote required.
HF876 (Erhardt) Property tax statement refund
notice provisions modified.
HF452 (Entenza) Cottage and camp federal
land-use property tax exemption provided.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Budget hearing: Department of
Agriculture.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel
Agenda: HF1030 (Peterson) Milk transport
vehicles provided exemption from local road
weight restrictions.
HF1204 (Stang) Milk producer well-water
testing requirements modified.
HF733 (Swenson, H.) Dairy development
program established, grants provided, and
money appropriated.
HFXXXX (Wenzel) Appropriating funds for
dairy diagnostic teams and the Minnesota Dairy
Producers' Board; the omnibus dairy bill.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: HFXXXX (Munger) Living snow
fences.
HFXXXX (Munger) Shelterbelts;
windbreakers.
HF217 (Opatz) Land use mandatory
comprehensive planning provided, capital
improvement program established, and money
appropriated.
HF1000 (Long) Community-based planning
act adopted providing sustainable metropolitan
development, Metropolitan Council
requirements specified, advisory council
established, and money appropriated.

Health & Human Services

Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Public testimony on the governor's
proposed budget for long-term care and health
care programs.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: HF28 (Skoglund) Interference with
privacy in the presence of a minor under age 16
crime penalties increased.

HF702 (Pugh) Unauthorized animal release
penalties increased, and stalking and
harassment crime scope expanded to include
unlawful interference with activities of an entity
that sells or provides services for animals or
animal products.
HF864 (McGuire) Social work board provisions
modified, and civil penalties provided.
HF996 (Carruthers) Northwest Hennepin
County community law enforcement project
appropriated money.
HF1308 (Murphy) DARE; Drug Abuse
Resistance Education funding provided,
advisory council expiration extended, and
money appropriated.
HF686 (Paymar) Tenants provided right to
seek police and emergency assistance, and
penalties provided.
HF932 (Wejcman) Public nuisance definition
expanded to include zoning and business
licensure violations.
HF1234 (Stanek) Public safety department film
rental rules repealed.
HF195 (Bishop) Crime victim impact statement
defendant rebuttal provisions clarified, crime
victim and witness-advisory council duration
extended, victims provided notification of
defendant appeal, and money appropriated.
Additional bills to be announced.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Budget hearings: Minnesota Planning;
and Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission.

12:30 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: Emergency Food Assistance Program;
Soup Kitchen; Foodbank. Minnesota
Economic Opportunity Grant. Head Start.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert
Agenda: HF703 (Dawkins) Minors authorized
to be elected precinct caucus delegates or
officers.
HF48 (Holsten) Ethics in government act
modified to require payment of late filing fees
and fines as a condition of eligibility for a
public subsidy.
HF751 (McCullum) Candidates in violation of
the fair campaign practices act required to
return public subsidies, early voting permitted
at polling places, candidate conduct regulated,
and penalties imposed.
HF1140 (Orfield) Campaign finance
independent expenditure definition modified,
campaign report electronic filing provided,
spending limit provisions modified, and money
appropriated.
HF1198 (Weaver) Political contribution refund
recipient names made public.

HF1244 (McCullum) Campaign finance definitions clarified, reporting requirements modified, public subsidy return required, and penalties provided.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: HF737 (Orfield) Union organization rights and duties established, unfair labor practice provisions modified, and penalties provided.

HF810 (Wolf) Employment search firm bond requirements modified.

HF1106 (Leighton) Employers required to recognize employee representatives.

HF1343 (Knoblach) Reemployment insurance definitions modified related to taxi cab drivers.

HF1345 (Paymar) Workers' compensation occupational disease definition expanded to include corrections officers.

HF1166 (Clark) Minnesota 1997 employment and economic development program established, and money appropriated.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: HF609 (Erhardt) Motor vehicle buyers to notify registrar of transfer within 10 days of purchase, and fees and penalties imposed.

HF241 (Mullery) Motor carrier audits conducted jointly by public safety and transportation departments, commercial vehicle traffic accident information provisions modified, and federal motor carrier safety regulation conformity provided.

HF446 (Biernat) Driver's license issuance prohibited to persons under age 18 who have failed to receive a passing score on the state high school graduation test or meet other educational requirements.

HF1266 (Ozment) Passing a school bus on the right side prohibited while the bus is displaying flashing amber prewarning signals, and criminal penalty provided.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: SF105 (Kelly); HF105 (Olson, E.) Corrections, natural resources, and public safety departments appropriated money for payment of claims against the state.

HF331 (Anderson, I.) State fiscal biennium to begin in even-numbered years, and legislative approval required for federal fund expenditures.

6 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Family Services Collaboratives. Minnesota Children's Initiative.

HF817 (Mariani) Foodshelf program appropriated money.

HF1346 (Mariani) Early childhood family education program revenue increased.

HF965 (Delmont) Community collaboratives for children and youth provided grants, and money appropriated.

TUESDAY, March 18

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: HF775 (Huntley) Student opportunity grants established to provide financial support to students from low-income families, state lottery proceeds dedication provided, constitutional amendment proposed, and money appropriated.

HF961 (Greiling) Education supervisory personnel code of ethics established.

HF1029 (Mares) Teacher background check working group recommendations adopted.

HF937 (Carlson) School district interim superintendent retirement provisions modified.

HF897 (Greiling) School district superintendent performance contracts authorized, and salary increases provided.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Agency budget presentations: Department of Corrections - Legislative Relations and Juvenile Services, Reps. Mary Jo McGuire, Peg Larsen, Rich Stanek, Thomas Pugh. Institutional Support Service, Rep. Doug Swenson. Community Services, Reps. Doug Swenson, Wes Skoglund, Sherry Broecker. Management Services, Reps. Michael Paymar, Peg Larsen. Crime Victim and Prevention Services, Reps. Mary Jo McGuire, Peg Larsen, Rich Stanek, Andy Dawkins, Doug Swenson. Institution Industry, Rep. Thomas Pugh. Food Service, Rep. Sherry Broecker: request for proposals and bidding procedure, Department of Administration; best foods. Employee Concerns, Rep. Thomas Pugh. County Issues, Reps. Sherry Broecker, Thomas Pugh.

Transportation & Transit

Finance Division/ TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: HF385 (Swenson, H.) Trunk Highway No. 19 designated as Augie Mueller Memorial Highway.

HF407 (Bakk) Snowmobile registration fees increased, snowmobile trail grants-in-aid provided, and money appropriated.

HF770 (Hasskamp) Joshua Renken/Stacy Schlosser Snowmobile Safety Act; registration fees modified, liability insurance and safety education required, night speed limit established, local snowmobile speed control provided, and money appropriated.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Continuation of March 17 agenda.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: Discussion of the capitol equipment by the Department of Revenue.

HF684 (Milbert) Replacement capital equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF629 (Erhardt) Replacement capital equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Rule 5.10 referrals:

HF1376 (Trimble) State High School League rulemaking provisions modified.

HF747 (Kahn) State High School League governing board appointing authority provisions modified.

HF663 (Rukavina) Mineral coordinating committee membership expanded, aggregate resources task force established, and money appropriated.

HF829 (Solberg) Government meetings permitted via electronic means, and criteria established.

10 a.m.

Housing & Housing Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: HF1304 (Clark) Pretenancy rental property walk-through and checklist provided, and restitution required for tenant criminal damage to property.

HF1378 (Leighton) Rental residential property heating requirements provided.

HFXXXX (Clark) HIV/AIDS housing.

HF1360 (Dawkins) Great Northern Corridor Community Development Act adopted, and money appropriated.

HF1199 (Peterson) Housing Finance Agency applicant income limits not based upon geographic location.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: HF130 (Carlson) Gopher state bonds; college savings bond program established, marketing plan development required, and bond sale authorized.

HF287 (Bakk) Hastings, Luverne, and Silver Bay veterans' homes improvements provided through the use of donated funds.

HF797 (Clark) Early childhood learning and protection facility grant limitations clarified.

HF940 (Winter) Tourism and exposition center previous appropriation provisions modified.

HF1119 (Clark) Jungle Theatre grant matching requirements clarified.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HF794 (Rest) Minnesota professional firms act adopted.

HF1116 (Sekhon) Architecture, engineering, land surveying, landscape architecture, geoscience, and interior design board provisions modified.

HF1377 (Hasskamp) University of Minnesota tourism center research provided, and money appropriated.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

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

Agenda: HF962 (Schumacher) Manufactured home park municipal zoning provisions modified.

HF692 (Tingelstad) Andover contaminated land cleanup funded, and money appropriated.

HF317 (Huntley) Municipal wastewater infrastructure eminent domain action authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF537 (Jennings) Large energy facility definition expanded to include high-voltage transmission lines that cross the state boundary.

HF640 (Solberg) Nashwauk authorized to own and operate a gas utility.

HF1263 (Rest) County capital improvement bond sunset date extended.

HF680 (McElroy) Metropolitan Council service redesign and employee incentives provided, and pilot project established to improve council efficiency.

HF713 (Molnau) Wastewater treatment facility privatization ownership restrictions modified.

HF738 (Wagenius) Metropolitan Council urban service area extension moratorium imposed.

HF783 (Larsen) Metropolitan Council, Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, Metropolitan Radio Board, and Metropolitan Mosquito Control District abolished, duties transferred, and money appropriated.

HF1317 (Marko) Local government roles and responsibilities advisory council established, and money appropriated.

HF423 (Orfield) Metropolitan Council made an elective body and provided public campaign financing, and penalties imposed.

HF941 (Nornes) Mayor and fire chief offices may be held by the same person under certain circumstances.

HF942 (Wenzel) Disaster relief account established.

HF972 (Hausman) Ramsey County personnel director eligibility certification provisions modified.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: HF1299 (Jennings) Electric Energy Task Force renamed the Legislative Commission on Utility Competition, and electric industry restructuring review process established.

HF880 (Hausman) Minnesota Nuclear Responsibility Act of 1997 adopted, and money appropriated.

HF1298 (Jennings) Electric utility personal property tax replacement fee authorized. Additional bills may be added.

1:30 p.m.

Working Group on Technology/ K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: Presentation of new technology proposals. Public testimony regarding these proposals.

3 p.m.

St. Paul House Legislative Delegation

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Farrell

Agenda: St. Paul Charter Commission.

7 p.m.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

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

Agenda: Continuation of 12:30 p.m. meeting agenda.

Subcommittee on Business Regulation/ COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Al Juhnke

Agenda: HF982 (Dawkins) Public Safety Department liquor control and gambling enforcement divisions consolidated, and technical corrections provided.

HF761 (Wejcman) Cordial and liqueur brand labels prohibited from containing cartoons and caricatures, mandatory minimum civil penalty provided for sales of alcoholic beverages to minors, and home delivery of alcohol regulated. Additional bills may be added.

Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/ EDUCATION

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza

Agenda: HF615 (Kinkel) Teacher multi-year contracts offered, and public postsecondary education waivers provided as an alternative to continuing employment.

HF575 (Weaver) Pornography-blocking computer software required for schools.

HF309 (Koppendrayner) School boards authorized to contract for instructional and noninstructional services.

HF543 (Entenza) Child and family program outcome accountability mechanism established and working group established, report required, and money appropriated.

Housing & Housing Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: To be announced.

WEDNESDAY, March 19

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Continuation of March 17 agenda.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: HF304 (Opatz) Higher education master plan commission established, and money appropriated.

HF1213 (Goodno) Moorhead land transfer authorized.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) budget, Judith Eaton, chancellor and Laura King, vice chancellor.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF772 (Evans) Health and safety revenue program expanded to include indoor air quality, school construction project information requirements modified, indoor air quality task force established, and money appropriated.

Charter and lab schools working group recommendations.

Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF165 (Rest) Property tax market value limitation formula modified and program duration extended.

HF339 (Rest) Property tax fiscal disparities determination provisions modified.

HF1239 (Hasskamp) Residential property market value increases limited.

Additional bills may be added.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Continuation of March 17 agenda.

Sales & Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: To be announced.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Budget hearings: Department of Employee Relations (DOER); and Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund (MERF).

HF297 (Jennings) National Guard member tuition and textbook reimbursement grant program provisions modified.

HF188 (Long) Coya Knutson memorials designed and constructed, and money appropriated.

HF22 (Rukavina) Police state aid allocation method modified, and money appropriated.
HF444 (McCollum) Persian Gulf War veteran bonus payment program established, criminal penalty imposed for false application, and money appropriated.
HF1113 (Luther) Intergovernmental information systems advisory council appropriated money for development of the multiple jurisdiction law enforcement network project.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: HF1179 (Davids) Petroleum tank upgrade assistance program established.
HF1341 (Osskopp) Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Fund use provisions modified.
HF1397 (Osthoff) Petroleum contaminated site cleanup provided, and money appropriated.
HF840 (Wagenius) Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Program reimbursements authorized.
HF1102 (Leighton) Used motor oil and filter collection and recycling plan revised.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson
Agenda: HF843 (Clark) Lead hazard reduction advisory task force established, and money appropriated.
HF571 (Kalis) Long-term care insurance policy sales regulated.
HF210 (Daggett) Long-term health care insurance premium income tax credit provided.
HF1001 (Tomassoni) Insurance company exclusive agencies regulated, penalties provided for agent rights violations, and enforcement of agreements against terminated agents prohibited.
HF923 (Seagren) State-chartered financial institutions authorized to act as trustees of federally qualified medical savings accounts.
HF992 (Murphy) Thomson detached banking facility establishment authorized.
HF1045 (Farrell) Insurance surcharges prohibited for automobile accidents in which the insured is a passenger in a bus, taxi, or commuter van.
HF1188 (Anderson, B.) Hassan detached banking facility establishment authorized.
HF1205 (Murphy) Lyme disease health plan coverage provisions clarified.
HF429 (Jefferson) Real property fire loss escrow account provisions clarified.
HF708 (Skare) Mastectomies; health plan inpatient mastectomy coverage requirement established.
HF875 (Tunheim) Health plan enrollee health care services provider choice required.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: HF1229 (Biernat) Crime victim information release discretion granted to prosecutors.
HF925 (Entenza) Child support obligor data classified, and child support reporting contractor report required.
HF83 (Skoglund) Fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle crime penalties increased.

HF410 (Skoglund) Recreational vehicle operators fleeing peace officers provided criminal penalty.
HF261 (Farrell) Motor vehicle crime statutory elements and defense provisions modified.
HF616 (Skoglund) HIV/Hepatitis B; corrections guards provided testing for HIV and Hepatitis B when experiencing significant exposure to infected persons while engaged in official duties, inmate assault sentencing modified, fourth-degree assault expanded.
HF1033 (Entenza) Consumer and charitable solicitation fraud, deceptive trade practices, and false advertising against elderly or handicapped victims provided criminal penalties.
HF506 (Swenson, D.) School bus safety regulated, student school bus conduct requirements developed, accident reporting provided, and penalties provided.
Additional bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins
Agenda: HF154 (Murphy) Livestock activity liability provisions modified.
HF176 (Vickerman) Distressed food donor injury liability limited.
HF184 (Bishop) Harassment victim civil cause of action provided.
HF626 (Luther) Designated parent agreement execution and consent requirements modified.
HF846 (Leighton) Sexual abuse statute of limitations delayed discovery rule provisions clarified.
HF1076 (McGuire) Seat belt and child-restraint system-use civil action evidence admissibility provisions clarified.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros
Agenda: HFXXXX (Jefferson) Appropriating funding for expansion of the Minneapolis Convention Center.
HFXXXX (Wagenius) Appropriate funds to the director of the Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning to survey means of establishing an ongoing state economy policy.
HFXXXX (Jaros) Establish the office of international affairs coordinator; appropriate funding to the Department of Trade and Economic Development.
HF1192 (Leighton) Corporate aid moratorium established prohibiting grants, tax incentives, and financial assistance to corporate entities.
Additional bills may be added.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: HF879 (Seagren) Adult basic education revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.
HF882 (Dawkins) Neighborhood organizations provided stipends for the delivery of services to children and families, and money appropriated.
HF928 (Wejzman) Child care service integration demonstration projects established, and money appropriated.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: To be announced.

2 p.m.

Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

112 State Capitol
Chr. Sen. Steven Morse
Agenda: SF51 (Janezich); HF73 (Rukavina) Eveleth Police and Fire Trust Fund benefit increase provided.
SF798 (Johnson, D.H.); HF907 (Garcia) Richfield Fire Department Relief Association benefit increases provided.
SF1113 (Solon) Duluth fire and police joint consolidation account retired firefighter benefit recomputation.
SF1183 (Kelly); HF1267 (Osthoff) St. Paul fire and police consolidation accounts pension and survivor benefit recipient benefit floor provisions revised.
HF1273 (Knoblach) Local police and paid fire relief association legal expense treatment clarified.
SF717 (Metzen); HF796 (Delmont) MSRS; deferred compensation governance provisions modified.
Additional bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim
Agenda: HF688 (Paymar) Cigarette advertising restricted and regulated, and penalties provided.
Additional bills may be added.

Subcommittee on Gambling/REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Delmont
Agenda: HFXXXX (Delmont) Combined receipts tax deduction.
HF1310 (Carlson) Fire relief association gambling license renewal authorized.
Additional bills may be added.

Subcommittee on Land Sales/ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Hausman
Agenda: HF424 (Koppendrayer) Mille Lacs County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.
HF299 (Bakk) State park additions and name changes provided.
HFXXXX (Hausman) Omnibus land sales bill.

3 p.m. or After Session

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Continuation of 10 a.m. meeting agenda.

6 p.m.

**Joint House/Senate
Subcommittee on Statewide Testing**

5 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Becky Kelso,
Sen. Larry Pogemiller
Agenda: Discussion of statewide assessment
legislation.

7 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins
Agenda: Continuation of 12:30 p.m. meeting
agenda.

THURSDAY, March 20

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: Budget hearings: Department of Trade
and Economic Development; and Department
of Economic Security.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: HF989 (Greiling) State high school
league interschool competition authority
modified.
Additional bills may be added.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Continuation of March 18 agenda.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Continuation of March 19 agenda.
Additional bills may be added.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Bills referred under Rule 5.10:
HF1389 (Jennings) Public employee and official
salary and compensation provisions modified.
HF948 (Wagenius) Mercury emissions
consumer information act of 1997 adopted.
HF696 (Rukavina) State agency professional
and technical service contract provisions
modified.
Continuation of March 18 agenda.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
Agenda: HF1276 (Trimble) Community
rehabilitation fund program and affordable
rental investment fund program appropriated
money.
HF1395 (Juhnke) Employer contribution for
employee housing tax credit provided.
HFXXXX (Peterson) Minnesota Housing
Finance Agency may not establish different
income limits based on geographic location.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: HFXXXX (Kalis) Cancellation of old
bond authorizations.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM
& CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: HF244 (Bishop) Individual sewage
system requirements modified, and Pollution
Control Agency rule compliance authority
granted.
HF971 (Mullery) Hennepin County radio
system facility lease by commercial wireless
system authorized.
HF698 (Rukavina) St. Louis County division
vote provided.
HF798 (Dehler) Unpaid municipal judgement
penalty established.
HF838 (Dehler) Municipal annexation
regulation provided.
HF855 (Dehler) Municipal board property
owner definition modified.
HF1338 (Molnau) Municipal consolidation
authorized.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: HF322 (Jennings) Municipalities
authorized to control public rights-of-way
related to utility services.
HF298 (Jennings) Railroad charges to utilities
for right-of-way access disputes heard and
resolved by transportation commissioner.
Additional bills may be added.

**Subcommittee on Data Practices/
JUDICIARY**

400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire
Agenda: HF367 (Davids) Omnibus mortuary
science regulation bill.
HF260 (Delmont) School immunization and
health record provisions modified.
HF973 (Solberg) Human rights commissioner
duties specified, data privacy provisions
modified, and cost reimbursement provided.
HF741 (McGuire) Legislative information
policy task force established, and money
appropriated.
HF1152 (Swenson, D.) Governor's council on
data practices reform established, and money

appropriated.
HF227 (Goodno) Human rights department
investigative data reclassification provided.
HF1036 (Macklin) Government data practices
program integrity initiatives established, and
child support enforcement registry access
provided.
Bills referred from other committees:
HFXXXX (Johnson, A.) Student evaluation of
professors.
Additional bills may be added.

**Subcommittee on DWI/
JUDICIARY**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Satveer Chaudhary
Agenda: HF1318 (Skoglund) DWI offender
maximum stay of sentence provided.
HF845 (Leighton) DWI; felony penalty
provided for repeat driving-while-intoxicated
offenses.
HF189 (Pugh) DWI; repeat DWI offenders
provided felony penalties, prior-offense
definition provisions modified, and sentencing
guidelines commission criminal history point
weighting provisions modified.
HF229 (Weaver) DWI; repeat DWI offender
violations provided enhanced gross
misdemeanor penalty.
HF1061 (Chaudhary) DWI; criminal penalties,
minimum sentences, and administrative
sanctions increased for driving while
intoxicated offenders with an alcohol
concentration of 0.20 or more.
HF1094 (Boudreau) DWI; driver's license
revocation period doubled for persons who
violate driving while intoxicated laws with a
blood alcohol level of 0.20 or greater, and
penalty assessment provided.
HF101 (Swenson, D.) DWI; drivers license
revocation and reinstatement provisions
modified.
HF201 (Swenson, D.) DWI; criminal penalty
provided for operators of snowmobiles, all-
terrain vehicles, and motorboats who refuse an
alcohol test.
Additional bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: To be announced.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
& INSURANCE**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson
Agenda: Continuation of March 19 agenda.

**Subcommittee on Data Practices/
JUDICIARY**

400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire
Agenda: Continuation of 12:30 p.m. meeting
agenda.

**Subcommittee on DWI/
JUDICIARY**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Satveer Chaudhary

Agenda: Continuation of 12:30 p.m. meeting agenda.

FRIDAY, March 21

8 a.m.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Mayo Medical School budget, Dr. Burton A. Sandock, dean; and Dr. David C. Agarter, chair, Mayo Family Practice Clinic. HF1233 (Opatz) St. Cloud Hospital/Mayo family practice residency program funding provided, and money appropriated. University of Minnesota budget.

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Overview of governor's budget recommendations—Article 11, Technology, Tom Melcher, Department of Children, Families and Learning. Technology working group recommendations, Reps. Alice Johnson, Bob Ness.

**Transportation & Transit
Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: Preliminary budget considerations.

10 a.m.

JUDICIARY

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

Agenda: To be announced.

12:30 p.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF551 (Sekhon) State land boundary line and trust sale provisions modified, property tax payment by natural resources commissioner provided, and public land sales authorized. HF299 (Bakk) State park additions and name changes provided.

HF1178 (Davids) Border-to-border state trail study provided, and money appropriated. HF1351 (Hasskamp) Personal watercraft nuisance control act adopted.

HF1082 (Osthoff) Hunting and fishing license fees modified, aquatic farming fees and requirements modified, and commercial fishing and netting provisions modified. HF313 (Milbert) Fish habitat and propagation provisions modified, special hunting events established for youth, airboats restricted, minnow-taking provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF171 (Bakk) Deer; youth resident deer hunting license established.

HF378 (Finseth) Deer; taking of two deer under

one license authorized in designated counties. HF1122 (Finseth) Big-game and turkey hunting permitted with a crossbow by persons 65 years of age or older.

HF621 (Holsten) Deer-hunting special season first weekend reserved for hunters under age 16 accompanied by a non-hunting adult.

**GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS
AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS**

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

Agenda: HF1320 (Jefferson) Tuskegee Airmen; Red Tail project appropriated money for project honoring the Tuskegee Airmen. HF104 (Sviggum) Legislative ethics committees

and procedures established, former legislators prohibited from lobbying for one year after leaving office, and fair campaign practices advisory board established.

Continuation of March 17 agenda.

1 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: To be announced.

2 p.m.

**Legislative Commission on
Pensions and Retirement**

112 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Steven Morse

Agenda: SF995 (Morse); HF1129 (Kahn) Teachers' Retirement Association employee and employer contribution provisions modified.

SF997 (Morse); HF1128 (Kahn) Higher education supplemental retirement plan employee and employer contribution provisions modified.

SF922 (Morse); HF1127 (Kahn) Public employee Individual Retirement Account plan provisions modified.

SF996 (Morse); HF1130 (Kahn) Higher education Individual Retirement Account plan provided administrative changes, and advisory committee established.

SF1171 (Morse); HF1270 (Kahn) State colleges and universities pension provisions modified, teachers retirement reporting and remittance requirements modified, and higher education supplemental retirement plan provisions modified.

Additional bills may be added.

SATURDAY, March 22

9 a.m.

**Legislative Commission on
Pensions and Retirement**

15 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Steven Morse

Agenda: SF637 (Morse); HF647 (Jefferson) Public pension benefit accrual rates increased, defined contribution early retirement options authorized, homestead and agricultural credit aid modified, and money appropriated.

SF64 (Junge); HF488 (Rest) MSRS, Teachers' Retirement Association, and first-class city Teachers Retirement Association members authorized service credit purchase for voluntary military service.

SF621 (Johnson, J.B.); HF938 (Murphy) Corrections employee retirement benefit coverage extended to include certain employees of the Cambridge Regional Human Services Center.

SF674 (Knutson); HF1249 (Murphy) Red Wing Sexual Psychopathic Personality Treatment Center employees included in a temporary retirement election option.

SF1191 (Morse) MSRS coverage for department of revenue seasonal employees.

SF318 (Kleis); HF856 (Dehler) Legislators' retirement law coverage provisions modified. Additional bills may be added.



Gov. Arne Carlson has outlined his vision for some of the state's estimated \$2.3 billion surplus in his property tax reform proposal, which has yet to be introduced in the House.

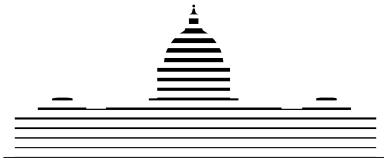
Along with a plan to overhaul Minnesota's convoluted tax code, the governor also wrote in a one-time rebate to individual income taxpayers based on their 1996 returns. Anyone who paid any Minnesota income tax at all in 1996 would get a check for 22 percent of the total, said Department of Revenue Commissioner Jim Girard.

The measure specifies a minimum payment of \$50 and a maximum of \$900 per individual or \$1,800 for a couple. Girard estimated that the rebates would chew up around \$750 million of the surplus.

During the course of debate over proposed changes to the state's body of unclaimed property law March 13, some members of the House Commerce and International Affairs Committee became deeply concerned about how the legislation might affect retailers who sell gift certificates that go unused. After more than hour of discourse centering around some of the law's more arcane provisions, some representatives — particularly those without the benefit of a law degree — expressed frustration as they tried to glean the nuances of difference that exist between some of the legal concepts cited in the bill.

Indeed, Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina) apparently spoke for more than one member when he said, "Mr. Chair, I'm still unsure as to what the hell we're talking about here!"

The members voted to send the bill to the House Ways and Means Committee.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
 Majority Leader: Ted Winter
 Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Oh, the state we're in

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Sources: *Compare Minnesota 1996-1997*, Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development; *Population Notes, November 1996*, Minnesota Planning; *Pop Bites, May 1996*, Minnesota Planning; *Ahead at Halftime: Minnesota at Mid-Decade*, Minnesota Planning.

For more information



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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ March 21, 1997 ♦ Volume 14, Number 11



SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • March 21, 1997 • Volume 14, Number 11

Session Weekly is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1997-98 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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Update

An influential activity in the legislative process is the caucus. It is an integral part of the legislative process because it can control how groups respond to a given agenda. A caucus is the coming together of like factions to develop a plan of action. It may also be two or more people discussing a specific topic or participating in a like interest. Most always, a caucus is organized to insure that individuals involved be united for or against an issue.

Key caucus meetings here in a legislature setting are comprised of political party members who form a majority caucus and a minority caucus. They meet separately and in private. Both caucuses work to present a united front during floor debate and for final voting. Their goals are to demonstrate a desire for making laws they feel will be in the best interest of the people.

Another group, the open caucus visitors and their overheard conversations, are more interesting and educational to the impartial observer. All over, you will find small and large collections of individuals conferring or caucusing. For the sake of recognition, these groups are hereby identified as one-day-only types and the daily types.

Sometimes the one-day types can be identified by their body language. They are the ones who get jittery when riding in an elevator.

Another method of identity is by what they say. If you overhear someone in the House chamber gallery note that this largest room in the Capitol "could hold a whole lot of corn," it's obvious how to type them. These visitors are here only briefly to show support for or oppose some cause. Most of their caucusing involves debate on how to find a hearing room, the cafeteria, or where to find the tunnel to get to other buildings.

One-day types are not to be confused with the special interest faction who show up every day. One-day visitors run in packs of eight to 15 or more and don't walk as fast as the daily guests. The dailies form cliques of only one to four and do most of their caucusing through a mouth/earpiece device with some unknown group miles away.

The most unique group of all is the open air caucus. This caucus is unorganized and made up of individuals from both political caucuses, nonpartisans, and others who happen by. The meetings seem to provide the most in-depth forum on issues, bills, hearings, the weather, gossip, and all other daily activities. As a caucus, they do not influence laws. But maybe because they represent all caucuses and meet out in the fresh air, their profound and objective discussions probably affect more opinion than the heavy debate in heated, closed sessions.

An obvious, ongoing tactic at the Capitol is "When in doubt, *caucus*."

— LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: The warm sunshine poured into the Capitol rotunda on the first day of spring March 20.

— Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Highlights

Historic dialogue . . .

Tribal leaders, lawmakers open communication lines

“Fragile, misunderstood, and hopeful” is the way one leader described the current state of Indian affairs at a historic March 19 meeting at the State Capitol.

Representatives from the state’s 11 bands were invited by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) to address a joint meeting of the House and Senate local government committees. It was believed to be the first such meeting in recent history between state and tribal officials.

House committee chair Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) said that legislators felt the exchange was overdue. No one seemed to disagree. The meeting was not meant to work on bills, but to provide the tribes with a forum for dialogue, said Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy), chair of the Senate committee.

Peter Defoe, secretary-treasurer of the Fond du Lac Reservation, said he’d like to see such meetings take place regularly. “It’s an opportunity to make our presence known and help the elected people of the state get to know us better.” After all, he added, “We’re here, we’re not going anywhere, and neither are they.”

Further, Defoe said a lack of communication makes divisions between tribes and the state government look bigger than they are.

In fact, said Bobby Whitefeather, chair of the Red Lake Nation, the relationship between the state of Minnesota and the tribes is the envy of other states partly because of successful programs that provide scholarships, housing, and other aid to Indians.

Whitefeather served as spokesperson for



Bobby Whitefeather, chair of the Red Lake Nation, led a group of speakers at a historic meeting between state and tribal officials March 19 at the Capitol.

the tribes, acknowledging the controversies and changes that have transformed reservations and Indian life in recent years: casinos, welfare reform, treaty rights for fishing and hunting, and tribal sovereignty.

“Welfare reform is probably the most talked-about issue this legislative session,” he said. “Indian tribes were not given enough consideration when the act was written. It should have been written with some recognition of and sensitivity to the culture of native persons.”

The casinos, as important as they are, won’t solve all Indian problems, he said, adding, “We’ve been in a continual mode of

survival.” Typical casino jobs don’t pay wages that support families, Whitefeather said, and reservations still have a difficult time attracting other forms of industry. In fact, reservations often suffer unemployment at rates of 40 percent and higher. “We’d be happy to bring it down to the levels of the Great Depression,” when unemployment stood at about 20 percent, he said. Non-Indians, Marge Anderson, chief executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibway, said, make up 80 percent of the state’s casino workforce.

Dallas Ross, chair of the state’s Indian Affairs Council, said that infant mortality, joblessness, poor health, and poverty still



Representatives from the state’s 11 Native American bands were invited to address a joint meeting of the House and Senate local government committees March 19. Some of the participants were, *left to right*: Bobby Whitefeather, Dallas Ross, Norman Deschampe, Marge Anderson, Derelyn Lehto, Loretta Gagnon, and Peter Defoe.

plague Indian populations. "We have a long way to go before we can catch up with the rest of society, much less get rich," he said. (While a few casinos do have highly publicized profit-sharing arrangements with individual members of the band, many don't.) He said the casinos make it possible to close the income gap with "dignity and strength."

Derelyn Lehto, vice chair of the Prairie Island Tribal Council, said, "Gaming is the one thing we can point to and say it's having an impact. The Treasure Island Casino has created a new reservation. . . . Ten years ago, we were hardly spectators in the political process. Now we're players."

Anderson said tribes are using the revenues to build or purchase health care facilities, schools, housing, banks, and retail outlets. They're also investing in business and partnerships, while increasing their effect on Minnesota's economy.

In 1993, a Minnesota Planning study showed tribal gaming had created 10,350 jobs, resulting in \$7 million in annual welfare savings and a 16-percent decline in AFDC recipients in counties with casinos. By 1997, a study by the Minnesota Indian Gaming Commission shows gaming has produced 11,465 jobs, a 58-percent decrease in Indians receiving general assistance, and a 17-percent decrease in AFDC payments in counties with casinos.

Still, Loretta Gagnon, member-at-large of the Indian Affairs Council, said that urban Indian populations are plagued by poverty, unemployment, health problems, and poor education levels. In Minneapolis, 53 percent of Indians live below poverty level; at 41 percent, St. Paul isn't much better. And, she said, "Our children are disproportionately poor."

"If you asked me to describe in three words the state of Indian affairs, I'd say 'fragile, misunderstood, and hopeful,'" Ross said. "Most tribes are still recovering from the 19th century and trying to catch up with the 20th."

The leaders made clear that they take tribal sovereignty seriously. "I'm hopeful that tribal sovereignty will no longer be regarded as a threat, but for what it is — an inherent right," Ross said.

"Why is sovereignty so important?" asked Norman Deschampe, president of the Minnesota Grand Portage Band of Chippewa. "It's the internationally recognized right of people to govern themselves. Sovereignty is who we are," and, he added, it will lead the tribes to self-sufficiency.

Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley) received applause when he spoke of pride in being the only Indian in the Minnesota Leg-

islature. Later, he said, he looks forward "to taking pride in not being the only Indian in the Legislature."

Noting that progress has been made, Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) said that much more needs to be done. "A challenge for each of us is to make sure things continue to get better."

In closing, Whitefeather said that the tribes appeared before the Legislature "with some forcefulness," frustrated at the slow pace of change. Indian tribes have had to endure a great deal, he said, including treaty violations, forced assimilation, and a loosening connection with their culture. "We endure, but we strive to survive. That's a key word because it's the best we can hope for at this point." He requested that legislative leaders consider continued meetings with tribal leaders. "Indian tribes will survive in perpetuity along with our non-Indian neighbors."

— Celeste Riley



BUSINESS

Smoke ads limited

Several times a week, Robert Wojcicki picks up his three-year-old daughter, Anna, from her downtown St. Paul day care facility. One day, as they were getting her jacket from the coatroom, Anna pointed out a window and drew her Dad's attention to the smiling face of Joe Camel peering down from a billboard across the street.

"I'd seen it every day," Wojcicki said of the cartoon tobacco image, "but I never picked up on it. Anna sure did, though. As a parent trying to raise law-abiding children, I'm asking for a level playing field. I don't want her exposed to products that she can't legally buy."

If the Legislature approves HF688, as the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee did March 19 on a 12-11 vote, Wojcicki may get his wish. The bill would "restrict tobacco advertising where the tobacco advertising is likely to be seen by minors."

The average age of beginning smokers, said HF688 sponsor Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul), is 13 years old. What's more, he said, it's well documented that tobacco companies have long had in place marketing strategies aimed at seducing kids — referred to in an R.J. Reynolds internal memo as "pre-smokers" — into the nicotine habit.

"We've added vendors to the list of those subject to penalties" for supplying smokes to kids, Paymar said. "It is time to take a bold step to make an impact on the demand side."

Paymar said he had worked hard to craft a bill that would regulate commercial speech in a manner that does not trample advertisers' First Amendment rights. Hamline University School of Law Professor David Cobin, who teaches constitutional law, testified that the bill would pass constitutional muster.

The question is one of balance, he said. To succeed, the state must demonstrate a compelling interest and prove that the law would advance that interest. Moreover, the state must prove that the law is, in fact, enforceable and that there is simply no other way to achieve the desired goal other than banning this particular form of commercial speech.

"In my opinion, this law would be constitutional," Cobin said, adding that HF688 is patterned after a Baltimore ordinance that has survived two challenges in the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

A lawyer for the American Advertising Federation, though, challenged Cobin's assessment, calling the bill "unlawful."

Federal law, said Dan Troy, routinely provides for the regulation of tobacco advertising by Congress, and Congress has already spoken on this issue. In 1965, he said, tobacco manufacturers won the right to advertise on billboards at the same time they agreed to start placing warning labels on their products. The Supreme Court has made it clear time and again, he said, that this language trumps all other state attempts at regulation.

Moreover, Troy said, the Baltimore law cited by Cobin has not yet cleared every legal hurdle and could still be declared unconstitutional. Indeed, he said, the Supreme Court will take it up in a few months.

"The general rule is that the speaker and the audience — not the government — decide the value of the information," Troy said. "The mere fact that someone one day may throw a jar of peanut butter at the presidential motorcade does not mean that we can ban peanut butter advertising."

Yet, by the narrowest of margins, the committee decided it could, sending the measure to the House floor for final approval.



CRIME

Silencers on police guns

A bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee March 19 would broaden the circumstances under which Department of Corrections (DOC) officials can carry guns, and would allow police officers to use silencers on guns in some high-risk situations.

Current law prohibits DOC officials from

carrying weapons off prison grounds. That includes on-duty time transporting prisoners between institutions or to other places, such as doctor appointments. The DOC handles between 50 and 100 of those trips every day, said DOC commissioner Fred LaFleur, and those trips are becoming increasingly dangerous.

One reason guards are prohibited from carrying guns at those times is a fear that the weapons could be used against them in a prisoner attack. But, LaFleur said, "over the years the prison population has become more sophisticated and armed. We need to give employees a certain amount of assurance that they will not be put at risk."

"In the past year, it has become clear that there's a problem with the law and the ability of DOC employees to perform their duties," said Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), committee chair.

Skoglund sponsors **HF614**, which would allow DOC officials to carry firearms in the course of official duties. These could include transporting inmates or apprehending violators of parole or supervised release.

The bill also authorizes law enforcement agencies to use silencers (devices that quiet or muffle the sound of a gunshot) in the course of some duties. Current law prohibits the use of such devices.

An example, Skoglund said, would be to stop an attacking dog while police attempt to move in for a raid on a suspected drug house.

The bill now moves to the House floor.



DEVELOPMENT

Coordinated land planning

Two bills (**HF217** and **HF1000**) approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee March 17 offer different approaches to curtailing sprawl in Greater Minnesota.

Urban growth has been gobbling up open land on the edges of the Twin Cities metropolitan area for decades. Now it is taking substantial bites out of Minnesota's rural areas as well. Statewide, urban development consumes about 68 acres per day.

Since the mid-1970s, the Metropolitan Council has planned and shaped development in the seven-county metropolitan area. The council periodically reviews its Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA) boundary. Inside the boundary, new development is provided with municipal utility services such as roads, water, and sewer. Outside the MUSA, development is more restricted and receives no such services.

HF217 provides the legal framework and funding to extend state-mandated comprehensive planning to Minnesota's rural counties, cities, and townships.

Bill sponsor Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) explained that developers are currently avoiding the restrictions imposed on them by the Metropolitan Council by building in surrounding counties. These developments often take the form of highpriced housing on five-acre plots of former farm land.

Projections are that central Minnesota will get 100,000 new residents in the next decade, Opatz told the panel. "That is like picking up the entire city of Duluth and setting it on top of Anoka. We have no plan for all of that growth."

Opatz explained that state-mandated planning is necessary because local government officials are often reluctant to restrict land use when a friend, family member, or neighbor has something to gain from a new development.

HF217 would require all Minnesota counties outside the Metropolitan area to submit comprehensive land-use plans to the state Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning. The plans must conform to 12 goals for sustainable development outlined in the bill.

Counties with a population density greater than 50 people per square mile and gaining population at a rate faster than the state as a whole would be considered "growth" counties. In growth counties, any land not included within a municipal plan would be zoned as permanent agricultural land, where developments would be limited to one dwelling unit per 40 acres. Seven counties — Benton, Chisago, Isanti, Olmsted, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright — would currently qualify as growth counties.

Under the bill, any municipality that does not submit a comprehensive plan to its county board would have a plan prepared for it by the county. If a county board does not submit a plan to the Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning, that agency would prepare a plan for the county. The bill also would appropriate an unspecified amount to provide grants for local planning efforts.

In previous committee hearings, the bill garnered support from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, the Builders Association of Minnesota, the Minnesota Association of Realtors, and the Metropolitan Council.

HF1000, sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), tackles the sprawl problem with different tools. The bill would provide technical assistance and financial incentives to

counties that voluntarily participate in a planning process. Counties receiving such assistance would be required to adhere to 10 goals for community-based planning and coordinate with municipalities within their jurisdiction and with neighboring counties.

Unlike Opatz's bill, **HF1000** would include the seven-county metropolitan area. It would require the Metropolitan Council to amend its development guidelines to reflect the bill's 10 community-based planning goals.

Long's bill also would establish an advisory council to develop a framework for community-based planning and create the tools and incentives to implement the plans.

"Presumably, before we reach the [House] floor, we will merge the two bills," Long said.

Opatz agreed that the two bills are not incompatible and could be merged.

Both bills now move to the House Governmental Operations Committee.

Bigger convention center

The House Economic Development and International Trade Committee approved a bill that would use state dollars to jump-start a long sought expansion of the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, along with several other city finance officials, appeared at the March 19 meeting to testify in favor of **HF1529**, calling the measure more important to the city's economic vitality than any other project, including the proposed new baseball stadium for the Minnesota Twins.

"The convention center is one of our top priorities," Sayles Belton said. "The success of many Minnesota businesses hinges on the success of this public/private partnership."

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), would provide Minneapolis with an unspecified amount of money from the state's general fund to initiate construction at the facility, with the balance of the cost financed by a future state bonding measure. Jefferson told the committee the state's general fund contribution would be \$37.5 million. The project's total cost is estimated at \$147.5 million.

The expansion, said Jefferson and Sayles Belton, actually represents a completion of the project. The original plans, which called for nearly 500,000 square feet of floor space, were scaled back to the existing 280,000 square feet after then-Gov. Rudy Perpich vetoed proposed state funding in 1985.

Instead, the city paid for the convention

center with \$350 million in bonds, imposing a half-cent sales tax to service the debt. Under HF1529, the city would continue to impose the sales tax until all of the bonds issued — including future bonds let by the state — had been retired.

Both Jefferson and Sayles Belton said that without the extra square footage, the convention center would no longer be a player on the national convention scene. In fact, Minneapolis has slipped in the market from the 13th largest facility in 1986 to 43rd in 1996. As a result, the state has lost millions in out-of-town dollars.

“If we let this happen, we will . . . be once again competing with ourselves rather than with the rest of the country,” Jefferson said, adding that smaller facilities in Greater Minnesota support the Minneapolis expansion. “Completing the convention center puts us right back into the national market.”

The committee sent the bill to its finance division, where members will scrutinize the fiscal details.

Gravel supply pits

Gravel, used extensively by the construction industry, is becoming increasingly hard to come by in Minnesota, said Roger Brice, of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in testimony before the House Governmental Operations Committee.

“We’re projecting a huge shortfall of gravel,” Brice said. “Some of the reasons are difficulty in locating new gravel pits because of local concerns and local extraction taxes. There are a lot of issues we think need to be considered.”

HF663, sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), would create a task force to study the issue and recommend ways to ease the problem. It was approved by the committee on March 18.

“We use about eight tons of sand and gravel per person in the state of Minnesota each year,” said the DNR’s Ron Visness. “This is primary building material.” Visness said the materials are used in paving streets and in building basements. While demand is on the increase, supply is dwindling. Not only do companies have to transport it from farther and farther away, fewer and fewer communities are willing to have gravel pits dug in their area, he said.

“Does this mean gravel policy is in the pits?” Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson) asked.

HF663 now moves to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.



DWI

Tougher on DWI offenders

On March 14, the House Judiciary Committee’s DWI Subcommittee approved several bills that will become part of an omnibus bill to be acted upon later this session.

HF918 would use new technology to deal with repeat offenders and to enhance public safety. Under the bill, sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), a person arrested twice or more for a DWI offense could avoid pre-trial detention by agreeing to electronic alcohol monitoring. The option is possible because of a computerized breath tester that can be plugged into a telephone. Three times per day the monitored person would provide a breath sample into the tester, the results of which would be transferred immediately via phone to authorities.

Under the terms of the monitoring agreement, the person must abstain entirely from alcohol consumption. Any violation would generate an arrest warrant.

The monitoring procedure has been used in more than 3,000 pre- and post-trial DWI cases.

Tenth District Court Judge James Dehn told the committee that many of those who have been required to undergo the monitoring have said it helped them control their alcohol abuse.

The legislation also would reduce the burden on prison space. “We don’t have enough jail space to put all the DWI offenders in jail, but we can monitor them,” Skoglund said.

The committee also approved HF1061, which would increase the penalties for those convicted of driving with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.20 or higher. The crime would be a gross misdemeanor and apply to automobiles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and boats. While current law calls for increasing penalties for DWI offenders who repeat, there is no penalty distinction based on the offender’s increase in blood-alcohol level.

The penalties also would include electronic monitoring during pre-trial release; one year of monitoring after conviction; and chemical-use assessment and treatment. For repeat offenders at the higher blood-alcohol level, the penalties would include the above as well as a 30-day jail term, and a longer driver’s license revocation. It also would reduce the number of offenses from four within five years to three within five years before an offender’s license plates would be impounded and vehicles forfeited.

The committee also added a part of HF506,

a school bus equipment and safety bill, to the omnibus DWI bill. Sponsored by Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake), the measure would impose a “not a drop” standard for school bus drivers’ blood-alcohol content. The section would make it a misdemeanor for any person to drive a school bus if there is any presence of alcohol in the body. Current law calls for the penalty for an alcohol concentration of at least 0.04.



EDUCATION

Stopping cyberporn

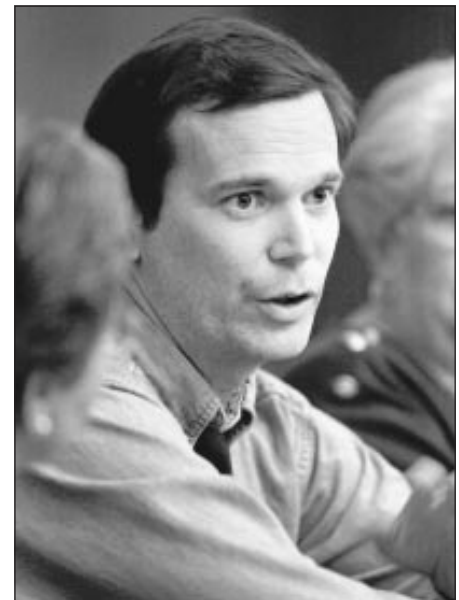
A proposal to require the use of blocking software to prevent students from visiting pornographic sites on the Internet has been stripped of its toughest provisions.

HF575, sponsored by Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka), was approved March 18 by the Quality Initiatives Subcommittee of the House Education Committee.

The proposal would require the Department of Children, Families and Learning to work with school districts to develop model policies for Internet use in schools.

A provision that would have required the department to make blocking software available at no cost to school districts and require schools to use it was deleted from the legislation.

School and district officials made up the core of the opposition to the plan to require the use of blocking software.



Jeff Holte, director of technology, Buffalo-Hanover-Montross School District, spoke against a bill that would have required mandatory pornography-blocking computer software for school computers. His testimony came before the Education Committee’s Quality Initiatives Subcommittee March 18.

Marketed under catchy names such as Net Nanny and Cyber Patrol, the software is crafted to filter out pornographic and violent images. However, critics claim the technology is imperfect and denies Internet users access to useful information.

Patricia Sween, a media specialist in the Red Wing School District, said blocking software "has not proven to be effective." It blocks some useful information and misses some of the undesirable material, she said.

For example, Sween said, software designed to block sites related to sex can deny access to pornographic web sites, but it also can block sites related to sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, or other legitimate research topics.

"Our obligation is to teach responsible use of the Internet," she said. "Trying to block out sites by using various kinds of software is not going to work."

Weaver urged committee members to consider the dangers of allowing students access to obscene material and the potential liability of schools if they do not take action to prevent it.

"I look at it as a safety issue," Weaver said. "We know pornography hurts people. That's why this is a must."

And, Weaver said, blocking technology would not interfere with legitimate research because instructors would be able to lift the software whenever necessary.

"The stuff you can get on the Internet is remarkable in terms of how graphic it is," Weaver said. "You don't want your kids to see it. That's the bottom line."

School officials, however, asked that they continue to have the ability to set their own policies for Internet use.

"We care very much about wanting our kids to have safe experiences on the Internet," said Jeff Holte, director of technology in the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School District. "We are very, very cautious."

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), who offered the amendment to delete the blocking software requirement, said blocking software is just one of many approaches that can be used to protect students on the Internet.

Weaver said the amendment, which passed on a 5-4 vote, "rips the heart out of the bill."

The bill now moves to the full Education Committee.

Securing superintendents

The House Education Committee approved two bills March 18 designed to help school districts attract and retain quality superintendents.

HF897 would provide districts limited authority to exceed the current state cap on the salary of superintendents, and HF937 would double the amount of time districts are allowed to keep interim superintendents.

Current state law caps the salary of school superintendents at 95 percent of the governor's salary of \$114,506 a year. School districts have complained that the cap hurts their ability to compete with districts in other states for top superintendent candidates.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), who is sponsoring HF897, said the bill would allow local school boards to better compete for top superintendents and set the salary according to what is acceptable in the community.

Under Greiling's bill, districts would be allowed to exceed the current salary cap only if they negotiate a superintendent contract including performance requirements.

Such requirements would have to include student achievement and also could include curriculum improvement, student attendance, and other factors.

The performance provisions drew criticism from Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville), who argued the salary cap ought to be repealed outright if it is going to be tampered with at all.

Wolf said similar performance-based pay measures are not applied to teachers and others in the education system. And, he said, districts could craft superintendent contracts so that performance measures are easily

reached and the salary cap is easily evaded.

"This is just a game to me," Wolf said.

The salary cap for superintendents has been in place since 1983, and legislative attempts to repeal the cap in recent years have failed.

Greiling said linking more accountability to increased salaries should make her proposal more palatable to lawmakers. Her bill now goes to the House floor.

HF937 would double the current 90-working-day limit on the tenure of interim superintendents and lift a provision in current law allowing individuals to fill the interim role no more than three times.

Bill sponsor Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) said districts often have difficulty completing a search for a superintendent within 90 days.

The bill would provide districts the time they need to conduct a search and would ensure that the best people are allowed to serve on an interim basis, according to Carlson. His bill now goes to House Governmental Operations Committee.

Private school PSEO

At the end of her junior year in high school, Kathryn Bryant had an extremely tough decision to make, one that would not have been necessary but for a hitch in current state law.

Bryant hoped to participate in a state program that allows high school students to take college courses while still receiving credits needed for high school graduation.

But, because she attended a private school, Bryant had to leave behind her friends and classmates to become eligible for the postsecondary enrollment options program (PSEO).

"Either you have to leave your private school and not graduate with your friends or you can't participate in the program," Bryant said in March 20 testimony before the House Education Committee.

Bryant supported a bill (HF1052) that would make it possible for private school students to participate in the postsecondary program without having to transfer to a public school.

Bill sponsor Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayer (R-Princeton) said the program was not intended to serve only public school students.

Current law, according to Koppendrayer, does not deny private school students access to the postsecondary program, but it forces them to give up their "identity in their own school" to participate.

The bill would not give any financial ben-

Ready reader



Semaj Terrell, a fifth-grader at Ramsey International Fine Arts School in Minneapolis, sat before the Higher Education Finance Division March 14 and read his essay on how a program called Get Ready has helped him start thinking about and preparing for college.

efits to private schools, Koppendrayner added. State funds for the program go directly to the postsecondary institution where the student enrolls.

"This bill is not about private schools at all," said Bob Wedl, commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning. "This is about students."

Supporters of the bill include the department and Education Committee members from both sides of the aisle.

"What we have right now is obviously a joke," said Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee). "I think any student should be able to access postsecondary enrollment options."

The bill was approved by the committee and sent to its K-12 Finance Division for inclusion in the omnibus education bill to be compiled later in the legislative session.

As for Bryant, now a sophomore at Bethel College in Arden Hills, she ended up leaving the private school she had attended since pre-school — New Life Academy in Woodbury — to take part in the postsecondary program.

She officially enrolled at Woodbury High School and attended college courses full-time during her senior year. In the end, she graduated from a school where she never attended a single class.

"It was sad to me that I wasn't able to get a diploma from the school I had attended for 13 years," Bryant said.

No class, no car, no way

An effort to link teen driving privileges to academics has run out of gas.

HF446, which would strip high school dropouts of their driver's licenses, was rejected March 19 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

"You're tying two things together that I don't think are necessarily related," said Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet), one of 11 committee members who voted against the bill. Seven members supported the proposal.

Bill sponsors Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) and Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) argued that the bill would motivate students to stay in school.

"We're talking about a principle of responsibility, and the responsibility of a teenager is to stay in school, to get an education, and to graduate," Mares said.

The bill would affect students 16 or 17 years old who do not regularly attend classes. The state would be allowed to suspend the license of students who withdraw from school, are dismissed (suspended or ex-

elled), or are habitually truant. Dropouts and habitual truants would lose their licenses until they turn 18.

Several committee members voiced concerns about punishing students when parents and schools face no sanctions for their roles in the failure of students.

"We've got to stop beating up on kids," said Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison).

Biernat said the bill would succeed in keeping some children in school who might otherwise drop out.

"At some point, we have to look that child in the eye and say you have a responsibility here, too," Biernat said.

The transportation panel's action ends — at least for now — the bill's perilous journey through the committee process.

As originally introduced, the bill would have connected driving to academic performance by requiring 16- and 17-year-olds to pass the state's basic skills tests in reading and math before getting a driver's license.

Earlier this month, the House Education Committee removed portions of the bill related to testing and left only the provisions that would mandate that dropouts and truants have their licenses suspended.

Charter schools



Marlon Glass, a seventh-grader at New Visions School in Minneapolis, waited his turn to testify before the K-12 Education Finance Division March 19 on his experience attending a charter school.



ELECTIONS

Caucuses: lowering the age

Many laws directly affect the lives of minors, but only people 18 and older have a say in their making. A bill sponsored by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) would open up part of the election process to people 16 and 17 years old.

On March 17, the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs, and Elections Committee approved HF703, which would allow 16- and 17-year-olds to participate in precinct caucuses as voters or delegates. The young people must be enrolled in school at the time of the caucus and live within the precinct.

The change would be at the option of the political party and the affected Senate, House, or county district.

"Current law requires an individual to be 18 years or older by election day to vote and participate in precinct caucuses," Dawkins told the committee. "This bill doesn't require, but permits, the participation [of young people]." He said it was a way to encourage and nurture their interest in the political process.

"We learn a lot more by being a part of it than by reading about it in a high school textbook," said David Stradness, a student at Mounds View High School.

HF703 now moves to the House floor.



ENVIRONMENT

Windbreakers

Two bills authorizing state funds to plant trees in rural areas won approval from the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee March 17.

HF1557 appropriates \$2 million each year in 1998 and 1999 to renovate, maintain, and establish tree windbreaks adjacent to rural communities, farm fields, and homes. Windbreaks also would help control snowdrifting, conserve energy, control soil erosion, and add to wildlife habitat, said Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus), co-author of the legislation.

Konrad Kossman, a soil and water conservation district manager from Washington County, told the panel that the typical windbreak consists of shrubs and conifers. Many rural windbreaks are quite old and in need of renovation, he said. Others need to be planted.

The money would be administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

Grants would be made to local soil and water conservation districts to implement cost-sharing contracts with landowners.

HF1561 would make an identical appropriation from the state trunk highway fund to the BWSR for what its authors call "living snow fences." Grants would be given to local soil and water conservation districts for cost-sharing contracts with landowners to establish and maintain plantings of trees, shrubs, and grass strips to control snow drifting along public roadways.

Speaking on behalf of both bills, Sally Westby, of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, said, "If these [windbreaks and snowbreaks] had been in place this winter, we wouldn't be spending \$20 million for emergency snow removal."

Both bills will now move to the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

Relays added to mercury law

A bill regulating mercury-containing products was approved by the House March 20. The vote was 110-23.

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that can cause permanent nervous system damage. Since mercury is a volatile element, it does not degrade in the environment, but becomes airborne and eventually returns to earth to contaminate watersheds. It also accumulates in animal tissue as it moves up the food chain. Consumption of fish from 90 percent of Minnesota's lakes is currently restricted because of mercury contamination.

The bill, (HF949) sponsored by Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), adds commercial electrical relays to a list of products from which mercury must be removed for reuse or recycling prior to disposal. "When we originally passed the bill to regulate mercury recycling in products, we left out electrical relays," said Wagenius. "These relays are showing up in the waste stream and need to be included [in the law]."

Regulations currently in effect include such devices as thermostats, thermometers, and switches. Manufacturers are required to label all mercury-containing products and accept them back for recycling or proper disposal. Wagenius cited a program operated by Minneapolis-based Honeywell, Inc. as a model for mercury recycling.

The bill now moves to the Senate.



FAMILY

Food, education dollars

Anticipating an even greater demand on food shelves this spring when many of Minnesota's poor will see a cut in their food stamps, a bill before the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division would more than double the dollars the state spends on food shelf programs.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul), would set aside \$3 million during the 1998-1999 state budgeting period for 203 Minnesota food shelves. They currently receive \$700,000 a year.

The committee did not vote on the bill (HF817) March 17, but it is being considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus budget bill that is expected later this session.

"I know of no public policy justification for taking away food from people," Mariani said regarding the new federal welfare cuts, most of which are scheduled to hit later this spring and summer.

Jo-Anne Rowan of the Francis Basket food shelf in the Highland Park area of St. Paul serves a large legal immigrant population, half of whom are expected to lose all their food stamps.

Rowan said the food shelf's donors would have to donate seven times as much to make up for the federal welfare cuts.

Rev. Chris Morton, of MinnesotaShare, told lawmakers that the local religious, business, and civic communities "are already doing as much as they can."

"We need the government to remain a major player," he said.

In other matters, the panel heard a bill that would increase funding for a program that brings babies and toddlers together with their parents to learn about a child's emotional, physical, mental, and educational development.

The bill (HF1346), also sponsored by Mariani, would increase the funding for Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), a 23-year-old program designed for children from birth to kindergarten and their parents. The bill would increase the program's funding by about \$8.5 million over current spending in fiscal year 1998 and by about \$6.1 million in fiscal year 1999. That would bring the program's total state aid to about \$40.2 million over the 1998-1999 budgeting period.

Mariani's bill is more generous than Gov. Arne Carlson's proposal for the ECFE program. The governor recommended about

\$2.2 million more in 1998 and about \$2 million more in 1999.

Specifically, the bill's increased funding would come from an increase in the dollar amount allocated per child from \$101.25 to \$130.

Since local school districts are allowed to levy local taxes for this program, the formula change also will increase money raised from local taxes without raising the tax rate.

The finance division did not vote on HF1346 but is expected to consider the bill for inclusion in its omnibus budget bill.



HIGHER EDUCATION

Virtual university

Anyone who has stood in long lines at a college or university to register for classes may be interested in HF273, approved by the House Education Committee's Higher Education Finance Division March 17.

The bill would appropriate \$2 million to help pay for "Virtual U Minnesota," which would enable students to register via the Internet for classes at almost every college and university in the state. The program would be a cooperative venture involving the University of Minnesota (U of M), Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU), and Minnesota's private colleges.

"This would serve as a gateway leading to all higher education existing in Minnesota," said Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), committee chair and the bill's sponsor. "It's the first time the three entities have worked together to enhance higher education in the state."

The U of M and MnSCU each would contribute \$250,000 during fiscal years 1998 and 1999 to help in the eventual development of on-line courses. An advisory council would provide the Legislature with a plan for Virtual U Minnesota by January 1998.

The plan is based on the web page currently used by the U of M. According to John Gunyou, executive director of the Minnesota Office of Technology, Virtual U Minnesota is meant to improve access to course offerings, expand choices in degree programs, allow for transfer of credits between schools, and increase off-campus learning opportunities.

"This is about how you support access to education for users throughout the system," said Don Riley, associate vice president of academic affairs at the U of M. "It will let more people find out more easily what we have available already in the state."

Pelowski added that the effort does not duplicate existing services, but builds upon them. "If we proceed as planned, we'll set the standard for virtual U's around the country." He also noted that the services would be especially useful to high school guidance counselors.

HF273 was later approved by the Education Committee and now moves to the Ways and Means Committee.

Gopher college bonds

A bill that aims to help parents save for their children's college education was approved March 18 by the House Capital Investment Committee.

HF130 would make affordable, tax-free bonds available from the state. Bill sponsor Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) said the aim of his proposal is to provide "one more investment vehicle" to families planning for a child's future.

"We really have to do more to encourage people to save for a college education," Carlson said.

Under the bill, the Department of Finance would be required to make the general obligation bonds sold to finance state construction projects available at a lower cost.

Currently, the bonds are sold at a minimum \$5,000 denomination, but the bill calls for bonds to be made available in denominations as small as \$500. (The denomination is the value upon maturity. The amount of investment varies according to interest rates.)

The smaller bonds would be available to anyone, but the bill includes provisions designed to encourage their purchase for college savings.

First, the bill stipulates that up to \$25,000 in bonds would not count against a student when determining eligibility for state grants. Second, the bill would allow employees to use a payroll deduction plan to purchase bonds, thus decreasing the employee's taxable income. (See Feb. 14, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 7, and Feb. 28, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 11.)

Carlson said his bill would set up a program, dubbed Gopher State Bonds, similar to ones already in place in 24 other states.

The bill now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.



HOUSING

Maintaining 68 degrees

Go anywhere outdoors during a Minnesota winter and it is cold. But some Minnesota rental property is cold on the inside, too.

A proposed bill (HF1378) would require that property owners maintain a temperature of at least 68 degrees in all rental units where the tenant does not control the heat, and that all rental heating equipment be capable of maintaining 68 degrees when the outside temperature is -20 degrees or below. The bill was approved by the House Economic Development and International Trade's Housing and Housing Finance Division March 18.

Sponsored by Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin), the bill also would allow tenants to make repairs to heating equipment that doesn't meet the above standards within 48 hours after making a reasonable attempt to notify the owner. Tenant expenses for heat-

ing repairs could then be deducted from monthly rent payments.

Penalties, including a \$100 fine for each violation, also could face landlords who fail to comply with the bill.

Sherry Coates, of the Community Action for Suburban Hennepin, said that her group's housing hotline receives 75 to 100 heat-related calls each season. "Tenants can withhold their rent and place money in escrow to pay for heating repairs," Coates said. "But rent escrow actions take approximately 21 days."

Jack Horner, of the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association, told the panel that 75 to 100 calls in an area with hundreds of thousands of rental units is a pretty good record. "If a building does not have adequate heat, there are numerous actions a tenant can take under existing law," Horner said. "We strongly object to this bill. It leaves it wide open for the tenants to do whatever they want to a landlord's property."

Horner pointed out that many older buildings were not designed to maintain a constant 68-degree temperature under the most extreme conditions. He also said that building excessive capacity into a heating system to guarantee a constant 68 degrees would violate existing federal energy conservation codes.

The bill now moves to the House Judiciary Committee.

Rental walk-throughs

One of the most frequent areas of dispute between landlords and tenants concerns a rental unit's condition before the tenant moved in and what damages the tenant caused. Conflicts over apartment conditions often result in withheld damage deposits or legal action.

A bill (HF1304) approved March 18 by the House Economic and International Trade's Housing and Housing Finance Division would mandate better business practices in these rental transactions. "HF1304 would protect both tenants and landlords," said the bill's sponsor Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls).

Clark cited cases where tenants lose their damage deposits over disputed damages and others where tenants purposefully inflict damage in retribution for an eviction notice and claim the damage was pre-existing.

The bill would require a landlord and tenant to walk through a residential rental unit to identify all existing conditions before entering into a lease agreement. The landlord and tenant would then sign the list of

Adult learning



Keith Norling, Alexandria, Minn., testified March 18 before the Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division in support of a bill that would spend more money on adult basic education. Norling who graduated from high school with a third-grade reading level and who has benefited from tutoring, now volunteers as a reading tutor for adults.

conditions and all parties would receive a copy of the signed list. A similar walk-through would be required after the tenant moves out to determine what damages had taken place during the tenancy.

Landlords who fail to comply with the law would be liable to the tenant for a \$100 civil penalty. The bill also provides for restitution to the landlord when the tenant or the tenant's guest is convicted of damaging rental property.

"Pre- and post-tenancy walk-throughs are good practices and we encourage them," said Jack Horner of the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association. "But we question whether it is practical for the state to mandate such practices."

Larger rental complexes may have 20 or more tenants moving out at the end of the month, Horner said. The most common reason for walk-throughs not working is that tenants fail to show up, he said. Present law gives the landlord 21 days to inspect the apartment and return the damage deposit. "I don't see how this law (HF1304) could work," he said.

The bill goes to the House Judiciary Committee.



INSURANCE

Insurance protection

When 86-year-old Stella Kroll boarded a city bus to return from a downtown St. Paul doctor's office to her East Side neighborhood, she began a journey that would provide an unwanted introduction to the world of insurance law.

On that January day, Kroll paid her fare and began walking to a seat when the bus slammed to a halt to avoid an accident. The sudden stop sent Kroll toppling backwards, bouncing off of the windshield, and landing at the bottom of the steps inside the bus door.

She spent five days in the hospital with a variety of injuries and has since gone through weeks of physical therapy.

"I was just stiff," Kroll said, during March 19 testimony before the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee. "I just couldn't move."

Unfortunately, Kroll had to absorb another blow when she returned from the hospital and called the bus company to discuss the accident. She was told (rather curtly, she said) that the bus company would not pay for any medical expenses she incurred. That, she was told, was the responsibility of her own insurance company.

Indeed, the state's no-fault insurance law

requires that Kroll's coverage come under her own automobile insurance policy.

"Why should my car insurance have to pay for it?" Kroll asked. "It didn't happen in my car. It happened in their bus. I think this stupid law should be changed."

Kroll testified in support of a bill that would provide financial protection for those in Kroll's situation without taking on the highly controversial area of no-fault law.

The bill (HF1045) would prohibit insurance companies from increasing a policyholder's premium as the result of expenses incurred if the person is involved in an accident while a passenger in a bus, taxi, or commuter van.

Bill sponsor Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul) said Kroll did not see an increase in auto insurance rates after the incident on the city bus, but he hopes to prevent anyone else in similar circumstances from seeing a rate hike.

The bill was approved by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee and now goes to the House floor.



LAW

Police diversity

The Northwest Community Law Enforcement Project has helped diversify police departments in several Twin Cities suburbs and deserves continued funding from the state, supporters told the House Judiciary Committee March 17.

Lawmakers agreed, and approved HF996, sponsored by Rep. Phil Carruthers, (DFL-Brooklyn Center), which would appropriate \$625,000 to administer the organization through June 1999.

The program began in 1993 and first received state funding in 1995. Its goal is to help cities diversify their police forces by providing access to training and education for minorities and women. Participants enroll at North Hennepin Community College to study law enforcement and work part-time in police departments as cadets. The students also receive tuition assistance, monthly stipends, and wages for their police department work.

Jon Thomas Cross, a recent graduate of the program, currently is a community services officer in Golden Valley. Recently, he scored the highest among applicants taking the test to join Golden Valley's police department. He is now slated to become that city's first minority police officer. "Several [former] participants are the first to represent people of color in their law enforcement

agencies," Cross told the committee. "Without the program, those opportunities would not develop."

Marty Williams, also a recent graduate, said he was a former high school dropout. The program, he said, has made him a role model to young people in his community. It also helped him become the first black officer in New Hope's police department.

Participating cities include Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Crystal, Golden Valley, Maple Grove, New Hope, Plymouth, and Robbinsdale. Of those, only Maple Grove was bypassed in a 1996 lawsuit in which bias was discovered in the police department application process. According to news reports, no black recruits had joined the police departments of 36 cities that employed the Minnesota Police Recruitment System to screen applicants. In addition to damages, the cities were ordered to develop programs to add minority members to their police forces.

Today, the program enrolls nine students. Fifteen former participants have earned law enforcement degrees, nine of whom went on to become police officers. Three others have jobs in other areas of law enforcement, and two are still looking for employment.

HF996 will be added to the omnibus crime legislation to be voted on later this session.



Jon Thomas Cross, who received a high score on testing requirements for becoming a police officer, testified before the House Judiciary Committee March 17 in support of a bill that would provide funding for the Northwest Community Law Enforcement Project. The project helps minorities and women get the training and education necessary to become law enforcement officers. It also assists participating cities to diversify their police departments.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

No Met Council?

Two bills, one to abolish the Metropolitan Council and another to have its members stand for election, won approval from the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee March 18.

The Metropolitan Council, created in the 1967, is responsible for comprehensive regional planning for the seven-county metropolitan area. One of the largest regional governments in the nation, it also oversees the regional bus system, several wastewater treatment facilities, and Metro Mobility (a transit operation serving the disabled). It oversees an annual budget of about \$360 million, which is partially paid by property taxes, and manages about 3,500 employees. The council is governed by a board of 17 members appointed by the governor; each represents a different portion of the metro region.

HF783, sponsored by Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland), would effectively abolish the Metropolitan Council. The 260-page bill transfers all of the council's operations to other agencies and reduces the organization to an advisory council of local government officials.

"The Met Council has become a super-government agency that has veto power over local governments," Larsen told the committee. "[It] is very removed [from local concerns]," she said.

"We have in the Met Council a non-elected body with tax levy authority," said Dennis Hannah of the Grey Cloud Island Township Board. "As I recall, that's what started the Boston Tea Party."

Other members agreed.

"The Met Council has a very important role to play as facilitator and coordinator of local units of government. But, in adding other operations to the council, the Legislature has created a monster. We need to refocus this organization," said bill co-sponsor Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport).

Lyle Wray, executive director of the Citizen's League, cautioned the panel against abolishing the council. "Many areas of the country are struggling to create regional approaches," he said. "The economic future of our state depends on a regional approach."

Wray said that the Metropolitan Council has more work to do in planning and coordinating across the region, but admitted there is room for improvement.

Jim Solum, regional administrator of the Metropolitan Council defended his organi-

zation. "Much of what you have heard tonight is simply wrong or are facts taken out of context," he said. "You might spend some time getting the facts about the kind of change that has taken place and the kind of cost savings that have been obtained since the merger took place."

HF783 now moves to House Transportation and Transit Committee.

Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) said that his bill (HF423) responds to many of the issues raised in Larsen's bill by simply making the council an elected body.

"This bill moves to the intent of the original framers of the Metropolitan Council in 1967," Orfield said. "They believed that the council should be elected. That prevailed in the House but failed on a tie vote in the Senate in 1967."

Council elections would be nonpartisan and public funding provided for qualified candidates. Salaries of council members would not change.

The bill was supported by former Minneapolis Mayor Don Fraser, who testified on behalf of the Minnesota Citizen's League and by representatives of Metropolitan Council employees unions.

HF783 now moves to the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.

More mobile home parks

Manufactured or "mobile" home communities have come a long way from the trailer parks of the 1950s, industry representatives told the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee, and now should be treated as a viable form of multi-family housing.

A bill (HF962) to allow manufactured home parks in local zoning districts that allow multi-family housing was approved March 18 by the committee. No fewer than eight mobile homes could be sited within a one-acre area.

The proposal would give mobile home park developers more places to build their communities and ease building codes they say don't apply to them anyway.

Most cities and towns currently allow manufactured homes in areas zoned for single-family housing, where they must adhere to the same housing codes that apply to permanent construction. Many local governments, however, require special zoning for manufactured home parks, where build-ings are set on slabs or pilings and greater density is allowed.

Manufactured home industry representa-

tives see this as a form of discrimination. "The simple reason for this legislation is that we want to be on an equal footing with other developers of multi-family housing," said Mark Brunner, executive vice president of the Minnesota Manufactured Housing Association.

Brunner said that manufactured housing in a park setting is one of the most affordable home ownership opportunities available. "People can own a home for less than \$500 per month," he said.

Joel Jamnik, of the League of Minnesota Cities, and Roger Peterson, of the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities, spoke against the bill. "Right now, under state law, anyone who wants to develop housing in a community can have a discussion with local officials," Jamnik said. "That a single-family manufactured home could be sited in a city's multi-family zoned area doesn't make sense."

Bill sponsor Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton), who once lived in a mobile home park, said such housing has been discriminated against in certain areas. "I see this bill as an opportunity for affordable housing and as an alternative to trailer parks."

The bill now moves to the Economic Development and International Trade Committee's Housing and Housing Finance Division.



SPORTS

High school league changes

After previous failed attempts, the House Governmental Operations Committee approved a bill that would significantly alter the way the Minnesota State High School League functions. The league, which opposes the bill, is a nonprofit organization that regulates sports for private and public high schools throughout Minnesota.

Largely at issue is the league's continued autonomy. Many committee members feel that because the league acts with the authority of a state agency and receives funding through school districts, it should be subject to some of the standards that apply to government agencies.

HF747, approved March 17, would reduce some of the league's power by bringing it under the purview of the executive branch. Under the bill, the governor would appoint the league's president and its board, which would consist of parents and school representatives. The league's budget would be submitted to the Legislature for approval, as are other executive branch agencies.



Linnea Mason, a senior at St. Paul Central High School, told the House Governmental Operations Committee March 18 how she was led to believe that she could not participate in her school's cross country program if she ran in the Twin Cities Marathon. The committee was hearing a bill that would modify Minnesota State High School League rules to make it easier for participants in non-team sports to also participate in amateur events outside of school.

"The bill says that the league is not a state agency, but derives its authority from school districts, which are government entities," said Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), committee chair and the bill's sponsor. "The league uses public money so it should be subject to certain laws like a government entity."

Further, the committee adopted HF1376, sponsored by Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul), which would prohibit the league from adopting or enforcing rules regarding nonschool competition in individual sports, such as tennis, golf, and track. The league has raised the ire of some students and parents by disqualifying students from school participation in those sports after they've participated in them outside of school.

Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake) took issue with what he saw as arbitrary and unfair rulings by the league in controlling students' eligibility for sports participation and pointedly asked league consultant Roger Aronson why he should have such authority. Aronson said that some of the league's operations may need updating, and that a compromise could be worked out.

Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) concurred, but said that further work on HF747 could take place when it's dealt with in the House Education Committee later this session.

Trimble and Aronson will work together to refine HF1376, which now goes to the floor.



TAXES

Business tax break

Minnesota businesses replacing their capital equipment could do so tax-free under a pair of bills heard by the House Taxes Committee's Sales and Income Tax Division March 18.

"I think the argument has been advanced, with some success, that the sales tax on capital equipment does injure businesses' ability to create jobs," said Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul), who sponsored HF684. Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina), who sponsored HF629 and testified along with Milbert, agreed, saying the move would "make Minnesota businesses more competitive with the rest of the world."

Providing the exemption, Milbert said, would encourage businesses, particularly those that have a presence in other states, to increase their investments in Minnesota. The effect, he continued, would be more jobs.

The two bills would achieve the same end through different means. Both bills expand the definition of capital equipment, which is already exempted from the sales and use tax, to include replacement purchases. Milbert's bill would apply the exemption to goods used by businesses that provide a taxable service. Erhardt's bill, HF629, would not, although he said another bill he has sponsored would accomplish the same thing.

Under existing statute, replacement purchases already receive preferential sales tax treatment administered through a refund process. A business pays the full 6.5 percent tax up front and applies to the Department of Revenue for a refund. The department returns a certain amount, which increases annually, to the purchaser. That refund percentage, currently 2.7 percent, will stand at 4.5 percent in 1999.

Both bills would abolish the refund mechanism, exempting replacement capital equipment at the time of purchase and costing the state tens of millions of dollars in sales and use tax revenue.

HF684 would reduce state revenues by more than \$170 million in the coming biennium and \$145 million in the next. HF629,

as written, would cost only \$800,000 in the 1998-99 period, but more than \$87 million through 2001.

Lobbyists representing a variety of businesses testified that granting the exemption — up front, not through a refund process — would encourage investment in the state and bring Minnesota in line with the rest of the country.

"The current system detracts . . . from the opportunity to continue growth," said Daryl Freitag, of Precise Products. "The money could be better spent on growing jobs."

The division, which did not act on the bills, will hear further testimony later.



TRANSPORTATION

Pay up or walk

Car owners who fail to pay fines for traffic or parking violations would be denied new license tabs, under a bill approved March 17 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

HF1353, sponsored by Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), also would provide new ways to avoid driver's license suspensions for people who violate mandatory automobile insurance laws for the first time.

Rhodes said the provisions of the bill related to unpaid fines are an effort to create a "more fail-safe collection system." Currently, unpaid fines are not reported by the courts and, as a result, are not on drivers' records.

The bill would require a \$1 surcharge to be added to the fine for each traffic violation to finance the new system of ensuring that tickets are paid.

The Department of Public Safety would be required to set up a computerized database listing motorists with unpaid fines. The courts would have to report unpaid fines to the department for addition to the database, and courts would have to similarly report when fines are paid.

Deputy registrars, who handle registration renewals around the state, would have access to the database to run a check on each vehicle owner seeking new tabs for his or her car.

The bill would prohibit deputy registrars from registering a vehicle if records show an unpaid fine. Vehicle owners with unpaid fines could get new tabs by paying the amount due in fines to the deputy registrar or the court.

The bill's provisions related to insurance would provide first-time violators of the state's mandatory vehicle insurance laws a way to avoid losing their driver's licenses.

Rhodes said he aims to provide incentive

for violators to come into compliance with the law.

Under current law, a person caught without automobile insurance faces misdemeanor charges, revocation of vehicle registration, and a possible driver's license suspension. A second offense within 10 years brings gross misdemeanor charges.

The bill would allow first-time offenders to avoid a driver's license suspension as long as the violation is not discovered as the result of a traffic accident. First-time offenders would have 14 days to provide proof of insurance to avoid driver's license suspension.

HF1353 now moves to the House Transportation and Transit Finance Division.

Yellow lights flashing

Last November, a person driving a pickup truck approached a school bus from behind, and although the yellow warning lights on the bus were flashing, the pickup driver slipped onto the road shoulder and passed the bus.

At the time, the bus was slowing to a halt near the home of Hampton-area resident Linda Homan, who was seeing her 5-year-old daughter off to kindergarten. Homan said she and her daughter were fortunate to escape without being hit when the pickup passed "right on our toes."

Homan did not have such good luck when she tried to get police to do something about the incident.

"We are very concerned that these school bus violations are being taken far too lightly by our legal system," Homan said during March 17 testimony before the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

Homan noticed the license plate number of the passing pickup and figured she had the driver dead to rights. She was disappointed when she tried to report the incident to police.

Passing a school bus — or any vehicle, for that matter — by driving on the road shoulder is illegal, Homan was told. But the offense is only a petty misdemeanor, and it must be witnessed by police for a citation to be issued.

Subsequently, Homan became the driving force behind a bill that would provide tougher penalties for a violation like the one she and her daughter witnessed.

The bill (HF1266), sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), was approved by the transportation committee.

The bill would make it a misdemeanor to pass a bus on the right side, or door side, when the bus has its yellow pre-warning lights flashing.

School bus drivers or other witnesses could report a violation to police, who would then have four hours to issue a citation to the offending driver.

Violations would carry a minimum \$300 fine, matching the penalty for violating existing laws that require drivers to stop for school buses with red lights flashing and stop arm extended.

The bill now moves to the House Judiciary Committee.

Commuters on freight rails

Mass transit is a subject that seemingly has been studied from every conceivable angle. Now, as the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is preparing to study several new highway alternatives, another commuter transit proposal has emerged in the House.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring HF738, directing MnDOT to study the feasibility of using existing metropolitan area freight railroad tracks for a commuter rail service. This study would be one among many to address the region's commuter transportation needs between 2001 and 2020. The bill was approved by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee March 18. No appropriation was attached to the proposal.

Al Vogel of MnDOT told the panel that such commuter rail systems typically do not run all day but rather as peak-period commuter trips. "This is not light rail transit," he said. "In other cities commuter rail most often uses existing tracks and operates in a way that is compatible

with freight rail. We want to look at whether there is excess capacity in any or all of the metro area rail corridors."

The study will take 18 months, Vogel said. "We intend to report back to the Legislature by January 1999."

The bill now moves to the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

A single license plate

The House approved a bill March 17 that would allow certain collector cars to display only one license plate. The vote was 131-2.

HF454, sponsored by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), would allow collector car owners to preserve the "lines and design" of their vehicles, most of which were manufactured without a front license plate bracket.

Under the bill, certain vehicles from model years 1968 and earlier would be allowed to display only a rear license plate. The bill would cover automobiles registered as pioneer, classic, or collector cars and street rods.

All such registrations require that the vehicle be used as a collector's item and not for general transportation.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), who is a Minneapolis police officer, was one of the two House members to vote against the bill. Allowing such vehicles to travel with only one license plate could hinder police investigations of hit-and-run accidents and other incidents.

"You've just cut your chances of identifying that vehicle by 50 percent," Stanek said.

The bill now moves the Senate.

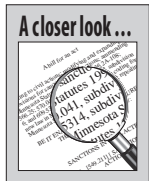
Baby talk



Jamie White, infant teacher at Capitol Child Care in St. Paul, looked after a few of the infants while the Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division listened to testimony March 19 in support of a bill that would improve the quality of child care and other early childhood programs.

Tackling welfare . . .

Welfare bill taking shape, moves to Ways and Means



A welfare bill that uses Minnesota dollars to make up for federal cuts to legal immigrants, discourages welfare moms from having another child while on public assistance, and increases penalties for those on welfare who don't find a job is on its way to the House Ways and Means Committee.

The bill (HF159) won approval from the House Health and Human Services Committee and its finance division March 20.

A flurry of amendments found their way onto the bill over the past two weeks, leaving the bill's final price tag unclear. A cost analysis is expected when the bill goes before the Ways and Means Committee March 25.

Bill sponsor Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) said the bill still has "a few holes" but plans to work on further changes in the coming week.

The Minnesota House and Senate are in a rush to pass a bill. The 1996 federal law which drastically overhauled the welfare system required states to report their plans to move welfare recipients to work or face millions of dollars in federal penalties. The Department of Human Services has said they need a bill by early April to avoid such penalties.

States across the country are hurrying to pass new welfare laws after the federal government scrapped the long-standing welfare system in August 1996.

The federal law does away with monthly welfare checks and food stamps for many legal immigrants and eliminates disability cash assistance for people with drug and alcohol addictions. It also eliminates cash assistance for children with certain behavioral disabilities and requires able-bodied adults, ages 18-50, who receive food stamps to work.

Perhaps the most significant change involves poor families with children. The law requires these parents to get jobs and sets a five-year-lifetime limit on their welfare benefits. States that do not move these parents to work will be penalized by the federal government. Specifically, they'll lose millions of dollars in federal aid.

While the federal law prescribes some of what states are required to do, it leaves each state to decide how to design its own welfare system. For instance, states are free to restore some of the cuts if they choose, but they must use their own money to do it.

That's precisely what the Health and Human Services Finance Division did March 20 when it added some \$40 million in state dollars to HF159. Much of that amount would help restore cuts to legal immigrants.

About \$24 million would be spent over the 1998-1999 state budgeting period to help buy back federal food stamps cut from about 16,000 legal immigrants in Minnesota. Another \$3 million would be spent to temporarily help some 3,200 legal immigrants cut off from a federal program known as Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

SSI provides monthly cash help to needy people who are aged, blind, or disabled. These people, on average, receive a monthly federal SSI check of about \$378. Under the bill, they would not only qualify for a state welfare program (General Assistance) and receive a \$203 check each month, but they would temporarily receive an extra \$100 per month from July 1, 1997, to Feb. 28, 1998.

Committee members approved the temporary \$100 boost recognizing that a state General Assistance (GA) check doesn't come close enough to make up for the loss of a federal SSI check. They said they hope that the U.S. Congress will reconsider SSI cuts to legal immigrants.

Despite being cut off from most welfare

poor families with children to work for public assistance.

Under the bill, that experiment would become permanent beginning Jan. 1, 1998, and cover all 87 Minnesota counties.

MFIP allows families to accept lower-paying jobs while receiving some public assistance such as extra monthly cash and subsidized child and health care. In theory, allowing someone to work while still receiving benefits helps a low-skilled parent gain work experience and eventually obtain a better job.

MFIP statewide would replace the traditional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program done away with by the 1996 federal welfare law. And, in keeping with federal law, the bill sets a five-year, lifetime limit on receiving MFIP welfare checks.

There are some exceptions to the five-year limit, including victims of domestic abuse who need time to find safety before they can settle into a job.

Under statewide MFIP, a parent or guardian would be required to develop a job search and employment plan and accept any suitable job once they've completed all the steps in their plan. As is the case now, the state would continue to pay for employment and

Perhaps the most significant change [in the federal law] involves poor families with children. The law requires these parents to get jobs and sets a five-year-lifetime limit on their welfare benefits.

programs in the federal law, the bill keeps legal immigrants eligible for all welfare programs in Minnesota, from Medical Assistance (a joint state-federal program for those who can't afford health care) to the state's new welfare-to-work program known as the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).

The measure, however, requires that the income of a legal immigrant's American sponsor be considered when determining eligibility for public assistance. This is in keeping with the federal law.

Below is a summary of some of the bill's highlights.

• **Work for welfare** — For several years, Minnesota has experimented with a welfare pilot program in eight counties that requires

job training services.

• **Job training money** — The bill sets aside \$11.5 million for such training, which translates into roughly \$1,400 per person. That is about \$400 more per person than Gov. Arne Carlson recommends in his budget proposal and about \$600 less than the state currently spends in the MFIP pilot counties. Most officials agree, however, that the state cannot afford to spend that much if it takes the program statewide. Other money for employment and training programs is expected in a separate bill. Money to expand child care aid for families now required to work also is expected in a separate bill.

Continued on page 31

Tobin warns education and business need a better fit



Without drastic changes in our education system, a corporate trainer told Minnesota lawmakers March 18, America's role as "hare" will be overtaken by the tortoise of emerging Third World countries in the global marketplace.

"Our kids aren't just competing with the kid down the street," said John Tobin, the director of applied technology training at Siemens Corp., the world's sixth-largest manufacturer of electronic components. "They're competing against kids from Mexico, China, Japan, and Germany . . . and there's a whole group of have-nots who want to be haves. Hunger is a great motivator. . . . Education, not location, is the key in a global economy."

Tobin, the fifth and final speaker in the Capitol Forum Series, addressed legislators in the Minnesota History Center's 3M Auditorium. The series' sponsors, Minnesota Technology and the McKnight Foundation, assembled the program to provide legislators with a more expansive view of the circumstances in which they make decisions and perhaps reassess some of their closely held views. Past speakers included former United States Vice President and Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale, who spoke of Japan's social and business climate; and cultural anthropologist Jennifer James, who urged the lawmakers to open their eyes to America's rapidly evolving social mythology.

For his part, Tobin, in a no-nonsense vernacular he attributed to his New York City 1950s childhood, expounded upon themes central to corporate interests, and to Siemens in particular. He was, he said, a messenger sent from Wall Street to preach the gospel of workforce development to a group of lawmakers who desperately need to change their thinking on education policy.

To maintain its position of global economic dominance, Tobin said, America needs to remain competitive. Success in that endeavor can be attributed to two distinct factors: cost and quality. Corporations can't effectively control labor costs because Americans have refused to reduce their standard of living. Therefore, he continued, economically underdeveloped nations can beat us because their citizens will work for pennies an hour. Thus, American business must create a product of superior quality.



John P. Tobin, director of Siemens Corp., spoke to an audience at the Minnesota History Center March 18 and urged lawmakers to consider education as a tool for economic development.

A quality product can't be made without quality workers, Tobin said, and that is where our country's education system fails miserably. The American education system simply does not produce the attributes in workers

business as the client — and business has some very specific needs. Indeed, he continued, those needs have become so pressing that Siemens now spends more than \$2 million per day on its own worker training programs.

American students, he added, would be much better served if educators would embrace a curriculum that caters to the needs of the corporate sector.

"We need to start linking schools to careers. We believe public institutions can train for us, as vendors . . . kids as products that we can use," Tobin said. "Art and music are fine, but kids will enjoy them more if they're employed."

The curriculum, he said, should emphasize the sophisticated skills — teaming, flexibility, process awareness, and most importantly, close adherence to high standards. In today's high-tech world, with its increasing reliance on microscopic measurements, 90 percent is not good enough. Teachers and administrators cannot be afraid to hold back kids who fail, Tobin said.

"It's a guts and a courage issue on the part of the system, to enforce standards," Tobin said, adding that the people who make the tough calls can't possibly survive without the backing of those in leadership positions.

Legislators from both sides of the aisle agreed with much, if not all, of what Tobin had to say, and many said they were struck by the realization that education is, in fact, a tool for economic development.

"There needs to be a reason for people to go to school," said House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda). "We need to reinforce the value of going to school . . . and bring businesses into schools and take the teachers out to businesses."

"Hunger is a great motivator . . . education, not location, is the key in a global economy."

—John Tobin

that are valued by corporations.

"Think about the systems you have set up and ask yourselves how many kids coming out of Minnesota schools know how to work in teams," Tobin said. "It's all lecture, lecture, lecture . . . and then we expect them to work in teams in the real world."

Educators and lawmakers need to start thinking of students as "the product," and

Other policymakers, though, didn't buy everything Tobin was selling.

"It was interesting to hear how business looks at education," House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said. "I wouldn't tell you it [shaping kids for work] was the only goal, but it is a goal. It's more than just preparing kids for a job. There's more to life than just a job."

—F.J. Gallagher

New members . . .

Koskinen calls for early help for healthy children

Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids) was a political veteran long before she made her first run for office.

For 25 years, she had been pounding in yard signs, handing out brochures, and doing other forms of campaign legwork for a variety of political figures, including former state Sen. Gene Merriam, former U.S. Rep. Gerry Sikorski, and U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone.



Rep. Luanne Koskinen

After helping to get Wellstone elected in 1990, Koskinen figured she would spend the summer and fall of 1996 working to help the senator win a second term.

However, a series of events in ensuing years prompted Koskinen to become a candidate herself.

Koskinen and her family were touched by tragedy in 1994. In the summer of that year, Koskinen's 33-year-old daughter, Kari, was taken from her New Brighton apartment and murdered. The suspected killer was the building caretaker, a man with a history of violence who later committed suicide.

Koskinen went to work at the Capitol the following year in an effort to prevent what happened to her daughter from happening again. The result of Koskinen's efforts was a law requiring background checks on caretakers.

Working to pass that legislation was a learning experience for Koskinen.

"[The law] is the best resolution that everybody can live with," she said. "I think that helped me realize that no matter what you do, you've got to hear what other people are saying and then attempt to make a decision."

"That's what I want to do — to help make the process such that people's lives are going to be improved one way or another."

While working to pass what became known as "Kari's bill" shed light on the legislative

process, Koskinen links her decision to seek office to another event during the 1995 session.

That year, Rep. Joel Jacobs (DFL-Coon Rapids), a longtime legislator from Koskinen's home district, resigned from the House to accept an appointment to the Public Utilities Commission.

Koskinen decided to seek the open seat in an April 1995 special election.

"I had very serious conversations with my family and with my friends and I thought, why not?" she said. "I have been a political worker for many years, and it was just an opportunity that came up."

"The other candidates were candidates with whom I wasn't really that comfortable, and the support of my family and friends convinced me that I should run myself."

Koskinen was defeated in the three-way special election vote won by Republican Eldon Warkentin of Coon Rapids. But in 1996, Koskinen emerged as the winner of a rematch race against Warkentin.

As she settles into her new role, Koskinen said she is aware that she will be recognized by many because of what happened to her daughter. But, she said it is not the basis for her entire political agenda.

"It was a major factor in my life. There's no doubt about that," she said. "But I think I bring capabilities that I could have brought to the Legislature even if my daughter hadn't been murdered. Maybe I would have been here now anyway, had that all not happened."

Aside from her many years of political activism, Koskinen has worked for the past 11 years as a business representative for American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 14. Earlier she spent a decade on staff for Anoka County as a financial worker and a child support officer.

She and her husband, Lauri, a retired school teacher, have four children and four grandchildren.

Koskinen built her successful House campaign around issues she considers essential to the growing, changing communities she represents. As a lawmaker, she aims to improve public education, foster safety within communities, and help to guide careful implementation of welfare reform.

She views early childhood programs and education to be keys to helping to alleviate some of the major problems facing society today.

"We should start with the families when the children are infants, give them the kind of experiences that will lead them to become productive citizens, and reserve our prison space for violent criminals," Koskinen said. "Each child should have an opportunity to grow up to be a productive citizen."

Koskinen is optimistic that the promise of bipartisan cooperation can help deliver legislation this session that will provide for positive changes to be made.

"We're going to work very hard to resolve the issues that come before us, and, hopefully, we can work together in a bipartisan way to do the best we can for the people of Minnesota."

— Nick Healy

District 49B

1996 population: 37,380

Largest city: Coon Rapids

County: Anoka

Location: northern metropolitan area

Top concern: "I think we need to be very careful about how we as a state implement welfare reform. We need to make sure that we exercise care, caution and compassion in how we frame our own welfare system now that the federal government seems to be relegating the states to provide the services that the federal government did at one point."

—Rep. Luanne Koskinen

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office

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

House Index Department

211 State Capitol (612) 296-6646

The House Index Department, a part of the Chief Clerk's Office, has a computerized

index available for public use. House Index lists bills by committee, topic, author, file number, and other categories. The office can also give you the current status of legislation.

New members . . .

Rooted in education, Folliard focuses on kids

Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) spent part of her childhood kicking around the campus of a prestigious university, and her experiences there helped to shape her political perspective.



Rep. Betty Folliard

"I come from an education family," Folliard said. "Both of my parents were teachers, and my father went on to become dean of education at Stanford University. So education was the subject around our dinner table at home."

Folliard arrived at the Capitol determined to focus on education, and her appointments to the House Education Committee and its Higher Education Finance Division provide a springboard for her legislative agenda.

"I came here number one to work on education. That is the principal impetus for me being here," Folliard said. "I believe that education is essential for the maintenance of our democratic society. I grew up with that value, and the fact that I have three kids in school right now really brings that value home."

Folliard spent much of her childhood in the San Francisco bay area and went on to attend Stanford, where she received a bachelor's degree in drama. She later earned a master's degree in theater at Wayne State University in Michigan.

"I look at my theater background as excellent communications training for life," Folliard said. "You have to be able to handle rejection and that's not bad in the political sphere, too."

She pursued a career in theater in Michi-

gan, Minnesota, and New York before moving to Dublin, where her three children were born and the elder two began their schooling.

In Ireland, Folliard was exposed to an education system different from Minnesota's in many ways.

Schools there struggled to get by on "extremely scarce" resources, but students received rigorous instruction on core academic subjects. Irish students also spend more time in the classroom, with an academic year some 40 days longer, and each school day is longer, too.

With that experience in mind, Folliard now questions some of the assumptions of the status quo in American public education. She supports efforts to offer new scheduling options in public schools, such as year-round programs and extended school day models.

"We have to explode our paradigm on the issue of time in school," Folliard said. "One way I think the Legislature can do that is through providing more incentives to allow new choices in school districts."

After more than seven years, Folliard and her family left Ireland in 1987, and, she said, came to the Twin Cities for simple reasons.

"I've lived a lot of places, but we determined to settle back in Minnesota because it was the best place to raise a family," Folliard said. "What drew us here was having some of my own family here and having a family-friendly place to raise the kids."

Folliard has lived in Hopkins for the past decade. During that time, she has been active in the community, serving as a member of the city's strategic planning committee and was vice chair of the local PTA. She served on the Hopkins School Board for the past five

years and was its vice chair for two years. She works as a market researcher for Vaughn Communications in Minneapolis.

When current state Sen. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) decided to leave the House and seek a seat in the upper chamber in 1996, Folliard was encouraged by friends and associates to seek the open House seat.

"I came to the conclusion that I had something to offer, a lot of energy to put forth, and deep caring for our community and our quality of life here," she said. "I decided I could do it, that I could win it, and that I was the best person for the job."

As Folliard settles into her new position, she is immersing herself in the work of her education committees and others, including the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.

"I come here with my naiveté intact," she said. "I'm an optimist. I believe that if people of goodwill come together for the common good, you're going to come out with decisions that are best for your society."

— Nick Healy

District 44A

1996 population: 32,777

Largest city: Hopkins

County: Hennepin

Location: western metropolitan area

Top concern: "My primary goal in education is that we provide a quality education for all kids. We must shore up the cracks and address the biggest barrier to education, which is poverty. We also must consider it on a systemic level, looking at the problems of housing, jobs, transportation, and education as part of a whole."

—Rep Betty Folliard

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Bill Introductions

HF1545-HF1888

Thursday, March 13

HF1545—Weaver (R)
Governmental Operations
Public employee violence and harassment free workplace policy adopted.

HF1546—Jefferson (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Minneapolis housing transition tax increment financing district established.

HF1547—Ozment (R)
Taxes
Tax increment financing restrictions imposed, terms defined, and provisions clarified.

HF1548—Paulsen (R)
Labor-Management Relations
Re-employment insurance account provisions modified, and claimant waiting period provided.

HF1549—Peterson (DFL)
Taxes
Border city economic development district retail facility use allowed.

HF1550—Haas (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Metropolitan municipality curfew enforcement funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1551—Delmont (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Enhanced 911 service fee proceeds transferred.

HF1552—Tunheim (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Private detective and protective agent licensure required, and penalties provided.

HF1553—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
Commercial industrial property located in enterprise zones provided property tax exemption.

HF1554—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Certification of questions of law uniform act adopted.

HF1555—Rifenberg (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Business regulation legislative bill economic impact statement required.

HF1556—Murphy (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal water sale maximum rate provided.

HF1557—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Tree windbreak cost-share grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1558—McCollum (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Trunk Highway No. 36 in North St. Paul pedestrian-bicycle overpass construction required.

HF1559—McCollum (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Southeast Asian conservation officer recruitment and training program established, and money appropriated.

HF1560—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Frog reproductive problem research funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1561—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Natural snow fencing funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1562—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Education
Statewide university system student evaluation of instructors information deemed public data.

HF1563—Garcia (DFL)
Governmental Operations
STAR; System of Training to Achieve Results program for persons with disabilities established, and money appropriated.

HF1564—Wagenius (DFL)
Education
School facility charge provisions modified, and school district disbursement provided for school facility capital costs.

HF1565—Entenza (DFL)
Education
Educational savings plan account contributions and interest tax exemption provided.

HF1566—Winter (DFL)
Judiciary
Firefighter training program planning provided, and money appropriated.

HF1567—Mariani (DFL)
Education
Strategic investment program for families established, and money appropriated.

HF1568—Tompkins (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Metropolitan regional parks maintenance and operation funded, and money appropriated.

HF1569—Mullery (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Metropolitan regional parks maintenance and operation funded, and money appropriated.

HF1570—Clark (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Landlords required to prevent residential unit tobacco smoke from entering common areas.

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HF1571—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Employer discrimination complaint inquiries prohibited, and sexual harassment case evidence discovery and admission limited.

HF1572—Molnau (R)
Transportation & Transit
Gasoline, liquefied petroleum gas, and compressed natural gas excise tax rates increased, and transportation and transit appropriations provided.

HF1573—Folliard (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 283, St. Louis Park, Aquila community together project grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1574—Sykora (R)
Judiciary
Joint child custody procedures and presumptions modified.

HF1575—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Western Lake Superior sanitary district granted authority to collect solid waste management service charges.

HF1576—Leppik (R)
Governmental Operations
Administrative Procedures Act exempt rule legal status extended.

HF1577—Paulsen (R)
Health & Human Services
Residential hospice food preparation rule exemption provided.

HF1578—Mullery (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Veteran service organization members provided special motor vehicle license plate stickers.

HF1579—Hausman (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Game and fish license subagent sale commission retention allowed.

HF1580—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Witness tampering criminal penalties increased.

HF1581—Davids (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Blufflands Trail System expanded, and money appropriated.

HF1582—Davids (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Fillmore County soil survey provided, and money appropriated.

HF1583—Mullery (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Nellie Stone Johnson bust placed in State Capitol.

HF1584—Nornes (R)
Health & Human Services
Electronic Minnesota community services directory established, and money appropriated.

- HF1585—Holsten (R)**
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Natural resources department account interest disposition specified, and unrefunded gasoline tax computation provisions modified.
- HF1586—Skoglund (DFL)**
Judiciary
Arson training provided for law enforcement and fire service personnel, arson strike force established, and money appropriated.
- HF1587—Erhardt (R)**
Economic Development & International Trade
Commerce department securities and real estate fees reduced.
- HF1588—Trimble (DFL)**
Economic Development & International Trade
Minnesota music museum advisory task force established, and money appropriated.
- HF1589—Evans (DFL)**
Economic Development & International Trade
Torture victim center appropriated money.
- HF1590—Anderson, B. (R)**
Judiciary
Children in need of protection or services provided treatment, and penalties imposed.
- HF1591—Swenson, D. (R)**
Judiciary
DWI; preliminary screening test result use authorized in court proceedings.
- HF1592—Tuma (R)**
Taxes
Homestead property tax status maintained for certain property owners residing in nursing homes.
- HF1593—Dempsey (R)**
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Homeowner's insurance water or steam damage coverage required.
- HF1594—Farrell (DFL)**
Judiciary
Metropolitan State University law enforcement library developed, and money appropriated.
- HF1595—Farrell (DFL)**
Judiciary
POST; part-time peace officer citizenship requirement provided, and peace officer standards and training board excellence in peace officer training award established.
- HF1596—Broecker (R)**
Transportation & Transit
Trunk Highway No. 49 in North Oaks Chippewa Middle School pedestrian safety measures required.
- HF1597—Pugh (DFL)**
Judiciary
Supreme Court appropriated money for civil legal services.
- HF1598—Koppendrayner (R)**
Health & Human Services
County agencies reimbursed for services provided to American Indians living on reservations, and money appropriated.
- HF1599—Dehler (R)**
Education
Child care grant program eligible institutions expanded.
- HF1600—Erhardt (R)**
Taxes
Senior citizen additional property tax refund provided.
- HF1601—Abrams (R)**
Judiciary
Toxic substance sales to minors misdemeanor eliminated.
- HF1602—Stang (R)**
Transportation & Transit
School buses operating on certain routes authorized to be equipped with studded tires.
- HF1603—Slawik (DFL)**
Environment & Natural Resources
Oakdale tax-forfeited land transfer authorized.
- HF1604—Tomassoni (DFL)**
Financial Institutions & Insurance
No-fault automobile insurance nonowned vehicle residual liability insurance regulated.
- HF1605—Davids (R)**
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Minnesota Comprehensive Health Insurance Association coverage eligibility provisions modified.
- HF1606—Seagren (R)**
Taxes
Military pay income tax subtraction allowed.
- HF1607—Carlson (DFL)**
Education
Lifework learning center established, and money appropriated.
- HF1608—Bishop (R)**
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Home Rule Charter city officer recall and removal authorized.
- HF1609—Knoblach (R)**
Judiciary
Correctional facility site selection committee established.
- HF1610—Knoblach (R)**
Judiciary
Legislative committee testimony under oath requirement provided.
- HF1611—Slawik (DFL)**
Economic Development & International Trade
Landfall appropriated money for housing and redevelopment.
- HF1612—Kalis (DFL)**
Capital Investment
State Capitol building renovation appropriation provisions modified.
- HF1613—Rifenberg (R)**
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Winona County Pickwick Mill appropriation provisions modified.
- HF1614—Tompkins (R)**
Ways & Means
Balanced budget; Congress memorialized to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to balance the budget.
- HF1615—Olson, E. (DFL)**
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Small cities granted exemption from certain tax increment financing rules.
- HF1616—Hausman (DFL)**
Regulated Industries & Energy
Wind energy system and solar photovoltaic device sales and use tax exemptions reinstated.
- HF1617—Macklin (R)**
Taxes
Omnibus property tax and education financing reform provided, and money appropriated.
- HF1618—Greiling (DFL)**
Governmental Operations
State agency publication dates and requirements modified, and multimember agency expiration date changed.
- HF1619—Jennings (DFL)**
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Chisago and Washington counties joint ditch No. 1 abandonment authorized, and money appropriated.
- HF1620—Kinkel (DFL)**
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
County permit issuance injury liability provisions modified.
- HF1621—Murphy (DFL)**
Environment & Natural Resources
Carlton County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.
- HF1622—Rifenberg (R)**
Environment & Natural Resources
Houston County surplus state land sale authorized.
- HF1623—Westrom (R)**
Governmental Operations
Public official promotional activities limited.
- HF1624—Bishop (R)**
Judiciary
Occupational therapists added to civil action limitation period for health care professionals.
- HF1625—Mariani (DFL)**
Economic Development & International Trade
Harriet Island redevelopment provided, and money appropriated.
- HF1626—McGuire (DFL)**
Judiciary
Government data classification and access provided.
- HF1627—Knoblach (R)**
Governmental Operations
Public Employees Police and Fire Fund disability benefit incorrect tax documentation hearing provided, and money appropriated.
- HF1628—Johnson, A. (DFL)**
Taxes
Internet access and computer online services deemed taxable services.
- HF1629—Jefferson (DFL)**
Judiciary
Safety inspection warrants established, and penalties provided.
- HF1630—Krinkie (R)**
Taxes
Sales and use tax rate lowered.

HF1631—Van Dellen (R)**Judiciary**

Gang related felony crime penalties increased.

HF1632—Mariani (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Neighborhood land trust program appropriated money.

HF1633—Haas (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Snowmobile liability insurance required, civil citation issuance authorized, lottery game with snowmobile safety theme provided, penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

HF1634—Haas (R)**Health & Human Services**

Senior citizens prescription drug insurance program developed, and money appropriated.

HF1635—Haas (R)**Taxes**

Personal and dependent income tax refund provided.

HF1636—Mulder (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Natural Resources commissioner required to provide a listing of snowmobile safety programs.

HF1637—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Arson task force insurance related recommendations adopted.

HF1638—Trimble (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Foreign trade zones promoted, and money appropriated.

HF1639—Harder (R)**Agriculture**

University of Minnesota farm safety outreach program funded, and money appropriated.

HF1640—Harder (R)**Governmental Operations**

Jackson Medical Center and Tracy Municipal Hospital employees provided retirement contribution refunds.

HF1641—Schumacher (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Toll-free legislative telephone access established, and money appropriated.

HF1642—Dawkins (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Enterprise zone inclusion qualification requirements modified.

HF1643—Bishop (R)**Taxes**

Property tax levy increases levied against market value, residential and farm homestead targeted refunds provided, local government aid provided, and limited market value abolished.

HF1644—Molnau (R)**Transportation & Transit**

Municipal state-aid street fund apportionment provisions modified.

HF1645—Trimble (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Municipal development right purchase and transfer provisions modified.

HF1646—Trimble (DFL)**Agriculture**

Milk marketing competition and economic fairness provided, and milk and milk product retail price flexibility allowed.

HF1647—Trimble (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Job Skills Partnership funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1648—Wejcman (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Counties reimbursed for transporting persons to detoxification centers or shelters.

HF1649—Wejcman (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Mental illness case management service reimbursement provided at the same rate as case management services for mental retardation.

HF1650—Wejcman (DFL)**Judiciary**

Adults who approach, contact, or speak to a minor with the intent to commit sexual conduct provided criminal penalties.

HF1651—Holsten (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Critical habitat private sector matching account funded, and money appropriated.

HF1652—Ness (R)**Education**

Secondary vocational education aid guarantee provisions modified.

HF1653—Workman (R)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

New motorcycle warranties regulated, and manufacturer duties imposed.

HF1654—Workman (R)**Health & Human Services**

Partial-birth abortions prohibited and criminal penalties provided.

HF1655—Workman (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Chanhassen housing tax increment district establishment authorized.

HF1656—Entenza (DFL)**Judiciary**

DWI; suspected drug-impaired drivers required to submit to drug recognition evaluation, implied consent law expanded, peace officer training provided, and money appropriated.

HF1657—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Children in need of protection or services uniform process provided, and money appropriated.

HF1658—Holsten (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit delegation authorized.

HF1659—Evans (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

New Brighton north metro I-35W corridor economic development project appropriated money.

HF1660—Evans (DFL)**Education**

School districts provided anti-discrimination law compliance assistance, and money appropriated.

HF1661—Pugh (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Psychology limited practice provided.

HF1662—McGuire (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Historical Society appropriated money for grants to the Minnesota Center for Legal Education programs.

HF1663—Bakk (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Lake County redevelopment project area and tax increment financing district established.

HF1664—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Voyageur Recreation Area Board appropriated money.

HF1665—Farrell (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

St. Paul Parks and Recreation Division liquor license issuance authorized.

HF1666—Biernat (DFL)**Judiciary**

Housing inspection error or omission civil action limitation provided.

HF1667—Luther (DFL)**Education**

Adults with disabilities basic education program established, and money appropriated.

HF1668—Macklin (R)**Judiciary**

Minnesota free flow of information act disclosure conditions provided.

HF1669—Wenzel (DFL)**Education**

Mid-state Education District No. 6979, job shadowing and internship program funded, and money appropriated.

HF1670—Goodno (R)**Labor-Management Relations**

Public employee bargaining unit arbitration provisions modified.

HF1671—Paymar (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Pedestrian-control traffic signal display time period prescribed.

HF1672—Paymar (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Trunk Highway No. 5 in St. Paul beautification and enhancement provided, and money appropriated.

HF1673—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Medical assistance for needy persons provisions modified.

HF1674—Dawkins (DFL)**Judiciary**

Community-based crime prevention grant eligibility provisions modified.

HF1675—Dawkins (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Great Northern Corridor Community Development Act adopted, armory lease project developed, and money appropriated.

HF1676—Pawlenty (R)
Education
Infant development pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF1677—Anderson, B. (R)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk Highway No. 169 in Elk River fencing provided, and money appropriated.

HF1678—Biernat (DFL)
Education
Pre-K-12 governance structure task force established.

HF1679—Garcia (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Richfield airport land conveyance required.

HF1680—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Education
North central Minnesota technology consortium gateway to the world grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1681—Peterson (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Alternative fuel motor vehicle registration tax reduction provided, alternative fuel vehicle development fee imposed, and technical corrections provided.

HF1682—Peterson (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
School buses authorized to be equipped with studded tires pending local school board approval.

HF1683—Seifert (R)
Health & Human Services
Lyon County intermediate care facility size reduction pilot project established.

HF1684—Kelso (DFL)
Education
Minnesota International Center international classroom connection program funded, and money appropriated.

HF1685—Delmont (DFL)
Education
School district equalized debt service levy provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF1686—Kubly (DFL)
Agriculture
Rural dispute resolution act adopted.

HF1687—Tunheim (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Senior meal vendor optional bidding procedure allowed.

HF1688—Tunheim (DFL)
Taxes
Apartment property tax rate reduced in certain towns.

HF1689—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Motorcycle driver instruction permit provisions modified, and endorsement fees provided.

HF1690—Hasskamp (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Personal watercraft operation requirements modified.

HF1691—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Judicial Standards Board court cost and attorney fee payment allowed in certain cases, and money appropriated.

HF1692—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Earth Day; Congress memorialized to recognize Earth Day as a national day of service and education.

HF1693—Pugh (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Public safety dispatchers deemed essential employees.

HF1694—Garcia (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Gambling tax combined receipt tax schedule provisions modified.

HF1695—Pugh (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Gambling tax combined tax receipt tax schedule provisions modified.

HF1696—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Migratory game bird shooting hours established.

HF1697—Paulsen (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Campaign contribution limitations and restrictions imposed.

HF1698—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing facility reimbursement rates established.

HF1699—Rukavina (DFL)
Education
State colleges and universities system administrative costs limited.

HF1700—Kubly (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Olivia commercial building redevelopment provided, and money appropriated.

HF1701—Murphy (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
State warrant cashing fees and charges limited.

HF1702—McCollum (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Respiratory care practitioner registration and regulation provided, respiratory care practitioner advisory council established, continuing education fees provided, and penalties provided.

HF1703—Entenza (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
St. Paul Civic Center intoxicating liquor sales authorized at professional athletic events.

HF1704—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare eligibility asset requirement established, and penalties provided.

HF1705—Finseth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
East Grand Forks Red River bank stabilization project funded, and money appropriated.

HF1706—Entenza (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Down syndrome information distribution provided, and money appropriated.

HF1707—Bishop (R)
Health & Human Services
Living will and durable power of attorney for health care advance health care directive provisions modified.

HF1708—Koskinen (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Senior citizen prescription drug benefit provided under the MinnesotaCare program, and money appropriated.

HF1709—Koskinen (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Landlords required to ensure reasonably safe conditions for tenants.

HF1710—Koskinen (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Railroad employees provided counseling and leaves of absence following railroad accidents.

HF1711—Leighton (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Employee drug and alcohol testing requirements modified, personnel record review provisions clarified, entertainment agency violation private right of action established, and OSHA inspector assault penalties provided.

HF1712—Bishop (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Firefighter probationary period provisions modified.

HF1713—Dorn (DFL)
Education
Distinguished professor employment continuation provided.

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HF1714—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare eligibility asset requirement established, medical assistance and general assistance medical care eligibility requirements modified, and penalties provided.

HF1715—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Education
Campus student referendum on statewide affiliation delayed.

HF1716—Olson, M. (R)
Education
Locally controlled graduation rule aid and district assistance provided, locally controlled graduation rule offered, and money appropriated.

HF1717—McCollum (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Human services alternative care program and elderly waiver case management service provider requirements modified.

HF1718—Erhardt (R)
Health & Human Services
Physician surcharge waiver request extension provided.

HF1719—Kubly (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Chippewa County recreational facility design provided, and money appropriated.

HF1720—Rhodes (R)
Education
School closings by governor provisions clarified.

HF1721—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Chippewa County land conveyance provided.

HF1722—Larsen (R)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle drivers required to maintain vehicle control when approaching or passing an authorized emergency vehicle, and violation surcharge imposed.

HF1723—Greiling (DFL)
Education
Gifted and talented education program grants provided, school district eligibility criteria established, and money appropriated.

HF1724—Kahn (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Internet or computer system voting feasibility studied by secretary of state, and money appropriated.

HF1725—Olson, M. (R)
Judiciary
Same-sex marriages not recognized or allowed.

HF1726—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
MSRS; Minnesota State Retirement System coverage provided to revenue department seasonal employees.

HF1727—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Pension plan asset actuarial value definition and reporting requirements modified.

HF1728—Skare (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Beltrami County and Hubbard County personal care attendant services reimbursement rate increased.

HF1729—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services
Breast-feeding encouraged, and well-baby designation established.

HF1730—Peterson (DFL)
Agriculture
Livestock and dairy processing and marketing grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1731—McCollum (DFL)
Taxes
Undervalued property county property tax recapture provided, and penalty imposed.

HF1732—Evans (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
New Brighton tax increment financing district establishment authorized.

HF1733—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services
Rural hospitals; Congress memorialized to establish a national limited service hospital program for rural primary service hospitals.

HF1734—Kraus (R)
Health & Human Services
First responder registration program establishment authorized.

HF1735—Mulder (R)
Education
Southwest State University center for agricultural studies established, and money appropriated.

HF1736—Macklin (R)
Judiciary
Jail credit legislative intent clarified, consecutive jail sentence presumption established, and specific findings required to authorize concurrent jail sentences or jail credit.

HF1737—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Licensing agency classified or private data release authorized for law enforcement purposes.

HF1738—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health care consumer assistance grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1739—Schumacher (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Foley tax increment financing district revenue expenditure authorized outside of tax increment financing district.

HF1740—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services
Deaf and hard-of-hearing and deaf-blind children services grant established, and money appropriated.

HF1741—Biernat (DFL)
Education
Violence, abuse, and harassment prevention provided through theatrical plays, workshops, and peer education, grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1742—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health care purchasing alliances established, direct health care provider contracting provided, and hospital and supervised living facility licensing standard waivers permitted.

HF1743—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Education
Independent school district nos. 622, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale, 833, South Washington County, and 834, Stillwater, additional levy authorized for extended year, extended day, and all day kindergarten program operation.

HF1744—Mares (R)
Education
Northeast Metropolitan Intermediate School District No. 916, school board organization provisions modified.

HF1745—Folliard (DFL)
Education
State college and university public employee exception provisions modified.

HF1746—Ness (R)
Education
Cooperative educational unit direct aid payment authorized.

HF1747—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Day training and habilitation services payment rates modified.

HF1748—Rukavina (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Governor's state budget information inclusion mandate provided.

HF1749—Knight (R)
Taxes
Personal and dependent income tax credit allowed.

HF1750—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Timber sale permit extension provided.

HF1751—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Omnibus packaging regulation bill providing mandatory recycled content requirements, regulating transport packaging, requiring reusable packaging for beverages, providing beverage packaging recycling deposits, and providing penalties.

HF1752—Kalis (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Teachers Retirement Association retirement coverage provided for part-time Blue Earth School District teacher.

HF1753—Kalis (DFL)
Capital Investment
State municipal aid bond issuance authorizations modified.

HF1754—Kelso (DFL)
Education
University of Minnesota Board of Regents at-large positions appointed by the governor, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1755—Jefferson (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Hennepin County housing and redevelopment authority procedures modified.

HF1756—Chaudhary (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Columbia Heights Volunteer Fire Department Relief Association defined contribution plan established.

HF1757—Hasskamp (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Abortion data reporting provisions modified, and criminal penalties provided.

HF1758—Pelowski (DFL)
Education
Higher education library information network developed, and money appropriated.

HF1759—Tomassoni (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Licensed professional engineer Pollution Control Agency sewage treatment system design and inspection licensure provisions modified.

HF1760—Delmont (DFL)
Education
Child care resource and referral start-up project established, and money appropriated.

HF1761—McGuire (DFL)**Education**

Juvenile assessment center pilot project grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1762—Solberg (DFL)**Education**

Nashwauk public and school libraries operated jointly, and library board established.

HF1763—Larsen (R)**Judiciary**

Dodge, Fillmore, Olmsted, St. Louis, Stearns, and Washington counties sex offender community notification equipment grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1764—Entenza (DFL)**Education**

Children attending schools with concentrated levels of poverty provided enhanced educational experience, general education formula allowance increased, and money appropriated.

HF1765—Jefferson (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Internal revenue code annuity provider selection requirements modified, and technical modifications provided.

HF1766—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Koochiching County designated as an enterprise zone.

HF1767—Juhnke (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

County and local historical society grant-in-aid program established, and money appropriated.

HF1768—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Accident and health insurance disability policy provisions modified and recodified.

HF1769—Hasskamp (DFL)**Education**

Central Lakes Community and Technical College American Indian studies center established, and money appropriated.

HF1770—Tunheim (DFL)**Education**

School district community education rule amendment provisions modified.

HF1771—Paymar (DFL)**Judiciary**

First-degree murder definition expanded related to domestic abuse, malicious punishment of a child enhanced penalties provided, and crimes of violence definition expanded to include fifth degree and domestic assault.

HF1772—Kuisle (R)**Transportation & Transit**

Highway user tax distribution fund provided funding from state budget surplus.

HF1773—Finseth (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Tree planting stock production restricted, and planting stock production information disclosure required.

HF1774—Dawkins (DFL)**Judiciary**

Wildlife control hunting or trapping loss municipal liability provisions modified.

HF1775—Juhnke (DFL)**Agriculture**

Agricultural chemical application liability limited.

HF1776—Hilty (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Statewide public ice arena facilities program appropriated money.

HF1777—McGuire (DFL)**Education**

Health community program established and revenue levy authorized.

HF1778—Rifenberg (R)**Taxes**

Charitable contribution income tax credit provided.

HF1779—Kahn (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

St. Paul and Minneapolis tax increment financing district establishment authorized.

HF1780—Pugh (DFL)**Judiciary**

Corrections department appropriated money for sexual assault program grants.

HF1781—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Medical Assistance wheelchair repair payment procedures clarified, and augmentative and alternative communication system medical assistance reimbursement provisions modified.

HF1782—Rukavina (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Youth sports programs developed, criteria established, and money appropriated.

HF1783—Sviggum (R)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Former legislators prohibited from lobbying the legislature for one year after leaving office, and fair campaign practices advisory board established.

HF1784—Sviggum (R)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Legislative employee campaign activity limited, lobbying activities limited, campaign contributions restricted, and money appropriated.

HF1785—Jaros (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Economic security department required to administer housing and food assistance programs.

HF1786—Tunheim (DFL)**Agriculture**

University of Minnesota appropriated money for spring wheat research.

HF1787—Koppendrayner (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Soil and water conservation district state auditor fees limited.

HF1788—Olson, E. (DFL)**Taxes**

Fosston sales and use tax imposition authorized.

HF1789—Mullery (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Railroad train or locomotive crew requirements established, and penalty provided.

HF1790—McGuire (DFL)**Judiciary**

Nursing board applicant or licensee address and telephone number privacy provided.

HF1791—Kalis (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

State Capitol cafeteria renovation provided, and money appropriated.

HF1792—Tunheim (DFL)**Agriculture**

Rural small business loan program established, and money appropriated.

HF1793—Kinkel (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Park Rapids veterans memorial provided, and money appropriated.

HF1794—Johnson, A. (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Attorney general required to investigate unfair drug price discrimination, prescription drug price negotiation authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1795—Jennings (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Plumber licensure requirements modified.

HF1796—McElroy (R)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Housing and redevelopment authority levy use limitation removed.

HF1797—Erhardt (R)**Taxes**

City property tax levies limited.

HF1798—Murphy (DFL)**Taxes**

City aid base definition modified.

HF1799—Trimble (DFL)**Agriculture**

Licensed family day care meal and nutrition program and reimbursement provided, and money appropriated.

HF1800—Tunheim (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

County road cost reimbursement provided, and money appropriated.

HF1801—Paulsen (R)**Rules & Legislative Administration**

Legislator per diem payments limited.

HF1802—Bakk (DFL)**Taxes**

Cook County sales tax revenue use authorized for hospital improvements.

HF1803—Bakk (DFL)**Taxes**

Well drilling machine gasoline and fuel sales tax exemption provided.

HF1804—Bakk (DFL)**Taxes**

Cook County jail and courthouse construction material sales tax exemption provided.

HF1805—Swenson, D. (R)
Transportation & Transit
Washington County highway shoulder reconstruction provided, and money appropriated.

HF1806—Hilty (DFL)
Environment
& **Natural Resources Finance**
Rock, gem, and mineral interpretative center established, and money appropriated.

HF1807—Westfall (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Deer hunting licenses provided to farmers for reduced fees.

HF1808—Sykora (R)
Commerce, Tourism
& **Consumer Affairs**
Civil Commitment Act chemically dependent person definition modified to include pregnant women who have engaged in alcohol abuse, reporting requirements modified, and report required.

HF1809—Winter (DFL)
Agriculture
Minnesota agriculture education leadership council established, grant program provided, and money appropriated.

Thursday, March 20

HF1810—Koskinen (DFL)
Health & Human Services
WIC nutrition program for women and children funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1811—Rhodes (R)
Economic Development
& **International Trade**
St. Louis Park Meadowbrook collaborative housing project appropriated money.

HF1812—Rhodes (R)
Economic Development
& **International Trade**
St. Louis Park Meadowbrook collaborative housing project appropriated money.

HF1813—Paulsen (R)
Health & Human Services
Grant Hussey Foundation Project Protect implementation provided, and money appropriated.

HF1814—Dawkins (DFL)
Education
Community crime prevention program grant application provisions modified.

HF1815—Rostberg (R)
Environment
& **Natural Resources Finance**
Cambridge wastewater treatment project loan repayment provided, and money appropriated.

HF1816—Greenfield (DFL)
Judiciary
Bias crime penalty enhancements provided.

HF1817—Rostberg (R)
Education
Year-round school/extended week or day pilot program expanded, and money appropriated.

HF1818—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
St. Louis County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF1819—Chaudhary (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs
& **Elections**
Veterans' bonus program established, and money appropriated.

HF1820—Chaudhary (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs
& **Elections**
Armed Forces reserve member tuition and textbook reimbursement grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1821—Chaudhary (DFL)
Judiciary
Corrections department juvenile detention provisions modified, fund use provisions modified, sexual assault and crime victim advisory councils duration extended, and religious instruction and extraordinary discharge laws repealed.

HF1822—Westfall (R)
Environment
& **Natural Resources Finance**
Clay County riparian buffer restoration project developed, and money appropriated.

HF1823—Westfall (R)
Environment
& **Natural Resources Finance**
Pelican Rapids to Maplewood state park trail developed, and money appropriated.

HF1824—Mariani (DFL)
Economic Development
& **International Trade**
Minnesota Project Innovation appropriated money.

HF1825—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary
Predatory offender registration law provisions modified.

HF1826—Clark (DFL)
Education
Interpreting and translating pilot program established, and money appropriated.

HF1827—Skare (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Chemical dependency treatment case management definition provisions modified, and community support plan review requirements modified.

HF1828—Swenson, H. (R)
Education
McLeod County Stevens seminary trustee appointment authority transferred.

HF1829—Orfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Attorney general required to investigate unfair drug price discrimination, prescription drug price negotiation authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1830—Mahon (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
General-use collector license plate issuance authorized, and emissions test requirement exemption provided.

HF1831—Trimble (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Metropolitan East Health Program appropriated money.

HF1832—Schumacher (DFL)
Taxes
Property tax levy certification requirements modified.

HF1833—Schumacher (DFL)
Environment
& **Natural Resources Finance**
Landfill cleanup cost appropriation provisions modified.

HF1834—Entenza (DFL)
Environment
& **Natural Resources Finance**
Metropolitan regional parks maintenance and operation funded, and money appropriated.

HF1835—Schumacher (DFL)
Education
Advanced placement and international baccalaureate programs funded, and money appropriated.

HF1836—Westrom (R)
Commerce, Tourism
& **Consumer Affairs**
Equal consumer credit provided for spouses.

HF1837—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services
Senior citizen prescription drug program established, wholesale drug distributor reporting required, and money appropriated.

HF1838—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Emergency deer feeding pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF1839—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Firearms tracking system established, weapon transfers regulated, pistol and semiautomatic weapon possession by convicted felons prohibited, penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

HF1840—Schumacher (DFL)
Local Government
& **Metropolitan Affairs**
Benton County auditor and treasurer office combination permitted.

HF1841—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development
& **International Trade**
Economic development zone credits regulated, and money appropriated.

HF1842—Kinkel (DFL)
Judiciary
Hubbard County sheriff addition part-time peace officer positions authorized.

HF1843—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Community-based women's mental health crisis center pilot project provided, and money appropriated.

HF1844—Schumacher (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Highway and transit infrastructure payment provided with tax certificates.

HF1845—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development
& **International Trade**
State services for the blind study provided, and money appropriated.

HF1846—Swenson, D. (R)
Judiciary
Crime victim services provided in underserved communities, and money appropriated.

HF1847—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Tax-forfeited and land bordering public waters sale provisions modified.

HF1848—Swenson, D. (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
University of Minnesota individual sewage treatment program funded, and money appropriated.

HF1849—Davids (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Southeast Minnesota water resources board appropriated money for administrative expenses.

HF1850—Ness (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Fishing artifact museum feasibility studied, and money appropriated.

HF1851—Sekhon (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Prairie inventory conducted along railroad rights-of-way, pesticide application limited, and money appropriated.

HF1852—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Omnibus property tax and education finance reform bill, levy constraints provided, and money appropriated.

HF1853—Tomassoni (DFL)
Governmental Operations
MSRS; correctional employee contribution differential payment provisions clarified.

HF1854—Wenzel (DFL)
Taxes
Firewood sales for certain business purposes sales tax exemption provided.

HF1855—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Education
General education formula allowance increased, equalized discretionary levy provided, special education program funding increased, and money appropriated.

HF1856—Davids (R)
Agriculture
Ethanol, anhydrous alcohol, and wet alcohol producer payments provided.

HF1857—Knoblach (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Water quality standards review procedures established.

HF1858—Luther (DFL)
Education
Learning readiness program revenue funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1859—Otremba (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Greater Staples Hospital infant hearing screening program appropriated money.

HF1860—Otremba (DFL)
Agriculture
Potato blight research grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1861—Juhnke (DFL)
Agriculture
Confined farm animal facility entry restricted.

HF1862—Wenzel (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Minnesota Investment Fund loan guaranteed by trade and economic development commissioner.

HF1863—Vickerman (R)
Agriculture
Agricultural marketing and bargaining mediation and arbitration required.

HF1864—Solberg (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Polymer bridge wrap research program established, and money appropriated.

HF1865—Entenza (DFL)
Education
General education revenue increased, pupil transportation formulas modified, limited English proficiency program funding increased, special education funding increased, and money appropriated.

HF1866—Mulder (R)
Judiciary
Private corrections facilities providing long-term residential secure programming maximum bed limit exception provided.

HF1867—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
St. Louis County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF1868—Trimble (DFL)
Governmental Operations
State Board of Investment tobacco stock sale required.

HF1869—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Governmental Operations
We the People project citizenship program funded, and money appropriated.

HF1870—Leighton (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Workers' compensation procedures and reporting deadlines modified, and corrections officers added to the presumption of occupational disease.

HF1871—Long (DFL)
Taxes
Omnibus property tax and education finance reform bill, and money appropriated.

HF1872—Dorn (DFL)
Education
Early childhood teacher development center established, grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1873—Ness (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Open dump remediation, identification, and prioritization expenditures authorized.

HF1874—Jefferson (DFL)
Education
Head Start program funded, compensatory revenue caps removed, and money appropriated.

HF1875—Carruthers (DFL)
Judiciary
DWI; preliminary breath test evidence use authorized, vehicle forfeiture provided for third-time DWI offenders, and drug test refusal provided criminal penalties.

HF1876—Wenzel (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Little Falls telecommunication services development provided, and money appropriated.

HF1877—Jefferson (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Strawberry workers rights recognized and respected by the strawberry industry.

HF1878—Davids (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Health insurance portability and accountability act provisions modified.

HF1879—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Nuclear waste; public service commissioner required to hold in escrow funds for high-level radioactive waste disposal.

HF1880—Jennings (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Employer re-employment compensation payment schedule provisions modified.

HF1881—Koppendrayner (R)
Taxes
Counties with Indian casinos provided payments under tribal tax agreements, and money appropriated.

HF1882—Murphy (DFL)
Judiciary
Real estate document filing and recording fees modified.

HF1883—Kahn (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Natural resources trust fund distribution provisions modified, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1884—Westfall (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Legislative district boundaries modified.

HF1885—Solberg (DFL)
Judiciary
Mille Lacs Fishing Treaty implementation public safety funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1886—Hausman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Hmong/Laotian veterans; President and Congress memorialized to waive English language and residency requirements for American citizenship for Hmong and other Laotian veterans.

HF1887—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Judiciary
Juvenile court jurisdiction extended, and money appropriated.

HF1888—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
Rental motor vehicle tax provisions modified, and money appropriated.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
For information updates, call
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MONDAY, March 24

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Budget hearings: Minnesota Arts Board; and Workers' Compensation Reinsurance, Department of Commerce.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: HF1132 (Ness) Technical college diploma and certificate provisions modified. University of Minnesota budget, Marvin Marshak, senior vice president for academic affairs and Richard Pfitzenreuter, associate vice president for budget and finance.

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Safe schools working group recommendations. HF303 (Johnson, A.) School disciplinary policy evaluation and implementation grant program established, and money appropriated. Transportation working group recommendations. HF724 (Molnau) Minnesota River Valley special education cooperative computerized transportation routing system established, and money appropriated.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF461 (Osskopp) Wabasha appropriated money for development of the American bald eagle center. HF1046 (Tingelstad) Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota appropriated money for electronic environmental education network.

HF412 (Kubly) Granite Falls appropriated money for river bank restoration.
HF913 (Kubly) Livestock odor research program developed at the University of Minnesota, and money appropriated.
HF113 (Munger) State lottery proceeds dedication to Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund duration extended, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF)
Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF443 (Luther) Brooklyn Park economic development authority property tax certification authorized. HF1089 (Garcia) Metropolitan areawide tax base homestead property inclusion provided. HF1427 (Erhardt) Homeowner additional property tax refund provided. Bills may be added.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: HF1799 (Trimble) Licensed family day care meal and nutrition program and reimbursement provided, and money appropriated. HF1285 (Westrom) Agricultural cooperative investment tax credit provided. HF1494 (Wenzel) Soil and water conservation district technical support grants provided, and money appropriated. HF1646 (Trimble) Milk marketing competition and economic fairness provided, and milk and milk product retail price flexibility allowed. HF1686 (Kubly) Rural dispute resolution act adopted. HF1730 (Peterson) Livestock and dairy processing and marketing grant program established, and money appropriated. HF806 (Dehler) Agricultural product definition expanded to include fish for property tax purposes. HF689 (Kubly) Alfalfa processing facility construction material sales and use tax exemption provided. HF1186 (Tunheim) Bakeries in retail food stores provided equipment and ventilation requirements. HFXXXX (Juhnke) Limiting entry by Department of Revenue conservation officers into farm facilities unless biosecurity measures are followed.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF1209 (Sviggum) Stagecoach trail established in Steele, Dodge, and Olmsted counties. HF1195 (Jaros) Duluth area old growth forest protection provided. HF714 (Bakk) Solid waste transfer station grant program repealed. HF1575 (Munger) Western Lake Superior sanitary district granted authority to collect solid waste management service charges. HF418 (Peterson) Red River Watershed Management Board authority provisions modified. HF764 (Winter) Lewis and Clark rural water system developed, and money appropriated.

HF1314 (Hausman) Scrap motor vehicle facility regulations modified.
HF1534 (Tunheim) Vertical heat exchanger contractor licensure requirement established.
HF435 (Long) Environmental Response and Liability Act provisions modified, and money appropriated.
HF1393 (Long) Brownfields coordination office established.
HF422 (McCollum) Contaminated land industrial development provided, and money appropriated.

JUDICIARY

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

Agenda: HF642 (Skoglund) State court action created for relief from damages caused by federal court action affecting public participation by the plaintiff. HF135 (Skoglund) Community crime cost study by Legislative Audit Commission requested. HF635 (Entenza) North Star government on-line service and information initiative provided, information and telecommunications technology community resource development initiative established, MNcard projects implemented, and money appropriated. HF527 (McCollum) Veterans employment preference act provisions modified. HF387 (Wagenius) Transportation department claim payment provided and liability provisions modified, and eminent domain provisions modified. HF1373 (Wagenius) MinnesotaCare program family definition modified, child custody provisions modified, and money appropriated. HF209 (Vickerman) Human services child placement heritage or background provisions modified. HF1036 (Macklin) Government data practices program integrity initiatives established, and child support enforcement registry access provided. HF617 (Weaver) Juvenile crime victim data disclosure provisions modified. HF272 (Wejcman) Human services program licensure requirements modified, and civil penalties imposed and modified. HF1455 (Wejcman) Female genital mutilation crime exception added for certified nurse midwives. HF1175 (Clark) Restorative justice programs authorized, increased penalties provided for repeat misdemeanor violations, grants provided, and money appropriated. HF1501 (Skoglund) Indecent exposure while confining or restraining another person deemed a felony, and sex offender registration required. HF1504 (Skoglund) Sex offender probation term extension authorized. HF1109 (Farrell) Criminal trial final argument prosecution rebuttal provided. HF1586 (Skoglund) Arson training provided for law enforcement and fire service personnel, arson strike force established, and money appropriated. HF1197 (Weaver) County attorney administrative subpoena powers expanded to include subpoena of computer network records. HF338 (Chaudhary) Inmates barred from computer on-line service use, and the Department of Corrections rules required. HF1566 (Winter) Firefighter training program planning provided, and money appropriated. HF1467 (Stanek) Drugfire; Hennepin County

sheriff and Minneapolis police provided grants for operation of the FBI Drugfire bullet analysis computer program.
HF225 (Broecker) Peace officers authorized to arrest persons within four hours of a violation for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle.
HF1423 (Weaver) Sentencing guidelines proposed modifications regarding increases in durations at severity levels I through VI shall not take effect.
HF226 (Macklin) Vehicle theft notification responsibility transferred.
HF370 (Macklin) Peace officers required to notify parents of juveniles accused of committing adult court traffic offenses.
HF1462 (Pawlenty) Fourth-degree assault scope expanded to include harm inflicted upon corrections facilities employees.
Bills may be added.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Budget hearing; Minnesota Planning Office. Bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: HF725 (Wagenius) Early childhood technology grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1676 (Pawlenty) Infant development pilot project established, and money appropriated.
HF99 (Clark) Emergency human services grant program established, and money appropriated.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Millbert

Agenda: HF1793 (Kinkel) Park Rapids veterans memorial provided, and money appropriated.

HF1463 (Mahon) Local office candidate campaign contribution limit provisions clarified.

HF423 (Orfield) Metropolitan Council made an elective body and provided public campaign financing, and penalties imposed.

HF104 (Sviggum) Legislative ethics committees and procedures established, former legislators prohibited from lobbying for one year after leaving office, and fair campaign practices advisory board established.

Referrals from other policy committees. Bills may be added.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: HF1383 (Kinkel) Occupational safety and health notice service provisions modified.

HF1710 (Koskinen) Railroad employees provided counseling and leaves of absence following railroad accidents.

HF1512 (Bakk) Educational building construction, improvement, or remodeling designated a project.
HF216 (Mariani) Employment contract provisions modified.

HF1711 (Leighton) Employee drug and alcohol testing requirements modified, personnel record review provisions clarified, entertainment agency violation private right of action established, and OSHA inspector assault penalties provided.

HF1870 (Leighton) Workers' Compensation Advisory Council.

HF1877 (Jefferson) Resolution regarding strawberry workers in California.

HF1343 (Knoblach) Reemployment insurance definitions modified related to taxi cab drivers.

HF1382 (Dehler) Show boiler and engine inspection provisions modified.

HF1670 (Goodno) Public employee bargaining unit arbitration provisions modified.

Bills may be added.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: HF783 (Larsen) Metropolitan Council, Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, Metropolitan Radio Board, and Metropolitan Mosquito Control District abolished, duties transferred, and money appropriated.

HF1111 (Weaver) Recreational vehicle combination definition expanded to include vehicles drawing trailers carrying off-highway motorcycles, off-road vehicles, snowmobiles, or all-terrain vehicles.

HF1164 (Juhnke) Bus definition expanded to include special transportation service vehicles.

HF1224 (Kinkel) Liquefied petroleum gas delivery vehicles exempted from seasonal weight restrictions.

HF1789 (Mullery) Railroad train or locomotive crew requirements established, and penalty provided.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: Continuation of 10 a.m. meeting agenda.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Continuation of 10 a.m. meeting agenda.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: HF1290 (Tomassoni) County tax nonpayment redemption period expiration provided.

HF1291 (Tomassoni) St. Louis County court bailiffs added to the unclassified service.

HF1301 (Slawik) St. Paul and Ramsey County joint public health department personnel provisions defined.

HF1338 (Molnau) Municipal consolidation authorized.

HF1372 (Biernat) St. Paul and Minneapolis school boards directed to develop a transportation plan using public transportation.

HF1379 (Huntley) Duluth Miller-Dwan Medical Center assets and liabilities transferred.

HF1390 (Solberg) Floodwood Joint Recreation Board tax levies regulated.

HF1470 (Rukavina) Virginia area ambulance district establishment authorized, levy authorized, and local approval required.

HF1679 (Garcia) Richfield airport land conveyance required.

HF1755 (Jefferson) Hennepin County housing and redevelopment authority procedures modified.

4 p.m.

Subcommittee on the Office of the Revisor/ Legislative Coordinating Commission

500N State Office Building

Chr. To be announced

Agenda: Review proposed budget for Office of Revisor.

6 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: HF769 (Schumacher) Omnibus K-12 education policy bill.

HF991 (Clark) Child care facility improvement grants provided, and money appropriated.

Child care:

HF1121 (Delmont) Child development education and training loan program established, child care provider training initiatives funded, and money appropriated.

HF1760 (Delmont) Child care resource and referral start-up project established, and money appropriated.

7 p.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: Continuation of 10 a.m. meeting agenda.

TUESDAY, March 25

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: HF1213 (Goodno) Moorhead land transfer authorized (division report).

HF747 (Kahn) State high school league governing board appointing authority provisions modified.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Agency budget presentations: Department of Corrections - Employee Concerns, Rep. Thomas Pugh. County Issues, Reps. Sherry Broecker, Thomas Pugh.

Criminal justice education funding issues: Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU); POST Board; and Department of Finance.

Review of technology requests for criminal justice information system: Supreme Court; and Department of Public Safety.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HF324 (Bishop) Dependent care tax credit requirements modified.

HF462 (Erhardt) Three-fifths legislative majority vote required for sales or income tax increases, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1141 (Orfield) Dependent care income tax credit expanded, and money appropriated.

HF489 (Murphy) Capital gains tax exclusion provided for the sale of property used as a principal residence.

HF773 (Murphy) Aggregate material removal taxes authorized in Carlton and St. Louis counties.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: HF1559 (McCollum) Southeast Asian conservation officer recruitment and training program established, and money appropriated.
HF950 (McCollum) Native ecological habitat information collected and disseminated, and money appropriated.
HF449 (Skare) Becker, Clearwater, and Hubbard counties provided wind damage mitigation grants, and money appropriated.
HF478 (Wagenius) SCORE; Office of Environmental Assistance authorized to carry forward waste management block grants.
HF650 (Hasskamp) Glendalough State Park and Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area appropriated money for development and operation.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: HF1038 (Goodno) Employee wage protection act adopted, wage protection account established, and money appropriated.
HF929 (Orfield) Patient protection act adopted, health care consumer assistance program established, and money appropriated.
HF1000 (Long) Community-based planning act adopted providing sustainable metropolitan development, Metropolitan Council requirements specified, advisory council established, and money appropriated.
HF707 (Wagenius) Toxics in products requirements and enforcement provisions modified.
HF458 (Juhnke) Highway service sign placement provisions clarified, transportation department exempt rules preserved, highway related definitions modified, and obsolete references corrected.
HF242 (Juhnke) Recreational equipment registration and taxation provisions modified related to slip in pickup truck campers, and vehicle registration information access restricted, vehicle dealer purchase receipt requirements modified.
HF197 (Leppik) Administrative Procedures Act rulemaking procedures modified.
HF1221 (Kahn) Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement and Minnesota Resources Commission membership provisions modified.
HF1326 (Kahn) Public pension plan fiduciary economic interest statement filing failure penalty provided.
HF843 (Clark) Lead hazard reduction advisory task force established, and money appropriated.
HF864 (McGuire) Social work board provisions modified, and civil penalties provided.
HF1392 (Kinkel) Exempt real property and fire state aid property tax provisions modified.
HF1618 (Greiling) State agency publication dates and requirements modified, and multimember agency expiration date changed.
HF578 (Kubly) Animal feedlot and manure management advisory committee expiration date designated, and food safety advisory committee membership provisions modified.
HF257 (Dorn) Ambulance service licensing requirements established, emergency medical services statutory provisions relocated, and money appropriated.

HF1162 (Koppendrayr) Employee relations department technical corrections bill.
HF1461 (Entenza) Uniform business identifier system established, and money appropriated.
HF1545 (Weaver) Public employee violence and harassment-free workplace policy adopted.
HF1386 (Knoblach) Public land and building acquisition and improvements provided, and money appropriated.
HF634 (Larsen) Electricity board membership provisions modified.
HF1327 (Delmont) State agency service contracts reviewed by employee relations commissioner.
HF1563 (Garcia) STAR; system of training to achieve results program for persons with disabilities established, and money appropriated.
HFXXXX (Mullery) Railroad rules.
HF937 (Paulsen) School district interim superintendent retirement provisions modified.
All pension bills recommended by the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn
Agenda: To be announced.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: HF1547 (Ozment) Tax increment financing restrictions imposed, terms defined, and provisions clarified.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: Funding match for Federal Drinking Water Project, Terry Kuhlman, Public Facilities Authority (PFA). Minneapolis Veterans Home Emergency Water Project, Richard Zierdt, Minnesota Veterans Home Board.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim
Agenda: HF524 (Tunheim) Malt liquor importation permit required.
HF1307 (Dehler) Holders of multiple on-sale liquor licenses allowed to have uniform licensing periods.
HF1179 (Winter) Petroleum tank upgrade assistance program established.
HF1503 (Luther) Pawn broker charges limited, and pledges or sales of property to pawnbrokers by persons under age 21 prohibited.
Bills may be added.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: HF698 (Rukavina) St. Louis County division vote provided.
HF758 (Long) State mandates on local units of government regulated.
HF1143 (Tunheim) County financial statement publication requirements modified.
HF1144 (Tunheim) County boards authorized to assign duties of auditor and treasurer.
HF1148 (Wolf) Scott County auditor, recorder, and treasurer appointment permitted.
HF1187 (Kubly) Buffalo Lake wastewater treatment facility construction contract bid requirements modified.
HF1391 (Long) Political subdivisions permitted to define dependent for employee benefit purposes.
HF1556 (Murphy) Municipal water sale maximum rate provided.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: HF1525 (Jennings) Electric utility service contract customer-specific terms provided.
HF1123 (Delmont) Telecommunication company slamming and loading prohibited, and penalties provided.
HF1374 (Stanek) Cellular 911 emergency call response provisions modified.
HF1551 (Delmont) Enhanced 911 service fee proceeds transferred.
Bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

4 p.m.

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg
Agenda: HF159 (Jennings) Welfare reform; human services and public assistance programs and eligibility requirements modified, and money appropriated.

5 p.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn
Agenda: To be announced.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: HF816 (Finseth) East Grand Forks tax increment financing district duration extended.
HF914 (Rostberg) Commercial property improvement property tax abatement allowed.
HF934 (Wejcmán) Neighborhood revitalization program provisions modified.
HF1108 (Bettermann) Douglas County tourism facility tax increment financing exemption provided.
HF1169 (Carlson) Brooklyn Center; Brookdale regional center redevelopment provided, and money appropriated.
HF1265 (Swenson, H.) Gaylord tax increment financing district enlargement and duration extension authorized.
HF1330 (Koskinen) Coon Rapids economic development authority tax increment financing district duration extension provided.
HF1469 (Rukavina) White tax increment financing district duration extension and expansion provided.
HF1480 (Anderson, B.) Buffalo tax increment financing district duration extended.
HF1546 (Jefferson) Minneapolis housing transition tax increment financing district established.
HF1655 (Workman) Chanhassen housing tax increment district establishment authorized.
HF1663 (Bakk) Lake County redevelopment project area and tax increment financing district established.
HF1732 (Evans) New Brighton tax increment financing district establishment authorized.
HF1739 (Schumacher) Foley tax increment financing district revenue expenditure authorized outside of tax increment financing district.
HF1779 (Kahn) St. Paul and Minneapolis tax increment financing district establishment authorized.

6 p.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Continuation of 10 a.m. meeting agenda.

**Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/
EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza
Agenda: HF820 (Dehler) Public school guidance and counseling services provided at nonpublic schools.
HF1231 (Ness) Students dismissed from school provided attendance options, and teacher liability provisions modified.
HF60 (Greiling) Hazing; civil cause of action provided against student organizations for damages relating to hazing.
HF1259 (Entenza) School districts restricted from beginning the school day prior to 8 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, March 26

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: To be announced.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Continuation of March 24 agenda.

**K-12 Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: To be announced.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF)
Division/TAXES**
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson
Agenda: HF339 (Rest) Property tax fiscal disparities determination provisions modified.
HF320 (Paymar) Property tax increase disclosure and vote required.
Bills may be added.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: HF1017 (Dawkins) Youth Community Service Program participant eligibility requirements modified, and money appropriated.
HF1137 (Lieder) Red River Basin Board water management planning grant provided, and money appropriated.
HF1173 (Lieder) Rydell National Wildlife Refuge access provided, and money appropriated.
HF1178 (Davids) Border-to-border state trail study provided, and money appropriated.
HF1524 (Seifert) Marshall flood control project funded, and money appropriated.
HF1619 (Jennings) Chisago and Washington

counties joint ditch No. 1 abandonment authorized, and money appropriated.
HF325 (Johnson, A.) Fridley; Locke Lake Dam construction loan canceled and forgiven.
HF1142 (Tunheim) Thief Lake wildlife management area interpretive display construction provided, and money appropriated.
HF1040 (Mariani) Mississippi River vegetation restoration provided, and money appropriated.
HF718 (Folliard) Conservation corps youth corps advisory committee provisions modified.
HF1354 (Peterson) State park trail accessibility survey provided, and money appropriated.
HF1418 (Peterson) State trail accessibility survey provided, and money appropriated.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: HF544 (Kahn) University of Minnesota steam plant relocation away from the Mississippi river funding provided, and money appropriated.
HFXXXX (Hausman) Omnibus land sales bill.
HFXXXX (Munger) Land sale provisions.
HFXXXX (Hausman) Environmental compatibility for utility power plants.
HF1692 (Munger) Earth Day; Congress memorialized to recognize Earth Day as a national day of service and education.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson
Agenda: HF630 (Rukavina) Self-insured employee benefit plan dissolution notification required.
HF1060 (Smith) Homeowner insurance policy nonrenewal provisions modified.
HF406 (Peterson) Snowmobile registration fees modified, liability insurance and safety education required, and criminal penalty provided.
HF959 (Anderson, I.) Health care policy rates regulated.
HF1005 (Tomassoni) Minnesota insurance guaranty act state law conformance provided with the post-assessment property and liability insurance guaranty association model act of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.
HF1605 (Davids) Minnesota Comprehensive Health Insurance Association coverage eligibility provisions modified.
HF1637 (Anderson, I.) Arson task force insurance-related recommendations adopted.
HF666 (Anderson, I.) Insurance company fraud, misrepresentation, or deceptive practice relief provided.
HF405 (Rhodes) Insurance; Congress memorialized to pass legislation requiring insurance sales state law compliance.
HF109 (Haas) Minnesota employees insurance program terminated, transition provisions specified, and money appropriated.
Continuation of March 20 agenda.

JUDICIARY
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: HF1460 (McGuire) Government data classification and access provided.
HF1038 (Goodno) Employee wage protection act adopted, wage protection account established, and money appropriated.
HF1004 (Entenza) DWI; alcohol presence determination test requirements modified, implied consent hearing process modified, accident injury reports required, and penalties provided.
HF509 (Murphy) Deadly force use against a peace officer provided mandatory minimum sentence.

HF98 (Stanek) Public safety department aircraft use authorized for general law enforcement purposes.
HF147 (Weaver) Juvenile crime data release authorized to crime victims, terroristic threat, crime offender, child custody or visitation right provisions modified, and crime victim notification required when sentence modification occurs.
HF196 (Bishop) Crime victim reparation provisions expanded, and peace officer records of children release authorized.
HF954 (Swenson, D.) Corrections ombudsman jurisdiction clarified and extended.
HF619 (Weaver) Court ordered restitution payment required prior to fine payment upon conviction.
HF674 (Kraus) Government entities included as victims for the purpose of restitution orders, and criminal penalties provided.
HF28 (Skoglund) Interference with privacy in the presence of a minor under age 16 crime penalties increased.
HF163 (Skoglund) Criminal gang council and strike force established, grants authorized, and money appropriated.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Budget hearing; Amateur Sports Commission. Bills may be added.

12 Noon

The House meets in session.

After Session

JUDICIARY
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Continuation of 10 a.m. meeting agenda.

12:30 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins
Agenda: To be announced.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros
Agenda: HF1523 (Jaros) International affairs office established, and money appropriated.
HF1785 (Jaros) Economic security department required to administer housing and food assistance programs.
HF827 (Tomassoni) University of Minnesota grape and wine research center established, and money appropriated.
HF1642 (Dawkins) Enterprise zone inclusion qualification requirements modified.
HFXXXX (Anderson, I.) Designating Koochiching County as an enterprise zone.
Bills may be added.

**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Division/EDUCATION**
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: HF1406 (Seagren) Adults with disabilities program aid provided, and money appropriated.
HF1667 (Luther) Adults with disabilities basic education program established, and money appropriated.
HF1485 (Solberg) Itasca County Greenway

Readiness program for early childhood family education and early childhood special education appropriated money.
HF1492 (Jefferson) Adolescent parenting and prevention pilot program established, and money appropriated.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson
Agenda: Continuation of March 24 agenda.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: HF700 (Delmont) Lawful gambling gross profit expenditure provisions modified, Gambling Control Board rules modified, and paddleticket and bingo limits and restrictions modified.
HF613 (Pugh) Cribbage; card game tournaments permitted and maximum prize amount designated.
HF1310 (Carlson) Fire relief association gambling license renewal authorized.
HF1499 (Milbert) Lawful gambling gross receipt tax schedule modified.
Bills may be added.

6 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: To be announced.

THURSDAY, March 27

The House will not meet in Session.
Committees will not meet.

FRIDAY, March 28

Holiday.
House offices will be closed.

Continued from page 15

• **Penalties for no work** — For the first offense, the state would use a family's grant to directly pay off rent and utility bills. The state would then give the balance — minus a 25 percent penalty — to the family. On the second offense, the grant remaining after rent and utility bills are paid would be cut by 35 percent. No penalty would be assessed if a parent is not working because of a lack of available child care for a child under age 6.

• **Education limits** — In terms of schooling, the bill limits the amount of postsecondary education a person may receive while on MFIP. Under the current AFDC welfare program, some parents are allowed to attend college for four years while still receiving their monthly welfare check, child care, and health care services.

Generally, HF159 limits approved postsecondary or training programs to a year or less but does allow for up to two years if the diploma or degree can be shown to help the welfare parent earn a better income and he or she agrees to pay a portion of the money back.

• **Income limits** — The bill does set income limits on how much a family can earn on the job and still continue to receive a monthly MFIP check.

For a family of three, the bill sets a limit of \$1,253 a month. A family of three in the current pilot MFIP program, can earn up to \$1,554 a month before being cut off. Officials maintain the state couldn't afford the higher amount if the program goes statewide.

• **Penalties for counties** — Due to the new federal welfare law, states are under a great deal of pressure to move people off the welfare rolls and HF159 plans to share that

pressure with counties.

Beginning with fiscal year 1997, each state must show that 25 percent of families on welfare are working at least 20 hours per week. By fiscal year 2002, that jumps to 50 percent working at least 30 hours per week. There are cash penalties for states that do not meet the percentages.

Mirroring the federal law, the bill would penalize counties. Specifically, the bill would force counties to share in the federal penalty.

• **Extra babies** — To discourage women from giving birth to another child while on MFIP, the state would use the family's monthly grant to directly pay off rent and utilities first before giving the balance to the family.

• **New mom exemption** — Although most welfare recipients would be required to work, the bill does allow for certain exemptions such as mothers of babies under 12-weeks-old who choose to stay home to care for their child. The bill goes on to require those mothers to enroll in a parenting or early childhood development class while exempt from working.

• **Residency requirement** — The bill mandates a 30-day residency requirement to receive welfare and requires that, for the first year, families who move to Minnesota receive either the benefit amount they would have received in their previous state, or Minnesota's rate, whichever is less.

• **Welfare bans** — Anyone convicted of felony drug possession would be barred for five years from receiving welfare, under the bill. Parole violators and felons on the run would face a lifetime ban. Those convicted of fraudulently attempting to receive benefits in two or more states at one time would be barred for 10 years.

• **Kids with behavioral disorders** — The bill would make children with behavioral disorders who are cut off from the federal SSI program eligible for Minnesota's GA welfare program. GA, however, will not make up for the entire federal cut. These children averaged \$406 a month while on SSI and GA pays out about \$203 a month.

• **Drug addicts** — Likewise, the bill would make drug and alcohol addicts who are cut off from SSI eligible for GA as long as they are in treatment or on a waiting list. They averaged about \$470 a month while on SSI.

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

Where to find information

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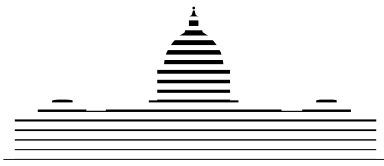
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Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota's children

Median income of Minnesota families with children, 1993	\$39,200
National average	\$35,800
Minnesota kids living in working poor families	7 in 10
Food shelves in Minnesota	305
Percent of clients served who are children	51
Minnesota kids who are skipping meals	1 in 4
Families with young children using food shelves	2 in 3
Families served by Minnesota's basic sliding fee	
child care program, per quarter, on average, FY1996	9,705
Children served	16,169
Percent of kids served by the program who are between 6 and 12 years old	45
Percent of kids served under age 1	10
Families on the waiting list for child care, 9/30/96	5,574
Percent of families receiving basic sliding fee child care drawing benefits	
for more than four years	7
Families drawing benefits for less than a year	1 in 3
Minnesota kids receiving Aid to Families	
with Dependent Children, 1993	125,267
Percent of those kids who are children of color	40
Percent of all Minnesota kids who are of color	8.5
Births to Minnesota teens, 1993	1,958
Percent of Minnesota kindergartners (1992-1993 school year) who	
had not received all appropriate immunizations by age 2	39.3
Percent of 7-12 grade students who dropped out of school,	
1993-1994 school year	3.4

Sources: *Kids Count Data Book 1996: State Profiles of Child Well-Being*, Children's Defense Fund; *Minnesota Kids: A Closer Look 1996*, Children's Defense Fund; Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning.

For more information

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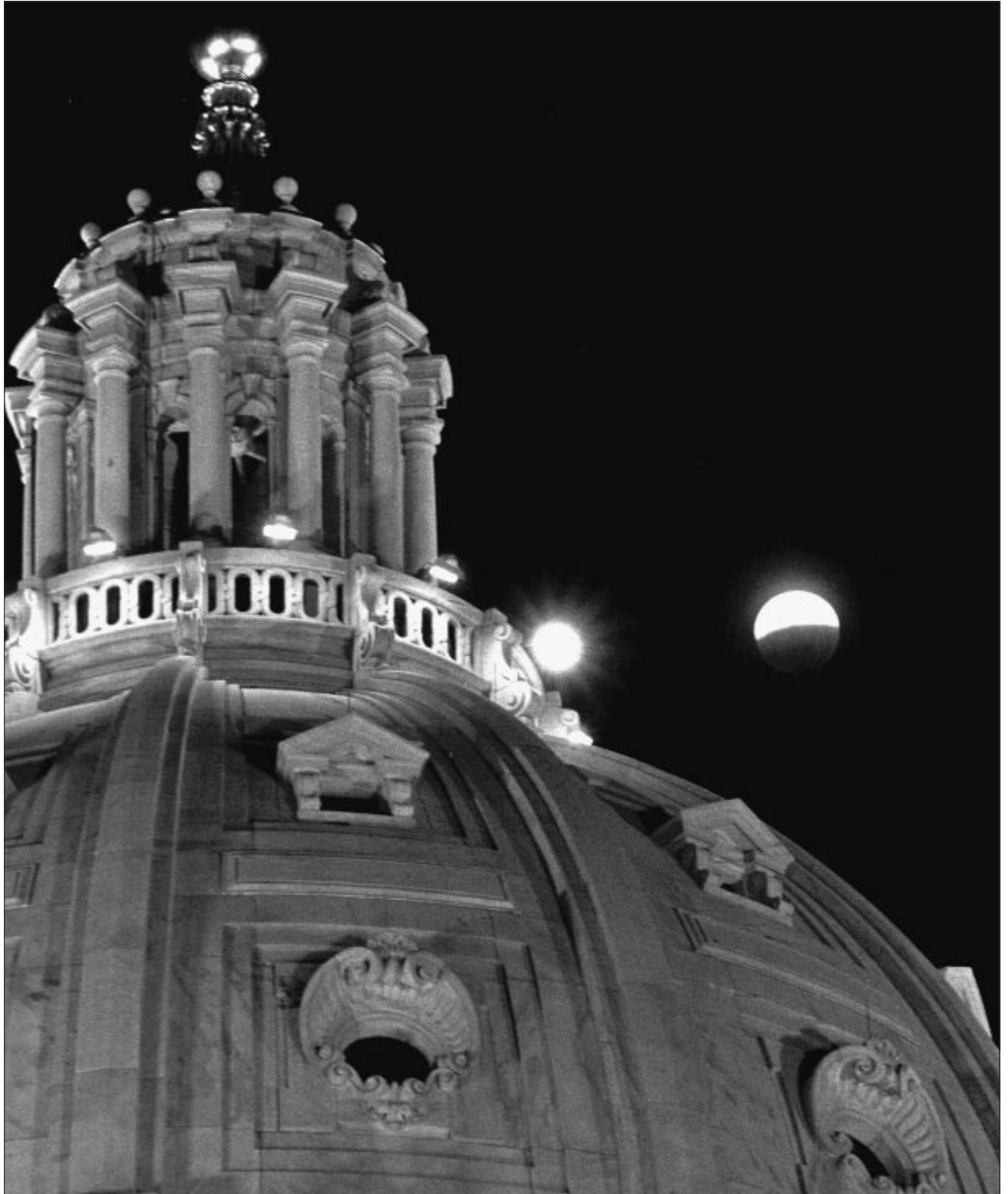
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SESSION WEEKLY

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SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • March 28, 1997 • Volume 14, Number 12

Week at a glance

Slots at the track — Installing slot machines at Canterbury Park would help Minnesota's horse breeders, according to supporters of a bill discussed March 21 by the House Agriculture Committee. **Page 4**

Recouping child support — Recognizing that the millions of dollars in uncollected child support owed to Minnesota children keeps families on the public welfare rolls, a bill moving through the House would create new tools to get at deadbeat parents. **Page 5**

Hazing — High school student Nikki Cosentino claims a traditional high school rite of passage turned into a nightmare that forced her out of her school and onto what she calls a "crusade" to put a stop to hazing. Her effort brought her to the Capitol to support a bill that would require all public school districts and postsecondary institutions to adopt anti-hazing policies. **Page 7**

Gay marriage ban — A move to prohibit same-sex marriages in Minnesota cleared its second legislative hurdle in the House March 25. **Page 8**

Legislators as lobbyists — A bill approved by the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs, and Elections Committee on March 24 would prohibit former legislators from lobbying their former colleagues for one year after leaving office. **Page 9**

Emergency calls allowed — Tenants would be able to call the police for emergency assistance without fear of retaliation from their landlords, under a bill moving through the House. **Page 11**

Snowmobile insurance — A bill that would require all snowmobile owners to carry liability insurance was approved March 26 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee. **Page 12**

Employment contracts — The need for a bill requiring written employment agreements in the employee's native language was underscored by emotional testimony before the House Labor-Management Relations Committee. ... **Page 13**

Mesabi County? — In the Civil War, it was the South that tried to secede from the Union. But in Minnesota's St. Louis County, the rebels are northerners from the Iron Range and they want a new county. **Page 14**

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On the cover: A rare lunar eclipse peeks from behind the Capitol dome on March 23.

— photo by Tom Olmscheid

Highlights

Later school starts . . .

Proponents promise attentive students, less crime

Many students rely on a good jolt of caffeine to get them through their first class at Park High School in Cottage Grove, according to junior Allison Churilla.

Park High students begin the school day at 7:35 a.m., and for some, a cup of coffee or a can of Mountain Dew isn't enough to keep them on their toes.

"A lot of students are asleep in my first class," Churilla said, during March 25 testimony before the Quality Initiatives Subcommittee of the House Education Committee. "They are much less attentive than in my second class."

Staying awake in class is not the only concern created by an early start to the school day, according to Churilla. Safety is also an issue. Churilla walks to school, and the early start often sends her onto the streets well before sunrise. Her classmates who ride the bus often wait in the dark at the bus stop.

Churilla urged members of the subcommittee to support **HF1259**, a bill that would prohibit junior and senior high schools from beginning classes before 8 a.m.

The bill, which was narrowly approved on a voice vote, would require changes in the class schedules of thousands of students and hundreds of schools across the state.

Parents, students, law enforcement officials, and other supporters of the bill claim later school start times could help to solve many current problems in and out of the classroom.

But critics of the measure argue such scheduling decisions ought to be made on the local level, and some question whether later starting times are really the panacea they are made out to be.

The issue of school start times has been the center of much discussion since the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA) in April 1994 urged all school districts to begin school later for teenagers.

The medical group reported that adolescents need more sleep — at least 9.5 hours per night — than do younger children or adults. At the same time, teenagers experience increasing demands on their time, including school, jobs, sports, homework, and socializing.



Early school start times means darkness when boarding the bus in the winter months for many students. Proponents of a bill to begin classes after 8 a.m. say that student safety in such circumstances is one reason the schedule change should be made.

Also, there is evidence that the timing of adolescents' sleep period is delayed, according to the MMA. They are unable to fall asleep as early as younger children and adults, and they tend to sleep later.

School schedules that send the older students to school earliest are contrary to what studies suggest would be most effective, according to the MMA.

Others see problems caused by earlier start times extending well beyond bleary-eyed hours in the classroom. Students who begin classes before 8 a.m. are often dismissed shortly after 2 p.m., and that is when the



LaVita Anderson, left, told the Education Committee's Quality Initiatives Subcommittee March 25 that later school start times for students in junior and senior high school would be a good idea. She said she worries about her 14-year old son, Fontaine, right, because of his unsupervised time after school.

trouble begins for police officer Lt. John Harrington.

"We see a direct correlation between [school] start time and crime," said Harrington, who runs the juvenile crime unit of the St. Paul Police Department.

Many teenagers are on their own during the afternoon hours. The lack of adult supervision inevitably allows some teens to run amok after school, and some engage in a variety of criminal activities ranging from vandalism and shoplifting to more serious offenses, Harrington said.

"There is a gap between when latchkey children get out and their parents get home," Harrington said. "A later start time would bridge that gap very effectively."

LeVita Anderson, a St. Paul resident and mother of four, also has concerns about the time students are dismissed for the day. Her son, a ninth grader, begins class before 8 a.m. and gets out long before she is finished working for the day.

"I live in a neighborhood where things are not so pleasant," Anderson said. "And I'm actually horrified at work because I'm wondering what's going on."

Many metropolitan area school districts have studied the issue of school start times in

recent years, but only one district, Edina, has moved to a later start.

Bill sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said his bill would remove some of the complications involved with individual districts changing to a later start time. Currently, schools can run into problems making the change if, for example, other schools in the same athletic conference stick to earlier schedules.

"It's very difficult for individual schools to do this," Entenza said. "It's easier for everyone to jump at the same time."

Entenza originally proposed that all students begin classes no earlier than 8 a.m. He offered an amendment that would limit the prohibition on early start times to students in grades 7-12 because, he said, those are the students most adversely affected by early schedules.

Opposition to the bill focuses on the role of the state in making scheduling decisions and the potential impact the bill could have on the budgets of districts across the state.

"If you want to talk about micro-management, you're at the height of it here," said Bob Meeks, a lobbyist for the Minnesota School Boards Association.

Meeks said the bill may force some districts to flip-flop schedules, sending elementary students to school earlier and creating an entirely new set of problems when they are dismissed earlier in the afternoon.

Rep. Barbara Sykora (R-Minnetonka) agreed that the bill would amount to state "micromanagement" of local affairs.

"I don't understand why we can't allow local school boards to do this," Sykora said. "If a bunch of parents start calling on school boards, they will respond quickly."

The bill runs contrary to efforts in recent years to reduce legislative mandates on school districts, according to Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee). Kelso said the bill is "condescending" to members of local school boards.

"Every good idea doesn't belong in state statute," Kelso said.

But Entenza, who described the bill as a necessary mandate, said the long-term benefits of shifting to later start times for teenagers would outweigh the short-term complications involved.

"Schools are based on students," Entenza said. "They are not based on busing schedules, and they are not based on extra-curricular activities."

The bill now moves to the full Education Committee.

— Nick Healy



AGRICULTURE

Slots at the track

Installing slot machines at Canterbury Park would help Minnesota's horse breeders, according to supporters of a bill discussed March 21 by the House Agriculture Committee.

HF1300, sponsored by Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), would allow as many as 1,500 slot machines at Canterbury Park in Shakopee.

Profits from the slots would be used to boost purses at the track, and that would keep racing alive and help the state's thoroughbred industry, according to Holsten.

Discussion of the bill focused on its potential impact on horse breeding and other agricultural concerns, but Holsten's proposal also would provide a new revenue source that could be used to construct a stadium for the Minnesota Twins.

The committee agreed to send the bill without a recommendation to the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee.

Under **HF1300**, 20 percent of the slot machine proceeds would go to the racetrack and another 8.4 percent would reach breeders through increased purses. Among other sources, funds would be devoted to the state's Environmental Trust Fund and to a new "sports infrastructure fund," which would provide unspecified revenue for projects such as the proposed Twins ballpark.

By helping horse breeders, Holsten said, benefits also will reach farmers who sell feed to the breeders and others who provide breeders with needed supplies.

Several thoroughbred breeders described the dwindling presence of the industry in the state. As purses have grown richer in other states, especially Iowa, breeders have followed the money out of Minnesota.

Purses at Canterbury Park have now dropped to about \$4 million annually, compared to a peak level of about \$10 million in the late 1980s.

Art Eaton, who has about 50 horses on a 200-acre farm in Dakota County, said he has seen many other breeders get out of the business in recent years, but he has stuck with it.

"We're hanging on, more or less, by the skin of our teeth," Eaton said.

It is estimated that slots at Canterbury Park would raise between \$50 million and \$150 million annually.

Cheaper milk

Minnesota grocers would be allowed to sell milk at lower prices, under a bill approved March 24 by the House Agriculture Committee.

HF1646, sponsored by Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul), would temporarily lift current law forbidding retailers to sell milk for less than they paid for it. The change in milk pricing policy would be in effect for one year.

"Elimination of this artificial and archaic restraint on commerce in milk production will invite economic competition, stimulate consumption, and result in lower prices for consumers and greater demand for Minnesota dairy products," said Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), who chairs the Agriculture Committee.

Wenzel and other supporters of the bill argue the current law has helped to create hardships for dairy farmers and consumers in the state.

Minnesota's dairy farmers have seen the prices they get for their product drop significantly in recent months, but consumers continue to pay some of the nation's highest retail milk prices.

The one-year change in retail pricing regulation would allow lawmakers to assess the results of the bill during the 1998 session. If the Legislature took no action, existing law setting a floor for retail milk prices would come back into effect, under the bill.

Critics of the bill argue it would only lead to instability in the milk market and would not have a positive effect on the prices paid to dairy farmers.

The bill now moves to the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.



BUSINESS

Omnibus liquor bill

The House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee moved to regulate the delivery and distribution of alcoholic beverages March 25, approving nearly a dozen new provisions incorporated into an omnibus liquor bill.

In addition to providing increased licensing capability for a handful of communities, including St. Paul, Moorhead, and Proctor, **HF524**, sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), would prohibit the delivery of alcoholic beverages manufactured outside the state to anyplace except a licensed wholesaler's warehouse. Beverages just passing through Minnesota or brought

in legally by an individual would enjoy an exemption from the bill's regulatory reach, as would wine collectors, who could continue to receive shipments — up to two cases per year, per vineyard — from out-of-state suppliers.

The bill would ban the mailing of letters, postcards, catalogs, or pamphlets intended to solicit an order for alcoholic beverages for delivery anywhere except a wholesaler's warehouse.

HF524 also consolidates the Department of Public Safety's Division of Liquor Control and Division of Gambling Enforcement into a single entity, retroactive to Oct. 1, 1996. The department combined the two divisions last fall in accordance with an executive order from Gov. Arne Carlson.



CHILDREN

Recouping child support

Recognizing that the millions of dollars in uncollected child support owed to Minnesota children keeps families on the public welfare rolls, a bill moving through the House would create a couple of new tools to get at deadbeat parents.

HF925 is a result of the 1996 federal welfare law that requires states to adopt certain laws that make it easier to track down deadbeat parents and collect money. It was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee March 25.

In fiscal year 1996, of the \$376.4 million in child support owed to Minnesota children, only \$261 million, or 69 percent, was collected, according to the Department of Human Services (bills). Officials estimate that roughly 90,000 children are not receiving their full amount of child support.

In recent years, Minnesota has adopted several laws to suspend the driver's licenses and occupational licenses of deadbeat parents. Responding to the federal welfare measure, Minnesota is now moving to suspend recreational licenses, such as those for fishing, hunting, boating, and snowmobiling.

For now, the bill requires only the DHS to consult with other state agencies to establish just how to suspend those licenses.

Minnesota already has adopted many of the federal welfare law's child support requirements. For instance, the state already requires employers to report new hires to the DHS to match employee data with those who owe child support, and ultimately, to garnish wages.

Minnesota has already established a cen-

March madness



Goldie Gopher visited the House chamber March 26, prompting an enthusiastic outbreak of the Minnesota Rouser. The U of M's mascot and members of the pep band journeyed to the Capitol to drum up support for the Golden Gophers basketball team, playing this weekend in the Final Four.

tralized child support payment center, which is set to open later this year.

And, the state already has adopted the federal Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) which allows states to collect child support when the deadbeat parent lives in another state, as long as that state also has adopted the federal interstate act. A problem arose, however, when a deadbeat parent lived in a state that hadn't adopted the interstate child support act. The federal welfare law now requires all states to adopt UIFSA, which should make it easier to collect child support across all state lines.

Other portions of **HF925**, sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) would:

- Require banks and other financial institutions to provide account and asset information on those owing back child support and allow for the automated seizure of bank accounts and assets. Specifically, the bill would require the DHS to come up with a way to compare bank records with the records of people who owe back child support. The department also would have to inform the financial industry on how to comply with the law.

The bill gives banks two options. First, the bank could send the state information on all its account holders and rely on the state to use only account information pertaining to deadbeat parents. Or, the bank could request from the state a list of who owes child support and match it against its account holders; forwarding only those names who are a match.

- Penalize people on public assistance who do not cooperate with the state to establish paternity and seek child support. This pro-

vision is in keeping with an overall welfare reform bill moving through the Legislature. Cooperation would include providing information about the father, submitting to genetic tests, and appearing for interviews, hearings, and other legal proceedings.

Under the bill, a family on welfare who does not cooperate would lose 25 percent of their monthly public assistance check and have their rent and utilities paid directly through the county.

- Publish a "most wanted" list of at least the top 10 deadbeat parents who owe the largest amount of money in back child support. Current law includes anyone who is \$3,000 behind in payments. Under the bill, the list would be put together by the Office of the Attorney General in consultation with the DHS. Current law leaves the list exclusively to the DHS.

- Tap into a deadbeat parent's pension, profit-sharing, and disability benefits to pay for child support. Under current law, those items are exempt from a creditor's claim.

- Require jail time for the crime of failure to pay child support and allow work release only if the defendant consents to income withholding.

- Prohibit marriages between people of the same gender and prohibit the recognition of such marriages in Minnesota even if the marriage occurred in a state that allows people of the same gender to marry. (*See related story, page 8.*)

The proposal is an attempt to respond to the possibility that Hawaii may recognize same-sex marriages and prepare for people who might move to Minnesota from that

state. Hawaii had passed a law prohibiting same sex marriages, but a lower court ruled the law unconstitutional. The state has appealed to its state Supreme Court.

HF925 now moves to the Health and Human Services Finance Division.

Special-needs adoptions



A bill to better reimburse licensed private adoption agencies who help place children, often from abusive homes, with new adoptive families has become law.

The new law, which will reimburse agencies up to \$16,000 per child, was signed by Gov. Arne Carlson March 11 and became effective March 12, 1997.

Under previous law, the Minnesota Department of Human Services reimbursed licensed private adoption agencies a maximum of \$4,000 per case and the cap hadn't increased since the 1980s. Today, it costs agencies from \$8,000 to \$13,000 to place a single child with special needs, according to Bob DeNardo, a supervisor in the department's family and children services division.

The previous \$4,000 cap discouraged private agencies, especially the small ones, from actively seeking families for special needs kids because they could not recoup their costs, said House sponsor Rep. Jim Knobloch (R-St. Cloud). Sen. Martha Robertson (R-Minnetonka) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

The adoption reimbursement helps compensate the private agency for recruiting families, matching them with the right special-needs child, and preparing the family for the child through education, counseling, and home visits.

Special-needs children are part of the Adoption Assistance Program, and in many cases, have been severely neglected or abused and their parents have relinquished their parental rights to the state. The child may not only suffer from physical problems but from behavioral, mental, and emotional ones as well.

These children often wait in foster care until someone wants them, DeNardo has said.

Currently, there are 1,700 children who are considered wards of the state. Some are being considered by families for adoption but nothing has been finalized. As of January, however, no one had shown an interest in adopting 813 of those children.

Last year, more money was set aside for reimbursement for private adoption agen-

cies, but steps to remove the cap have been delayed by a departmental rulemaking procedure. The longer state officials waited to make the change, the greater the risk that fewer children with special needs would be placed. The new law is designed to hasten the process.

(See Feb. 14, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 4; Feb. 21, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 5; and March 7, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 5)

HF374/SF274*/CH8



CRIME

Crime in the cities

"Our neighborhoods are deteriorating." That, according to Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), is the bottom line. It's also why she sponsored **HF1175**, approved by the House Judiciary Committee on March 25.

The bill would provide three ways to help communities respond effectively to crime, particularly that caused by chronic offenders.

"Residents see a revolving door of misdemeanor offenders," Clark told the committee. The police are called, tickets are issued, and the criminals go back to their activities. Clark said that is a common scenario in her neighborhood and one that threatens to destroy it.

Under the bill, a restorative justice component would be added to the conditions of an offender's probation, meaning criminals would be required to pay the community back for the suffering they cause. Criminals would meet with victims and their families to discuss the impact of the offense and be assigned an appropriate sanction. Means would be sought for reintegrating the offender into the community. While the courts already have such authority, Clark said she wants to make it clear that they do and encourage them to use it.

Dee Tvedt, a south Minneapolis resident who testified in favor of the bill, said that restorative justice is a powerful way to reverse the effects of crime. "I admit I was a skeptic. I thought restorative justice sounded warm and fuzzy. Instead, I found the programs are working. Victims are empowered by having a say in the process and by interacting with the offender. We've also found that offenders are not as likely to repeat their crimes after serving in a restorative justice program."

Clark's bill would turn some misdemeanor offenses into gross misdemeanors after a second offense, including some motor vehicle, property, prostitution, and weapons

offenses, and increase officers' authority to make arrests in those cases. Some drug offenses were added to the enhanced-penalties list, but only in the cities of Duluth, Minneapolis, and St. Paul. Those measures, Clark said, are intended to slow the revolving door of the criminal justice system.

Finally, Clark said that witnesses are usually left in the dark about the outcome of a complaint, which also undermines their sense of community and safety. The bill says that prosecuting authorities will make reasonable efforts to notify witnesses of the outcome of criminal proceedings.

Stephanie Glaros, also of Minneapolis, said that new approaches to fighting crime are necessary. "I see a lot of fear and frustration in my neighborhood," she said. "We can all agree the current system isn't working. We need to give something new a chance."

HF1175 will be added to the committee's omnibus anti-crime legislation.

Preventing juvenile crime

Certain Minnesota cities would receive state grant dollars to help combat teen curfew violations, truancy, and gang infiltration, under a bill being considered by the House Economic Development Finance Division.

Committee members heard the bill (**HF479**) March 26 and are considering it for inclusion in the division's omnibus budget bill.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul), leaves blank the dollar amount it is requesting. In 1996, the Department of Economic Security received a one-time appropriation of \$340,000 to fund grants for Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, and counties containing those cities.

Successful amendments expanded the program to include cities with a population of 25,000 or greater and ensured that smaller communities near the city of Duluth also could have access to help.

Lt. John Harrington, head of the juvenile division of the St. Paul Police Department, said the bill is crucial to helping cities combat a variety of juvenile problems.

The St. Paul Attendance Center processed 1,222 juveniles during the 1995-1996 school year. Picking up truants, Harrington pointed out, results in less daytime juvenile crime such as purse snatching and vandalism.

The Ramsey County Curfew Center opened in June 1996 and has processed 1,102 juveniles for violating curfew. That, Harrington said, has resulted in less vandalism and fewer personal assaults.

LaRue Fields of the Minneapolis Urban League, which runs that city's curfew and truancy center, said the endeavor is not the "end all" but a way to help young people who need some guidance in their lives. It also lets the community know that its troubled young people are not just the responsibility of police.

The problem is not restricted to the Twin Cities.

Amy Caucutt, a legislative analyst with Olmsted County, explained why Rochester would like access to the grant dollars as well. The city, she said, has seen an increase in gangs, which has resulted in street prostitution.

Knowing offenders

Under an amendment to a bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee March 26, victims of juvenile offenders would have an expanded right to learn an offender's name.

"One of the most basic questions crime victims have is 'Who did this to me?'" said Sara Schlauderaff of the Department of Public Safety. "Under current law, they can't get that without a court order."

Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka) is the sponsor of **HF147**, which he said is part of anti-gang legislation. The bill says that the name of a juvenile who is the subject of a delinquency petition shall be released to the victim upon request.

Under current law, if the juvenile is 16 or older and the crime is a felony, the city or county attorney's office can release the name to the victim. If the juvenile is 16 and the charge is a nonfelony, the name can be released only with a court order. If the juvenile is under 16, whether the charge is a felony or non-felony, the name can be released only with a court order.

The bill says that "the name of a juvenile who is the subject of a delinquency petition shall be released to the victim of the alleged delinquent act upon the victim's request."

A broader legislative effort is under way to open all juvenile proceedings and records.

HF147 has been added to the committee's omnibus bill.

Window peeping

The House Judiciary Committee approved a bill March 26 that would elevate from a misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor the crime of window peeping when the victim is under the age of 16.

Under current law, the act of surreptitiously intruding on the privacy of another

becomes a gross misdemeanor after the second offense.

"Twenty years ago, window peeping was considered a nuisance crime. We didn't take it seriously. We've learned the hard way that it is serious," said Stephany Good, of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Good cited a study showing that 68 percent of rapists began their illegal acts with window peeping. "We also learned in a serial sexual assault case that the victims were chosen by an offender who had watched them," Good said.

"It's still not taken seriously. It's still a misdemeanor," she added.

"The bill will also allow judges the discretion of keeping a perpetrator out of circulation for eight months or beyond," said Rep. Bill Macklin (R-Lakeville). "It is also evidence of our view as a Legislature that we take the crime seriously."

HF28 will be added to omnibus crime prevention legislation.



EDUCATION

Crusade to stop hazing

High school student Nikki Cosentino claims a traditional high school rite of passage turned into a nightmare that forced her out of her school and onto what she calls a "crusade" to put a stop to hazing.

Her effort brought her to the Capitol March 25 to support a bill that would require all public school districts and postsecondary institutions to adopt anti-hazing policies.

The bill (**HF60**), sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), was approved by



Mary Cosentino, left, listened intently as her daughter, Nikki, described for the Education Quality Initiatives Subcommittee the incidents of hazing she suffered at the hands of fellow Roseville area High School students. The pair testified March 25 in favor of a bill that would mandate that each school district establish anti-hazing policies.

the Quality Initiatives Subcommittee of the House Education Committee.

Cosentino was a sophomore at Roseville Area High School in the fall of 1995 when she took part in an unofficial school tradition dubbed the "sophomore kidnap."

The event involves girls from the junior class "kidnapping" sophomore girls for a night filled with supposedly harmless, if obnoxious, activities, including dressing the younger girls in diapers and other embarrassments.

Nikki's mother, Mary Cosentino, approved of the plan. After all, she had participated in the event in the 1970s when she was a student at Kellogg High School, a predecessor to Roseville High. Back then, it was all silliness and fun.

But the event is much different now, according to the Cosentinos. When Nikki Cosentino was "kidnapped" along with more than a dozen of her classmates, she was subjected to a series of dangerous encounters.

The younger girls had vinegar poured in their eyes, green dye splashed in their hair, and eggs hurled at their heads. And, according to Cosentino, some of the girls were urinated on by older boys from the school.

"The scene was chaotic and scary," Cosentino said. "These were supposed to be our friends."

All that was bad enough, according to Cosentino. But the real trouble started the following week when she and her mother reported the incident to school officials and to the police.

Breaking the "code of silence" led to harassment and threats from other girls at the school that persisted for months even after Cosentino transferred to another school, according to Cosentino and her mother.

The Cosentino's house and one of their cars were vandalized and they received death threats, Mary Cosentino said. The Cosentinos still feel unsafe, even after going to court to get restraining orders against two of the girls involved.

"I never leave home without my pager and my cell phone because I'm in constant contact with my mother," Nikki Cosentino said.

The Cosentinos have begun an organized effort to combat hazing. They even have printed up brochures that describe hazing as anything from "requiring any period of silence" to "causing indecent exposure" to "conducting immoral or humiliating games."

They want new criminal penalties specifically addressing hazing, but Greiling's bill would not go that far.

The bill would require that the Department of Children, Families and Learning

form a model anti-hazing policy and make it available to school districts.

Schools would be required to adopt a written policy that would be included in the student handbook and posted in conspicuous places in the school. Public post-secondary institutions would meet similar requirements.

The bill now moves the full Education Committee.

School bus/city bus

School buses currently share the streets of Minneapolis and St. Paul with their public transit counterparts. They may soon share their student riders as well.

A bill (**HF1372**) approved by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee March 24 calls for a study of how public transit buses could be used to take Twin Cities students to school.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), requires that the Metropolitan Council, which runs the public transit system, consult with the Minneapolis and St. Paul school districts and with an advisory board to develop a school transportation plan. The goal would be to transport at least 75 percent of Minneapolis and St. Paul ninth through 12th graders using the public transit system during the 1998-1999 school year.

The study would not only determine the economic and practical feasibility of using public transit to transport students to school, but just how to do it. Recommendations on student fares and legislation needed to make the switch also would be addressed.

The Metropolitan Council and two school districts would be asked to complete the study and report back to the Legislature by Jan. 30, 1998.

The bill now goes to the House floor.



ENVIRONMENT

Happy trails

Aficionados of old western movies know that if you're given 'til sundown to get out of Dodge, you'd best hop the stagecoach to the next county. You may soon be able to do just that under a bill to create a 40-mile historic trail through Dodge, Olmsted, and Steele counties.

Under **HF1209**, approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee March 24, the Stagecoach Trail would originate at the Douglas Trail near Rochester and extend west along the Zumbro River

Valley to Owatonna. The trail would parallel U.S. Route 14 and pass through Mantorville, Wasioja, and Rice Lake State Park.

Bill sponsor Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) explained that the multipurpose paved trail would be used primarily for biking and hiking. Unpaved portions of the trail would be developed for horseback riding, mountain biking, and snowmobiling, Sviggum said. As yet, no funding has been allocated for trail development.

The bill now moves to the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.



FAMILY

Alex and Brandon Frank Act

Most Minnesotans realize that the judicial system isn't perfect, but one woman, Angela Borg of Brainerd, Minn., knows firsthand how it can fail.

In the midst of a divorce and custody battle last July, Borg's estranged husband, Kurt Frank, murdered their two sons, ages four and five.

A bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee March 26 is intended to help mend a loophole in current law that may have contributed to the tragedy.

Failures occurred throughout the couple's separation process, said bill sponsor Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby). But the worst of them allowed Frank to gain a legal advan-



Angela Borg held a photo of her two sons, 4-year-old Brandon and 5-year-old Alex, who were murdered last summer by her estranged husband who was given unsupervised visitation. She testified before the House Judiciary Committee March 21 in support of a bill that would help prevent such tragedies in the future.

tage by not contesting the order for protection, or restraining order, sought and obtained by Borg. In doing so, crucial information about his past criminal behavior, which led Borg to seek the order, did not get placed in the judicial record. A judge later awarded Kurt Frank temporary joint custody of the boys, despite Borg's request that he be allowed only supervised visits. The custody arrangement prevented police from intervening at Borg's request on the night of the murders.

"When you read the judge's decision, you'll be as appalled as I was. I was dumbstruck. I could not believe this could happen," Hasskamp said, adding that the law gives more protection to the abuser. "It protects the wrong person."

HF1031, which would be called the Alex and Brandon Frank Child Safety Act, says that a judge must consider the facts as to why the individual is seeking the restraining order before making a ruling on visitation rights, in cases where a custodial parent has been granted a restraining order and requests that the other parent be allowed only supervised visitation.

As originally introduced, Hasskamp's bill would have made a failure to contest a restraining order an admission of guilt. It also would have said that a restraining order requires supervised visitation if the other party requests it.

"This is a major life and death issue," Hasskamp had said. "The [person under the restraining order] should prove to the courts that they're not a threat to women or children, or the court can deny visitation. The bill would close a loophole."

Hasskamp's bill also establishes a pilot project to improve the courts' resolution of family issues. Domestic abuse and related matters would be assigned to a single judge to improve continuity within proceedings involving the same family. The Minnesota Supreme Court would report on this provision's effectiveness by January 2000.

HF1031 is expected to be included in the omnibus crime bill.

"Everything that happened could have been avoided," Borg told the committee. "The boys could still be here."

Gay marriage ban

A move to prohibit same-sex marriages in Minnesota cleared its second legislative hurdle in the House March 25.

The ban was added as an amendment last week to a child-support bill (**HF925**) during

a March 19 House Judiciary Committee hearing.

The proposal responds to the possibility that Hawaii may recognize same-sex marriages and would affect people who might move to Minnesota from that state. Hawaii passed a law prohibiting same-sex marriages, but a lower court ruled the law unconstitutional. An appeal has been filed with the state Supreme Court, which has not yet issued a ruling.

Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka), who sponsored the ban, has said the issue is not one of competency, and whether gays can or should raise children. Instead, the question is should the state “sanction different kinds of marriage.”

Current state law defines marriage as a union of two people of different sexes, but it does not expressly prohibit same-sex marriages.

While a few Judiciary Committee members, including Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), spoke strongly against the proposal, calling it an “unnecessary attack” on some Minnesotans, the panel approved the amendment on a 15-5 vote.

Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee March 25 debated the child support provisions and approved **HF925**, but did not address the gay marriage issue.

HF925, sponsored by Rep. Mat Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), now moves to the Health and Human Services Finance Division.



GOVERNMENT

Snow removal costs



Gov. Arne Carlson signed into law March 19 a bill that spends \$20 million to help cities and counties recoup some of their weather-related costs from the record breaking snowfalls of 1997.

The funds will be divided into three parts: \$6 million to match federal disaster funds in weather-related disaster areas; \$3 million reserved for assistance associated with anticipated spring floods; and \$11 million to be distributed to local governments according to a formula based on past snow removal expenses.

The law allocates grant money to cities, counties, and towns for recent severe weather-related expenses, mostly snow removal costs.

The measure, which passed the House on March 13 and the Senate on March 17, also

Budget proposal



House Speaker Phil Carruthers and Majority Leader Ted Winter are surrounded by charts and other House DFL leaders as they announced the House DFL budget plan March 24.

contains a \$16 million appropriation for state road operations, \$95,000 for state trooper overtime related to winter emergencies, and various technical amendments to Minnesota statutes.

The new law, which became effective March 20, was sponsored in the House by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) and in the Senate by Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy).

Wenzel said that even with state and federal aid, more damage occurred this winter than cities and towns will be able to pay for.

HF100*/SF114/CH12

Legislators as lobbyists

A bill approved by the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee on March 24 would prohibit former legislators from lobbying their former colleagues for one year after leaving office.

HF104, sponsored by Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), reads: “For the period of one calendar year after leaving office, a member of the legislature may not act as a lobbyist . . . with regard to attempting to influence legislative action.” An amendment to include former state agency heads and most legislative staff to the list was added in committee.

“I’ve been concerned for several years of the apparent coziness of former members becoming lobbyists,” Sviggum said. “It’s becoming a standard perception. We, as a body, have to make a statement against it.”

The problem, he explained, is that prior relationships — often friendships — between members and lobbyists can interfere — or at least appear to — with a legislator’s neutrality.

Todd Paulson of Common Cause said

that the Legislature has become a “revolving door” used by legislators and former legislators. “The public is entitled to send to the Legislature people who will represent their interests. [The current situation] blurs the line between public and private interests.”

According to David Schultz, also of Common Cause, 35 states have enacted similar legislation.

Before approving the measure, several members said the bill could go farther and include former staff and former executive branch employees, who make up a large number of lobbyists. Sviggum said he is trying to keep the bill narrow in scope to improve its chances of success.

Two members disagreed with the bill. Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) said it infringes on free speech rights, especially of those who lobby for the common good. “They’re being good citizens,” he said.

Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) said the bill “tells constituents they can’t trust legislators” to use good judgment.

HF104 now goes to the House Governmental Operations Committee.

State-paid claims

The House voted to expand the authority of state agencies confronting personal injury or property loss lawsuits March 24, allowing department leaders to settle out-of-court claims of up to \$7,000.

Currently, department heads must observe a \$2,500 limit on settlements offered as a result of an injury or loss caused by the action of a state employee on the job. The House passed **HF105/SF85*** by a vote of 87-44.

The bill, sponsored in the House by Rep. Edgar Olson (DFL-Fosston), also contains a handful of specific monetary settlements for claims against the state totaling nearly \$60,000, including those for individuals working jobs in prison or who were fulfilling community service sentences.

Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) characterized the bill as non-controversial, for the most part. He did single out an appropriation of \$24,000 for Braham Area Community Development, Inc. The agency filed the claim in connection with the city's failed bid to secure a new state correctional facility. (Braham, Minn., was originally selected as the site for the prison, but for environmental reasons, it was moved to Rush City.)

Paying the claim, Sviggum said, would set a dangerous precedent.

Of the bill's \$60,000 worth of claims, nearly \$58,000 of that will be paid out of the general fund, said D'Ann Knight, clerk of the Legislative Coordinating Commission's Joint Subcommittee on Claims. The Department of Public Safety, Knight said, will pay the remainder.

"This is a very small claims bill," Knight said. "Usually they have over \$100,000 worth of claims in them."

HF105/SF85* awaits Gov. Arne Carlson's signature.

Ethical open door

Future ethics proceedings involving the alleged improprieties of House members will be more open to the public, under the Permanent Rules of the House passed March 24. The vote was 121-11.

The House rules, largely technical and governing how the lower chamber functions and operates, address everything from how members use the electronic voting system to the use of offensive words in debate. Also included: ethics investigations.

In the past, complaints referred to the Ethics Committee were private, or held "in confidence," until a public hearing was scheduled on the matter. Under the new rules, the very existence of a complaint, any supporting materials, and all proceedings of the Ethics Committee are presumed to be open. A majority vote of the four-member bipartisan committee could close the proceedings to determine probable cause, to consider a member's medical or other health records, or to protect someone's privacy (such as a child or third party).

The changes stem largely from incidents that occurred during the 1996 session. In one, Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) made public the existence of an ethics inves-

tigation, contrary to House rules. He was immediately removed from the Ethics Committee, but lauded publicly.

Under the new rules, recommendations of the committee must be supported by "clear and convincing evidence," and would then be forwarded to the House floor. In the past, ethics determinations were forwarded to the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, a panel without an equal balance of DFLers and Republicans, which could amend or reject the ethics panel's recommendations before they were forwarded to the full House.

Previous rules referred only to complaints "regarding a member's conduct." The new rules specifically address conduct "that betrays the public trust or that tends to bring the House into dishonor or disrepute," in addition to violating rules or policies of the House.

Also adopted was an amendment prohibiting employees from campaigning during work hours and using House equipment for

such purposes. It also states that House employees cannot be made to assist in campaign activities as a condition of employment. The change comes in the wake of a lawsuit (later dismissed) brought by a Senate employee who claimed she was forced to perform campaign duties within the State Capitol on state time.



HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education direction

Should the state be closely involved in setting the direction for Minnesota's colleges and universities in the coming decades? Or should the institutions be given a chance to set it themselves?

That was the focus of a recent discussion before the House Education Committee's Higher Education Finance Division. In recent years, the Legislature has worked to increase coordination between the state's institutions of higher learning, creating in 1995 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU), a coordinating body between all state higher learning facilities except the University of Minnesota (U of M). Since then, MnSCU, the U of M, and the state's private colleges have begun to coordinate some operations and plan initiatives together.

HF304, sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), would set up a commission to develop a master plan for higher education in Minnesota. The commission would consist of legislators, governor appointees, MnSCU and U of M representatives, and students.

"I'm concerned that we lack a statewide plan for higher education," Opatz told the committee. "We've seen the U of M and MnSCU engage in strategic planning, as have other institutions. But we have no idea of their mission or focus. We don't have a plan that incorporates all those plans."

But Ray Cross, president of Northwest Technical Institute, said the bill should be put on hold. "The committee should give us a chance to work through some of our strategic plans over the next two years. If we can't do a good job, then I support this legislation," he said. "We're overloaded with planning activities, as are MnSCU and the U of M."

"I'd like to reach a steady state before getting into another round of strategic planning," said MnSCU's Bill Ulland.

Marvin Marshak, of the U of M, said he'd prefer to see the state direct the existing boards of MnSCU and the U of M, rather than create a third body.

Eagle center



Frank Taylor, curator of birds at the Raptor Center in St. Paul, holds an American Bald Eagle as Mary Rivers, vice president of Eagle Watch, testifies before the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee March 24 for funding to establish the American Bald Eagle Center in Wabasha, Minn.

Opatz said the commission would not duplicate efforts and agreed that oversight of existing boards might be a way to provide a statewide focus.

But Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) said that the commission is a good idea. "We don't want to have all the institutions come in with agendas and secret scenarios. That's what creates conflict between the systems and the Legislature," she said. "I thoroughly support this bill. It's exactly what I'm looking for."

HF304 will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill to be voted on later this session.

College savings boost

The House Education Committee approved a bill March 25 that would set aside \$30 million for EdVest, a plan that encourages families to save for college. The program provides a savings account for low-income students to help pay for postsecondary education.

HF375, sponsored by Rep. Hilda Bettermann (R-Brandon), would offer families two choices. In the first, families could deduct up to \$2,000 from their taxable income for investing the same amount in EdVest accounts. The earnings on the accounts would be exempt from state taxes, and could result in a maximum tax benefit of \$170 per year.

The second option is the state matching grant program, in which earnings on the accounts are deferred under both federal and state income taxes, and the state makes a matching contribution to the accounts.

The state's matching grant would equal 15 percent of the family's contributions for each beneficiary (the child and future student). Like the income tax subtraction option, families could contribute up to \$2,000 per year, per beneficiary. Both federal and state income taxes would be deferred on the account earnings. The maximum matching benefit would be \$300 per beneficiary.

The program would encourage matching contributions from individuals, foundations, and businesses to provide additional grants to participating students.

HF375 now heads to the House Taxes Committee.

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Rural residency

Seven years ago, the state began a program to encourage physicians to practice in rural communities. Many such areas suffered shortages or a complete absence of physicians. The program pays off medical school loans up to \$40,000 in exchange for a commitment to work in rural communities.

A bill (**HF1385**) sponsored by Rep. Hilda Bettermann (R-Brandon) and approved March 24 by the House Education Committee's Higher Education Finance Division, is designed to make the program more effective.

"It is vital to get residents and physicians into our rural areas," Bettermann said.

The bill would allow the Rural Physician Loan Forgiveness Programs to exclusively recruit residents instead of a combination of students and residents.

Current law allows for the selection of 12 participants annually; eight medical residents and four fourth-year medical students, according to the Minnesota Department of Health. However, selection of medical students in their fourth year offers no immediate financial advantage to the students and creates a three- to five-year funding gap for the department.

Once a student has agreed to be part of the program, explained Wayne Carlson, of the health department, he or she may often spend several years in a residency program before practicing in the rural area. In fact, participants have up to six years after joining the program before they must go to the rural area. During this time, departmental money is earmarked and can't be used for other purposes, Carlson said.

"We have an average three-year wait for a student," said Carlson. "The wait is only six months for a resident. The bill allows us to get physicians into the community much more quickly."

HF1385 now heads for the House Education Committee.



HOUSING

Emergency calls allowed

Tenants would be able to call the police for emergency assistance without fear of retaliation from their landlords under a bill approved by the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee's Housing and Housing Finance Division March 25.

HF686, sponsored by Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul), would prohibit rental

lease provisions that bar or limit tenant calls for police or emergency assistance or penalize tenants for making such calls.

Landlords often impose such provisions in response to local ordinances which require tenants to be evicted after a specified number of emergency police calls. The bill also would prohibit such local ordinances, which were often enacted to combat drug dealers. The proposal would not affect local laws requiring landlords to stop nuisance or disorderly conduct on their rental property.

Paymar told the committee that the state attorney general's office has received reports of landlords threatening domestic abuse victims with eviction if they continue calling the police. "This situation needs to be changed," Paymar said.

The bill now moves to the House floor.
(See March 14, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 6.)



HUMAN SERVICES

Welfare proposal advances

A welfare bill that, so far, contains no specific appropriations but promises to spend \$733 million in both state and federal dollars over the 1998-1999 budgeting period is on its way to the House floor.

The House Ways and Means Committee March 25 approved **SF1*/HF159**, sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris).

The bill uses Minnesota dollars to make up for some of the federal cuts to legal immigrants, requires families on welfare to work or be penalized, and discourages welfare moms from having another child while on public assistance.

The bill spends about \$22.2 million more over the two-year budgeting period than Gov. Arne Carlson's welfare proposal and about \$27 million less than the Senate's.

Overall, the bill would expand statewide an experimental welfare-to-work program operating in a handful of Minnesota counties over the past two years. The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) would become permanent Jan. 1, 1998, in all 87 Minnesota counties.

MFIP allows families to accept lower-paying jobs while receiving some public assistance such as extra monthly cash and subsidized child and health care. In theory, allowing someone to work while still receiving benefits helps a low-skilled parent gain work experience and eventually obtain a better job.

MFIP statewide would replace the traditional Aid to Families with Dependent Chil-

dren (AFDC) program done away with by the 1996 federal welfare law. And, in keeping with federal law, the bill sets a five-year, lifetime limit on receiving MFIP welfare checks.

Money for **SF1*/HF159** is expected to be incorporated into the omnibus Health and Human Services budget bill later this session. Money for the increased demand for child care as a result of welfare moms and dads going to work is expected in a budget bill from the Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division.

States across the country are hurrying to pass new welfare laws after the federal government scrapped the long-standing welfare system in August 1996.

(See Jan. 24, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 9; Feb. 7, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 3 and page 12; March 7, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 17; and March 21, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 15.)



INDUSTRY

Return of the phone wars

Two bills approved March 20 by the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee would mean big changes to telecommunications companies in Minnesota.

Current law separates long-distance telephone service providers and local service providers. That's part of the arrangement established after the Bell Systems breakup in the early 1980s. Minnesota is divided into five long-distance areas (LATAs), throughout which long-distance companies compete to provide service. Local service

providers, such as US West, can provide long-distance service within a single LATA, in addition to providing local service.

House files **1171** and **1172**, sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), would change that, making the state one large LATA and allowing US West and other local service providers to provide long-distance service throughout the state.

The bills, Jennings said, anticipate changes called for by the 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act, which will allow long-distance companies to begin offering local service, and local companies to provide extended long-distance service. The proposals are designed to help local companies compete on even footing with nationwide long-distance providers when the federal changes are in full effect.

Long-distance companies say that the bills are unfair and illegal. According to Teresa Lynch, of AT&T, the bills ignore many of the federal act's limitations and give local service providers, who currently enjoy a monopoly in their service areas, a competitive advantage. Jennings' proposals would allow local providers to get into the market prematurely, she said.

Jennings believes the long-distance companies will be better positioned to enter local markets than the locals will to enter the long-distance market. Under the bills, he said, competition will be equitable. "I'm trying to collapse the time frame," he said, and give local providers a foothold in Minnesota's long-distance industry at the same time the local market is open to competition.

That violates the law, Lynch said. "The federal act says you can't have that edge,"

and lays out how and when competition should take place, with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) serving as overseer. "We feel the state has no authority to change LATA boundaries. It is clearly contrary to the federal act and seeks to bypass [provisions] that address a [local operator's] authority to enter the inter-LATA market," Lynch said.

Jennings cited federal act provisions that say otherwise, specifically that a state can change LATAs when it would be "pro-competitive and otherwise in the public interest." He also said his bill provides consumer-friendly safeguards for when full competition is in effect. For instance, local service providers must not exclude residential customers in order to focus on more lucrative commercial accounts, and must charge all customers — rural and urban — the same rate for basic service.

AT&T's list of objections also says that the bills "immediately deregulate most, if not all, of US West's monopoly services by allowing the company to 'repackage' existing services in the guise of 'new services.'" Further, they said, the bills would keep intrastate long distance rates for AT&T and other carriers artificially high, and would allow local provider US West to charge inflated prices when long distance companies have to interconnect with them. (Competing companies routinely share networks and technology as a matter of necessity due to the nature of telephone technology). The company also says the bills would repeal consumer protections, and weaken the authority of the PUC.

Ultimately, Jennings said, the legislation will make telephone service more competitive and save consumers money.

HF1171 and **HF1172** now move to the House floor.



INSURANCE

Snowmobile insurance

A bill that would require all snowmobile owners to carry liability insurance was approved March 26 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

HF406, sponsored by Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison), calls for a number of changes in state law in response to the mounting death toll involving snowmobile accidents this winter.

Minnesota has suffered a spate of snowmobile-related accidents this winter, claiming the lives 32 snowmobilers and bystanders.

Welfare protest



Welfare rights advocates marched away from the State Office Building after their entrance was barred March 25. Earlier in the day, five of the demonstrators were arrested after staging a protest in the office of House Speaker Phil Carruthers against changes in welfare benefits.

Peterson's bill prescribes a series of new measures to prevent such a death toll in the future.

The bill would mandate that all snowmobilers take a state-approved safety course before they can ride. (Current law requires only those under 18 to take such training.) And the bill would reduce the nighttime speed limit for snowmobiles from the current 50 miles per hour to 40 miles per hour.

The bill also would double the snowmobile registration fee — from \$30 to \$60 every three years — for machines with engines larger than 335 cubic centimeters. The increased revenue would be used to improve state snowmobile trails.

Debate in the committee focused on provisions related to insurance. The bill would require snowmobile owners to purchase a minimum of \$60,000 in liability insurance. Failure to comply would result in misdemeanor charges and revocation of the owner's snowmobile registration for 60 days during the winter season.

"Even the safest, most experienced rider can encounter conditions where he or she may lose control and cause injury to another person," Peterson said. "I would feel immensely more comfortable knowing that the other people on the trail were covered."

The bill also drew support from the families of some killed in snowmobile-related accidents this year.

Lori Renken's 10-year-old son was killed in January by a passing snowmobiler on the street in front of his home in Big Lake, Minn., she said her family's problems have been compounded because the 20-year-old man who hit her son did not have insurance.

In addition to dealing with the loss of her son, Renken has had to absorb financial losses stemming from the incident, including funeral expenses.

"It's not fair," Renken said. "I shouldn't have to pay for my son's death. I'm already paying enough."

The Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association offered support for most provisions of the bill but opposed the plan to require snowmobilers to buy insurance.

Doug Franzen, a lobbyist for the group, said the insurance requirements would be too costly and would not reach the problem snowmobilers. The riders who pose the most serious danger on the trails most likely would ignore the requirement, he said.

"Frankly, liability insurance will not prevent these sorts of tragedies," Franzen said. "We want to focus all of our resources on prevention."

Peterson said the insurance would likely cost snowmobile owners less than \$30 a year, but the snowmobile group official said the insurance could cost as much as \$200 a year.

The bill now moves to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.



LABOR

Employment contracts

The need for a bill requiring written employment agreements in the employee's native language was underscored by testimony before the House Labor Management Relations Committee March 24.

Speaking through an interpreter, Manuel Torres told the panel that in February he and seven other Mexicans were recruited in Atlanta to work for a janitorial service in Minnesota. They were promised \$1,200 a month plus housing, food, and warm clothing in exchange for working eight-hour shifts, six days per week.

"Instead, we worked 11 hours per day and seven days per week," Torres said. "We were living nine to a room and fed one hamburger every 24 hours. We were locked in and couldn't leave. When we complained, they beat us. . . . In the end, we never were paid."

As Torres tearfully ended his testimony, Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) commented, "I thought indentured servitude ended a long time ago in this country."

HF216, sponsored by Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul), has already been laid over

until next year because of concerns that it would be an unmanageable burden to employers. But Mariani asked for a hearing because Torres and his fellow workers do not plan to stay in Minnesota much longer. The testimony prompted several lawmakers to pledge support for the bill next year.

Margarita Zalamea, executive director of the Chicano-Latino Affairs Council, urged the Legislature to support the bill. Reminding the panel of a 1995 settlement against Minneapolis-based meat processor GFI America, Zalamea said, "There has been a history of such abuses in Minnesota."

Protecting contract workers

The House Judiciary Committee approved a bill March 26 that would protect contract workers from workplace discrimination.

HF787 would add such discrimination to the list of unfair employment practices in current law. As contract work becomes more common, so are the acts of discrimination.

"It's happening more and more," said Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson), the bill's sponsor. "It's becoming a common work situation."

A typical scenario would involve a temporary worker directed to a business. Because the worker isn't officially an employee of the business where the discrimination took place, the business could claim it is not responsible.

"After the discriminatory act happens, it's not clear who is responsible. The [hiring company] says [the person is] 'not our em-

Preventing homelessness



Daisy Barton, of Eden Prairie, with daughter Risikat, left, and son Kianté, went before the Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division March 24. Barton, who was once homeless, testified in support of a bill that would establish an emergency services grant program to prevent homelessness and more efficiently get people out of shelters and into transitional and permanent housing.

ployee.' The contracting company says it's not their responsibility," Hilty said.

The bill says it is illegal to discriminate against anyone in an employer's workplace who is providing services according to an agreement with the employer.

"The bill makes it clear that the responsibility is with the business where the discriminatory act took place."

HF787 now heads to the House floor.



LAW

Underage ID



Effective Aug. 1, 1997, a new state law will clearly mark state identification cards for people under the legal drinking age.

Gov. Arne Carlson signed a bill March 19 that will require state identification cards for people under 21 years old to include markings similar to driver's licenses for that age group.

Under the new law, identification cards for people under the legal drinking age will be a distinguishing color and labeled "Under-21." The cards will expire on the holder's 21st birthday.

Minnesota identification cards, which provide a form of legal identification for non-drivers, are issued by the Department of Public Safety. There is a \$12.50 fee, and cards for people under 65 years old are normally valid for four years. Senior citizens are issued cards that do not expire.

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) and Sen. Martha Robertson (R-Minnetonka) sponsored the legislation.

HF40/SF129*/CH13

Chilling public participation

A bill that protects citizens from frivolous lawsuits won approval from the House Judiciary Committee March 24.

They're called SLAPP suits, for strategic litigation against public participation. A few years ago, it came to the attention of courts and lawmakers that some parties — usually commercial interests — were using the courts to effectively deny others — usually private citizens or citizen groups — their right to free speech.

In such a scenario, a developer proposing to build a garbage dump encounters protests from local citizens. He sues them, possibly for defamation.

The suit will very likely fail in court, bill sponsor Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls)

said. "But the minute the citizens spend their first dollar having to defend themselves, they've lost." Worse, he said, the threat of lawsuits will have a chilling effect on public participation.

In 1994, the Legislature passed a law to protect against SLAPP suits, requiring developers or others filing the legal action to prove that they had been harmed by the person or people whose words or actions were at issue. If developers could not, such a lawsuit was to be dismissed.

But some have avoided the law by suing in federal rather than state court.

HF642, approved by the committee, would address that problem. The bill allows an action for damages and attorney fees in state court against someone who sues an individual in federal court in a SLAPP suit. The bill says: "If the person demonstrates that the respondent's action in federal court was brought for the purpose of harassment, to inhibit the person's public participation, to interfere with the person's exercise of protected constitutional rights... the court shall award damages..."

"This goes a step further [than existing law]," Skoglund said. "It says you can't do it in federal court either."

HF642 now heads for the House floor.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mesabi County?

In the Civil War, it was the South that tried to secede from the Union. But in Minnesota's St. Louis County, the rebels are northerners from the Iron Range and they want a new county.

Nothing ticks off citizens like taxes, and in northern Minnesota, they may split a county over it.

The debate centers around St. Louis County, Minnesota's largest. Duluth, a large urban center, sits in the southwest corner, but the Iron Range stretches across much of it.

A bill sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) would let voters decide in 1998 whether to cut off the northern three-fourths of St. Louis County and form a new county. "We might call it Mesabi County," Rukavina said.

Rukavina said that although the Iron Range has 41 percent of the county's population, it pays 49 percent of county taxes and receives only 35 percent of the county's spending.

"This is a question of democracy and equal representation," said Rukavina. "It goes back to the Biblical expression, 'Let my people

go.'" A new county seat would be established in Buhl, which Rukavina called a neutral site between the two larger towns of Hibbing and Virginia. The courthouses in those two towns would continue to be maintained, he said.

The measure (**HF698**) was approved by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee March 25.

The idea of splitting St. Louis County has been around for more than a hundred years, Rukavina told the committee.

He handed out copies of an article from the *St. Louis County Journal* of March 1, 1888. "It seems to be the general opinion with all Vermillion mining men that St. Louis County is too large and that it ought to be divided," the article began.

The matter has been discussed ever since, Rukavina said. The last time the voters spoke in 1954, however, they rejected a move to split the county. A 1974 study concluded that such a split was feasible but pointed out that it would have more advantages for the Iron Range than for Duluth. Another study was authorized last year by the St. Louis County Board.

At 6,092 square miles, St. Louis County is the largest county in the nation east of the Mississippi River. With 198,212 people, it is the fifth most populous county in the state. St. Louis County stretches more than 125 miles from the Canadian to the Wisconsin border.

John Garland, director of government relations for St. Louis County, urged the committee to hold off on the bill until the county completes its study of the matter. "We feel that to pass this measure now will politicize the study and its outcome," Garland said.

HF698 will go to the House Floor.



METRO AFFAIRS

Met Council survives

The Metropolitan Council has a new lease on life, albeit a one-year lease. A proposal to abolish the council has stalled in the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

Members of the committee March 24 decided to lay over the bill (**HF783**) for study during the interim. The committee took the action with the intention to bring the proposal back for debate during the 1998 legislative session.

Bill sponsor Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lake-land) described her bill as a work in progress and did not resist the move to delay action on the measure. However, she argued the

Metropolitan Council has expanded far beyond its original mission and that lawmakers need to consider the necessity of such an entity.

“There is very little accountability for how the tax dollars are spent” by the council, Larsen said.

Created in 1967, the Metropolitan Council includes a chairperson and 16 other members (representing different portions of the metro area), all of whom are appointed by the governor. The council is responsible for comprehensive regional planning in the Twin Cities area.

The council oversees regional transit systems, wastewater treatment facilities, regional parks, and other initiatives. It manages about 3,500 employees and functions on an annual budget of about \$360 million, which is derived in part from property taxes.

Criticism of the council has focused on its far-reaching programs and authority over local government units more closely linked to their constituents.

The transportation committee also heard a spirited defense of the Metropolitan Council from current and former members of the body and others who see value in regional government efforts.

Lyle Wray, executive director of the Citizen’s League, said many of the challenges facing individual cities in the metro area are best addressed on the regional level.

He cautioned against disassembling the council at a time when other urban regions throughout the country are struggling to create methods to deal with regional issues.

“In the world economy, the region is where the action is,” Wray said. “Regions will have to work together to do well.”

Larsen said taking time to study the issue will allow lawmakers to decide if regional government is necessary and, if so, what form it should take. (See March 21, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 12.)

Electing the Met Council

A bill that would transform the Metropolitan Council into an elective body won approval from the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs, and Elections Committee on March 24.

The Metropolitan Council, created in 1967, is responsible for comprehensive regional planning for the seven-county metropolitan area. One of the largest regional governments in the nation, it also oversees: the regional bus system; several waste water treatment facilities; and Metro Mobility, a transit operation serving the disabled. It over-

sees an annual budget of about \$360 million, which is partially paid by property taxes, and manages about 3,500 employees. The council is governed by a board of 17 members appointed by the governor, each representing a different portion of the metro region.

“The Metropolitan Council is the second largest unit of local government in the state,” after Hennepin County, said Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls), the bill’s sponsor. He said that when an official body has as much authority as the council, it should be and usually is elected. “When you’re going to levy that kind of money, the people should have a right to elect the officers. Taxation without representation is fundamentally contrary to our constitution.”

But Bill Schreiber, a Metropolitan Council member from the second district, said that the council only levies as directed by the Legislature. “We view ourselves an arm of the Legislature,” Schreiber said, adding that the committee should consider the role it wants to play in local governance. An elected Metropolitan Council would lead to divisiveness and more government, he said.

Schreiber added that the council has not taken a formal stand on the bill, but believes most members are opposed to it.

HF423 “moves to the intent of the original framers of the Metropolitan Council in 1967,” Orfield said at a previous meeting. “They believed that the council should be elected. That prevailed in the House but failed on a tie vote in the Senate in 1967.”

Council elections would be nonpartisan and public funding provided for qualified candidates. Salaries of council members would not change.

HF423 now moves to the House Floor. (See March 21, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 12.)



SPORTS

State high school league

A proposal to increase legislative oversight of the Minnesota State High School League was rejected March 26 by the House Education Committee.

HF747, sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), drew opposition from the league, a nonprofit organization that regulates athletics and other extra-curricular activities for public and private high schools throughout the state, and from committee members who are satisfied with the league’s track record.

“Although nobody ever likes to see a plane

crash, this is one 747 that should never take off,” said Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm), who added that he has received no complaints about the league but has heard from plenty of people opposed to Kahn’s bill.

Kahn described the league as a body that has the authority of a state agency and functions on public dollars (received via school districts) but is subject to none of the oversight required for government agencies.

She raised questions about the overall performance of the league and about the salaries of some of its top officers, who earn more than the commissioners of some state departments.

“This attitude that the league is above the law and that it has complete autonomy is completely unacceptable,” Kahn, whose bill has the backing of Gov. Arne Carlson, said.

The bill calls for the league’s budget to be submitted to the Legislature for approval, as is the case with other state agencies.

Education Committee members deleted a provision in the bill that would have required the governor to appoint the league’s president, and the committee later rejected the entire bill on a voice vote.

The league’s defenders included its board members and school officials who have worked closely with the league.

Len Olson, a teacher and basketball coach at Owatonna High School, said the league has a history of success in guiding high school athletics in the state.

“The high school league is free of political pressures. It is administrated honestly,” Olson said. “. . . They have done things the correct way.” (See March 21, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 12.)



TAXES

Tightening TIF regulation

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) and Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) presented a bill March 26 to the House Taxes Committee that would increase the amount of regulation surrounding the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) throughout Minnesota.

“We recognize that Tax Increment Financing is a valuable development tool . . . [but] when TIF money is spent for anything but tax-base projects, it’s really like taking money from schools,” Ozment said.

HF1574, he continued, would prevent communities from abusing the tax increment process. The panel did not vote on the measure.

Minnesota communities use Tax Increment Financing to fund economic development and other public improvement projects with property tax dollars. A city or a town creates a TIF district for a certain period of time — usually 20 years — and effectively freezes the property tax rates within that area at what is called the “original tax capacity.”

As development within the TIF district progresses and the value of the property climbs, the property taxes paid over and above the original tax capacity — the “increment” in Tax Increment Financing — is “captured” by the municipality to cover development costs. Ultimately, tax dollars that would ordinarily flow through to the county and school districts to pay for education are, in effect, spent on economic development.

And some of the economic development, Ozment said, is dubious, at best. Indeed, a March 1996 report from the Office of the Legislative Auditor documents years of tax increment abuse.

According to the report, communities can use TIF dollars for a strictly defined list of scenarios: redevelopment, renewal and renovation, soil conditioning, housing, economic development, mined underground space development, and hazardous substance cleanup.

Despite the fact that the Legislature has moved to regulate TIF five times since 1979, some communities continue to misuse the system, either by using tax increment dollars to fund projects that don’t meet the “but-for” test (which states the use of a TIF district would increase the taxable market value of a site over what would have occurred without TIF), or by failing to decertify their TIF districts after the development has been completed. Before any project can go ahead, Ozment pointed out, current law says it must meet the “but-for” test

HF1574, Ozment said, would require developers to document that a new project, or additional spending in an existing TIF district, meets the but-for test. Increment dollars unspent upon decertification of a district would have to be returned to the city, county, and school district. A district that went three years without any development activity would automatically be decertified.

In addition, **HF1574** explicitly defines tax increment terminology and details the spending restrictions to which redevelopment districts are subject.

The committee will hear further testimony on the bill at a later date.



TECHNOLOGY

Technology agency

A bill heard by the State Government Finance Division March 26 would elevate the Minnesota Office of Technology from a division of the Department of Children, Families and Learning to an independent state agency within the executive branch.

The idea behind the proposal (**HF120**), said bill sponsor Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), is to create a strong measure of accountability in light of the increased number of technology initiatives currently before the Legislature. As things now stand, Kahn said, the responsibility for decisions concerning technology is scattered among several different state agencies, with much of it lying in the Department of Administration.

“We’re just setting a clear line of authority,” for decisions, Kahn said. “The authority is within the Office of Technology.”

If **HF120** wins approval, the office’s executive director would be charged with reviewing and coordinating state and intergovernmental information systems and the entire technology infrastructure. The technology office would also develop, in conjunction with an advisory council, a plan to provide access to information gathered by the government.

Under the bill, the technology director would have full power to approve the new agency’s contracts — including bids for hardware, software, and services. These contracts, along with any other competitive bid process, currently exist under the Department of Administration.

Perhaps most importantly, Kahn said, the technology director would have the power to delegate responsibility for the office’s activities to other state agencies.

Gov. Arne Carlson created the Office of Technology in May 1996 by executive order, said Michael Norton, the office’s deputy director, placing it in the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

“It was created there mainly because the lion’s share of the investments in technology are in the area of education,” said Norton, who did not testify at the meeting.

The measure has support from both sides of the aisle. Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township) said the Republican caucus believes in **HF120**. Several other Republican members also expressed their approval.

“Remember, what we’re talking about spending on technology is roughly equivalent to building a baseball stadium,” said Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview). “Ac-

countability is imperative . . . someone has to steer the ship.”

The committee declined to act on the bill until it hears more testimony from the affected state agencies.



TRANSPORTATION

Snowmobile safety

Two bills designed to improve snowmobile safety were approved March 26 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

Minnesota has seen a rash of fatal snowmobile accidents this year; a total of 32 people have died.

Both bills approved by the committee would increase snowmobile registration fees, but the proposals prescribe a variety of measures to address safety concerns.

HF770, sponsored by Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby-Ironton), has been named the Joshua Renken and Stacy Schlosser Snowmobile Safety Act in honor of two Minnesota youths who died after being struck by snowmobiles this season.

Under the bill, anyone born after 1950 would be required to complete a training course to gain a safety certificate to operate a snowmobile.

The nighttime speed limit for snowmobiles would be reduced from 50 miles per hour to 30 miles per hour, and municipalities would be allowed to set speed limits for traveling alongside roads or highways of up to 10 miles per hour lower than the posted limit for automobile traffic.

Anyone without a valid driver’s license would be barred from operating a snowmobile with an engine larger than 440 cubic centimeters, under Hasskamp’s proposal.

The bill also would double registration fees to \$60 for three years and apply a new funding formula to dictate allocations from the state’s snowmobile trails and enforcement account.

Funds from the account would be divided as follows: 50 percent for state grants to local snowmobile clubs for trail maintenance, 25 percent to maintain the state’s own trails, and 25 percent for enforcement of snowmobile laws.

HF407, sponsored by Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), focuses on generating increased revenue for snowmobile trail improvements and maintenance and for enforcement of snowmobile laws.

Continued on page 17

New members . . .

Mullery tackles crime, neighborhood livability, jobs

Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls) may be a newcomer to the Minnesota Legislature, but he is not new to Minnesota politics. The Minneapolis native has worked on about



Rep. Joe Mullery

100 DFL campaigns over the past 20 years.

All that experience paid off when former District 58A Rep. Jim Rice decided not to seek re-election last year. Mullery campaigned for the DFL primary election with Rice's endorsement. Rice, however, passed away before the November general election after serving in the Legislature for 26 years. "People are constantly asking me what it is like to be filling Jim Rice's shoes," Mullery said. "It's impossible. I don't think anybody could do that."

Mullery's district is an area of mostly working class neighborhoods in the northwestern corner of Minneapolis. There, Mullery grew up in the Victory neighborhood where he still lives. His parents were both school teachers. His father taught at Henry High School for 39 years. A scholarship helped Mullery attend St. Thomas Academy. From there, he went on to the University of Minnesota for his undergraduate and law degrees.

After working a few years with a law firm, Mullery set up his own practice in downtown Minneapolis. He handles a wide range

of civil law cases with a specialty in real estate law. He has served as chair of the Civil Litigation Section of the Hennepin County Bar Association.

Since becoming involved in DFL politics in 1974, Mullery said he "served as district chair a couple of times and on the state DFL Central Committee for 16 years." One of the campaigns Mullery led was for the Quality Education Coalition, a group of reform-minded DFL candidates that took over the Minneapolis School Board a few years ago.

Mullery said that he had not intended to seek office last year. "When he [Rice] announced that he wouldn't run, I had to make a decision quickly because I wasn't planning on it. I went to the DFL convention along with three other candidates, but nobody was endorsed," he said.

The campaign set in motion a flurry of activity for the busy lawyer. "For the next few months I was campaigning and, at the same time, trying to finish as many of my legal cases as possible," he said.

Mullery won the DFL primary in September and went on to take 74 percent of the vote in the general election.

He said that even though his district has not seen a lot of violence, the top five issues during the campaign were "Crime, crime, crime, crime, and crime. In some areas there are a lot of drug houses and noisy parties. Two years ago there were a number of car arsons in one area."

Senior issues and education are two other concerns important to District 58A voters, Mullery added. "I ran into a number of people who said they would be moving when their kids got to junior high. Minneapolis grade schools still have a pretty good reputation but not the junior highs."

Welfare also comes up as an issue in the district. "There is a pretty widespread feeling that the present system encourages anti-social behavior," Mullery said. "The people most strongly against welfare are those working two jobs to make ends meet. Overall, most people feel that they could go along with welfare reform if there also is money for child care and training."

Mullery also said he would like to see neighborhoods get more power to deal with problem properties, landlords, and tenants, and is working on legislation to that effect.

— Steve Compton

District 58A

Population: 32,114

Largest city: Minneapolis

Counties: Hennepin

Location: northwestern Minneapolis

Top concern: "In addition to crime, there are still a lot of working people and union concerns in my district—concerns about jobs, pensions, livable wage, minimum wage, retraining programs, workplace safety, and re-employment workers."

— Rep. Joe Mullery

Continued from page 16

Snowmobile registration fees would increase from \$30 to \$45 for three years and temporarily increase the amount of state gas tax revenues designated for snowmobile-related purposes. During fiscal year 1998, 1 percent — up from the current 0.75 percent — of gas tax revenues would be earmarked for snowmobile trails and enforcement.

Also, the bill would appropriate \$1 million annually in 1997, 1998, and 1999 for grants to improve snowmobile trails across the state.

Both bills now move to the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.

Hauling sports toys

Outdoor enthusiasts would be able to haul a bit more on the highway, under a bill approved March 24 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

HF1111, sponsored by Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka), would allow a trailer carrying a motorcycle, snowmobile, or all-

terrain vehicle to be pulled at the back of a three-vehicle combination.

Current law allows such combinations only when the front vehicle is a pickup truck, the second is a camper, and the third is a boat trailer. The combination cannot exceed 60 feet in length.

Weaver's bill would simply expand the limits on what can be carried on the trailer at the back of the combination. The bill would make Minnesota's law more consistent with those in neighboring states.

The bill now moves to the House floor.

Skare brings experience to property tax debate

First-term Rep. Gail Skare (DFL-Bemidji) enjoys reading. In fact, when she came to the Capitol back in January, she brought a book by a Bemidji author with her, hoping that



Rep. Gail Skare

she would get a chance to enjoy it in her spare moments.

"I haven't touched it. Lately, I spend most of my time reading things like this," she said, pointing to a thick stack of bills, summaries, and revenue impact state-

ments on the table next to her. "This is my bedtime reading tonight."

Nor has she had the time to indulge in one of her other favorite activities: cross-country skiing. "Meanwhile, my husband's back in Bemidji, getting out every day," she said.

These days, most of Skare's time belongs to the state, in the form of hearings, meetings, and long hours hitting the books, learning as much as she can about the issues that confront a new representative who sits on four committees.

Yet Skare would have it no other way. She is, after all, a legislator.

"Sometimes I feel so overwhelmed," she said with a quick grin, "but I'll walk into that House chamber and a little thrill wells up inside me . . . I'm really part of this!" Which by no means should imply that Skare is some neophyte just happy to have a place at the table.

On the contrary, Skare made her share of tough calls as a Beltrami County Commissioner, a post she held for 10 years before she won election to the House. That job, she

said, was great training for her current role. Indeed, she's more than familiar with property taxes and local government/social services funding formulas. For the most part, she said, the issues are the same; only the perspective has changed. No longer can she confine the scope of her decision to Beltrami County; with her seat in the Legislature comes the obligation to consider the impact her vote will have on the entire state.

Winning that seat, though, was no walk in the northern Minnesota woods.

Things looked good in the beginning, Skare said, but before it was over she had to endure some tough — yet effective — campaign tactics at the hands of her Republican opponent. Polls showed that at one point Skare led her challenger by a nearly two-to-one margin. Yet when all the ballots were counted, she had won by less than 2 percent — a mere 277 votes.

She attributes the erosion of support to a questionnaire mailed out by the National Rifle Association to political candidates in the closing days of the campaign. The organization gave her a low grade, and awarded her opponent a much higher rating.

"He capitalized on it," Skare said. "He sent out a letter saying I was anti-hunting and anti-gun. I could feel the support slipping away."

In fact, she said, nothing could be further from the truth. Her husband is an avid hunter, as are her sons.

"I've never been anti-hunting," she said. "I've got bear rugs in my basement. It was hard to fight that statement eight days before the election."

Skare looks forward to working hard over the course of her term, particularly on property tax reform. She sits not only on the Taxes Committee, but also on the group's Sales and Income Tax Division. She also has a place on the Agriculture Committee and the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

In addition to property taxes, Skare said, many of her constituents have told her education issues are a high priority, along with welfare reform, particularly how the new federal mandates will affect services on a local level. But as a first-termer who happens to have more than a little experience in local government, she's realistic about just how much she can change things on the state side.

"I'm not hung up on . . . having to carry a bill — not that I won't," Skare said. "My role is to use my background on how things affect local government and try to give perspective from that end."

— F.J. Gallagher

District 4A

1996 population: 34,564

Largest city: Bemidji

Counties: Beltrami, Hubbard

Location: northern Minnesota

Top concern: "My desire is to better the relationship between state and local governments — distribute resources more equitably between communities and provide some flexibility in how communities execute state mandates."

— Rep. Gail Skare

Committee deadlines

Each year the House and Senate set deadlines by which most bills must be heard in a committee and forwarded through the process. The deadlines serve to weed out some of the several thousand bills introduced each year.

The first committee deadline is **Wednesday, March 26**. That means all bills must be passed out of all policy committees in their house of origin to receive further consideration this session. If a

House bill hasn't been approved by House policy committees by the deadline, but its Senate companion has, the bill has met the committee deadline.

By the second committee deadline — **Wednesday, April 9** — all bills other than those containing appropriations, must be passed out of all policy committees in both the House and the Senate. The deadline does not apply to the finance divisions of the committees or the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, the Taxes

Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee.

By **Friday, April 18**, all appropriations bills must clear their policy and finance committees and move to either the Taxes Committee or Ways and Means Committee.

Of course, there are exceptions to the deadlines. Any lawmaker may try to convince the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, which includes leaders from both party caucuses, to hear a bill after the deadlines.

Bill Introductions

HF1889-HF2028

Monday, March 24

HF1889—Lieder (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 593, Crookston, permitted to begin school year prior to Labor Day.

HF1890—McElroy (R)

Taxes

Homestead property tax treatment provided to part-time residents.

HF1891—Smith (R)

Governmental Operations

Independent School District No. 277, Westonka, teacher provided service credit purchase deadline extension.

HF1892—Biernat (DFL)

Education

General education formula training and experience revenue component state aid adjustment provided, and money appropriated.

HF1893—Dempsey (R)

Education

School abatement aid funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1894—Tomassoni (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Hibbing tax increment financing district revenue use authorized.

HF1895—Hilty (DFL)

Labor-Management Relations

Workers' compensation rehabilitation program requirements modified.

HF1896—Greiling (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Father registry established, adolescent pregnancy prevention plan established, family planning special program grant provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF1897—Hilty (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 4, McGregor, levy authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1898—Tomassoni (DFL)

Education

General education revenue definition modified, and declining pupil enrollment aid established.

HF1899—Kelso (DFL)

Education

School district state aid payment provisions modified.

HF1900—Bettermann (R)

Judiciary

Machine gun and short-barreled shotgun permitted uses specified.

HF1901—Finseth (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Red Lake River and Thief River dredging grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1902—Stanek (R)

Judiciary

Minneapolis Police Department appropriated money for transporting and housing detainees.

HF1903—Goodno (R)

Education

Vocational Technical Education Council duties modified, and money appropriated.

HF1904—Goodno (R)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Unicameral legislature provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1905—Ozment (R)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Oxygenated gasoline federal mandate waiver appeal authorized.

HF1906—Peterson (DFL)

Education

General education formula allowance increased.

HF1907—Milbert (DFL)

Education

Inver Hills Community College campus entrance construction costs paid, and money appropriated.

HF1908—Finseth (R)

Environment & Natural Resources

Tree planting stock production restricted, and planting stock production information disclosure required.

HF1909—Erhardt (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Edina, and Richfield joint public safety training facility developed, and bond issuance authorized.

HF1910—Greenfield (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Minority health initiative developed, steering committee and grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1911—Pelowski (DFL)

Education

Higher education facilities authority revenue bond issuance dollar amount increased.

HF1912—Hasskamp (DFL)

Taxes

Unimproved real estate bordering public water property tax rate reduced.

HF1913—Greenfield (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Maltreatment of minors act adopted, advisory committee established, and report required.

HF1914—Biernat (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Minneapolis school board elections held at the same time as state elections.

HF1915—Paymar (DFL)

Taxes

Limited market value treatment implementation threshold reduced.

HF1916—Entenza (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, community-based school program funded, and money appropriated.

HF1917—Clark (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Affordable rental investment fund program appropriated money.

HF1918—Clark (DFL)

Judiciary

American Indian corrections advisory committee established, and money appropriated.

HF1919—Clark (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Minnesota investment fund appropriated money for welfare-to-work programs.

HF1920—Osskopp (R)

Taxes

Personal and dependent income tax credit provided.

HF1921—Jaros (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Adult restorative dental services added to covered MinnesotaCare program services.

HF1922—Chaudhary (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Columbia Heights allowed to operate housing replacement districts.

HF1923—Sykora (R)

Education

Partners for quality school improvement pilot training program established, and money appropriated.

<p>HF1924—Juhnke (DFL) Agriculture Retail food handler certification required.</p>	<p>HF1937—Bishop (R) Health & Human Services Written or oral controlled substance prescription requirements modified.</p>	<p>HF1950—Peterson (DFL) Agriculture Animal feedlot and residential development of agricultural land notices required.</p>
<p>HF1925—Peterson (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy Farm wind energy conversion system loan pilot program established.</p>	<p>HF1938—Mullery (DFL) Transportation & Transit Jim Rice Expressway designated on interstate highway No. 94 in Minneapolis.</p>	<p>HF1951—Milbert (DFL) Education Inver Grove Heights public land purchase authorized.</p>
<p>HF1926—Pugh (DFL) Judiciary Racketeering law provisions modified.</p>	<p>HF1939—Smith (R) Education School districts providing special instruction and services for children with disabilities deemed financially responsible for costs.</p>	<p>HF1952—Garcia (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Finance Metropolitan regional parks maintenance and operation funded, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF1927—Kubly (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Buffalo Lake ethanol facility certification extension provided for tax increment financing purposes.</p>	<p>HF1940—Bishop (R) Environment & Natural Resources Alternative discharging sewage system permit established, water quality treatment and management cooperatives established, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1953—Solberg (DFL) Agriculture Straw and prairie grass use in wood pulp production feasibility studied, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF1928—Mares (R) Financial Institutions & Insurance Cochlear implant health plan coverage required.</p>	<p>HF1941—Mahon (DFL) Transportation & Transit Public safety inspectors authorized to stop motor vehicles under certain circumstances.</p>	<p>HF1954—Kahn (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Professional sports; Congress memorialized to discourage use of public resources for the movement of professional sports franchises.</p>
<p>HF1929—Winter (DFL) Education State colleges and universities land purchase, sale, and leasing provided.</p>	<p>HF1942—Huntley (DFL) Taxes Hospital purchases exempted from sales tax.</p>	<p>HF1955—Hausman (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Steam electric generating power plant emissions regulated.</p>
<p>HF1930—Trimble (DFL) Health & Human Services Regional treatment center cemetery grave marker numbers replaced with names of individuals at all graves.</p>	<p>HF1943—Swenson, H. (R) Taxes Agricultural land exempted from general education levy.</p>	<p>HF1956—Pugh (DFL) Judiciary Freedom of information and privacy office established, and rules and penalties provided.</p>
<p>HF1931—Abrams (R) Taxes First income tax bracket rate reduced.</p>	<p>HF1944—Anderson, B. (R) Rules & Legislative Administration Legislative procedures governed by law, and constitutional amendment proposed.</p>	<p>HF1957—Jennings (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy Metropolitan Airports Commission 911 emergency services payment authorized.</p>
<p>HF1932—Biernat (DFL) Education State graduation rule applicability extended to all children required to receive instruction under the compulsory attendance law.</p>	<p>HF1945—Anderson, I. (DFL) Governmental Operations International Falls Voyageur interpretive and conference center established, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1958—Pugh (DFL) Judiciary Health record destruction provided after death of patient.</p>
<p>HF1933—Bishop (R) Health & Human Services Patient health record release consent provisions modified.</p>	<p>HF1946—Long (DFL) Transportation & Transit Stillwater St. Croix River bridge mediation requested.</p>	<p>HF1959—Milbert (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Commercial assumed names regulated, intentional misrepresentation prohibited, and penalties provided.</p>
<p>HF1934—Kelso (DFL) Education Educational accountability office established, general education revenue increased, special program funding increased, technology revenue program established, advisory panel established, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1947—Broecker (R) Judiciary Child and adolescent sexual health institute sexual violence and prevention education programs established, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1960—Weaver (R) Judiciary Courts permitted to order defendants to serve time in custody during consecutively imposed nonfelony sentences.</p>
<p>HF1935—Murphy (DFL) Judiciary Homicide and child fatality case interactive multimedia courtroom presentation equipment grant provided, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1948—Smith (R) Judiciary Peace officers authorized to arrest traffic signal violators up to four hours after the offense.</p>	
<p>HF1936—Murphy (DFL) Labor-Management Relations Collective bargaining agreement arbitration required in certain cases, procedures established, and penalties provided.</p>	<p>HF1949—Bishop (R) Governmental Operations Revenue department building purchase provided in St. Paul, and bond issuance authorized.</p>	

Tuesday, March 25

HF1961—Peterson (DFL)**Agriculture**

Rural policy and development center established, and money appropriated.

HF1962—Sykora (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Minnesota Twins major league baseball stadium limited partnership provided.

HF1963—Abrams (R)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Bipartisan congressional and legislative reapportionment commission established, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1964—Olson, E. (DFL)**Taxes**

Tax increment financing restrictions, conditions, and limitations modified.

HF1965—Hilty (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Administration department, office of environmental assistance, public service department, state archaeologist, and transportation regulation board reorganization orders codified.

HF1966—Pugh (DFL)**Education**

School districts allowed to alter organization into separate election districts.

HF1967—Farrell (DFL)**Judiciary**

Gang-motivated or facilitated crimes provided mandatory minimum sentences, soliciting minors to commit criminal acts crime penalties increased, juror tampering crime established, definitions modified, and money appropriated.

HF1968—Kahn (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Public pension plan reporting requirements and penalty provisions modified.

HF1969—Ness (R)**Education**

Summer school funding provided for elementary pupils.

HF1970—Ness (R)**Education**

School district Title I replacement aid provided, and money appropriated.

HF1971—Mahon (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Metropolitan regional parks maintenance and operation funded, and money appropriated.

HF1972—Luther (DFL)**Education**

Energy assistance program funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1973—Farrell (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Haiti; military reserve forces on active duty in Haiti provided salary differential payment.

HF1974—Broecker (R)**Transportation & Transit**

County state-aid highway fund turnback account and construction account fund transfers authorized.

HF1975—Carlson (DFL)**Education**

University of Minnesota Board of Regents membership modified, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1976—Dawkins (DFL)**Taxes**

AmeriCorp and youth works program stipends exempted from individual income tax.

HF1977—Slawik (DFL)**Education**

School district referendum subtraction eliminated, technology improvement discretionary levy authorized, additional state aid provided to districts with low revenues, and money appropriated.

HF1978—Anderson, B. (R)**Education**

Locally controlled graduation rule alternative provided, and money appropriated.

HF1979—Mullery (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Attorney general required to investigate unfair drug price discrimination, prescription drug price negotiation authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1980—Stanek (R)**Judiciary**

Juvenile court proceeding prosecution information disclosure provisions modified.

HF1981—Huntley (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Employment support services for persons with mental illness funding authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1982—Pugh (DFL)**Education**

Independent School District No. 197, West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan, graduation standards pathway implementation grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1983—Hausman (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Aitkin, Becker, Blue Earth, Cass, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, and Washington counties tax-forfeited land sales authorized.

HF1984—Hausman (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Ramsey county job-related transportation pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF1985—Wejcman (DFL)**Taxes**

Business incubator and industrial park facility construction material and supply sales tax exemption provided.

HF1986—Wenzel (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Solid waste generator assessment fund return provided to counties.

HF1987—Evans (DFL)**Judiciary**

Drug-free zones established around chemical dependency treatment centers, and penalties provided.

HF1988—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Health-related licensing board alternative dispute resolution procedures established.

HF1989—Mares (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Metropolitan regional parks maintenance and operation funded, and money appropriated.

HF1990—Ozment (R)**Governmental Operations**

Hampton and Randolph volunteer fire fighter relief association consolidation authorized.

HF1991—Entenza (DFL)**Judiciary**

Contempt of court distinctions clarified.

HF1992—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

DWI; preliminary breath test evidence use authorized, vehicle forfeiture provided for third-time DWI offenders, and sentencing provisions clarified.

HF1993—Pugh (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Dental goods and services exempted from MinnesotaCare provider tax.

HF1994—Jefferson (DFL)**Taxes**

Minneapolis property tax abatement of value and reduction period extended.

HF1995—Rest (DFL)**Taxes**

Public bond issuance and investment of public funds provisions modified.

Wednesday, March 26

HF1996—Rest (DFL) Taxes

State bond allocation provisions updated and clarified.

HF1997—Mulder (R) Health & Human Services

Nursing facility operating cost per diem limit exemptions provided.

HF1998—Mulder (R) Education

Border state enrollment options program tuition payment negotiation provided.

HF1999—Mulder (R) Health & Human Services

Osteoporosis; radiographic absorptionmetry use permitted for the diagnosis and management of osteoporosis.

HF2000—Anderson, I. (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

International Falls public employee residency requirement imposed.

HF2001—Dawkins (DFL) Education

Children's trust fund act adopted, terminology and program requirements modified, and money appropriated.

HF2002—Harder (R) Education

Independent School District Nos. 178, Storden-Jeffers, 633, Lamberton, and 638, Sanborn, appropriated money for a high school remote access program.

HF2003—Bettermann (R) Education

Minnesota school-to-work student organization provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF2004—Bakk (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources

Bowfishing archery bows exempted from casing requirement.

HF2005—Westrom (R) Health & Human Services

Hearing loss specialist services included as a covered benefit under MinnesotaCare and medical assistance.

HF2006—Jefferson (DFL) Education

Teachers retirement association coordinated membership continuation provided.

HF2007—Tunheim (DFL) Financial Institutions & Insurance

Omnibus financial institution regulatory bill providing advertising regulations, prepayment penalties, credit extensions, and modifying bank powers.

HF2008—Harder (R) Health & Human Services

Nursing facility operating cost per diem limit exemptions provided.

HF2009—Bakk (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Federal payment in lieu of taxes on entitlement land distribution provided.

HF2010—Abrams (R) Taxes

Tax Increment Financing district increment collection and spending state approval required.

HF2011—Davids (R) Health & Human Services

Abortion data reporting provisions modified, and criminal penalties provided.

HF2012—Davids (R) Health & Human Services

Social work board complaint investigation procedures modified.

HF2013—Davids (R) Environment & Natural Resources

Smallmouth bass regulation uniformity required.

HF2014—Folliard (DFL) Education

Independent School District No. 270, Hopkins, exempted from limitations on participation and financial support.

HF2015—Folliard (DFL) Education

Family Connections parent involvement demonstration site established, and money appropriated.

HF2016—Haas (R) Financial Institutions & Insurance

Financial institution loan solicitation by mailing a check payable to the addressee prohibited.

HF2017—Mariani (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade

Opportunities industrialization centers funded, and money appropriated.

HF2018—Swenson, D. (R) Judiciary

Juvenile petty offender definition limited.

HF2019—Bishop (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Municipal board town disposition provided.

HF2020—Evans (DFL) Transportation & Transit

New Brighton street or road railroad crossing closure time period limited.

HF2021—Carlson (DFL) Education

Homework hotline funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF2022—Murphy (DFL) Judiciary

Arrowhead regional corrections agency appropriated money for a productive day pilot project.

HF2023—Hasskamp (DFL) Health & Human Services

Home medical equipment services regulated.

HF2024—Leighton (DFL) Transportation & Transit

Masonic special motor vehicle license plate issuance authorized.

HF2025—Hasskamp (DFL) Taxes

Commercial-industrial parcel municipal limitation provided for property tax purposes.

HF2026—Wenzel (DFL) Health & Human Services

Nursing facility operating cost per diem limit exemptions provided.

HF2027—Paymar (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

St. Paul sanitary sewer connection repair provided, rainleaders disconnected, and assessments provided.

HF2028—Mariani (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Charter city computer software and training financing authorized, and bond issuance provided.

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office
211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314
This office provides copies of bills at no charge, all agendas for House sessions, and the Journal of the House.

House Index Department
211 State Capitol (612) 296-6646
The House Index Department, a part of the Chief Clerk's Office, has a computerized index available for public use. House Index lists bills by committee, topic, author, file number, and other categories. The office can also give you the current status of legislation.

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at:
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

Clarification
Last week's Minnesota Index contained an item incorrectly stating the number of Minnesota kids living in working poor families. It should have read 7 in 100. We regret the error.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
For information updates, call
House Calls at **(612) 296-9283**.
All meetings are open to the public.
Sign language interpreter services:
(612) 282-2331 v/tty
To have the daily and weekly schedules
delivered to your e-mail address, send a
message to:
listserv@hsched.house.leg.state.mn.us
In the body of the message type:
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MONDAY, March 31

**The House will not meet in session.
Committees will not meet.**

TUESDAY, April 1

8 a.m.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: HF234 (MacKlin) Local jail booking fees and collection procedures established.
HF762 (Wejman) Youth community service grant program pilot project established in Hennepin and Ramsey counties, and money appropriated.
HF848 (Dehler) Sentencing to service programs expanded, and money appropriated.
HF1885 (Solberg) Mille Lacs Fishing Treaty implementation public safety funding provided, and money appropriated.
HF746 (Pugh) Corrections department service contract limitations and conditions provided, and inmate work standards adopted.
HF899 (Bishop) Dodge-Fillmore-Olmsted community corrections agency productive day pilot project operation provided, and money appropriated.
HF933 (Olson, M.) Correctional facility for recidivists feasibility study provided and task force established, and money appropriated.
HF1003 (Milbert) Dakota County family group conferencing pilot project established, alleged offender diversion provided, and money appropriated.
HF1023 (Clark) Women leaving systems of prostitution provided support services, and money appropriated.
HF1363 (Juhnke) Willmar child guide prevention program funded, and money appropriated.
Report on Martin Luther King Anti-Violence Project, Council on Black Minnesotans.
HF119 (Skoglund) Judge's reduction of minimum mandatory fines, surcharges, and penalty assessments restricted.

HF500 (Pugh) Public defender document copying fee imposed by government agencies.
HF860 (Dawkins) Corrections department required to reimburse counties for apprehension and confinement of certain individuals.
HF1154 (Skoglund) Bomb disposal expense reimbursement provided, and money appropriated.
HF1165 (Skoglund) Juvenile court records and peace officer records on children data practice provisions modified, and money appropriated.
HF1226 (Broecker) Ramsey County enhanced probation law enforcement community partnership pilot project grant provided, and money appropriated.
HF1241 (Pugh) Dakota, Hennepin, and Ramsey County school-based probation pilot program established, and money appropriated.
HF1284 (McGuire) Battered women community advocacy programs funded, and money appropriated.
HF1337 (McGuire) Community justice services act adopted.
HF1440 (Broecker) Peace and police officer soft body armor reimbursement amount index provided.
HF1597 (Pugh) Supreme Court appropriated money for civil legal services.
HF1674 (Dawkins) Community-based crime prevention grant eligibility provisions modified.
HF1691 (Pugh) Judicial Standards Board court cost and attorney fee payment allowed in certain cases, and money appropriated.
HF1763 (Larsen) Dodge, Fillmore, Olmsted, St. Louis, Stearns, and Washington counties sex offender community notification equipment grants provided, and money appropriated.
HF1780 (Pugh) Corrections department appropriated money for sexual assault program grants.
HF1846 (Swenson, D.) Crime victim services provided in underserved communities, and money appropriated.
HF1882 (Murphy) Real estate document filing and recording fees modified.
HF1935 (Murphy) Homicide and child fatality case interactive multimedia courtroom presentation equipment grant provided, and money appropriated.
HF1947 (Broecker) Child and adolescent sexual health institute sexual violence and prevention education programs established, and money appropriated.
Agenda will be completed in the evening at an announced time. Other bills may be added and the order is flexible.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: HF1684 (Kelso) Minnesota International Center international classroom connection program funded, and money appropriated.
HF308 (Koppendrayer) Education income tax credit and deduction provided, and money appropriated.
HF1723 (Greiling) Gifted and talented educa-

tion program grants provided, school district eligibility criteria established, and money appropriated.
HF1835 (Schumacher) Advanced placement and international baccalaureate programs funded, and money appropriated.

Transportation & Transit Finance Division/ TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: HF956 (Osthoff) Port development assistance project eligibility criteria modified, project review procedure exemption provided, and money appropriated.
HF1295 (Hausman) Counties authorized to sell county state-aid highway bonds to fund maintenance building construction.
HF1596 (Broecker) Trunk Highway No. 49 in North Oaks Chippewa Middle School pedestrian safety measures required.
HF1789 (Mullery) Railroad train or locomotive crew requirements established, and penalty provided.
HF1578 (Mullery) Veteran service organization members provided special motor vehicle license plate stickers.
HF1722 (Larsen) Motor vehicle drivers required to maintain vehicle control when approaching or passing an authorized emergency vehicle, and violation surcharge imposed.
HF738 (Wagenius) Metropolitan Council urban service area extension moratorium imposed.
HF1689 (Johnson, A.) Motorcycle driver instruction permit provisions modified, and endorsement fees provided.
HF1500 (Marko) Municipal transportation state aid qualification provisions modified.
HF1644 (Molnau) Municipal state-aid street fund apportionment provisions modified.
HF1672 (Paymar) Trunk Highway No. 5 in St. Paul beautification and enhancement provided, and money appropriated.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE*

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: HF1490 (Sekhon) Metropolitan regional parks maintenance and operation funded, and money appropriated.
HF1651 (Holsten) Critical habitat private sector matching account funded, and money appropriated.
HF1208 (Rostberg) Community forest improvement grants provided, and money appropriated.
HF779 (Lieder) Hybrid tree management research funding provided, and money appropriated.
HF1560 (Munger) Frog reproductive problem research funding provided, and money appropriated.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

Executive Committee/ Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources

229 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Steven Morse

Agenda: Review and adopt the administrative budget for 1997-1999.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: HF1299 (Jennings) Electric Energy Task Force renamed the legislative commission on utility competition, and electric industry restructuring review process established. HF297 (Jennings) National Guard member tuition and textbook reimbursement grant program provisions modified. HF1686 (Kubly) Rural dispute resolution act adopted.

HF1409 (Kubly) Animal feedlot rules provided legislative review.

HF1531 (Kahn) State Capitol renovation appropriations reallocated.

HF1542 (Solberg) Public employment labor agreements ratified, technical modifications provided, and definitions modified.

HF1134 (Knight) Administration department elevator regulation, building code, lease, and manufactured home installer licensure provisions modified.

HF653 (Pugh) Diabetes outpatient self-management training and education health insurance coverage required.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: To be announced.

Housing & Housing Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: HF1276 (Trimble) Community rehabilitation fund program and affordable rental investment fund program appropriated money.

HF1611 (Slawik) Landfall appropriated money for housing and redevelopment.

HF1632 (Mariani) Neighborhood land trust program appropriated money.

HF1917 (Clark) Affordable rental investment fund program appropriated money.

Budget allocation discussion.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: Reform of Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

HF1547 (Ozment) Tax increment financing restrictions imposed, terms defined, and provisions clarified.

HFXXXX (Abrams) Reform of Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

Additional bills may be added.

(Committee will meet in the evening if necessary.)

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: HF1213 (Goodno) Moorhead land transfer authorized.

HF1371 (Orfield) Agricultural and economic development board bond issuance provisions modified.

HF1380 (Huntley) Duluth family practice residency program authority transferred to the Duluth economic development authority.

HF1388 (Knoblach) Bond issuance reporting required.

HF1753 (Kalis) State municipal aid bond issuance authorizations modified.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HF970 (Wejcman) Minneapolis building contractor licensing requirement exemption expiration removed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: Testimony on stadium financing alternatives from members of the public and the Legislature.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: HF853 (Clark) Telephone assistance program expanded to provide assistance to low-income families with children.

HF1508 (Kubly) Minnesota alternative energy development authority established.

Additional bills may be added.

Subcommittee on Salary and Budget/ Legislative Coordinating Commission

300N State Office Building

Chr. Sen. Roger Moe

Agenda: Proposed 1998-1999 budget for commissions and joint agencies. Proposed policy for MIS positions.

1:30 p.m.

Legislative Coordinating Commission

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phil Carruthers

Agenda: Report of the Salary and Budget Subcommittee.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

WEDNESDAY, April 2

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: HF1092 (Mullery) Learn to earn sum-

mer youth employment program grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF248 (Trimble) Refugee citizenship and employment training provided, and money appropriated.

HF790 (Wejcman) Citizenship promotion program established, and money appropriated.

HF811 (Entenza) Minnesota Futures Fund appropriated money to provide technical assistance to nonprofit organizations.

HF836 (Evans) Microenterprise loan technical assistance and loan administration provided, and money appropriated.

HF1271 (Juhnke) New London Little Theater project grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1458 (Marko) Newport improvement project economic impact study provided, and money appropriated.

HF1532 (Skare) American Indian history museum appropriation provisions modified.

HF1662 (McGuire) Historical Society appropriated money for grants to the Minnesota Center for Legal Education programs.

HF1700 (Kubly) Olivia commercial building redevelopment provided, and money appropriated.

HF1850 (Ness) Fishing artifact museum feasibility studied, and money appropriated.

HF834 (Clark) YouthBuild grant funding limit eliminated, and money appropriated.

HF901 (Wejcman) Minnesota employment center for deaf and hard-of-hearing people funded, and money appropriated.

HF1012 (Trimble) Contamination Cleanup Grant program requirements modified, and money appropriated.

HF1659 (Evans) New Brighton north metro I-35W corridor economic development project appropriated money.

HF1767 (Juhnke) County and local historical society grant-in-aid program established, and money appropriated.

HF1824 (Mariani) Minnesota Project Innovation appropriated money.

HF827 (Tomassoni) University of Minnesota grape and wine research center established, and money appropriated.

HF1589 (Evans) Torture victim center appropriated money.

HF1638 (Trimble) Foreign trade zones promoted, and money appropriated.

HF1880 (Jennings) Employer re-employment compensation payment schedule provisions modified.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: HF1364 (Bettermann) Private career school act adopted.

HF1562 (Johnson, A.) Statewide university system student evaluation of instructors information deemed public data. Additional bills may be added.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF607 (Davids) Homework helpline funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF643 (Olson, E.) Pine Point School provided permanent status.

HF752 (Tomassoni) Independent School District No. 701, Hibbing, grant authorized for

expenses due to fire, and common teacher retirement date established.

HF1403 (Johnson, R.) First-grade preparedness program grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF819 (Wagenius) First-grade preparedness program eligibility provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF963 (Wagenius) Early reading instruction included as part of teacher candidate curriculum, challenge grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF792 (Biernat) Cigarette and tobacco product sales tax increased, and revenue dedicated to tobacco and drug use prevention programs. HF904 (Larsen) Student tobacco use reporting required.

Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF699 (Dawkins) St. Paul rental tax equity pilot project reinstated, property tax refunds provided, and money appropriated.

HF1592 (Tuma) Homestead property tax status maintained for certain property owners residing in nursing homes.

HF1688 (Tunheim) Apartment property tax rate reduced in certain towns.

HF1433 (Peterson) Business property tax market value exclusion allowed.

HF1553 (Dawkins) Commercial industrial property located in enterprise zones provided property tax exemption.

HF1089 (Garcia) Metropolitan area-wide tax base homestead property inclusion provided.

HF1445 (Ozment) Residential agricultural property tax classification provided.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF692 (Tingelstad) Andover contaminated land cleanup funded, and money appropriated.

HF852 (McGuire) Ramsey County environmental education consortium developed, and money appropriated.

HF1083 (Seifert) Lazarus Creek/LQP-25 floodwater retention project appropriated money.

HF1582 (Davids) Fillmore County soil survey provided, and money appropriated.

HF1823 (Westfall) Pelican Rapids-to-Maplewood state park trail developed, and money appropriated.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF947 (Wagenius) Toxics in packaging regulations modified.

HF771 (Long) Contamination cleanup grant program requirements modified, redevelopment and job creation grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF369 (Holsten) Hunting and fishing license and stamp identification and validation provisions modified.

HF311 (Luther) Angling assistance provided to disabled residents permitted without a license.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: SF458 (Higgins); HF429 (Jefferson) Real property fire loss escrow account provisions clarified.

HF443 (Luther) Brooklyn Park economic development authority property tax certification authorized.

Continuation of March 26 agenda.

Health & Human Services

Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Conclusion of presentation of governor's proposed budget for programs administered by Department of Health.

JUDICIARY

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

Agenda: To be announced.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: HF647 (Jefferson) Public pension benefit accrual rates increased, defined contribution early retirement options authorized, homestead and agricultural credit aid modified, and money appropriated.

HF1461 (Entenza) Uniform business identifier system established, and money appropriated.

HF1563 (Garcia) STAR; System of Training to Achieve Results program for persons with disabilities established, and money appropriated.

HF1583 (Mullery) Nellie Stone Johnson bust placed in State Capitol.

Additional bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: HF832 (Pugh) Professional malpractice action expert review certification required.

HF846 (Leighton) Sexual abuse statute of limitations delayed discovery rule provisions clarified.

HF1207 (Paymar) Private corrections treatment facility liability limits provided.

HF1414 (Leighton) Probate guardian and conservator appointment provisions modified.

Additional bills may be added.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: To be announced.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: HF1405 (Mariani) Head Start program account provisions clarified, and money appropriated.

Additional bills may be announced.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

Joint

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE/ Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Steve Trimble,
Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Future role of technical colleges and how they can better serve students and businesses.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kleso

Agenda: HF303 (Johnson, A.) School disciplinary policy evaluation and implementation grant program established, and money appropriated. Transportation working group recommendations.

HF831 (Biernat) Alternative education program equitable funding ensured.

HF1018 (Koppendrayner) Independent School District No. 473, Isle, capital grant authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1043 (Farrell) Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, community-based school construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1321 (Folliard) Desegregation magnet school funding provided, bond sales authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1526 (Rest) Learning year revenue authorized for half-day kindergarten pupils.

HF1573 (Folliard) Independent School District No. 283, St. Louis Park, Aquila Community Together project grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF330 (Luther) School bus safety provided through bus monitors, seat belts and video cameras.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: HF1367 (Rest) Major League Baseball stadium construction and maintenance provided, taxes authorized, and money appropriated.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: To be announced.

THURSDAY, April 3

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Continuation of April 2 agenda.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Continuation of April 1 agenda.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF1934 (Kelso) Educational accountability office established, general education revenue increased, special program funding increased, technology revenue program established, advisory panel established, and money appropriated.

HF1101 (Swenson, D.) General education basic formula allowance increased, pupil transportation funding enhanced, referendum subtraction removed, school year lengthened, compulsory instruction age lowered, and money appropriated.

HF1855 (Johnson, R.) General education formula allowance increased, equalized discretionary levy provided, special education program funding increased, and money appropriated.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF1421 (Wenzel) Dairy technology services grant program established, and money appropriated.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HF1628 (Johnson, A.) Internet access and computer on-line services deemed taxable services.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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

Agenda: Continuation of April 1 agenda.

HF244 (Bishop) Individual sewage system requirements modified, and Pollution Control Agency rule compliance authority granted.
HF1186 (Tunheim) Bakeries in retail food stores provided equipment and ventilation requirements.

HF635 (Entenza) North Star government on-line service and information initiative provided, information and telecommunications technology community resource development initiative established, MNcard projects implemented, and money appropriated.

HF436 (Wagenius) Reduction and recycling advisory council established, duties specified, and duration provided.

HF718 (Folliard) Conservation corps youth corps advisory committee provisions modified.

Additional bills referred under Rule 5.10 may be added.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: To be announced.

Housing & Housing Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: Budget allocation discussion.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: HFXXXX (Rest) Sales Tax Advisory Council (STAC) recommendations.

Additional bills may be added.

(Committee will meet in the evening, if necessary.)

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Discussion of Capitol cafeteria renovation. Any new bills re-referred to the committee.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HF997 (Pugh) Rental-purchase agreements regulated, cost-of-lease charges limited, cash price evidence provided, and definitions modified.

HF301 (Jennings) Accountant licensure requirements modified.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: HF240 (Hausman) Metropolitan area transit and paratransit capital expenditure financing provided, employer discount bus pass sale requirements modified, regional transit subsidy alternative demonstration program authorized, and obsolete language deleted.

HF857 (Rhodes) Metropolitan Council cost allocation system for wastewater services modified.

HF537 (Jennings) Large energy facility definition expanded to include high-voltage transmission lines that cross the state boundary.

HF972 (Hausman) Ramsey County personnel director eligibility certification provisions modified.

HF1176 (Hausman) St. Paul Civic Center improvements provided, and money appropriated.

HF1257 (Winter) Luverne cemetery body removal and reinterment authorized.

HF1391 (Long) Political subdivisions permitted to define dependent for employee benefit purposes.

HF1379 (Huntley) Duluth Miller-Dwan Medi-

cal Center assets and liabilities transferred.
HF656 (Holsten) Washington County property taxpayer personal information use restricted.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: HF967 (Tomassoni) Horse racing licensee allowed to conduct card club activities. Additional bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: To be announced.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Continuation of April 2 agenda.

WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: HF22 (Rukavina) Police state aid allocation method modified, and money appropriated.

HF329 (Leighton) Uniform partnership act adopted, and money appropriated. Additional bills may be added.

FRIDAY, April 4

7:30 a.m.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: School-to-work/school-to-career working group recommendations.

HF160 (Winter) Independent School District No. 175, Westbrook, high school student entrepreneurship pilot program established, and money appropriated.

HF1052 (Koppendrayer) Post-secondary enrollment options act extended to include nonpublic school students.

HF1419 (Finseth) Secondary vocational aid guarantee provisions modified.

HF1652 (Ness) Secondary vocational education aid guarantee provisions modified.

HF1028 (Dawkins) Youth Works program repealed, Youth Works commission director selection provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF345 (Folliard) Education fiscal year levy adjustment authorized related to the repeal of K-12 education appropriation caps.

HF404 (Abrams) Education fiscal year levy adjustment authorized related to the repeal of K-12 education appropriation caps.

HF377 (Sykora) Compensatory education revenue program provisions modified.

HF597 (Tomassoni) Education supplemental

revenue reduction provisions modified. HF1264 (Pawlenty) Crime-related cost education property tax levy provisions modified. HF957 (Hausman) School district operating learning-year program total operating capital revenue provisions modified.

8 a.m.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: To be announced.

**Transportation & Transit
Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: Continuation of April 1 agenda. Budget considerations.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF913 (Kubly) Livestock odor research program developed at the University of Minnesota, and money appropriated.

HF544 (Kahn) University of Minnesota steam plant relocation away from the Mississippi River funding provided, and money appropriated.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: To be announced.

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

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Presentation of governor's proposed budget for Council on Disabilities; Ombudsman for Mental Health and Mental Retardation; Board of Chiropractic Examiners; Board

of Dentistry; Board of Dietetics and Nutrition; Board of Marriage and Family Therapy; Board of Medical Practice; Board of Nursing; Board of Nursing Home Administrators; Board of Optometry; Board of Pharmacy; Board of Podiatry; Board of Psychology; Board of Social Work; Board of Veterinary Medicine; and Board of Emergency Services.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: To be announced.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: To be announced.

1 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: To be announced.

State officials often boast about Minnesota's many accomplishments. But when it comes to blowing the state's horn, it is hard to top the Minnesota State Band. As the state's community band, the nonprofit musical organization performs in all of the Twin Cities major concert halls, at festivals around the state, and even tours other countries.

Although band membership is open to any adult resident of Minnesota, most members live in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. "A good 50 or 60 percent are state employees," said the band's director, Joe Kromo, an accountant in the state Department of Agriculture. "The current membership is at 55. There are always some openings in some sections. Our ideal is about 60 members."

Kromo, like other band members, is a volunteer. Each member must supply his or her own instrument, travel expenses, and uniform (blue blazers, gray slacks, and striped tie), he said. While the band is not officially recognized by the state, it does receive a \$2,000 per year appropriation from the Department of Administration. Other funds come from member-sponsored sales and from associate members who donate \$20 per year.

When the band started in 1898, there were about 14 state bands in the United States, Kromo said. "It was a tradition,

Do you know?



The state band in 1898

following the [John Philip] Souza format. Now we are the only one."

The band's highly varied concert repertoire includes contemporary music for wind ensembles, popular selections, famous marches, and symphonic transcriptions.

Each year, the band plays a regular schedule and several special events. Since its inception, the band has maintained a tradition of performances at the Como Park Lakeside Pavilion in St. Paul. The annual concert series takes place on Wednesday evenings in August. In addition, the band plays an anniversary concert in April, a fall concert in October, a holiday concert, and the governor's holiday reception, Kromo said.

The band has performed at the State Capitol on many occasions, from the welcoming of the Prime Minister of Iceland to a reception for several foreign

ambassadors at the opening of the World Trade Center in St. Paul.

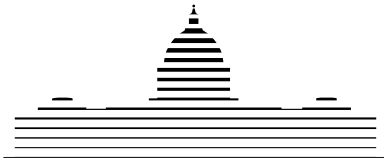
Outstate community festivals, such as the New Ulm Heritage Fest, are another frequent venue for the band. "We have performed in more Minnesota communities than any other musical group," Kromo said.

The organization has also served as Minnesota's cultural ambassador to the world. The band toured Europe twice, visiting cities in Germany and Austria in 1986, and Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, and Germany in 1992. In 1987, the band hosted two German composers and concert conductors in Minnesota. The band has participated in two international music festivals, in Castellon de la Plana, Spain, in 1990, and at the EUROFANFARE music festival in Villefranche-de-Rouergue, France, in 1993.

Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), is an honorary member of the band, Kromo said. She accompanied the group on its 1986 tour and brought official state proclamations along to present to each city visited.

Kromo said the band plans to return to Europe in 1997 for a tour of Italy, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein, and to participate in the 100th anniversary of the City Band of Kempton, Germany.

— Steve Compton



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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 Majority Leader: Ted Winter
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MINNESOTA I N D E X

Capitol figures

Capitol buildings built in Minnesota before the current Capitol	2
First Minnesota Legislature to occupy the current building	34th
Cost of the building, in millions	\$4.5
Length of the Capitol, east to west, in feet	433
of the U.S. Capitol, in feet	751
Width of the State Capitol, north to south, in feet	228
Height of the Capitol, from the ground to the tip of the dome, in feet	220
Marble columns on the second floor of the Capitol	44
Diameter of the rotunda, in feet	60
Number of bronze tablets in the Capitol inscribed with the Gettysburg Address ...	1
Original cost of the Quadriga, the golden horses sculpture atop the Capitol	\$37,600
Weight of the sculpture, in pounds	10,000
Cost to repair and regild the Quadriga, 1994	\$636,000
Height of the Quadriga, in feet	25
Width of the Quadriga, at the base, in feet	21
Total number of visitors served by the Capitol Historic Site Program, FY1996	212,474
Students who toured the Capitol, FY1996	63,692
Countries represented by visitors signing the guest book at the Capitol	98
Rooms in the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C.	540
Windows in the U.S. Capitol	658
Floor area of the U.S. Capitol, in acres	16.5
Weight, in tons, of the bronze doors, or "Columbus Doors" at the main entry to the U.S. Capitol	10
Number of different cities where Congress convened prior to the construction of the U.S. Capitol	8
Cash prize offered to whomever could produce the "most approved plan" for the U.S. Capitol	\$500

Source: *The Minnesota Capitol, Official Guide and History*, Julie Gauthier, Stafford King; Architect of the Capitol, Office of the Curator; Capitol Historic Site Program.

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SESSION WEEKLY

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SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • April 4, 1997 • Volume 14, Number 13

Update

Since 1877, bills have been introduced to reduce the size of the Legislature, shorten the length of time members are in session, or move the Minnesota Legislature to a unicameral system that combines the House with the Senate. Minnesota first became a state almost 139 years ago; elected officials today face some of the same issues.

Often overlooked is the history of the Legislature and why it is so structured. An act by Congress authorized a state government in 1857. The ruling allowed the inhabitants of a portion of the Minnesota Territory "... to form for themselves a constitution and state government. . . ." Today, this "citizen" legislature state operates as a part-time body, and the majority of its elected members are educators, farmers, attorneys, homemakers, a few full-time legislators, or business owners. They are citizen legislators who make decisions in a time-consuming manner to improve the state's quality of life. Deliberate use of time is also provided by average citizens who advocate for or against proposed policy. Both demonstrate flexibility in time, commitment, and experience to address over 2,000 bills that will have been introduced this session.

Size, length of sessions, and single governing bodies are not innovations of the U.S. Constitution, nor of Minnesota's constitutional convention delegates in 1857. How the Legislature operates today is based in part on the influence of the English theorist, John Locke, and the French nobleman, Montesquieu. Locke's notion of government by consent, as well as Montesquieu's belief that "The ideal political form was a separation and balance of powers within government" are the ideas that play a key role in how Minnesota governs itself.

According to a 1975 Citizens League report, "The primary objective in structuring the Legislature should be to make it possible for the widest range of able and qualified persons to serve as representatives of the people. . . . A government that functions best is composed of a diverse group of individuals."

The report is still worthy of review for the self-governing issues that continue to arise. It states that a reduction in size would not improve the operation of the Legislature, particularly if size is based on the size of other legislatures. While the Minnesota Senate is the largest state senate, all but nine of the state houses of representatives are larger. The comparison should be made on the relevant number of persons in a district.

Even though this Citizens League report is 22 years old, its proposals about the structure of the Legislature are still valid. The Legislature should not change its responsibilities to the citizenry, nor should it increase its costs of operation by reducing its size. "While a smaller legislature might be more efficient, the purpose is not to be efficient, but to [be deliberate, and truly] represent the people." Deliberation of the issues will continue.

— LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: LeKaushia Clark led her classmates from Barbara Stephens' third-grade class at St. Paul's J.J. Hill Montessori School on a search for the baseball that was used for the ceremonial first pitch at the Minnesota Twins home opener April 1. The ball was dropped from a helicopter onto the Capitol mall as part of the "Throw to the Dome" event after being flown to the Twin Cities from the Twins spring training facility in Fort Meyers, Fla. U of M Men's Basketball coach Clem Haskins drew the first pitch honors surrounded by some of his NCAA Final Four team members and over 40,000 cheering fans.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Highlights

Reforming the system . . .

Surplus provides incentive for property tax reform

By the time the 80th Legislature convened in St. Paul for the start of the session, most members had publicly acknowledged the need to overhaul the state's convoluted property tax system. Privately, though, many remained skeptical that the job could be done this year.

But when Gov. Arne Carlson, drawing on February's Department of Revenue economic forecast, reported that the size of the state's budget surplus had increased from an estimated \$1.4 billion to more than \$2.3 billion, he also ratcheted up the pressure on the Legislature to actually restructure the system.

Carlson has put forth his own plan, and at last count, the House Taxes Committee had before it no fewer than 10 property tax reform packages, some more radical than others, but all aimed at permanently fixing the system that has spawned some of the nation's highest property tax rates.

Property taxes have existed in Minnesota, in some form or another, since 1849. In that year, the First Territorial Assembly levied a tax on the citizens based on the value of their property "to establish and maintain common schools," according to a March 23 *Minneapolis StarTribune* editorial by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Cook). Since that time, the tax — a combination of state and local levies that is the primary mechanism for funding K-12 education and most city and county services — has seen marked increases. In fact, the Legislature has tried to rein it in at least four times.

Past reform efforts focused on "broadening the tax base," that is, seeking another revenue stream to replace the almost narcotic dependence on property tax dollars. Twice the Legislature created new revenue sources in the

name of broadening the tax base, enacting the individual and corporate income tax in 1933, and the sales tax in 1967. Yet each time, the property tax re-emerged as the preeminent source of government dollars. Today, the property tax is once again the largest source of public revenues in the state, accounting for nearly 30 percent of all funds taken in by Minnesota government.

But today's taxpayer, unlike those of 1933 or 1967, moves through a system bloated by decades worth of patchwork relief measures, a process that has created dozens of property classifications and sub-classifications. Indeed, by all accounts, the system has grown into an overly complex, inefficient and unresponsive anachronism that the state's own revenue department calls the most complicated in the nation.

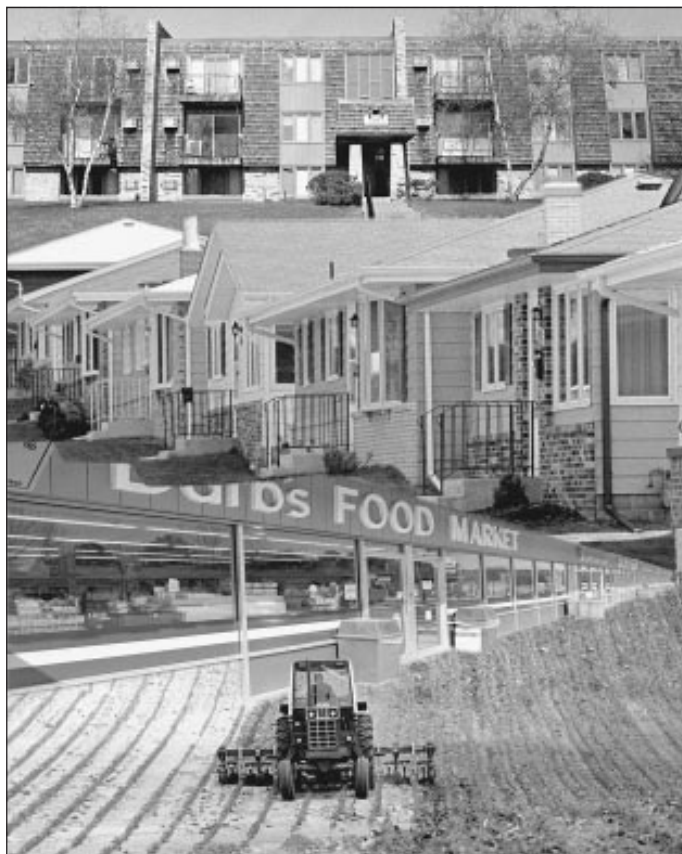
"In this state, we are far too dependent on property taxes to raise revenues," Long said at a recent House tax meeting where she explained **HF1871**, the reform bill she has co-sponsored with Sen. Johnson. "Increasing the state share of K-12 spending will solve problems for everybody," by reducing the reliance on local levies.

Of course, the nuts and bolts of the various approaches may differ, but nearly every reformer agrees on the nature of the problems confronting the system. According to a comparison study put together by House fiscal analysts, each of the reform proposals contains a handful of common elements, including:

- a greater measure of accountability where property tax increases are concerned;
- improvements to the system's efficiency, particularly with regard to education funding;
- a simplification of property tax laws;
- enhancing the competitive position of Minnesota businesses, in part, by reducing the property tax burden on commercial/industrial properties, and
- some form of relief to all property tax payers.

Greater accountability is perhaps the most important aspect of reform, said Department of Revenue Commissioner Jim Girard as he outlined **HF1617**, the governor's proposal, at a March 13 meeting of the House Taxes Committee. Increasing accountability, he said, would go a long way toward reducing the reliance of communities on local property tax levies. Under the governor's plan, local officials would operate under a levy limit.

Levy limits themselves are not a new idea. The Legislature repealed them in 1992, and since then local units of government have been free to increase their property taxes, limited only by



Minnesota legislators are out to reform the state's complex property tax system. At issue: how to provide some relief to business and rental property owners while shielding homeowners from a shift in tax liability.

the state's Truth-in-Taxation laws. (Truth-in-Taxation legislation encourages public participation in the levy-setting process.) Most reform proposals are based on the premise that successful, long-term reform can't occur without ensuring some governmental responsibility for future property tax increases, either in the form of voter approval or outright limits on local property tax levies.

"We need to make sure," Girard said, "that taxpayers know how their money is being spent . . . [and] who is responsible for what part of the levies."

In addition to increased accountability, reformers have across the board expressed a need to streamline the distribution of the state's property tax revenue to communities. Under current law, those dollars are distributed through two programs — Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid (HACA) and Local Government Aid (LGA) — according to a set of complex formulas. The local governments, in turn, use this money, in conjunction with their local levies, to provide tax relief and fund important local services.

All of the reform proposals contain some method of increasing the state's share of education funding, currently 65.8 percent of all K-12 spending. Some proposals, such as **HF639**, sponsored by Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope), would require that the state completely fund the cost of K-12 education. Others, such as the governor's plan and **HF1103**, sponsored by Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth), call for "education homestead credits" designed to reduce the tax burden that would shift onto homes as a result of changes to the system — essentially providing a subsidy to homeowners for the education costs that are now met by state funding.

As the state assumes a greater share, if not all, of education costs, HACA and LGA payments from the state would be reduced or eliminated under many of the reform plans. Thus, the system would be streamlined.

"It's an attempt to break down some of the old warhorses of the past and move the debate forward," said **HF1852** sponsor Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) of the effort to restructure the venerable aid-to-local-government programs.

Reformers have also, in the name of simplification, targeted the complex maze of classifications used to assess the value of properties. The simplification efforts — which range from keeping the existing model, as in Rep. Dan McElroy's (R-Burnsville) **HF1253**, to throwing out the current structure, as advocated by Rep. Andy Dawkins

Cost estimates (in millions) of property tax reform proposals

House File number Sponsor(s)	FY '98-'99	FY '00-'01
HF1871 Long/Johnson D. J.	\$464.1	\$999.1
HF639 Rest/Hottinger	\$31.1	\$425.4
HF1617 Macklin/Olson	\$250.0	\$650.0
HF978 Goodno/Sams	\$288.5	\$526.3
HF1103 Van Dellen	\$381.0	\$2,005.0
HF1292 Dawkins/Novak	N/A	N/A
HF1253 McElroy/Belanger	\$482.9	\$23.0
HF1442 Pelowski/Hottinger	N/A	N/A
HF1852 Abrams	N/A	N/A
HF1643 Bishop	N/A	N/A

Source: House Fiscal Analysis Department

(DFL-St. Paul) in **HF1292** — employ three distinct means to achieve the stated end.

Some bills simply reduce the number of property class rates. Others compress the rates; that is, they spread the levies more evenly among the existing classes. Still others would make the state's general education levy an explicit state property tax, assessed according to rates that would be fixed in statute.

Most of the proposals tie the tax more closely to a property's market value. As it now stands, a property's tax is based both on its value and its classification. Properties with lower classification rates — homes and farms — pay less tax than a comparably valued apartment or business property.

Shifting to a system that emphasizes market value over use as a tax base, some reformers say, would create a property tax system that is not only more equitable and efficient, but one that makes Minnesota businesses more competitive in the global economy by providing some much-needed tax relief to businesses and landlords. Currently, businesses and rental properties are subject to some of the highest property taxes in the country.

That relief would be both immediate and long-term, ensuring that business remains competitive for years to come, McElroy said at a March 20 informational tax hearing.

"The overriding theory," McElroy said, "is that if property tax is tied to market value, spending restraint will necessarily follow."

But that relief, said Long, must extend in some fashion to all property tax payers, not just the business community and landlords.

And therein lies the rub: reform almost guarantees shifting tax liability from one class, i.e., business, to another — probably homeowners — which is why most legislators realize that it is now or never for property tax reform.

"It's difficult to protect people from shifts when there's no money," said Long, who chairs the House Taxes Committee. "There has to be a mechanism for protection for the taxpayers."

That protection, she said, is the state's budget surplus.

The surplus provides a window of opportunity for significant reform by giving legislators a financial cushion to phase in restructuring. In fact, most of the plans draw, to some degree, on the surplus.

Property tax reform will get done, Long said, adding that legislators are unanimous on the need for it. The only question is what form it will take.

"The ultimate product will be a synthesis of elements contained in all the proposals," she said.

— F.J. Gallagher

 **CRIME**

Stamping out arson

Arson is now the second leading cause of all fires and the number one cause of property loss in Minnesota, according to a report issued by the state attorney general's arson task force. In the past five years, \$113 million worth of property in Minnesota has been destroyed by arson.

Not only that, 20 Minnesotans have been killed by the work of arsonists since 1989, says the report, the findings of which are part of the reason for **HF1586**. Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the bill, and the House Judiciary Committee approved it April 2.

Laws covering the crime of arson have not kept up with the crime, said Minnesota Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey, III. "We haven't looked at it comprehensively in



Tom Brace, Minnesota state fire marshal, testified before the House Judiciary Committee April 2 in support of a bill proposing a comprehensive plan to combat the state's growing arson problem.

a long time," he said. "I consider this a very important matter. Too often, we don't realize the impact of arson crimes."

"Everyone in this room pays for arson," said Skoglund. "Arson puts every fire fighter's life at risk and puts others' lives at risk."

The report says that nationwide, 700-900 people die annually from arson fires, property damage exceeds \$2 billion, and 20 percent of all fires are caused by arsonists.

Worse, the crime is increasingly being caused by juveniles. Over half of arson arrests are children; 38 percent are under the age of 14, 15 percent are under 10.

In Minnesota, in the past five years, 24 children have died using fire inappropriately. Almost \$17 million in property has been destroyed by young children who had access to fire materials. FBI research indicates that an arsonist's profile often shows a history of juvenile fire setting. Skoglund pointed out that it is increasingly a tool of gang members.

Even so, the report states, arrests, prosecutions, and convictions for arson are rare. Arson is an especially difficult crime to investigate and prosecute and, it says, the public does not understand the seriousness of the crime.

The bill would appropriate \$1.2 million to implement a wide-ranging approach to fighting the problem. It would set up an arson strike force with representatives from the fire marshal's office; the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension; the Office of the Attorney General; county attorneys; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; Minneapolis and St. Paul police; private detectives; and

other arson experts. The strike force would assist local agencies throughout the state in fighting arson.

The bill would also establish an arson training unit for fire fighters, police, and prosecutors, and set up a juvenile fire-starter intervention program. It would also step up enforcement measures. The \$1.2 million would be appropriated as follows:

- \$372,000 would be used to establish an arson training unit and carry out educational programs for fire fighting and related personnel;
- \$265,000 would be used to hire an additional attorney in the attorney general's office to specialize in arson prosecutions and to train law enforcement, fire service, and state fire marshal personnel on legal issues relating to arson crimes. The money also would reimburse strike force members;
- \$240,000 would be used to hire an additional fire investigator to be assigned to northern Minnesota and to provide mechanical, electrical, engineering, or technical experts to assist in determining the cause of fires;
- \$221,000 would be used to hire an additional forensic scientist to process arson evidence, provide laboratory instruments and training needed to process arson evidence, and provide training and equipment for a polygraph specialist; and
- \$110,000 would be used to stop juvenile arson, develop an injury prevention education curriculum, fund an annual training forum on juvenile fire-setting behavior, and help fire departments collect data on juvenile-related fire incidents.

HF1586 next will be heard in the House Judiciary Finance Division.

Crime costs at least \$10

Criminals booked at county jails in Minnesota soon may get another reminder that crime does not pay. Instead, in at least one small way, it costs.

HF234, sponsored by Rep. Bill Macklin (R-Lakeville), was approved by the House Judiciary Committee's Judiciary Finance Division April 1. The bill would permit sheriff's departments in Minnesota to charge people who are booked in county or regional jails a booking fee of up to \$10.

Macklin said the idea for collecting the fees came from Dakota County Sheriff Don Gudmundson, who compared it to the medical co-pay that county jails already collect from inmates. Gudmundson said that at least

one state already allows sheriff's departments to charge a booking fee to cover things like shoes, socks, and other government-issued clothing.

Minnesota counties conduct about 200,000 bookings a year. A \$10 booking fee would result in collections of about \$35,000 for his county, Gudmundson said.

But money, he added, is only part of the issue.

"It's accountability and responsibility. The criminal justice system isn't free. With this, the accountability process starts the minute an offender walks in the door," Gudmundson said.

If a person has no funds at the time of the booking or during the initial incarceration, the sheriff will notify the district court and ask that the fee be included as part of any future sentence.

The fee would apply only to those booked and confined, not to those who are released after booking, and would be returned in the event of an acquittal or dismissal of charges.

HF234 will become part of the Judiciary Finance omnibus bill.



EDUCATION

Preparing young students

New spending proposals to ensure that disadvantaged children are ready to learn in early grades are being considered by a House education panel.

One measure would bolster a program to give at-risk students more time in a kindergarten classroom, and another would provide grants to help those students struggling to learn to read.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), who is sponsoring both bills, said the measures would help to prevent students from falling behind early and help schools "get off the treadmill of remediation, which is not good for students or for taxpayers."

Under a 1996 education funding law, the state now provides grants to certain schools to provide full-day kindergarten or to provide half-day programs for 4-year-olds.

The goal of the program is to make sure at-risk students arrive in first grade prepared to handle academic basics such as reading and math.

This year, the House K-12 Education Finance Division is considering a bill that would infuse more funding into full-day kindergarten programs.

HF819 would expand the full-day kinder-

garten program established in 1996 and would alter the requirements in current law that determine which districts receive funding for the program.

Existing law requires that funding for the program be evenly divided between Minneapolis schools, St. Paul schools, suburban Twin Cities schools and Greater Minnesota schools. Schools in each geographic area are ranked according to the percentage of students on free and reduced-price lunch programs to determine eligibility for full-day kindergarten funding.

The bill would do away with the requirements related to geographic distribution of funds. Instead, the plan would stipulate that a school with 25 percent of its students on free and reduced-price lunch programs would be eligible for a grant. Schools with the highest number of children on such programs would be given top priority.

The proposal would spend about \$60 million a year on the kindergarten program. That's a significant jump from the \$3.5 million appropriated for the current fiscal year.

Schools receiving grant funding can decide whether to use the money for full-day kindergarten or for a half-day program for 4-year-olds, which puts kids in the classroom a year earlier than usual.

HF963 would set up a new grant program to ensure teachers are trained to intervene with students struggling to learn to read and to provide for curriculum improvements to ensure at-risk students are up to speed on reading by the end of second grade. The amount that would be spent on the reading grants is not yet specified.

No action was taken on the bills. Both are expected to be considered for inclusion in this year's omnibus education funding legislation.

1-800 homework help

Stumped students would continue to be able to find help just a phone call away, under a bill being considered by the House K-12 Education Finance Division.

HF607, sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), would provide \$235,000 annually to fund the Minnesota Homework Helpline during fiscal years 1998 and 1999.

No action was taken on the bill. It is expected to be considered for inclusion in the omnibus education funding legislation due later this month.

The Homework Helpline is a statewide service allowing students toll-free access to teachers who can provide assistance on a wide range of academic topics.

The service faced a financial crisis earlier this year and was just days away from shutting down when Target Stores stepped up to provide \$58,000 to keep the help line going through the 1996-97 school year.

In the past, the service has received its main financial support from Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The company provided about \$230,000 per year to pay teachers to staff the help line and to cover other expenses.

But Blue Cross and Blue Shield reduced its contribution to \$150,000 for the current year as part of a shift toward more health-related contributing practices.

The help line reduced services to absorb the funding reduction, but by early March the money was nearly gone.

Davids' bill would guarantee the service could operate at full staff during the next two years. Under the bill, funding would be provided directly to the Southeast Service Cooperative, which manages the help line.

The service has received more than 190,000 calls from students — mostly in grades four through 10 — since 1990. The help line (1-800-657-6787) operates from 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and now gets 300 to 400 calls a night.

Davids said the service is especially helpful to Greater Minnesota students, who account for about 75 percent of the calls to the help line.

No private school tax breaks

A plan to provide increased tax deductions and new tax credits for private school tuition, tutoring, and other education expenses has stalled in the House K-12 Education Finance Division.

Members of the division April 2 voted 9-5 to reject **HF308**, sponsored by Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayner (R-Princeton).

The bill is the legislative vehicle for Gov. Arne Carlson's proposal to expand school choice for Minnesota parents, and the measure has been listed among the governor's top priorities for the current legislative session.

"This is one way to empower parents to meet the needs of their children," Koppendrayner said.

But the proposal has drawn criticism from some who argue that it would divert funds from public schools, and ultimately, would weaken the public system.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said the bill does not fit with recent legislative efforts — such as graduation standards testing — that aim to increase accountability in public schools.

"Isn't this running counter to the direction that we've been trying to move in education?" Entenza asked.

Carlson's strong support for the bill indicates that the issue most likely is not dead for the session. It could come up again when omnibus education funding legislation is compiled later this month.

The bill would provide tax credits for education of \$1,000 per child to a maximum of \$2,000 per family for households with an annual income under \$39,000. The credit could be used to pay for private school tuition, tutoring, summer school, or other instruction in core academic areas.

Families that home school their children would be eligible for a \$1,000 tax credit regardless of household income.

Koppendrayner's plan also would triple the current tax deduction for education expenses from \$650 to \$1,950 per child in kindergarten through sixth grade and from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for each child in grades seven through 12.

The deduction could be claimed for things such as tutoring, summer school expenses, and computer hardware and software purchases, in addition to school tuition.

The tax credits and expanded deductions would cost the state \$150 million during the next biennium. The Department of Revenue estimates that 64 percent of the benefits from the bill would go to families of public school children.

The vote to reject the proposal came after the division heard testimony from parents, public and private school officials, and others during two days of hearings.

St. Paul resident Cher Chou Vang said the proposal would help to provide educational opportunities that fit the needs of each of his six children. He said he would use funds made available through the plan to buy a computer and to hire a reading tutor for his children.

"The more they get specialized help in tough subjects and the more they are exposed to topics, the more they will enjoy learning," he said.

The bill also received support from Bethel College freshman Vernon Rowland, who grew up in a poor family but received assistance to allow him to attend a private high school. Rowland graduated from De La Salle High School, but his two older siblings did not have such an opportunity. Both dropped out of public high schools.

He told members of the division that his brother and sister would have completed high school if they had the chance to go to a private school.

"The teachers [at De La Salle] didn't just teach us," Rowland said. "They were involved in our lives."

Rowland also said the bill would give low-income parents options now available only to wealthier families.

Critics of the bill argued that tax credits and expanded deductions would only encourage parents to abandon public schools and would not deliver benefits to low-income families.

Former Minneapolis schools superintendent and Macalester College president John Davis, now of Minnesota Friends of Public Education, said the bill would mostly benefit affluent families with children in private schools.

"You improve public schools by assisting them, by requiring them to be accountable, and by declaring them indispensable to a democracy," Davis said.

Koppendrayer said the bill would not weaken efforts to increase accountability in schools.

"The people who earned the money would spend the money as they see fit on their children's education," he said. "I think that is the ultimate in accountability."

Just say no to smokes

Expanded drug and smoking prevention programs in schools would be paid for by an increase in the tax on tobacco products, under a bill being considered by the House Education Committee's K-12 Education Finance Division.

HF792, sponsored by Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), would raise by 10 cents the tax on the sale of a pack of cigarettes and would dedicate the revenue generated by tobacco taxes to tobacco and drug use prevention programs.

The division discussed the bill during an April 2 hearing, but took no action on the proposal. It is expected to be considered for inclusion in omnibus education funding legislation due later this month.

Deb Mosby, a chemical health counselor at Spring Lake Park High School, urged members of the division to support the bill.

Most smokers pick up the habit as teenagers, she said, but new funds for prevention programs would help in the effort to steer children away from tobacco.

"It's really important the we hit these kids early and hit them hard with good, solid education programs," Mosby said.

The state currently taxes cigarettes at a rate of 48 cents per pack. Biernat said the 10-

Head starters



Head Start teachers and students from around the Twin Cities listened to testimony on a bill before the House Education Committee's Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division April 2 that would increase funding for Head Start programs.

cent increase he proposes would bring in an additional \$36 million annually.

The additional revenue would greatly expand state funding for anti-smoking programs in schools from the current \$200,000 the state spends on such initiatives each year.

The bill calls for the proceeds from cigarette tax to be directed to the Department of Children, Families and Learning. The funds could be used for department programs to combat tobacco and drug use or for grants to school districts for similar programs.



ENERGY

Electrical deregulation?

On the heels of the recent deregulation of the natural gas industry, movements are afoot both in Congress and statehouses to deregulate the electrical utility industry. More than 40 states are considering the issue, and most are looking to California, the first state to deregulate with a 1996 law.

Minnesota lawmakers are among those studying the complexities.

"It's a huge, huge, issue, involving billions of dollars and a very big industry. It will affect everyone in Minnesota," said Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) at an April 1 meeting of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee, which he chairs.

The committee approved **HF1299**, sponsored by Jennings, which would reorganize the state's Electric Energy Task Force and define its functions.

The task force, established by the Legislature in 1994 and charged with examining nuclear waste and energy issues, would examine the potential benefits and risks of competition versus continued regulation of the electrical industry.

"I want it spelled out what the task force would do," Jennings said. "Various interest groups were fearful of being left out." The bill details the task force's membership and functions, and describes the role of various departments and interest groups in the process.

The bill recognizes that the electric industry is undergoing extraordinary and fundamental changes and that increased reliance on competition in the industry must be carefully managed to preserve essential elements such as universal service, affordable access, and environmental protection.

Jennings' bill would increase the task force's membership from 16 to 20 legislators; half representatives and half senators. The members would coordinate with executive branch agencies and conduct public hearings and collect data.

In addition, input from industry and consumer representatives would be included in any future legislation. The Department of

Public Service would conduct technical and economic analyses. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) would convene a consumer resource group made up of large and industrial, small business, residential, and low-income electricity customers. The PUC also would hear from industry participants and other interest groups.

The bill also says that if the task force ultimately decided against state deregulation, the commissioner of public service shall intervene on behalf of the state in federal proceedings on deregulation.

Some committee members expressed doubts about the size and complexity of the task force. "I'm afraid it will never build a consensus," said Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul). "I'm not sure what the product will be, but I'm sure we'll pay a lot for it."

Jennings said the structure reflects the desires of the groups concerned and makes sure they all will have a voice in the process.

The task force will present recommendations to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 1998.

HF1299 next will be heard by the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

Biomass bypass?

How involved should the state be in fueling the biomass energy industry? That was the topic of discussion at an April 1 meeting of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee. The verdict: only in a low-grade capacity.

The committee approved **HF1508**, which would leave most of the initiative for biomass energy development to the energy industry. It does, however, require the state to study ways to finance renewable energy projects.

As originally presented by bill sponsor Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls), **HF1508** would have gone much further. The state would have helped fund the Minnesota Agri-power Project, a public-private partnership, which Kubly said would have been the largest biomass energy project in the world. The project would have created a 75-megawatt biomass-powered plant in Granite Falls, Minn. The energy would have been produced by burning alfalfa stems and other biomass products to create a gas for fuel.

Kubly argued that significant state involvement was necessary in order to demonstrate to the energy industry that the state is committed to supporting renewable energy production. The state has an interest in the resource because it is environmentally friendly and would boost rural economies

through construction and operation of the project, Kubly said. Alfalfa is a sustainable resource which would contribute to, rather than extract from, the environment, according to project literature. Further, biomass power production, unlike power from fossil fuels, does not contribute to global warming, it says.

But most committee members weren't sold. Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) said that if biomass energy production made good business sense, businesses would develop it and banks would finance it without the state's encouragement. "If there's an idea out there that can make someone rich, someone will jump on it," he said.

Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayner (R-Princeton) said that government involvement in setting the price for alfalfa as a way to help the industry get started will simply have a ripple effect on the prices of other crops. "This is the epitome of how to screw things up," Koppendrayner said. "All we're doing is juggling dollars because it was someone's idea that this is a better way to produce electricity. That has not been proven."

Under current law, Northern States Power Co. is required to construct and operate, purchase, or contract for 125 megawatts of electricity using biomass by Dec. 31, 1998, to be operational by Dec. 31, 2002.

HF1508 next will be taken up on the House floor.



GAME & FISH

A call for calm

Hoping to forestall tensions when Indians in 12 Minnesota counties begin to exercise their fishing rights under an 1837 treaty, the House Judiciary Committee approved a \$6.5 million bill April 2 to fund prevention efforts.

"We don't expect the effort to be a long-term thing," said Ron Nargang, deputy commissioner with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "But it needs to be impressed upon anyone who may interfere with those rights that it's a federal felony." Nargang spoke at an earlier meeting of the House Judiciary Committee's Judiciary Finance Division, which also approved the measure.

In January, a federal court ruled that an 1837 treaty permitted the Indians to hunt, fish, and harvest wild rice off the east-central Minnesota reservations covered in the treaty. The ruling has spurred fears by some that Indians will over-harvest the lakes, or disrupt tourism in those areas based on a perception that the lakes are over-harvested.

The bands have negotiated among themselves to establish limits, and recently announced their quotas on 29 affected lakes. At this point, they do not intend to commercially harvest on Lake Mille Lacs, the largest and most significant lake affected by the ruling.

HF1885 sponsor Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) said the money would be used first to launch an education campaign intended to prevent conflict when the tribes begin to fish the lakes this spring, and if it fails, to fund law enforcement. He said that the DNR and other officials do not expect significant problems. "The education program will let people know that this is not a catastrophe," Nargang said. "But, in the event of trouble, [it will] let them know there will be penalties." The education program will include printed material designed for anglers and hunters, audio-visual pieces for radio and TV spots, videos to be shown at community meetings, general information meetings, and a series of public forums, Nargang said. Gov. Arne Carlson also is scheduled to deliver a television address on the issue.

The bill would appropriate the money from the state's budget reserve. Some would go to the board of tourism to help efforts to maintain a steady level of tourism and mitigate negative publicity. If law enforcement efforts are needed, most of the money will pay for overtime and equipment, such as fencing at boat landings, lighting, power generators, face shields, headgear, and other police equipment. The bill says the money will be appropriated to the commissioner of public safety to reimburse the DNR, the Office of Tourism, the departments of Public Safety, Military Affairs, and Transportation, local units of government, and other state agencies for costs incurred related to the 1837 treaty. Money not used by the end of June will be returned to the budget reserve.

Jim Franklin, of the emergency management division of the Department of Public Safety, said that all or parts of 12 Minnesota counties will be included in the efforts. The counties are Aitkin, Benton, Carlton, Chisago, Crow Wing, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Sherburne, and Washington.

The bill now moves to the House floor.

Send e-mail comments
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session@house.leg.state.mn.us

We thank you for your input.

The editors

Electronic licensing

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) currently distributes more than 40 types of game and fish licenses and six types of recreational vehicle decals at thousands of bait shops, outfitters, and resorts throughout the state. The system involves reams of paper forms and a network of county auditors, license agents, and deputy registrars.

The DNR would like to eliminate the paperwork and convert to an electronic licensing system. Gov. Carlson's biennial budget already includes appropriations for the technology needed to bring electronic licensing on line in 1999. A bill (HF369) providing legislative authorization for the DNR to make the switch was approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee April 2.

Tom Keefe, of the DNR License Bureau, told the committee that recreational licenses would be available in three different ways with the electronic licensing system. All existing license agents would be provided with point-of-sale equipment allowing them to sell and print any license on site. A toll-free telephone system and Internet connection also would allow customers to purchase their licenses directly from the DNR 24 hours a day.

License agents would be able to run the magnetic strip on Minnesota driver's licenses through their equipment to pull up personal information to print on the buyer's fish or game license, eliminating the need for paper

forms. License fees also could be electronically transferred. The DNR would contract with a private vendor to operate the system, Keefe said. The annual cost of operating the system will be about \$2.5 million, he said, which is the same as the current system.

A pilot project is planned for the summer and fall of 1998 with full implementation planned for March 1999.

"The benefits would be a faster and more efficient system for our customers and less paperwork for everyone. An electronic licensing system also will allow us to improve our database and surveying capability," Keefe said.

"I have to warn you that this bill is not going to help your angling ability," Holsten cautioned the panel.

The bill now moves to the House Governmental Operations Committee.



LAW

Repercussions of sexual abuse

A bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee's Civil and Family Law Division April 2 would help ensure that more victims of sexual abuse get their day in court.

HF846, sponsored by Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin), clarifies the period of time victims have to pursue an action for damages after such abuse occurs.

In 1989, the Legislature passed a law giving victims six years to initiate a civil action

after "they knew or had reason to know that [their injuries] were caused by sexual abuse."

However, last year the Minnesota Supreme Court, in *Blackowiak v. Kemp*, ruled that the statute of limitations time clock starts at the time the victim realizes he or she has been abused, regardless of whether the victim understands the nature of the injuries or their cause.

In testifying before the committee, Jackie Barabash said her recent claim for civil damages against her parents was dismissed because of the ruling. Barabash said she didn't understand the extent of her injuries until later in life, when they interfered with intimate relationships and caused her to have suicidal feelings. The ruling, she said, undermines a victim's attempt to deal with the abuse by imposing a stricter time limit. "I went to the system to do the right thing. It was important to me as part of the healing process from abuse," she said. "To not have the support when you try to do so is very hurtful. You feel victimized all over again."

Leighton's bill would clarify and narrow the 1989 law, and make a distinction between victims who are minors and those who are adults.

For minors, the statute of limitations would end six years after a victim knows or has reason to know he or she was sexually abused, was injured, and the injury was caused by the sexual abuse. Adults would have six years from the last incident of abuse to file a claim.

However, the bill also says that a victim under age nine at the time of the last abuse incident may not sue after age 30; a victim between nine and 15 may not sue after age 27; and a victim age 16 or 17 may not sue after age 24.

HF846 next will be heard in the Judiciary Committee.



OUTSTATE

Lower Sioux police

A bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee April 1 gives the Lower Sioux Indian community law enforcement authority over offenses originating on the band's reservation in southwestern Minnesota.

At present, the reservation is policed by the Redwood County sheriff's department. The band has no police force.

HF464, sponsored by Rep. Barb Vickerman (R-Redwood Falls), would authorize the community to have the powers of a law enforcement agency in concurrence



Tom Keefe, of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) License Bureau, showed the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee April 2 a machine that would be used for an electronic licensing system. It would dispense hunting, fishing, and other licenses overseen by the DNR, virtually eliminating the pile of forms before him on the table.

with the Redwood County sheriff's department. The community would enter into an agreement with the sheriff's department to define and regulate services and provide for mutual aid and cooperation.

The bill also provides that reservation officers would be certified by the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, as are other police, and that the community carry its own liability insurance.

The agency's jurisdiction would be limited to persons within the geographical boundaries of reservation land, although officers could pursue an offender off the land if necessary in certain cases. People arrested by tribal police would be sent to the Redwood County jail and be prosecuted by the Redwood County attorney.

A similar arrangement has been in operation on the Mille Lacs reservation for about five years.

HF464 next will be heard on the House floor.



SPORTS

Civic Center improvements

On April 3, one day after National Hockey League (NHL) officials visited St. Paul and proclaimed its Civic Center inadequate for professional hockey, the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee approved a bill (**HF1176**) to renovate the 26-year-old facility.

The Hartford Whalers are currently looking for a new home and St. Paul is on the short list of potential locations for the franchise. St. Paul is also one of six cities courting the NHL for an expansion team. The league is considering adding as many as four expansion teams for the 1998-99 season.

On April 2, NHL officials toured the Civic Center with city officials and later met with Mayor Norm Coleman and Gov. Arne Carlson to discuss the possibility of bringing professional hockey to St. Paul. "I don't think a major league team could function in that building under its current condition," NHL commissioner Gary Bettman announced after the Civic Center tour.

HF1176, sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), proposes to issue \$51 million in state bonds to renovate the Civic Center. Gov. Carlson has already pledged \$5.5 million as a down payment in his budget proposal.

Coleman said the city has already invested \$118 million in the Civic Center construction and renovation, including building a new parking ramp. Even without NHL

hockey, the building will need \$36 million in capital improvements, he said.

Professional hockey in St. Paul will benefit the local and state economies, Coleman added. "Now a group of private individuals are willing to help out," he told the committee. "The business community is stepping up to the table. We would just ask that the state join us at the table [by passing this bill]. This is the kind of public-private partnership that builds strong cities."

According to city documents, planned renovations to the Civic Center include removing existing seats and adding 3,000 retractable seats and 13,800 standard stadium seats in a revised layout. A new video scoreboard would be added as well as hockey dasher boards and nets. The sound, broadcast, and lighting systems would be upgraded. The existing sheet ice meets NHL standards.

A large portion of the exterior would be removed, and replaced. A new entry lobby with escalators, an expanded main concourse, club seating, a club bar and restaurant, and a new suite level with 59 private

suites plus four party suites are all part of the plans. There would be a new press box, and remodeling of the adjacent Roy Wilkins Auditorium into team offices.

Coleman assured committee members that the Civic Center would continue to serve in its traditional role as home to state high school tournaments. In response to a question, he added that none of the bond money would be spent until an NHL team has committed to move to the city.

The bill now moves to the House Capital Investment Committee.

Stadium bill stumbles

A bill to fund a new stadium for the Minnesota Twins failed in a vote by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee April 2. Committee chair and bill sponsor Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) had asked that the much-amended stadium legislation be sent forward without recommendation to the House Taxes Committee. But opposition to the stadium remains strong among legislators and the bill failed on a 10-9 vote.

The version of **HF1367** Rest presented contains several funding mechanisms to replace the controversial 10-cents-per-pack cigarette tax dropped last month. The new measures include a 4-percent surcharge on higher player salaries, a 10-percent excise tax on luxury suite rentals, a 9-percent sales tax on all transactions within the stadium, a dedicated Minnesota State Lottery scratch-off game, and a \$1-per-car parking surcharge. The bill retains a 10-percent wholesale tax on all professional sports memorabilia sold in the state. It is estimated that all of these sources would raise about \$25 million per year.

Before rejecting the bill, the panel amended it to up the Twins owner's contribution to the stadium deal from \$15 million to \$50 million. Jim Pohlad, representing the Pohlad family which owns the team, told the panel that requirement could be a "deal-breaker."

Another significant amendment made a possible state buyout of the team an option rather than a requirement if the Pohlads want to sell after five years in the new ballpark. The buyout price was also changed to the appraised value of the team at the time of sale rather than a fixed amount of \$105 million.

Two other amendments lowered the minimum player salary to which a surcharge would be applied from \$200,000 to \$100,000 annually, and removed a ticket tax as a source of state revenue.

Rest said she will continue to work on the

Dutch visitor



Ferd Crone, a member of the Dutch Parliament, was recognized on the House floor April 1. He was introduced to House members by Rep. Alice Hausman, who shares many of his interests concerning environmental issues.

bill to "come up with a proposal that will be acceptable." She plans to bring the bill back to the committee for reconsideration next week. In order to stay alive, the bill must be passed on to either a tax or finance committee by Wednesday, April 9.



TAXES

Taxing the Internet

Minnesota's information highway won't become a toll road — yet.

Under an amended version of **HF1628**, approved April 3 by the House Taxes Committee's Sales and Income Tax Division, the Legislature would establish a 12-member commission to study the idea of subjecting Internet access and on-line service providers to the state's sales tax. The commission would report back to the Legislature in 1998 with input on how to implement a tax without stifling growth in the fledgling industry.

Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake) who sponsored **HF1628**, offered an amendment to the bill, striking the tax imposition, after hearing testimony from several industry representatives.

Johnson said that taxing the 'net in some form is an idea whose time has come and one that occurred to her after hearing a speaker at a conference on education finance. It is, she continued, vital to the state's fiscal well-being, given the rapid pace with which our economy has embraced technological means of conducting transactions.

"If there was oil running through those lines instead of information, he told us, we'd tax it in a minute," Johnson said of the speaker. "With that in mind, I decided it was time now to look at different ways of raising revenues."

Many different interests, she explained, had come before the division asking for tax exemptions and those dollars will have to be replaced somehow.

The division referred the bill, to the full Taxes Committee.



TRANSPORTATION

Speed limits increased

The speed limit on rural interstates would rise from 65 to 70 mph and on rural divided highways from 55 to 65 mph under a bill passed by the Minnesota House April 3. The vote was 111-18.

The speed hike was proposed by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) as an amendment to a bill (**HF1540**) calling for motorists to slow down when passing a stopped emergency vehicle with its emergency lights flashing. The move was adopted on an 87-43 vote.

The amendment not only hikes the speed limit, but would remove the commissioner of transportation's statutory authority to "designate a maximum lawful speed for freeways and expressways" in the state.

Last year, lawmakers also moved to hike the speed limit on rural, divided highways. But Gov. Arne Carlson blocked the increase by ordering the commissioner of transportation to maintain the current 55 mph limit on such roads. Bishop's amendment would specifically void that order, reinstating the speed increase passed by the Legislature last year.

A separate amendment would increase the speed limit from 45 mph to 55 mph on a portion of Interstate 35E in St. Paul, called the "practice freeway" by one House member.

The approximately four-mile stretch of

Assisting disabled anglers



Mark Jacobson, Brooklyn Park, told the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee April 2 that his mother needs assistance baiting her line when she goes fishing. He spoke in support of a bill that would exempt those who assist a disabled resident from having to purchase a state fishing license.

I-35E between Interstate 94 in the north and the Mississippi River on the south has long been the subject of controversy.

For years, the controversy was over whether to build the portion of highway. More recently, the controversy has been over the speed allowed on the stretch, which was completed in the late 1980s and designed as a heavily landscaped "parkway."

Debate of the amendment to increase the speed limit focused on the divergent opinions of lawmakers from St. Paul. The amendment was offered by Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) and Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul). Its strongest opposition came from Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) and Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul), whose districts lie on either side of the controversial stretch of highway.

Osthoff said the 45 mph speed limit is unnecessary and only creates a speed trap. Travelers on an interstate freeway expect a higher speed limit and rightly so, according to Osthoff.

But Mariani said the lower speed limit was a crucial part of the agreement that finally allowed the interstate to be completed in St. Paul. The 45 mph limit keeps down the noise for neighborhood residents who have I-35E "running through their backyards," Mariani said.

Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) said the change in the speed limit most likely would not result in an increase in noise because drivers now routinely travel 55 mph or faster on that stretch of I-35E. The only change would be that many of those drivers would no longer run the risk of getting a ticket, according to Tuma.

On a voice vote, the amendment was attached to **HF1540**, sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown).

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

The Chief Clerk's Office provides copies of bills at no charge, all agendas for House sessions, and the Journal of the House.

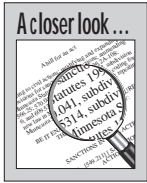
House Index Department

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A closer look . . .

The struggle to find funds to build a better ballpark



The proposal to build a better ballpark was rejected by a House panel April 2, but don't declare it dead just yet. The nature of the legislative process provides many ways for such bills to be resurrected.

The crux of the stadium controversy is quite simple: money and where it will come from. Those opposing taxpayer funding of the project have placed the bill (**HF1367**) in its current slumber.

Several legislators pitched their ideas for financing a new Twins stadium at a brainstorming session of the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee April 1.

Committee chair Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) asked proponents of five other stadium financing schemes to present their ideas to the panel. All but one of the ideas are incorporated in existing bills, which were presented for discussion purposes only.

One of the most unique components of the deal originally put forth by the Pohlads family is for the public to assume 49 percent of the team's ownership. House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) wants to make that ownership a reality for Minnesotans by selling one million shares in the team to the general public at \$50 each. The \$50 million thus raised would become part of the state's portion of the stadium financing package.

"Minnesotans have always made a strong cooperative effort," Winter said. "This allows people to be a part of the answer."

The proposal, which Winter said could be incorporated into one of the existing stadium bills, would involve setting up a holding company to sell the shares. By limiting the sale to state residents, Winter said, the state could avoid federal securities laws. Resale outside of the shareholder's immediate family would be restricted so that the holding company would get right of first refusal. Income from the public's share of the team could either be put back into the stadium or paid out in dividends.

"Whether someone buys a share for themselves or for their children, Minnesota families could own a piece of the Twins," Winter said.

Winter's counterpart from across the aisle, Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) proposes an appropriately opposite tack:

Take the public completely out of the deal.

Sviggum's bill (**HF107**) would have the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission sell off its Met Center property and use the proceeds to pay off the remaining debt on the Metrodome. The dome would then be sold for one dollar to the Twins and the Vikings as equal co-owners. The Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission would be disbanded.

The two teams could then run the facility in any way they saw fit and keep all of the profits from the facility for themselves, Sviggum said. "This legislation would allow the Twins to control their own destiny," Sviggum said. "They can build a new outdoor stadium."

"My bill (**HF936**) takes Rep. Winter's proposal one step further," said Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls). "Instead of buying a stadium, we would buy the team."

Kahn's bill would appropriate \$100 million to purchase the team from the Pohlads and resell it to "provide broad-based private community ownership." Kahn would have the Pohlads continue to operate the team for the state.

The experience of other sports franchises shows that team revenue and resale value appreciates rapidly after construction of new ballparks. Public ownership would allow the

public to reap the benefits of that appreciation and keep the Twins from moving out of Minnesota, Kahn said.

The Pohlads have said that if they don't get a new stadium, the Twins may be forced to relocate to another state. Kahn said the Pohlads family doesn't really want to move the Twins out of the state. "I lived in Brooklyn when Walter O'Malley took the Dodgers to Los Angeles," Kahn said. After the move, the New York press ranked O'Malley along with Hitler and Stalin as one of the three worst human beings in world history. "I don't think the Pohlads want to have such a legacy in Minnesota," Kahn said.

An unpopular 10-cent-per-pack "sin tax" on cigarettes originally proposed to pay for the stadium has since been dropped. That move, however, left the stadium without an adequate source of financing. Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) proposes to pay for a new ballpark with another "sin" — gambling.

Holsten's bill (**HF1300**) would authorize the Minnesota State Lottery to place 1,500 video slot machines at Canterbury Park. Sen. Dick Day (R-Owatonna), sponsor of the Senate companion bill (**SF492**) told the panel that video slots could raise up to \$68 million annually for the state without imposing new taxes. "This is money we could use for any



Jerry Bell, rear, president of the Twins, along with Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission chair Henry Savelkoul, and Bill Lester, executive secretary, listen to Rep. Mark Holsten, one of several legislators who pitched an alternative funding plan for a new outdoor baseball stadium to the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee April 1.

purpose, including the stadium,” Day said.

House opponents of **HF1300**, including Rest, argue that it expands gambling in the state. Indian tribes, who own the state’s existing casinos, also oppose the bill. Day countered that since betting on horse races is already taking place at Canterbury Park, **HF1300** would not add new gambling facilities to the state. In addition, the bill would dedicate 2 percent of net profits from the new slot machines to benefit non-reservation Indians, Day said.

Many critics of the stadium deal ask why taxpayers should spend up to \$300 million for a new stadium while the Twins’ billionaire owner Carl Pohlad is only willing to put up \$15 million. A bill (**HF1962**) sponsored by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior) would make the state equal partners with the Pohlads and other private investors.

The idea originated in the Senate as **SF1727** and is known as the Oliver Plan for its chief sponsor Sen. Ed Oliver (R-Minnetonka). It

calls for the Pohlads, other private sector investors, and the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission (or its successor) to each invest \$80 million in the new stadium. The city of Minneapolis would provide \$30 million to purchase and prepare land for the ballpark.

The sports facilities commission would pay for its investment with state revenues from an existing tax on sports, health, athletic and country club memberships. Additional revenues would come from a ticket tax, rent on the stadium, and sale of naming rights on the facility. The Twins would retain all other stadium-related revenue.

The Oliver Plan is contingent on the Pohlads and other as yet unidentified private investors putting up their share of stadium financing before the sports facilities commission would risk any state funds.

Finally, the most recent proposal, by Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth), is designed to postpone the ballpark debate. He said the current proposals are floundering, and fail

to address the needs of other local sports franchises.

Van Dellen also proposes slots at the horse track, but the goal would be to raise enough revenue to void the escape clause in the Twins’ lease that allows them to leave the Metrodome after the 1998 season. The lease allows the team to leave if operating losses rise and game attendance dips to certain levels.

Slot revenue would be used to buy hundreds of thousands of tickets, which would be donated to charitable organizations. Attendance would rise, as would revenues, thereby forcing the Twins to stay put.

So far none of these ideas have caught hold with lawmakers. Despite setbacks in the House, a stadium bill — without mention of financing — is still in play in the Senate. One or more of these ideas may provide the boost needed to make something happen this session.

— Steve Compton

The Legislature may soon recognize the lifetime of contributions made by one of Minnesota’s most notable activists.

“She’s touched the lives of just about everybody here,” said Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls) of labor organizer and civil rights activist Nellie Stone Johnson at the April 2 meeting of the House Governmental Operations Committee’s State Government Finance Division. “She is an example of a person citizens should look up to.”

If Mullery’s bill, **HF1583**, passes, citizens may soon be looking up to the 92-year-old woman, or at least, her image. The legislation would honor Johnson by placing a bust of her in the State Capitol — the first woman to receive such an accolade.

Johnson, who lives in Minneapolis, has devoted her life to agitating for the causes of labor, civil rights, and Democratic politics.

Do you know?

Born near Lakeville, Minn., in 1905, Johnson’s parents were one of the few black families to own a farm in Minnesota in the early part of the century. Her activism, she told a *City Pages* writer in 1991, stems directly from her father’s influence.

She began her career as an advocate in the early 1930s, when she worked as an elevator operator at the Minneapolis Athletic Club. When the institution slashed her wages from \$15 a week to \$12.50, Johnson began to organize her co-workers in an effort to win back the wage cut. Eventually, she helped to organize the Minneapolis Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, serving as the group’s first female vice president.

From there, Johnson ventured into politics, striking up a friendship with the young Hubert H. Humphrey after meeting him at Duluth State College in

1941. She was the first black elected to citywide office, in 1945, and one of the prime movers behind the merger of the state’s Democratic and Farmer-Labor parties in 1944.

Johnson also led the drive to create the state and local Fair Employment Practices divisions — offices which later became the Minneapolis Civil Rights Commission and the state Human Rights Department — and proved instrumental in winning the desegregation of the armed forces. She also served two terms as a representative on the Democratic National Committee in the early ‘80s.

In fact, Mullery said, Johnson continues to be an activist to this day, and will probably still be agitating even after the bust is installed.

The division approved the bill and will consider it as part of the committee’s omnibus finance legislation.

Minnesota House of Representatives 1997 Members

List as of April 4, 1997

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

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

New members . . .

Hilty studies Minnesota's place in global economy

First-term Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson) may be a small-business man, but as a legislator struggling to define Minnesota's place in the global economy, he refuses to be pi-



Rep. Bill Hilty

geonholed as just another pro-business representative.

"I think some people just naturally assume that I have the small-business man's perspective, whatever that is,"

Hilty said. "But small business isn't really related to big business. In terms of what's happening to our economy, I have more in common with organized labor."

The soft-spoken Hilty has been involved with manufacturing on a small-business scale for nearly 25 years now. With his wife, the 58-year-old father of five owns and operates a furniture manufacturing business in Finlayson, although now that he's a legislator, he's less involved with the actual day-to-day operation. Yet over the years, he said, he's had ample opportunity to study the direction of the free market and government policy decisions.

Given the trend in commerce toward consolidation, Hilty said small-business owners — the traditional backbone of the American economy — might soon take a back seat to big business interests, just as organized labor has lost clout in the political process because of declining membership. Indeed, the pro-

cess is already well under way, he said. Obviously, the North American Free Trade Agreement and the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade weren't drawn up with small business in mind.

"Corporations," he said, "are putting themselves beyond the reach of any one government. It's not by accident that businesses are making these global arrangements."

Yet Hilty remains realistic about the limits of his ability as a state representative to significantly alter the course of U.S. economic policy. In the House, he said, he needs to be mindful of the legislative bailiwick.

Toward that end, Hilty, with his presence on the Governmental Operations Committee and its State Government Finance Division, the Labor-Management Relations Committee, and the Regulated Industry and Energy Committee, said he wants to broaden the scope of debate within the Legislature.

"The Legislature," he said, "has a very strong tendency to be myopic on whatever issues come before it. I'm afraid there's too little concern for the big picture."

Hilty is no stranger to legislative politics, either. He managed former Rep. Becky Lourey's three House campaigns, and decided to run for her District 8B seat when she declared her intention to challenge former Sen. Florian Chmielewski in the DFL primary. Lourey went on to win the District 8 Senate spot.

Beyond merely broadening the scope of debate, Hilty also has some concrete goals

he'd like to accomplish during his tenure in the Legislature, including some sort of significant property tax reform and a restructuring of the education finance mechanism. Of course, property tax reform implies a change in education funding, he said, adding that he vehemently opposes Gov. Arne Carlson's voucher proposal.

Another of his top concerns is the move toward utility deregulation. Policymakers, he said, should not get caught up in the deregulation frenzy, but rather, exercise caution and carefully consider the ramifications of their actions. There exists, he said, the potential to create a public policy imbroglio to rival the Savings and Loan crisis of the '80s.

"I think the whole question of utility deregulation is that huge," he said. "There's really the potential for bad things to happen for the average consumer. We don't want to find that we've indiscriminately committed ourselves to a path we may not want to go down."

— F.J. Gallagher

District 8B

1996 population: 35,094

Largest city: Moose Lake

Counties: Aitkin, Carlton, Pine

Location: east central Minnesota

Top concern: "We need significant property tax reform that would actually change the way schools are financed."

— Rep. Bill Hilty

A Capitol Dairy Queen?

During an April 3 meeting of the House Governmental Operations Committee, members were sharply divided about funding for renovations to the State Capitol cafeteria. A bill sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) would appropriate \$2.2 million to restore the cafeteria's original German rathskeller design and decor. About \$1.2 million was approved in the 1996 bonding bill for the project.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), said, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, that he'd learned from Perkins and Dairy Queen restaurant representatives that either restaurant could be built in that

space for considerably less money. "That covers land, the building, and the franchise fee," he added.

Paul Mandell, senior planner for the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, explained that zoning regulations do not permit fast food restaurants in the space.

"Perkins isn't fast food," Osskopp responded, adding that he appreciated the historic considerations of the project, but "\$2.2 million? I guarantee that won't play in Wabasha," he said.

Kahn suggested he issue a press release to test taxpayer opinion about

putting a fast food restaurant in the historic space.

"For the quality of food [in the Capitol complex] cafeterias, vending machines would suffice," said Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview). "Whether we're talking \$1.9 million or \$2.2 million, something here is amiss in terms of the cost."

The measure was approved by the committee on a 10-7 party-line vote. It was later discussed, but not voted on, by the House Capital Investment Committee.

Slawik delivers on education finance, crime issues

On Feb. 6, Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood) was on the House floor listening to debate on a bill to reduce teen smoking. Four hours later, she gave birth to her own



Rep. Nora Slawik

future teenager, Victoria Anne, a healthy, 7-pound, 9-ounce baby girl. Two weeks after that blessed event, Slawik was back on the job at the Capitol, devising a study of ambulance rates in Woodbury and working on a bill to

create a statewide immunization registry for children.

Taking her child's birth in stride is just another way the 34-year-old Slawik reflects District 57A's busy working-parent constituency. In addition to the new baby, she and her husband, Brien, have a 5-year-old son, Sean. "My perspective is much the same as the people I represent," she said.

Slawik's family has roots deep in Minnesota's public life. Her grandparents lived in Benson, Minn., where her grandfather published the local newspaper, *The Swift County Monitor*. Slawik, however, was born in Tucson, Ariz., where her parents had settled.

After graduating from Arizona State University with a degree in recreation administration, Slawik took a management training position with United Way. She worked for the organization in Fort Worth, Texas, and Boulder, Colo., before accepting a fund-raising position in Minnesota. Here, in addition to working for United Way, she has helped raise money for Northwestern College, United Hospital, and St. Louis Church.

After moving to Minnesota, she married Brien Slawik, vice president of Slawik Enterprises, a property development and management firm. Brien's grandparents, Harold and Marie, developed Roseville's Har-Mar Mall.

Slawik's interest in public service grew out of her work in the nonprofit sector. "As a professional fundraiser, I've been involved in the community and helping organizations to maximize public resources. When you look at the Legislature, it is a similar process."

She also has been active in a number of community groups, including a charter board membership with the Southeast Area YMCA in Woodbury, the League of Women Voters, and the District 622 Educational Foundation.

When former Rep. Walter Perlt decided not to run for re-election last year, another former DFL House member, Pamela Neary, asked Slawik to run. Perlt agreed to chair Slawik's campaign committee.

Education financing was a big issue for the district during the fall campaign. Woodbury is the fastest growing municipality in the state and Washington County is the fastest growing county, Slawik said. "We don't have a lot of commercial property in the South Washington County School District, and we haven't been able to pass a school bonding referendum."

Slawik was one of many co-sponsors of HF1, already signed into law by the governor, which repealed the cap on state funding for K-12 public education. Her position on the Education Committee's Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division also has put her in a good position to keep tabs on

education financing issues that may affect her district. She recently introduced a bill (HF1977) to help the South Washington County School District secure more dollars for local schools.

"Crime is also a growing concern in the district," Slawik said. "We are a first-ring suburban area, and crime is coming out of the city toward us."

Slawik's approach to crime issues is to focus on prevention programs. She has signed onto a number of anti-crime bills as a co-sponsor.

In addition to serving on the Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs and Ways and Means committees, Slawik, as vice chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, has helped shape the state's response to federal welfare reform legislation. "It's a good fit with my background in nonprofit work," she said. "I am pleased to have an opportunity to work on welfare reform. It has been the committee's biggest challenge."

— Steve Compton

District 57A

1996 population: 43,221
Largest city: Maplewood
Counties: Ramsey, Washington
Location: eastern suburbs of St. Paul
Top concern: "My district is big and it is growing. We have the urban sprawl issue, working parents, schools bursting at the seams. Woodbury is one of the fastest growing cities in the area. A lot of people are concerned about the continuous development of the countryside around them."

— Rep. Nora Slawik

Frequently called numbers

Secretary of the Senate
 231 Capitol 296-0271
 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 296-7159/6-1119
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 296-9208
Capitol Security
 B-4 Capitol 296-6741
Emergency 296-2100
TTY*, Senate 296-0250
 Toll free 1-888-234-1216
TTY*, House 296-9896
 Toll free 1-800-657-3550

Bill Introductions

HF2029-HF2088

Tuesday, April 1

HF2029—Workman (R)

Taxes

SCORE; solid waste management services tax provisions modified, and SCORE tax and solid waste generator assessment fee repealed.

HF2030—Huntley (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Sault Ste. Marie Narrows Poe Lock funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF2031—Mariani (DFL)

Governmental Operations

State agencies, educational institutions, and businesses required to include a multiracial classification on all forms requesting racial identification information.

HF2032—Koppendrayner (R)

Economic Development & International Trade

Resort owners reimbursed for economic hardship due to enforcement of the Mille Lacs fishing rights treaty, and money appropriated.

HF2033—Gunther (R)

Labor-Management Relations

State fund mutual insurance company board of directors provisions modified.

HF2034—Winter (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Legislative committee and commission statutory provisions modified.

HF2035—Wenzel (DFL)

Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance

Lake Alexander Woods acquisition provided, and scientific and natural areas fund appropriated money.

HF2036—Johnson, A. (DFL)

Education

School district and library system telecommunications access grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF2037—Van Dellen (R)

Transportation & Transit

Cities authorized to establish maximum speed limits below 30 miles per hour on streets.

HF2038—Wenzel (DFL)

Education

State colleges and universities base budget increase provided, and money appropriated.

HF2039—Entenza (DFL)

Education

Collaborative urban educator program funded, and money appropriated.

HF2040—Huntley (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Game fish health and river residue level assessment provided, and money appropriated.

HF2041—Ozment (R)

Governmental Operations

Police and firefighter retirement investment reporting requirements and penalty provisions modified.

HF2042—Delmont (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Pharmacy technician defined and use allowed.

HF2043—Pugh (DFL)

Governmental Operations

State agency regulatory rule and program policy established.

HF2044—McCollum (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Home health care service medical assistance provisions modified, case management services qualification requirements modified, and definitions modified.

HF2045—Anderson, B. (R)

Education

School district election procedures modified.

HF2046—Nornes (R)

Education

Independent School District No. 544, Fergus Falls, appropriated money for early childhood programs.

HF2047—Winter (DFL)

Education

GED high school diploma program televised, and money appropriated.

HF2048—Rostberg (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Cambridge Tax Increment Financing district expenditure provisions modified.

HF2049—Anderson, B. (R)

Education

School district election procedures modified.

HF2050—Anderson, B. (R)

Education

School district election procedures modified.

HF2051—Anderson, B. (R)

Education

School district election procedures modified.

HF2052—Rifenberg (R)

Taxes

Personal and dependent income tax credit provided.

HF2053—McGuire (DFL)

Judiciary

Sauk Centre Corrections Facility state operation discontinued, juvenile out-of-state placement discouraged, and money appropriated.

HF2054—Johnson, R. (DFL)

Education

College work-study students placed in elementary and secondary schools, and money appropriated.

HF2055—Stanek (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

St. Paul and Minneapolis public employee residency requirements repealed.

HF2056—Osthoff (DFL)

Judiciary

St. Paul police storefront and youth activity center joint use funded, and money appropriated.

HF2057—Skoglund (DFL)

No Committee Reference

Landlord and tenant law recodified, clarified and relocated.

HF2058—Greenfield (DFL)

Taxes

Insurance company premium tax exemption provided for premiums for Medicare-related coverage.

Wednesday, April 2

HF2059—McCollum (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Health promotion and education material sales permitted, and money appropriated.

HF2060—Davids (R)

Education

Rural school pilot program developed, and money appropriated.

HF2061—Leighton (DFL)

Education

Minnesota career information system established, youth program eligibility requirements modified, secondary vocational education provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF2062—Hasskamp (DFL)

Taxes

Business property tax lower class rate extension provided.

HF2063—Knoblach (R)**Taxes**

Individual income tax brackets modified, and alternative minimum tax exemption amount provisions modified.

HF2064—Winter (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Invention board state fund use prohibition removed, and money appropriated.

HF2065—Winter (DFL)**Agriculture**

Veterinarians allowed to dock horses, equine animal care requirements repealed, dog house specifications modified, and clipped animal restrictions repealed.

HF2066—Rest (DFL)**Taxes**

Sales Tax Advisory Council recommendations adopted, sales tax payment provisions modified, and rule adoption provided.

HF2067—Bakk (DFL)**Taxes**

Corrections facility construction material sales tax exemption provided.

HF2068—Tunheim (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Regional management information centers appropriated money.

HF2069—Solberg (DFL)**Labor-Management Relations**

Retired employee benefit modification restricted.

HF2070—Lindner (R)**Education**

Locally controlled graduation rule aid and district assistance provided, locally controlled graduation rule offered, and money appropriated.

HF2071—Bakk (DFL)**Taxes**

Tax relief area sales and use tax imposed, and proceed deposit provided.

HF2072—Hasskamp (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Road assessment landowner notice required, and petition right established.

HF2073—Hausman (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Stillwater St. Croix River bridge fund expenditure legislative approval required.

HF2074—Jaros (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Duluth Hartley Nature Center improvements provided, and money appropriated.

HF2075—Munger (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Duluth Lake Superior Zoo improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Thursday, April 3**HF2076—Orfield (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Consumer report rights and duties provided.

HF2077—Macklin (R)**Taxes**

Marriage dissolution decree deed tax exemption provided.

HF2078—Solberg (DFL)**Taxes**

Itasca County jail and courthouse construction material sales tax exemption provided.

HF2079—Solberg (DFL)**Ways & Means**

Finance department expenditure forecast duties clarified.

HF2080—Knoblach (R)**Health & Human Services**

Sherburne or Stearns County intermediate care facility appropriated money.

HF2081—Rest (DFL)**Taxes**

Omnibus property tax and education financing reform provided, and money appropriated.

HF2082—Murphy (DFL)**Judiciary**

Carlton County reimbursed for criminal prosecution expenses, and money appropriated.

HF2083—Leighton (DFL)**Education**

Minnesota career information system established, secondary vocational education provisions modified, lifework development plan provided, and money appropriated.

HF2084—Mariani (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Migrant farm worker health initiative established, advisory committee established, and money appropriated.

HF2085—Mullery (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

ATM; automated teller machine use fees limited.

HF2086—Westrom (R)**Health & Human Services**

Hearing instrument dispensers permitted to perform audiologic evaluations under medical assistance, general assistance medical care, and MinnesotaCare programs.

HF2087—Westrom (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Stevens County Tax Increment Financing district duration extended.

HF2088—Jennings (DFL)**Taxes**

Ski area machinery and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

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Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
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MONDAY, April 7

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Continuation of April 3 agenda.
HF1169 (Carlson) Brooklyn Center; Brookdale
regional center redevelopment provided, and
money appropriated.
HF2017 (Mariani) Opportunities
Industrialization Centers funded, and money
appropriated.
HF1529 (Jefferson) Minneapolis Convention
Center expansion authorized, bond issuance
authorized, and money appropriated.
Additional bills may be added.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Riders and other language items for
the omnibus bill.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF604 (Lieder) Education debt service
aid sparsity determination provisions modified.
HF979 (Swenson, D.) School district lease
purchase or installment buy definitions
modified.
HF1217 (Larsen) School district referendum
allowance reduction discontinued.
HF1272 (Kelso) Professional teaching
standards promotion established, grants
provided, and money appropriated.
HF1366 (Winter) Small school viability pilot
project implemented, and money appropriated.
HF1407 (Dorn) Mankato model school for
truants appropriated money.
HF1408 (Peterson) School district fundraising
foundations established, professional staff
assistance provided, and money appropriated.

HF1746 (Ness) Cooperative educational unit
direct aid payment authorized.
HF1969 (Ness) Summer school funding
provided for elementary pupils.
HF1970 (Ness) School district Title I
replacement aid provided, and money
appropriated.
HF1428 (Dehler) Central Minnesota area
learning center established, and money
appropriated.
HF1454 (Jennings) Open enrollment
technology project established, and money
appropriated.
HF2002 (Harder) Independent School District
Nos. 178, Storden-Jeffers, 633, Lamberton, and
638, Sanborn, appropriated money for a high
school remote access program.
HF60 (Greiling) Hazing; civil cause of action
provided against student organizations for
damages relating to hazing.
HF575 (Weaver) Pornography-blocking
computer software required for schools.
HF1515 (Carlson) Cooperative school district
state aid pilot program provided.
HF1527 (Westrom) Independent School
District No. 264, Herman-Norcross, revenue
restoration provided.
HF1660 (Evans) School districts provided anti-
discrimination law compliance assistance, and
money appropriated.
HF1669 (Wenzel) Mid-state Education District
No. 6979, job shadowing and internship
program funded, and money appropriated.
HF1762 (Solberg) Nashwauk public and school
libraries operated jointly, and library board
established.
HF1817 (Rostberg) Year-round school/
extended week or day pilot program expanded,
and money appropriated.
HF1977 (Slawik) School district referendum
subtraction eliminated, technology
improvement discretionary levy authorized,
additional state aid provided to districts with
low revenues, and money appropriated.
HF2021 (Carlson) Homework hotline funding
provided, and money appropriated.
HF1998 (Mulder) Border state enrollment
options program tuition payment negotiation
provided.

Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF1089 (Garcia) Metropolitan
areawide tax base homestead property inclusion
provided.
HF419 (Tunheim) Watershed district project
cost payment through tax levy authorized.
HF799 (Winter) Wind energy conversion
system property tax provisions modified.
HF809 (Winter) Regional economic devel-
opment commissions regulated.
HF1890 (McElroy) Homestead property tax
treatment provided to part-time residents.
HF1544 (Dawkins) Municipal truth-in-
taxation notice modification permitted related
to mergers of services.
HF812 (Dawkins) Municipal and school district

local performance aid eligibility requirements
modified.
HF685 (Rest) Local government innovation
and efficiency program established, and money
appropriated.
HF637 (Abrams) Minnetonka housing devel-
opment account established and expenditures
authorized.
HF1232 (Lieder) Wild Rice Watershed District
levy extended.
Additional bills may be added.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF1082 (Osthoff) Hunting and fishing
license fees modified, aquatic farming fees and
requirements modified, and commercial
fishing and netting provisions modified.
HF1398 (Munger) Taconite Harbor project
appropriated money.
HF1579 (Hausman) Game and fish license
subagent sale commission retention allowed.
HF1646 (Trimble) Milk marketing competition
and economic fairness provided, and milk and
milk product retail price flexibility allowed.
Additional bills may be added.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Budget hearing; Minnesota House of
Representatives. Allocation process. Bills may
be added.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: HF1381 (Juhnke) Veterinary services
lien provisions modified.
HF535 (Juhnke) Bison designated as livestock,
and federal food rule conformity provided.
HF1444 (Wejcman) Minnesota-grown food
coupon program established in conjunction
with the temporary hunger prevention and
community development initiative program,
and money appropriated.
HF1792 (Tunheim) Rural small business loan
program established, and money appropriated.
HF2065 (Winter) Veterinarians allowed to
dock horses, equine animal care requirements
repealed, dog house specifications modified,
and clipped animal restrictions repealed.
HF1639 (Harder) University of Minnesota farm
safety outreach program funded, and money
appropriated.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF276 (Pelowski) Floating structure public waters work permit issuance restricted. SF413 (Frederickson); HF1118 (Sekhon) Municipal water use permit established. HF503 (Olson, E.) Beaver Damage Control Board established, and money appropriated. HF771 (Long) Contamination cleanup grant program requirements modified, redevelopment and job creation grants provided, and money appropriated.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: SF145 (Runbeck); HF312 (Jefferson) Reemployment insurance technical and administrative modifications provided. HF296 (Wejcman) Father registry created and adoption notice and consent provisions modified. HF844 (Rest) Birth defects information system established, criminal penalties provided, and money appropriated. HF713 (Koskinen) Wastewater treatment facility privatization ownership restrictions modified. HF1207 (Paymar) Private corrections treatment facility liability limits provided. HF846 (Leighton) Sexual abuse statute of limitations delayed discovery rule provisions clarified. HF606 (Stanek) Law enforcement agencies required to perform background investigations on applicants for employment as peace officers. HF1283 (McGuire) Fire fighter background investigations authorized, employment information disclosure required, employer immunity provided, and civil and criminal penalties prescribed. HF814 (Koskinen) Unfair employment discriminatory practice reprisal provisions modified. HF832 (Pugh) Professional malpractice action expert review certification required. HF908 (Pugh) Prison inmate lawsuit provisions modified and clarified. HF1150 (Greenfield) HIV/Hepatitis B; corrections guards and peace officers provided testing for HIV and hepatitis B under certain circumstances, hypodermic needle sales permitted without prescription, and money appropriated. HF58 (McElroy) Birth parent adoption or placement notification required, grand-parent visitation provided, and adoption record privacy provisions modified. HF1109 (Farrell) Criminal trial final argument prosecution rebuttal provided. HF1029 (Mares) Teacher background check working group recommendations adopted. HF340 (Harder) Cigarette and tobacco sales taxes recodified, criminal and civil penalties provided, and money appropriated. HF341 (Daggett) Liquor taxes recodified, civil and criminal penalties provided, and money appropriated. HF185 (Sykora) Child welfare and children's mental health collaborative provisions modified, privatization of adoption services for children under state guardianship provided, pilot projects established, and money appropriated. HF209 (Vickerman) Human services child

placement heritage or background provisions modified.

HF176 (Vickerman) Distressed food donor injury liability limited.

HF626 (Luther) Designated parent agreement execution and consent requirements modified.

HF741 (McGuire) Legislative information policy task force established, and money appropriated.

HF1941 (Mahon) Public safety inspectors authorized to stop motor vehicles under certain circumstances (Informational hearing).

Rereferrals from other committees.

Additional bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Omnibus bill: Child care policy.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

Agenda: SF1684 (Spear); HF1914 (Biernat) Minneapolis school board elections held at the same time as state elections.

SF296 (Frederickson); HF232 (Finseth) Soil and water conservation district supervisors provided four-year terms of office.

SF703 (Scheid); HF168 (Tunheim) Mail balloting in certain elections expanded to include additional cities and towns.

SF1356 (Langseth); HF1884 (Westfall) Legislative district boundaries modified.

SF80 (Johnson, D.J.); HF1007 (Pelowski) Presidential primary elections conducted by mail.

Additional bills may be added. (Committee will meet after session, if necessary.)

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: SF399 (Lesewski);

HF745 (Wejcman) Workforce service areas designated, and local workforce councils established and duties specified.

SF1519 (Kiscaden); HF1880 (Jennings) Employer reemployment compensation payment schedule provisions modified.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: HF342 (Farrell) Impounded vehicle sales authorized 15 days after impoundment notification.

HF1295 (Hausman) Counties authorized to sell county state-aid highway bonds to fund maintenance building construction.

HF1541 (Chaudhary) Youth-oriented driver improvement clinics established, graduated licensing system provided, motorcycle driver instruction permit provisions modified, and technical modifications provided.

HF385 (Swenson, H.) Trunk Highway No. 19 designated as Augie Mueller Memorial Highway.

HF1223 (Rest) Impounded vehicle notice period provisions modified.

HF1032 (Entenza) Commerce department powers and duties specified, regulatory provisions modified, and technical corrections provided.

HF1066 (Greenfield) Seat belt use failure violation provided primary offense designation.

HF723 (Marko) Trunk highway revolving loan account and transportation revolving loan fund created, and money appropriated.

HF1243 (Tingelstad) Snow plowing vehicle annual overwidth permit issuance authorized by local road authorities.

WAYS & MEANS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: HF297 (Jennings) National Guard member tuition and textbook reimbursement grant program provisions modified.

HF864 (McGuire) Social work board provisions modified, and civil penalties provided. Additional bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

Economic Development

Finance Division/

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Continuation of 8 a.m. meeting agenda. Additional bills may be added.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Continuation of 10 a.m. meeting agenda.

K-12 Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Continuation of 8 a.m. meeting agenda.

6 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Omnibus bill: Early childhood accounts-Learning Readiness; ECFE; Infant Development Grants; Early Childhood Screening; Way to Grow; Child Care Assistance; Child Care Development; Extended Day; and Part H.

TUESDAY, April 8

8 a.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Omnibus bill: Prevention accounts-Community Education; Adults with Disabilities; Hearing Impaired Adults; Family Services Collaboratives; Violence Prevention Grants; Male Responsibility; Abused Children Program; Drug Policy and Violence; Children's Trust Fund; and After School Enrichment.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Agenda will continue Tuesday evening at an announced time. Additional bills may be added and the order is flexible.

HF749 (Farrell) St. Paul Police Department communications and surveillance equipment purchase provided, and money appropriated.
HF1594 (Farrell) Metropolitan State University law enforcement library developed, and money appropriated.

HF1566 (Winter) Fire fighter training program planning provided, and money appropriated.
HF552 (Entenza) Rental housing discrimination studied by Human Rights Commission, and money appropriated.

HF1656 (Entenza) DWI; suspected drug-impaired drivers required to submit to drug recognition evaluation, implied consent law expanded, peace officer training provided, and money appropriated.

HF1882 (Murphy) Real estate document filing and recording fees modified.

HF1935 (Murphy) Homicide and child fatality case interactive multimedia courtroom presentation equipment grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF500 (Pugh) Public defender document copying fee imposed by government agencies.
HF1902 (Stanek) Minneapolis Police Department appropriated money for transporting and housing detainees.

HF1004 (Entenza) DWI; alcohol presence determination test requirements modified, implied consent hearing process modified, accident injury reports required, and penalties provided.

HF163 (Skoglund) Criminal gang council and strike force established, grants authorized, and money appropriated.

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

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF1159 (Greenfield) HIV/AIDS prevention education demonstration project established, grants provided to school districts, and money appropriated.

HF1206 (Murphy) Independent School District No. 99, Esko, community health and physical fitness center funded, and money appropriated.
HF1289 (Clark) Public library staff skill improvement program authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1466 (Leppik) Public library and school media center data access program established, and money appropriated.

HF1498 (Leighton) Summer food service replacement aid provided, school breakfast outreach programs established, and money appropriated.

HF1107 (Tuma) Options Plus teacher support pilot program extended, and money appropriated.

**Sales and Income Tax Division/
TAXES**

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HF210 (Daggett) Long-term health care insurance premium income tax credit provided.

HF413 (Rest) Job training income tax credit provided.

HF689 (Kubly) Alfalfa processing facility construction material sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF728 (Juhnke) Farmers exempted from tax on gasoline and special fuel received in on-farm bulk storage tanks.

HF1079 (Garcia) Low- and moderate-income housing construction material sales and use tax exemption provided, and money appropriated.

HF1336 (Long) Metropolitan public safety radio communication system sales tax exemption provided.

HF1475 (Erhardt) Personal and dependent nonrefundable income tax credit provided.

HF1502 (Carruthers) Use tax de minimis exemption expanded.

HF1788 (Olson, E.) Fosston sales and use tax imposition authorized.

HF2067 (Bakk) Corrections facility construction material sales tax exemption provided.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: HF217 (Opatz) Land use mandatory comprehensive planning provided, capital improvement program established, and money appropriated.

HF1000 (Long) Community-based planning act adopted providing sustainable metropolitan development, Metropolitan Council requirements specified, advisory council established, and money appropriated.

Additional bills may be added.

**Transportation & Transit
Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: HF738 (Wagenius) Metropolitan Council urban service area extension moratorium imposed.

HF1578 (Mullery) Veteran service organization members provided special motor vehicle license plate stickers.

HF1722 (Larsen) Motor vehicle drivers required to maintain vehicle control when approaching or passing an authorized emergency vehicle, and violation surcharge imposed.

HF1644 (Molnau) Municipal state-aid street fund apportionment provisions modified.

HF1164 (Juhnke) Bus definition expanded to include special transportation service vehicles.

HF1472 (Juhnke) Air Transportation Service marketing program established.

HF1453 (Ness) Highway access management policy study provided.

Omnibus bill.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT,
NATURAL RESOURCES
& AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF1397 (Osthoff) Petroleum-contaminated site cleanup provided, and money appropriated.

HF1179 (Winter) Petroleum tank upgrade assistance program established.

HF435 (Long) Environmental response and

liability act provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF1901 (Finseth) Red Lake River and Thief River dredging grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF2035 (Wenzel) Lake Alexander woods acquisition provided, and scientific and natural areas fund appropriated money.

HF1585 (Holsten) Natural resources department account interest disposition specified, and unrefunded gasoline tax computation provisions modified.

HF1851 (Sekhon) Prairie inventory conducted along railroad rights-of-way, pesticide application limited, and money appropriated. Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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

Agenda: Continuation of April 3 agenda.

HF844 (Rest) Birth defects information system established, criminal penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF829 (Solberg) Government meetings permitted via electronic means, and criteria established.

HF436 (Wagenius) Reduction and recycling advisory council established, duties specified, and duration provided.

HF718 (Folliard) Conservation Corps Youth Corps Advisory Committee provisions modified.

HF635 (Entenza) North Star government on-line service and information initiative provided, information and telecommunications technology community resource development initiative established, MNcard projects implemented, and money appropriated.

HF1186 (Tunheim) Bakeries in retail food stores provided equipment and ventilation requirements.

Additional bills referred under Rule 5.10 may be added.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: To be announced.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: Budget allocation.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: To be announced.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: HF317 (Huntley) Municipal wastewater infrastructure eminent domain action authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

SF1136 (Solon); HF1380 (Huntley) Duluth Family Practice Residency Program Authority transferred to the Duluth Economic Development Authority.

SF421 (Ranum); HF797 (Clark) Early childhood learning and protection facility grant limitations clarified.
HF1161 (Trimble) Public facilities authority revenue bonding authority increased.
Recommendations from finance divisions.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: Continuation of April 3 agenda.
HF997 (Pugh) Rental-purchase agreements regulated, cost-of-lease charges limited, cash price evidence provided, and definitions modified.
Additional bills may be added.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

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

Agenda: HF816 (Finseth) East Grand Forks Tax Increment Financing district duration extended.

HF1265 (Swenson, H.) Gaylord Tax Increment Financing district enlargement and duration extension authorized.

HF1469 (Rukavina) White Tax Increment Financing district duration extension and expansion provided.

HF1546 (Jefferson) Minneapolis housing transition Tax Increment Financing district established.

HF1655 (Workman) Chanhassen housing Tax Increment Financing district establishment authorized.

HF1663 (Bakk) Lake County redevelopment project area and Tax Increment Financing district established.

HF1732 (Evans) New Brighton Tax Increment Financing district establishment authorized.

HF1739 (Schumacher) Foley Tax Increment Financing district revenue expenditure authorized outside of tax increment financing district.

HF1779 (Kahn) St. Paul and Minneapolis Tax Increment Financing district establishment authorized.

HF2009 (Bakk) Federal payment in lieu of taxes on entitlement land distribution provided.

HF2027 (Paymar) St. Paul sanitary sewer connection repair provided, rainleaders disconnected, and assessments provided.

HF2028 (Mariani) Charter city computer software and training financing authorized, and bond issuance provided.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: HF1925 (Peterson) Farm wind energy conversion system loan pilot program established.

HF1879 (Trimble) Nuclear waste; public service commissioner required to hold in escrow funds for high-level radioactive waste disposal.

HF1287 (Delmont) Utility deposit interest payments regulated.

HF967 (Tomassoni) Horse racing licensee allowed to conduct card club activities.

Additional bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

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

Agenda: Continuation of 12:30 p.m. meeting agenda.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Allocations.

6 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE Anti-Stalking Bill/HF5/SF32

300S State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire,
Sen. Ember Reichgott Junge

WEDNESDAY, April 9

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Continuation of April 7 agenda.
Additional bills may be added.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Allocations for omnibus bill.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

Room To Be Announced
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Continuation of April 8 agenda.
Agenda will continue Wednesday evening at an announced time. Additional bills may be added and the order is flexible.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: To be announced.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Allocations. Bills may be added.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF148 (Tunheim) Turfgrass research and development support continued, and money appropriated.

HF162 (Tunheim) Seed potato inspection fund appropriated money.

HF463 (Kubly) Passing on the Farm Center services expanded, and money appropriated.

HF1421 (Wenzel) Dairy technology services grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF748 (Tunheim) University of Minnesota appropriated money for wheat and barley scab research.

HF1823 (Westfall) Pelican Rapids-to-Maplewood State Park Trail developed, and money appropriated.

Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF255 (Johnson, R.) Environmental Quality Board membership modified.

HF1750 (Bakk) Timber sale permit extension provided.

HF1692 (Munger) Earth Day; Congress memorialized to recognize Earth Day as a national day of service and education.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: HF1441 (Greenfield) Health insurance loss ratios limited, health care commission repealed, health technology advisory committee modified, MinnesotaCare program eligibility expanded, and Medicare assignment provisions modified.

Additional bills may be added.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Continuation of April 8 agenda.

HFXXXX (Kahn) Omnibus pension bill.

HF647 (Jefferson) Public pension benefit accrual rates increased, defined contribution early retirement options authorized, homestead and agricultural credit aid modified, and money appropriated (Bill will be heard if approved by Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement).

HF369 (Holsten) Hunting and fishing license and stamp identification and validation provisions modified.

HF694 (Koppendrayer) Employee relations department technical and administrative changes provided, and state employment provisions modified.

HF244 (Bishop) Individual sewage system requirements modified, and Pollution Control Agency rule compliance authority granted.

HF977 (Mullery) State agency construction contract design-build requirement provided.

Additional bills referred under rule 5.10 may be added.

12:30 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Finalize omnibus bill. (Committee will meet in evening, if necessary.)

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: Continuation of April 7 agenda.

1 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: Economic Development - Past, Present and Future, Carl Kroening. Bills and division reports may be added.

3:30 p.m.

**Economic Development Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Continuation of April 7 agenda. Additional bills may be added.

7 p.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: To be announced.

THURSDAY, April 10

8 a.m.

**Economic Development Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Continuation of April 7 agenda. Additional bills may be added.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: To be announced. Agenda will continue Thursday evening at an announced time. Additional bills may be added and the order is flexible. (Committee will meet on Friday, April 11, if necessary.)

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Omnibus K-12 Finance Bill mark-up.

**Sales and Income Tax Division/
TAXES**

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HF288 (Jaros) Duluth Lake Superior center authority construction material sales tax exemption provided.

HF712 (Lieder) Aggregate material production tax increase provided.

HF1606 (Seagren) Military pay income tax subtraction allowed.

HF1635 (Haas) Personal and dependent income tax refund provided.

HF1803 (Bakk) Well-drilling machine gasoline and fuel sales tax exemption provided.

HF1804 (Bakk) Cook County jail and courthouse construction material sales tax exemption provided.

HF1802 (Bakk) Cook County sales tax revenue use authorized for hospital improvements.

HF1881 (Koppendrayer) Counties with Indian casinos provided payments under tribal tax agreements, and money appropriated.

HF1942 (Huntley) Hospital purchases exempted from sales tax.

HF1976 (Dawkins) AmeriCorp and Youth Works Program stipends exempted from individual income tax.

8:30 p.m.

**ENVIRONMENT,
NATURAL RESOURCES
& AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Allocations. Bills may be added.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Allocations. Bills may be added.

10 a.m.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: To be announced.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: To be announced.

12 Noon

**Joint Ramsey County Legislative Delegation/
Hennepin County Legislative Delegation**

500N State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Alice Hausman,
Sen. Charles Wiger, Rep. Linda Wejcman, Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: Property taxes. Welfare reform. Transportation issues.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: To be announced.

FRIDAY, April 11

8 a.m.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Omnibus bill.

**Transportation & Transit
Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: Omnibus bill.

8:30 p.m.

**ENVIRONMENT,
NATURAL RESOURCES
& AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Allocations.

10 a.m.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: To be announced.

SATURDAY, April 12

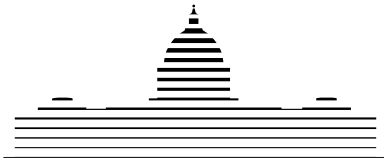
8:30 a.m.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: To be announced.

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 Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota fires and arson

Value of Minnesota property destroyed by arson in the last five years, in millions	\$113
Minnesotans killed due to arson since 1989	20
Arson fires, per day, in Minnesota	6.5
Property damage due to those fires, each day	\$50,000
Minnesota children who have died using fire inappropriately in the last five years	24
Additional injuries to civilians and firefighters due to those fires	176
Nationwide, fires due to arson	1 in 5
Structure fires in Minnesota, 1995	6,900
Arson fires in Minnesota, 1995	2,578
in 1991	1,861
Minnesota fires set by minors, 1995	580
in 1994	687
Minnesotans arrested for arson, 1994	344
Number of those who were juveniles	243
Forest and grasslands fires attributed to arson, according to the Department of Natural Resources	3 in 10
Nationwide, percent of those arrested for arson who are under age 18	52
Who are under age 25	68
Rank of insurance fraud among motives for arson, according to a 1996 study by the state fire marshal	1
Rank of revenge or domestic violence	2
Rank of vandalism	3
Nationwide, number of every 100 people who are under age 5	8
Nationwide, number of every 100 people who die in fires who are under age 5 ...	17
Maximum imprisonment under Minnesota law for arson in the first degree, in years	20
Maximum fine that may be levied for the same crime	\$20,000

Source: *Report of the Attorney General's Arson Task Force, Feb. 1997,*
 Office of the Attorney General.

For more information



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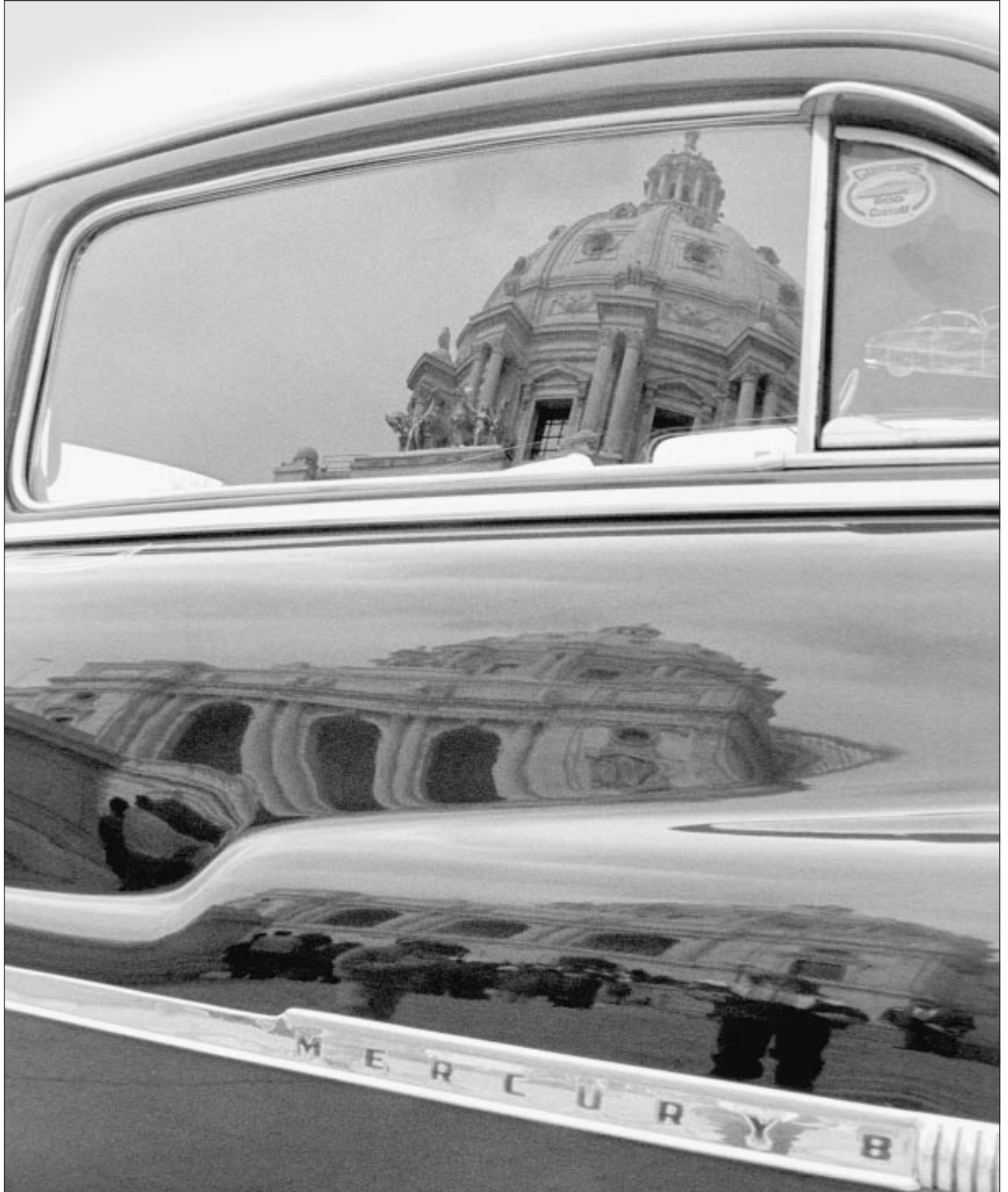
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SESSION WEEKLY

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SESSION WEEKLY

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Update

There are five weeks to go before the first part of the 80th Legislative Session is officially over, and legislators are now past the second deadline for bills to be out of committee. Their responsibilities now are to discuss fiscal issues on how to run the state efficiently. Much of this work will get done during many long nights for the next few weeks.

The nights are also getting to be long in the House chamber as some of the 2,135 bills introduced get a hearing, get debated, and possibly amended. As the working days and hours get longer for members and staff, tempers often flare, and simple courtesy and respect for another duly elected official may get tested.

In this legislative session, the speaker has called for less bitterness with more emphasis placed on less partisanship. As the members attempt to reform welfare, make changes to funding for education, devise some positive methods for property tax reform, provide bonds and levies for municipalities, or more dollars for crime and drug prevention, individuals may tend to lose sight of what it means to compromise or keep personal agendas out of the process.

While it appears that many legislators in general may be attempting (in the Hebrew phrase, *Tikkun Olam*) to fix the world, others are digging in and refusing to budge on issues that ultimately will need to be revamped in the future for the overall well-being of the citizenry.

The Minnesota Legislature has a long, proud, and positive history behind it. But a very negative picture of the Legislature was presented recently in a national government newsmagazine that compared previous sessions to the Tennessee Legislature. To make comparisons out of context, consider the pulse of the Minnesota Legislature back in 1868. Minnesota rises above the magazine's critique if the following example is used as a benchmark: Minnesota passed into law the right of its black population to vote two years before Congress passed the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1870. Tennessee just got around to it. Its Legislature finally approved the amendment last week, 127 years later!

If there are any lessons to be learned, our Legislature will continue to take its internal and external criticisms in stride, continue to do what it does best for the people of the state, and wisely take the words of author Robert Fulghum to heart:

Share everything. Play fair.
Don't hit people.
When you go out into the world,
watch out for traffic, hold hands,
and stick together.

—LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: The Capitol dome reflected in a shiny 1950 Mercury Coupe, one of many classic street rods on display in front of the State Capitol April 8. Members of the Minnesota Street Rod Association brought the automobiles to the Capitol to promote street rodding and inform lawmakers about this rapidly growing hobby.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank

Highlights

Early childhood funding . . .

Omnibus bill proposes record spending for child care

Requiring welfare parents to work is expected to move another 12,500 Minnesota children into day care over the next few years. To prepare for the onslaught, a House bill sets aside \$190 million over the state's 1998-1999 two-year budgeting period.

That's a 127 percent increase compared to 1996-1997.

Part of the pot of money — \$98 million — would pay for the child care needs of welfare parents now required to work under a new federal law. About \$90 million would be placed into an existing program that helps low- and moderate-income working families pay for child care using an income-based, sliding fee scale. There are currently about 5,600 Minnesota families on a waiting list for the program, which is called Basic Sliding Fee child care. The money in the bill is expected to eliminate most, if not all, of the waiting list.

The remaining \$2 million would be used to administer the programs.

The Basic Sliding Fee program has become a vital part of the state's efforts to trim down its welfare rolls. Without the program, the cost of child care can often push a working poor family onto welfare.

Providing the dollars for child care was in the state's best interest, lawmakers said. Under new federal welfare laws, states are punished for not getting their welfare parents to work. Specifically, Minnesota could lose millions in federal aid. Logically, if Minnesota expects its welfare parents to work, child care assistance will be essential.

The child care money is the major component of a \$390 million omnibus spending bill from the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division. The bill (which has yet to be assigned a House File number) was approved by the division April 9 and next moves to the House Education Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids), the bill appropriates money for programs such as early childhood education, community education, after school programs, adult basic education, Head Start,



Kathryn Freeman holds her 10-month-old son, Tyler, during an Early Childhood and Family Education (ECFE) class at the Harding Community Center in East St. Paul. ECFE classes for parents and their young children would receive \$30.5 million over the next two years as part of the omnibus spending bill from the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division of the Education Committee.

food shelves, and homeless shelters.

The bill's highlights include:

- A last-minute provision that encourages stay-at-home parenting for some low- and moderate -income families. In effect, it would pay parents on the Basic Sliding Fee child care program to stay at home with their child for the first year of life.

Eligible families already would have had to qualify for the Basic Sliding Fee program and received child care help for at least 30 days. They'd receive 75 percent of the average cost of licensed family home day care for an infant in their county.

The provision does ask for an unspecified sum of money, and as of yet, there is no clear answer as to how much it will cost.

- \$10 million to encourage child care worker training and expand child care facilities. Based on historical experience, the 12,500 more children expected in day care means an estimated 90 more child care centers, 650 more family child care homes, and 3,875 more legal unlicensed relatives and neighbors to take care of the children will be needed, according to the Department of

Children, Families, and Learning.

- A mandatory \$5 monthly co-payment for families using state-subsidized child care. Families with incomes between 50 and 100 percent of the federal poverty level would be required to make a \$5 co-payment each month, regardless of how many children they have. For a family of two, 50 percent of the poverty level equals \$5,305 and 100 percent equals \$10,610. The co-payments would increase based on income for families earning more than 100 percent of the poverty level.

This provision sparked debate between those who said \$5 to a poor family was too much and those who maintained it was necessary that families invest in themselves.

"Five dollars can mean a meal or a pack of pencils for school," said Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood) who tried unsuccessfully to lower the fee to \$1 a month.

But Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) said the \$5 is not designed to make money "but introduce personal responsibility into the system."

- \$30.5 million over the two-year budgeting

period for a program that brings babies and toddlers together with their parents to learn about a child's emotional, physical, mental, and educational development. The Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program is 23-years-old and designed for children from birth to kindergarten and their parents.

- \$2 million for a proposed early childhood infant grant development program. It would provide money to local ECFE programs that come up with creative ways to focus on infant development and a parent's role in stimulating and nurturing their infant's intellectual and emotional development.
- \$12 million for after-school enrichment programs. Grants are provided to select neighborhoods so they may offer after-school programs for 9- to 13-year-olds. The amount is \$7 million more than the 1996-1997 budgeting period. The program's purpose is to reduce juvenile crime, school suspensions, and increase student achievement.
- \$30.2 million for Head Start, a 31 percent increase from the previous budget. Head Start is a federal/state program that provides low income preschool children with emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological services.
- \$24.6 million for adult basic education over the biennium. The program provides educational opportunities for adults with low educational levels. Services such as literacy training, work force education, and General Educational Development (GED) preparation.
- \$250,000 for an adult basic education technology project to design and evaluate the use of on-line technology for adult learners. Over a three-year period, a working group of educators and technology experts would develop an adult learning curriculum that meets Minnesota's graduation standards and can be delivered using computers and telecommunications.
- \$2.3 million for Minnesota food shelves, a 65 percent increase over the previous two-year budget. The increase is in anticipation of an even greater demand on food shelves this spring when many of Minnesota's poor will see a cut in their federal food stamps.

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at:
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>



AGRICULTURE

Legal hemp

A proposal to allow Minnesota farmers to grow hemp for industrial purposes stalled in the House Agriculture Committee April 9, but the committee approved a plan to study the issue.

HF349, sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), was touted by supporters as a gateway to a valuable crop for farmers, but critics charged it would hamper drug enforcement efforts.

"This is really more of a movement than a crop," said Jeanette McDougal, chairperson for Drug Watch Minnesota, who linked the effort to legalize industrial hemp to supporters in a drug subculture.

McDougal's testimony flatly contradicted the message of bill supporters, who argued that industrial hemp is inherently different from the plant that yields marijuana.

"In the United States, when you say hemp you think of marijuana, but in much of the rest of the world that is not the issue," said David Morris, vice president of the Institute for Local Self Reliance.

Morris said industrial hemp is now grown in 26 countries around the world, and that Canada is moving toward allowing hemp as an agricultural crop. The plant is valuable in the production of a variety of goods ranging from paper to clothing to twine, he added.

"The jury is still out right now as to whether this is a niche crop or more than that," Morris said. "But the jury is not out on the potential uses."

As originally written, the bill would have allowed Minnesota farmers to grow industrial hemp and set up a registration process for farmers wanting to grow the crop.

That plan was supported by officials from two major agriculture groups in the state. Tom Cochrane, executive director of the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council, called the bill "a slam dunk."

And Chris Leifeld, director of legislative affairs for the Minnesota Farmers Union, said industrial hemp would have several benefits for farmers. The crop could be easily integrated into rotation and would be good for a variety of products.

"It's a good opportunity for our farmers to have access to a new market," Leifeld said.

But a Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) official's testimony questioning the state's ability to regulate the growth of industrial hemp dealt Kahn's original proposal a blow.

"There are plenty of scoundrels out there who will divert this product into the illegal drug market," said Michael Campion, an assistant superintendent for the BCA.

Several committee members also questioned whether industrial hemp could really be kept separate from its biological cousin, marijuana.

"If there's nothing wrong with [hemp], why does it have to be regulated?" Rep. Michelle Rifenberg (R-La Crescent) asked. "It just doesn't make any sense."

A tie vote of 6-6 killed Kahn's plan to allow farmers to begin growing hemp. After the vote, Kahn maneuvered to have the bill reconsidered and offered an amendment that would allow a study of the issue to be conducted. With the amendment attached, the bill passed and now moves to the House floor.

Kahn said the study could provide lawmakers with more information about industrial hemp and should help in the effort to legalize the crop.

"I think people will be more comfortable with it at that point," she said.



CHILDREN

Adoptions and race

A bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee April 7 would significantly reduce the role that race plays in placing children for adoption or foster care.

HF209, sponsored by Rep. Barb Vickerman (R-Redwood Falls), would delete current law that says a child's best interests are met by giving consideration to race or ethnic heritage when making foster care or adoption placements. Instead, the bill would require "an individualized determination of the needs of the child" to be conducted, detailing "how the selected placement will serve" those needs.

The bill also says that placement of a child in foster care could not be delayed or denied because of the race, color, or national origin of the child or potential parents.

However, adoptions involving Indian children, governed by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act and Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, which allow for racial preference regarding placements, would not be affected. Prospective foster parents of Indian children would be required to attend training on understanding the cultural heritage of the children and the importance of the Indian Child Welfare Act. Also, in such cases, the foster care agency would be re-

quired to defer to tribal judgment regarding the suitability of a home when the tribe intervenes on a child's behalf.

In adoptions involving non-Indian children, the bill says a child's best interests would be served first by looking for relatives with whom to place the child; second by looking for a close friend. The bill also provides for a specialist to recruit a diversity of families for adoptions and foster care, but deletes language regarding race.

The bill lists the following as factors to be considered in determining the needs of a child: the child's functioning and behavior; medical, educational, and developmental needs; history and past experience; religious and cultural needs; connection with a community, school, and church; interests and talents; relationship to current caretakers, parents, siblings, and relatives; and reasonable preferences of the child if of an appropriate age.

The emphasis on race or ethnic heritage in child placements has become controversial in recent years. Critics have said that a shortage of minority foster and adoptive families has caused children to languish needlessly while interested families were disqualified on racial grounds, and that race is not important in family bonding.

Vickerman explained that the bill would bring Minnesota into compliance with federal legislation. In 1994, Congress passed the Multiethnic Placement Act, provisions of which are incorporated into **HF209**. Failure to comply with the act could result in federal violations and reduced federal funding. "The federal regulations say you cannot deny a person the opportunity to be adopted based on race," Vickerman said. "Minnesota's laws do not comply at this time."

HF209 now moves to the House floor.



CONSUMERS

Rent-to-own

The rent-to-own industry soon could be back in business under legislation approved by the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee April 8.

HF997 would regulate rent-to-own contracts. Currently, such contracts are prohibited by court order. Rental stores that previously offered rental-purchase agreements, such as Rent-a-Center, now simply rent, offering the consumer no chance to own the merchandise.

Bill sponsor Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) said the effort was designed to protect buyers from predatory rent-to-own

retailers who — prior to the injunction — financed purchases at exorbitant interest rates after tacking on a variety of costs to a product's base price.

"This is a ceiling for the rates that could be charged," Pugh said. "It would be a cap, and we would hope that the competition generated by the market would drive that down."

Under **HF997**, approved by a 16-7 vote, rent-to-own retailers would have to limit their purchase agreements' ancillary charges, such as setup, delivery, and finance fees, to an amount equal to the original cash price of the items. Current law has no fee limit. The seller also would have to disclose detailed information about the number and amount of payments due, in addition to various statements about the legal details of such arrangements.

Rental-purchase stores offer their merchandise without credit checks, deposits, or down payments. Instead, customers agree to lease the goods for a specific period of time with the option to either renew or discontinue the agreement at the end of the term. The lease payments are based on the store's listed purchase price of the item, plus any additional fees, plus interest.

For many people, Pugh said, especially those living paycheck to paycheck, a rent-to-own contract is often the only way to purchase big-ticket household items such as furniture or home electronics. Information provided by the Minnesota Rental Dealers Association indicates that the typical rental-purchaser is a blue-collar worker between 25 and 44 years old who lives in rental housing.

Yet **HF997**, critics said, would do nothing to protect these consumers. In fact, they argued, the bill would allow the rental-purchase companies to charge even higher annual interest rates, some of which exceed 700 percent.

Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis attorney David Ramp said that since rental-purchase companies are currently prohibited from entering into usurious rent-to-own agreements, **HF997** would simply be an end-run around that injunction, setting in law a practice that exploits low-income consumers.

"**HF997**, if adopted, would authorize even higher charges . . . and set price by statute rather than in the market," Ramp said. "The state of Minnesota should not be setting prices. It's bad public policy and it's bad economics."

The bill goes now to the House floor.



DEVELOPMENT

Expanding conventions

The city of Minneapolis' bid to garner state dollars — \$37.5 million — to help expand its convention center is not only alive this session, it's even popular with some rural Minnesota lawmakers.

The House Economic Development Finance Division April 9 heard **HF1529**, which would appropriate an as yet unspecified amount of money from the general fund to help expand the Minneapolis Convention Center.

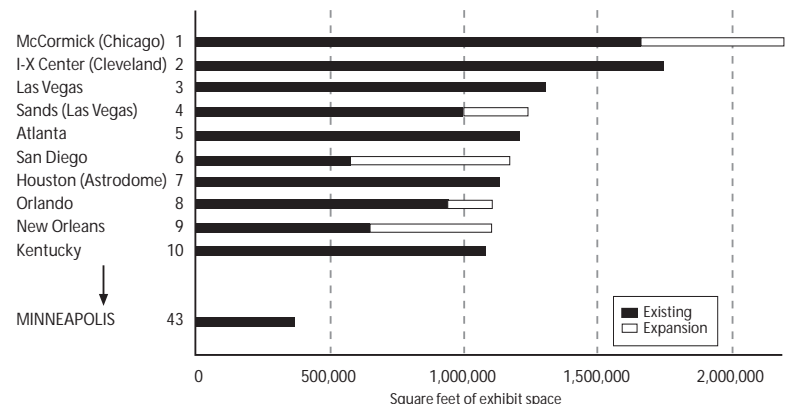
Committee members did not vote on the bill but are considering it for inclusion in the omnibus economic development budget bill due out later this session.

Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), the bill's sponsor, said 10 years ago the Minneapolis Convention Center was the 17th largest facility of its kind in the country. Today, it ranks 43rd.

"That shows you what our competition is doing," Jefferson told committee members.

He added that of all the major convention

Prime exhibit space comparison



Source: Major Exhibit Hall Directory 1996.

In 1986, Minneapolis had the 13th largest convention facility in the country. Today, it ranks 43rd.

centers across the country, Minneapolis is the only host city that solely absorbs its convention center's construction costs. Others split the costs with county and state governments.

The planned two-story addition would include two new exhibit halls and would increase exhibit space by 200,000 square feet over the existing 300,000 square feet.

The current convention center "is a beauty. It is well operated, but it is too small," said Minneapolis City Council member Alice Rainville.

Jefferson said the convention site should be called the *Minnesota* Convention Center because the majority of its exhibitors are from outside Minneapolis and the center brings in money for the entire state.

Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton agreed, adding that the convention center has lost numerous conventions in recent years because it is too small.

The mayor noted that outstate areas such as Duluth, Fairmont, Fargo/Moorhead, Winona, and Worthington all support expanding the facility because they know the state needs a convention center big enough to attract large national conventions.

If it's not big enough, it will fall back into the regional market and compete with cities like Duluth, Fargo/Moorhead, and Winona for conventions.

Referring to the handful of local projects this session requesting state help with construction, such as the Twins wanting a new baseball stadium, Rep. Ken Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie) said the Minneapolis Convention Center expansion is the only one about which he's received support from his rural constituents.

Comprehensive planning

Two bills approved by the Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division April 8 would change the way Minnesota communities approach urban planning.

Both **HF217**, sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), and **HF1000**, sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), would adopt the 10 recommendations for long-range planning outlined by the Metropolitan Council as the framework for a solution to urban sprawl. Yet, beyond this, the bills employ divergent tactics to accomplish their common goal.

Opatz's bill would allow local governments to form "joint planning districts" that would, in turn, control development decisions such as zoning and subdivision regulation. The

state Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning would oversee the planning districts, and any community that elected to form the joint planning district would have to agree to the requirements defined in **HF217**, including:

- submission of a comprehensive plan to the office for approval;
- periodic reviews and updates of those plans; and
- a provision allowing adjacent governments — including the Metropolitan Council — to review and comment on any growth plans.

The bill also requires participating cities to define urban growth areas and details a mediation process designed to mitigate any conflicts that result from any planning decisions.

Opatz's bill would appropriate \$500,000 for three joint-planning-district pilot projects in the St. Cloud area, the Sherburne-Benton-Stearns County area, and a community to be named later.

"If we can get . . . [the] counties to do what this bill asks," Opatz said, "it really bodes well for what can happen in the rest of the state."

Long's bill, **HF1000**, known as the "Community-based Planning Act," also would employ joint planning districts and the oversight of the strategic planning office, but would rely, instead, on a series of incentives to encourage participation. Local governments could receive grants administered through the planning office to help defray the expenses associated with community-based planning, in exchange for following the council's recommendations.

HF1000 would establish a 22-member advisory council to develop the details of the planning effort with an eye toward the Met Council goals, and provide grants to local governments that choose the community-based path. As yet, the proposal contains no specific appropriations.

"The framework is for a voluntary program with an emphasis on joint powers," Long said of the bill. "A city, county, or joint planning entity will plan and be eligible for funds covering assistance and technical assistance — but they would have to adhere to some defined goals."

The division retained both bills for inclusion in its omnibus finance bill.

Check your local listings to watch the House committee and floor sessions on TV.



DRUGS

Needles for drug users

The House Judiciary Committee approved a bill April 7 that would allow pharmacists to sell hypodermic needles and syringes without a prescription. The panel's Judiciary Finance Division approved it a day later.

Contained in **HF1150**, sponsored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), the proposal is aimed at illegal drug users and is intended to prevent the spread of AIDS and other diseases.

Under the bill, pharmacists would be allowed to sell unused needles and syringes in quantities of 10 or less, but could not advertise their availability. Pharmacists also could give purchasers information on drug counseling, disease testing sites, and the state's HIV hotline.

Bob Tracy of the Minnesota AIDS Project said the effort is crucial in preventing the spread of disease among drug users and others — including children — such as babies born to mothers who use illegal drugs. He presented evidence showing a sharp decrease in needle sharing in Connecticut after the state made clean needles available. According to a letter from Dr. T. Stephen Jones, of the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, "One of the most important ways to prevent the transmission of HIV among persons who inject illegal drugs is the use of sterile syringes and needles."

But committee members were sharply divided on the issue, with several saying the



Lorraine Teel, executive director of the Minnesota Aids Project, testified before the Judiciary Committee April 7 in support of a bill that would permit pharmacists and pharmacies to sell, without a prescription, unused hypodermic needles and syringes in quantities of 10 or less.

change would sanction the use of illegal drugs.

"I will not be part of the legalization of drug paraphernalia," said Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), a Minneapolis police officer. He said the provision also would worsen the problem of drug debris that already litters some public areas and streets. Stanek offered an amendment to strip the bill of the legal needle sales. It failed on a vote of 11-10.

The bill also would appropriate \$150,000 to the commissioner of Public Safety to conduct an evaluation of the needle program. The first report to the Legislature would be due Jan. 15, 2000, with a final report due by Jan. 15, 2002.

Other provisions of the bill would add prison guards and corrections personnel to emergency medical services personnel now covered by laws relating to HIV testing and exposure to the virus. The measure also describes how police and other emergency departments should proceed if an employee may have been exposed to the HIV virus. An appropriation of \$200,000 would be used to train police and criminal justice personnel in such matters.

Additionally, the bill would provide \$150,000 to train public defenders, county attorneys, victims advocates, and shelter personnel who deal with victims of crimes that involve HIV exposure; and \$25,000 would go to the Department of Human Services to provide testing and early intervention services to crime victims.

The measure will become part of the Judiciary Finance Division's omnibus bill.



EDUCATION

Omnibus K-12 bill assembled

Students who fail the state's basic standards tests required for high school graduation would be the subject of new remedial efforts, under an omnibus K-12 education funding package being compiled by a House panel.

HF1684, sponsored by Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), would spend \$51 million to assist students who fail the tests or are considered to be at risk of failing.

"We're committed to doing everything we can to help those students who are at risk of not graduating in a couple years," said Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), who was Kelso's co-sponsor on a separate bill containing the remedial education plan.

The House K-12 Education Finance Division began the final stages of assembling the omnibus spending bill April 10. Members of

the division had not completed the bill when this edition of *Session Weekly* went to press.

However, the division had voted to include several major education initiatives in the bill.

Under the bill, all school districts would be required to lengthen the school year for all students, and pupils who fail the basic skills tests in reading and math would spend even more additional time in the classroom.

Beginning with students who entered the ninth grade in 1996, Minnesota's graduation standards require all students to pass reading and math tests before they are eligible to receive a high school diploma.

The tests are first given to students when they are in the eighth grade. Eighth graders taking the test in January 1997 fared somewhat poorly, with 41 percent failing the reading test and 30 percent failing math. The results were similar when the tests were given to eighth graders in 1996.

The \$51 million included in Kelso's bill would go to remedial programs for those students who must retake one or both of the tests and students who are in danger of failing the tests.

Those students would be required to spend the equivalent of three weeks of extra time in the classroom, with additional hours being logged after school, on Saturdays, or during the summer.

Funds for the remedial programs would be distributed to schools on the basis of each school's percentage of students on free and reduced-price lunch programs.

The bill also would add three days to the school year for all students. Currently, the

state sets no minimum for the number of days in the school year, but most districts hold classes about 170 days a year, among the lowest in the country.

HF1684 is expected to provide a 13.5 percent increase in education funding for the 1998-99 biennium, according to figures released by Kelso and others April 9.

The governor's proposals to expand education tax deductions for private school tuition, tutoring, or other educational expenses and to provide new tax credits for parents who send children to private schools are not expected to be included in the bill.

The omnibus bill was slated to emerge from the division by April 11. It will go next to the full House Education Committee.



ENERGY

Funding windmills

The House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee approved a bill April 8 to enhance the wind-energy industry in Minnesota.

HF1925, sponsored by Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison), would help the industry in three ways.

First, the bill would establish a pilot incentive loan program. The Rural Finance Authority could lend up to \$3 million for wind energy conversion systems producing no more than two megawatts of electricity, with no more than \$500,000 going to any one entity. "It's a modest project that will probably involve six to 10 loans," said Michael

Differing opinions



Matt Swedlund, a home school student from Plymouth, Minn., took a break from passing out stickers that read "School Choice, Put Kids First" during a school choice rally on the front steps of the State Capitol April 9. He stopped to debate with Charlotte Scheithayer, of Rochester, about their differing views on state funding for private schools.

Noble of Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

Second, the bill would add small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and tribal councils to those who would qualify for loans to establish wind-energy facilities. Current law says that a qualified wind-energy facility must be owned by the person who owns the land upon which the facility stands. An underlying goal is to promote local ownership. "We want to make sure these facilities are owned by farmers before corporate conglomerates step in," Peterson said.

"The bill provides for state support in helping small wind farms compete with larger interests," Noble said. "It also creates a broader range of entities eligible for the wind incentive program."

Finally, the bill would require utilities that purchase wind energy to develop a standard contract that enumerates the basic terms and conditions for the purchases, as well as other information necessary to ensure reliability and safety. (Minnesota law requires that large energy suppliers like Northern States Power Co. purchase a certain amount of wind energy.)

The wind-energy facilities included in the bill must produce no more than 2 megawatts of power per year between July 1, 1997 and June 30, 1999. By Jan. 15, 1999, the finance authority will report on the status of the loans and make recommendations on the continuation of the program.

"Minnesota is the national leader in the development of wind energy," Noble said. "Thousands of state-of-the-art turbines could be created in the next five years."

HF1925 now moves to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.

Nuclear waste waits

Companies in Minnesota that generate high-level, nuclear waste or spent nuclear fuel pay a fee to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to take care of long-term storage and disposal of the waste. The DOE, however, has failed to provide the service, according to Minnesota's Department of Public Service. The state continues to store the waste.

HF1879, approved by the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee on April 9, would place the proceeds from the fee into an interest-bearing escrow account. The money would be released to the DOE "upon a showing . . . that the federal repository for the long-term storage and permanent disposal [of nuclear waste] is operating

and currently accepting such materials," the bill says.

"We and other states have been paying a lot of money to the nuclear waste fund that's been diverted for other uses," said bill sponsor Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) at an earlier committee meeting.

Mike McCarthy, of the public service department, said \$600 million per year is paid into the account nationwide. Minnesota has paid \$253 million since 1982, and continues to pay \$15 million per year. Last year, less than a third of the money paid actually made it into the program, he said.

Some of the debate surrounding the bill, however, centered on the possible outcome of a pending lawsuit against the DOE, to which Minnesota is party. Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) suggested that a lawsuit win could actually mean a loss for the state. Proving that the DOE breached its contract could result in a monetary award, and along with it, state responsibility for disposing of the waste, she said.

HF1879 will next be heard on the House floor.

Brownfields



La Shella Sims of Interfaith Action, a coalition of socially active religious groups, testified in favor of a bill that seeks money to clean up vacant contaminated industrial sites (brownfields) and redevelop them into new businesses with new jobs. Tom St. Aubin, Minneapolis, dressed in a contamination cleanup suit and held a container of dry ice to simulate pollution during the April 7 hearing of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.



ENVIRONMENT

Livestock odor research

Julie Jansen's family has experienced headaches, nausea, blackouts, and diarrhea since a hog confinement facility opened near their Granite Falls, Minn., home two years ago. She blames the combination of foul odor and hydrogen sulfide emitted by the feedlot, and has turned to her legislator, Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) for help.

Kubly brought a bill (**HF913**) to study the livestock odor problem before the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee April 4. The bill, approved by the panel, would appropriate \$200,000 to the University of Minnesota for the research and development of an odor rating system for livestock production facilities. Information generated by the research would be used by local governments to determine setbacks and other zoning requirements for livestock facilities. The study also would help livestock producers determine the best management practices to control livestock odor.

The bill would mark another \$200,000 for the university to research, develop, and promote low-emission and low-energy hog production systems. Alternative hog production is often done on a smaller scale and does not carry as much potential for a negative environmental impact, Kubly said.

One of Jansen's chief complaints concerned the lack of enforcement of existing laws by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The bill was amended to require the MPCA to better enforce existing limits on hydrogen sulfide emissions.

Dave Nelson of the MPCA encouraged the panel to stick to the original intent of **HF913** — to provide \$400,000 for odor research. He said that the MPCA has encouraged local governments to use zoning laws to control odor problems. Researching alternative production models should be a separate matter, he told the panel.

He also cautioned against setting a precedent by mandating that the agency enforce certain laws. "Hydrogen sulfide is already regulated," he said. "You could start to create a situation where the MPCA would only enforce laws that they are ordered to."

David Priceler of the Minnesota Pork Producers Association told the committee that his organization supported the original bill with \$400,000 for odor research.

The bill's next stop is the House Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Finance Committee.



FAMILY

Who am I?

Members of the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Data Practices grappled April 4 with a bill that would make it easier for adoptees to discover their origins. No vote was taken on the proposal.

HF727, sponsored by committee chair Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights), would eliminate a current requirement that a birth parent be notified before an adoptee could receive his or her original birth certificate. The certificate would reveal the names of an adoptee's birth parents.

"We're about to enter a new century. This is the information age. I don't see how we can continue to deny adoptees critical information about themselves," said Sandra Sperrazza of Concerned United Birthparents. "This is an adoptee's civil right."

The committee heard passionate testimony from people for and against the bill. At issue was how to weigh an adoptee's right to information against birth parents' right to privacy.

A 1977 law requires birth parents to sign an affidavit stating either a willingness or unwillingness to have their identities disclosed in the event a child should later try to find them. This would not change under the terms of McGuire's bill.

However, the bill poses a big question regarding those who relinquished children before the 1977 law, when they were promised confidentiality.

"The new law would establish a presumption in favor of contact and force birth parents to involuntarily relinquish the privacy that was promised to them," said Catherine Schendel of the Children's Home Society.

McGuire said the issue was one of balancing rights. "Personally, I think a person has a right to access their own birth certificate."

But the most compelling testimony came from people who had firsthand experience with the adoption process.

Sandra Lee Kimble said she struggled for years to find the identity of her birth mother. When she did, "the first thing she said to me was, 'were they good to you?' She told me that my finding her was the best thing that ever happened to her," Kimble said. She also learned crucial information about her genetic history that spurred her to get a mammogram. The test revealed cancer. "I was literally dying to know the truth," Kimble said, adding that health considerations are equal to the emotional considerations of the bill. "I know of no other law or institution in

the United States that denies truth to individuals except this one. This is a request that we not languish in the dark ages any more."

One witness said that, in 1973, she gave up a daughter for adoption. "I knew I would never look for her or interfere in her life." But then she received a call from an agency saying that her daughter wanted to find her. "It was earthshaking. I was assured privacy."

Due of the complexity of the issue, committee members plan to consider the bill during the interim and re-introduce it next session.

"We'll try to find common ground and look at any compromises," McGuire said. "The people born before 1977 want their birth records. Others don't want to give them out. We may be able to come up with some interim steps to resolve the differences. The steps may revolve around the cost and time [that acquiring access can currently demand]," McGuire said. "But that doesn't solve the entire problem. People just want their birth certificates. I personally believe it's information they have a right to. But there's still that step that allows someone the power to say yes or no."

McGuire added that a possible solution would involve the use of intermediaries to make initial contacts with birth parents to reduce the likelihood of upset or trauma upon contact.

Fathers' registry

A bill to register the names of fathers — or potential fathers — with the state won approval from the House Health and Human Services Committee April 9.

HF296, sponsored by Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls), calls upon the Department of Health to establish a registry where men who want to be a part of their children's lives can be assured of notification if their child is put up for adoption.

It's called the putative father's registry. It applies to males (including minors) who may be fathers but are not married to their children's mother and have not otherwise established paternity. Putative means "supposed" or "presumed." The registry is a way to protect a birth father's rights in the event his child is put up for adoption, and to protect children from having adoptions unduly disrupted.

A typical scenario would involve the parents of a child who have had little or no relationship beyond the time of conception. The bill would allow a man to register anytime after conception until 60 days after a

child's birth. He can register without the certainty a conception took place. Under **HF296**, a father could not contest an adoption 60 days after the birth, (unless a good case is made for failing to register).

Registering also would serve as the first step in a paternity claim. The bill says that within 30 days of registering, the father must file an intent to claim parental rights with the court. That way, he would preserve the right to maintain an interest in the child and would receive notice of a pending adoption proceeding. A man could use the registry to deny paternity, as well. Listing false information with the registry would be a misdemeanor.

The bill applies only to adoptions — not to paternity, child support, custody, or other parental issues.

Originally, the proposal limited the opportunity to register after a birth to just 30 days. Some claimed that was not long enough.

Wejcman reminded the committee that bonding begins early. "We want to avoid situations where a child is ripped out of a home because a birth father suddenly shows up. We're dealing with [someone who becomes a father] after a short-term relationship. They have 10 months to register if they have any interest at all in the child," she said, adding, "They no longer have to rely on the actions of the birth mother."

HF296 will next be heard by the Health and Human Services Finance Division.



GAMBLING

Card club at the track

The House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee approved a bill April 8 to allow card clubs to operate at Canterbury Park in Shakopee, Minn.

HF967, sponsored by Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm), would limit wagers during the games to no more than \$30 per hand, and specifies a maximum of 50 card tables at the track. The track would have to use some of the revenue for a breeder's fund and purse payments.

The card games would be "unbanked," which means the players would bet against each other rather than the "house."

The reason for the clubs, according to bill supporters? Horse racing is an ailing state industry. In 1986, gross revenue generated by horse racing in Minnesota reached a peak of \$133 million when it began a steady decline. In 1996, the total was \$64.8 million. The all-time low was \$36.3 million in 1994

(not counting when the track was closed in 1993). In 1986, the state gained \$8.9 million in income from horse racing; in 1996, \$1.05 million.

Supporters say the track is an important commercial entity that supports other economic interests, including horse breeders and farmers (grain, hay, and straw). It also employs thousands, including security officers, track officials, vendors, food service and maintenance workers, and clerical and management staff. The bill is regarded as a way to boost attendance and increase revenues through a fee that would be charged for playing. By one estimate, the track stands to make about \$5 million per year.

"This would help the horse racing industry simply by allowing people to play poker with each other," said Cort Holten, who represents the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association.

Responding to fears that the bill would, in fact, expand gambling in Minnesota, Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) said: "The cat's already out of the bag as far as gambling is concerned. I don't see this as an expansion. I see it as a way to do what we already do."

Earlier this session, the committee approved **HF613**, which allows betting on card games such as euchre and pinochle. In those cases, also, gambling is limited because the hosts can't collect money.

HF967 next will be heard on the House floor.



GAME & FISH

No Indian fishing

A bill passed by the House April 7 now is moot due to a federal court ruling.

Hoping to forestall tensions when Indians in 12 Minnesota counties began to exercise their fishing rights under an 1837 treaty, the House voted 114-14 for a \$6.5 million bill (**SF1645**) to fund public information and law enforcement efforts in the affected area.

But there will be no netting or spearing this spring, due to a ruling April 9 by the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

In January, a federal court ruled that an 1837 treaty permitted the Indians to hunt, fish, and harvest wild rice off the east-central Minnesota reservations covered in the treaty. The appellate court put a hold on the January ruling, and has agreed to hear arguments on the case June 9.

SF1645, sponsored by Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), would have, in part, funded overtime pay and equipment costs had De-

partment of Natural Resources (DNR) enforcement officers been needed at boat landings to keep the peace. While the DNR said they anticipated no such problems, all parties were set on avoiding the violent outbreaks Wisconsin experienced several years ago. Funds were to have been expended first on an informational campaign to counter inaccurate perceptions of the rights of Indians under the 1837 treaty.



GOVERNMENT

Tracking corporate welfare

The Legislature would keep closer tabs on "corporate welfare" (tax breaks or other state aid to businesses) under a bill approved by the Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division April 4.

HF1473, sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) and Rep. Kevin Knight (R-Bloomington), would create a 19-member commission to evaluate selected corporate subsidy programs to ensure that businesses had used the money effectively. The commission would examine tax breaks as well as direct spending and loans made to the private sector to encourage economic development.

The commission, Clark said, would make sure the subsidies actually benefited the general public.

"It's nothing against providing this kind of assistance," Clark said. "It's just saying we want some type of accountability."

The bill would require the commission to submit to the Legislature by Dec. 15, 1997, a report of its findings, including any recommendations for improved oversight.

HF1473 will be included in the committee's omnibus finance bill.

Meetings via interactive TV

The House Governmental Operations Committee approved a bill April 8 that would authorize legislators to conduct meetings via interactive television. The technology is like telephone conference calling with the addition of live video. Meeting participants at different places can talk to and hear each other through television.

Under the bill (**HF829**), sponsored by Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), regular, special, and emergency meetings could be held via interactive technology. That means committee members could vote on bills while in locations other than a legislative committee room.

The House has used the technology in a limited capacity over the past few years, with legislators meeting in the State Office Building linking to remote locations around the state. There is currently one House hearing room equipped for interactive television hearings.

Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland) said the bill **HF829** would enable legislators to spend more time with their constituency while continuing to conduct legislative business.

"You can have whole groups of people in one place that would have been unable to participate," said Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), one of the bill's sponsors, adding the bill could dramatically "increase participation relative to what people are used to."

"One of the problems we have here [at the Capitol] is the inability to reach some constituents like the elderly and disabled," said Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Intl Falls). "This is an excellent idea."

The proposal also would apply to other local units of government, such as counties, cities, and school boards.

Under the bill, meetings would be open to the public and subject to the same notification requirements as other meetings. It also requires that all participants and observers be able to see and hear each other. Further, at least one legislator or member of a local government unit would have to participate from the committee's "home" location where the meeting would normally be held.

HF829 now moves to the House floor.



HUMAN SERVICES

Naming the dead

A bill to replace the unmarked or numbered graves of thousands of mentally retarded people who died decades ago while patients in Minnesota's state hospitals is moving through the House.

The Health and Human Services Com-

Correction

A story on pages 10-11 of the March 28 *Session Weekly* titled "Higher education direction," misquoted Rep. Betty Folliard, (DFL-Hopkins) who spoke in favor of a bill that would set up a commission to design a master plan for higher education. The quote read: "We don't want to have all the institutions come in with agendas and secret scenarios. That's what creates conflict between the systems and the Legislature." What Folliard said included legislators among those who should not have their own scenarios. We regret the error.

mittee April 9 approved **HF1930** which would set aside an as yet undetermined amount of money to mark grave sites with names.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul), is on its way to the Health and Human Services Finance Division where a dollar figure is expected to be attached. A similar bill in the Senate sets aside \$100,000.

The bill would withhold state dollars until private money, raised to replace the grave sites, has been exhausted. It instructs the Department of Human Services to make efforts to raise private dollars. It also would leave unmarked the graves of those whose relatives object to any changes.

State officials estimate that some 9,000 graves are unmarked or numbered at former hospitals, and it would cost about \$2 million to replace them.

The measure is a spin-off of one that failed during the 1996 Legislative Session that called for a state public apology to mentally handicapped people whom the state involuntarily committed to state hospitals and later buried in unmarked or numbered graves.

Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) urged lawmakers "to be very cautious about this bill." She said there are data privacy issues in releasing names, and she added that the legislation is not coming from family members. "This is going to be a very costly endeavor" to replace all the graves.

But other lawmakers saw the issue differently. Rep. Ken Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie) called the bill a "sad situation" and said "there should be some dignity" for those who died while in the state's care.



INSURANCE

More MinnesotaCare members

A bill that would expand eligibility for MinnesotaCare and abolish the Minnesota Health Care Commission was approved April 9 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

HF1441, sponsored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), would extend MinnesotaCare eligibility to more low-income individuals and couples without children.

"We can afford to cover these people," Greenfield said. "It was always the intention to expand [eligibility] beyond where we are now."

Current law sets a maximum income of 135 percent of the federal poverty line for single people (\$10,651) and couples without children (\$14,323) to qualify for the state-

subsidized health insurance plan. The bill would boost the income limit for those people to 175 percent of the poverty level, or \$13,807 and \$18,567, respectively, using 1997 guidelines.

The income limit for MinnesotaCare enrollees was last increased in 1995, when the Legislature passed a measure lifting the limit for single people and households without children from 125 percent of the federal poverty level to 135 percent. (Current law sets a cap of 275 percent of the poverty level for families with children younger than 21.)

In 1996, Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed a bill that would have increased the income limit for people without children to 150 percent of the poverty level.

MinnesotaCare is a state-subsidized insurance plan created in 1992 to extend coverage to the uninsured. Enrollees pay premiums based on income and must provide co-payments for some services. Currently, the program serves more than 97,000 people.

Greenfield's bill also includes a separate provision that would eliminate the Minnesota Health Care Commission, created by the 1992 legislation, which advises legislators on health care policy.

The request to eliminate the commission came from the commission itself, which is made up of representatives of business, health plans, unions, state agencies, and consumers. Its members now cite a lack of consensus on health care issues as a reason to dissolve the commission.

"They have done some very important work for this state and this Legislature, but it does seem time" to eliminate the commission, Greenfield said.

HF1441 now moves to the House Governmental Operations Committee.



SPORTS

Stadium revival

The House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee, which last week rejected a bill that would have publicly financed a new stadium for the Minnesota Twins, reversed itself April 9 and approved a heavily amended version of the measure by a vote of 12-6.

The committee revisited the bill, at least in part, at the behest of Gov. Arne Carlson, who urged lawmakers to give the measure the full consideration of the legislative process.

"We've been meeting with people over the last week," said **HF1367** sponsor Rep. Ann

H. Rest (DFL-New Hope). "We've been trying to respond to questions and concerns about the public obligation . . . trying to decrease it."

The version of **HF1367** approved by the committee does, in fact, reduce that obligation. The bill specifically states that the public authority shall not "assume any obligation or liability for bonds issued or sold" to finance the stadium's estimated \$400 million construction cost. Moreover, the bill removes from the public the obligation to purchase the team from the Pohlad after 2006.

However, **HF1367** retains most of the public financing devices outlined in the version previously rejected by the committee — a special scratch-off lottery game, taxes on tickets, parking and Twins memorabilia, among others — and requires the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission to sell the old Met Center land. After paying off whatever debt remains from building the Metrodome, the proceeds from the sale would be applied to the new stadium.

The bill also requires the Pohlad to contribute \$50 million to the effort, a number Jim Pohlad has, in the past, called a "deal



Jim Pohlad, left, son of Twins owner Carl Pohlad, told the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee that his family was not committed to a \$50 million contribution to a new Twins baseball stadium unless a stadium bill moving through the House is substantially changed. Pohlad has called the contribution a "deal breaker." The bill sponsored by Rep. Ann H. Rest, right, and Rep. Dan McElroy, was passed by the committee April 9.

breaker.” Indeed, pressed by Rep. Kevin Knight (R-Bloomington), Pohlad once again refused to commit himself to the amount.

“If you’re asking, at this particular time, if we agree to the \$50 million, the answer is no,” Pohlad said.

The bill goes now to the House Taxes Committee.



TAXES

Sales tax changes

On Feb. 17, the Sales Tax Advisory Council, after studying the system for more than eight months, issued its recommendations for a more efficient sales tax model.

On April 8, the House Taxes Committee accepted those recommendations in the form of **HF2066**, sponsored by Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope).

While several of the bill’s provisions, such as changing the date of some tax refunds and permitting some direct tax payments, have no impact on state revenues, the rest of the bill — if accepted in its entirety — would cost Minnesota more than one-third of a billion dollars in the 1998-99 biennium.

The Sales Tax Advisory Council, which Rest chaired, was created by the 1995 Legislature. The 16-member board held a series of meetings, taking testimony from the public about how to more efficiently administer the sales tax. **HF2066** is the result.

Although the bill includes an array of sales-tax exemptions, the most costly provision, by far, would change the way vendors pay the state its cut of the gross revenue. As it now stands, retailers with an annual sales tax liability over \$120,000 must estimate their tax for June and remit at least 75 percent of that electronically to the state by June 28. **HF2066** would eliminate this annual accelerated payment.

According to an analysis provided by the Department of Revenue, the move would cost the state more than \$130 million in 1998 alone and about \$6 million per year thereafter through 2001.

The bill also contains a fistful of exemptions, including one for the replacement of capital equipment.

Currently, the state draws a distinction between capital equipment, which is already exempt from sales tax, and replacement capital equipment, which is subject to a declining rate that is administered through a refund mechanism.

HF2066 would eliminate this distinction and the refund process, exempting all capital equipment at the time of purchase, effective

June 1, 1997. The revenue department estimates this move would cost the state more than \$76 million in the coming biennium.

“Inputs” used for taxable services, such as laundry, dry cleaning, building maintenance, telephone and cable television, and country club dues also would be exempted from the sales tax. Thus, the chemicals used in dry cleaning or building maintenance, for example, would become tax-free. According to the revenue department estimate, this provision translates into a loss of more than \$96 million over the next two years.

The bill would extend the sales tax to certain items that are now tax-free. For instance, unheated, ready-to-eat food, such as sandwiches and salads sold at supermarkets, would become taxable as would pre-paid telephone cards.

“This bill is not an attempt to extend the sales tax, but to apply consistent tax policy,” Rest said, adding that the changes need to be made now while the state enjoys a budget surplus.

The committee retained **HF2066** for consideration in its omnibus tax bill.

Extended filing date

The House of Representatives unanimously approved an emergency measure April 10 that would give victims of the 1997 flood additional time to file their tax returns.

“My heart goes out these people,” Rep. Dee Long said of **HF2132**. “... I think it’s the least we can do.”

If enacted, **HF2132**, sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), would allow residents and businesses located in counties that had been declared disaster areas until May 30 to file their state tax returns.

The bill, which Tunheim said mirrors a federal declaration issued recently by President Bill Clinton, goes now to the Senate for approval.



TRANSPORTATION

Seat belt offenses

A proposal to allow for tougher enforcement of the state’s mandatory seat belt law has stalled in the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

HF1066, sponsored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), would allow police to pull over motorists who fail to comply with state law requiring all front seat occupants to buckle up.

Committee members April 9 rejected the plan by an 11-6 margin. Similar legislation introduced by Greenfield in recent years has met the same end.

Current law requires all front seat passengers to wear a seat belt, but police can only issue a citation for seat belt violations after stopping a motorist for another offense.

(Current law also requires children between the ages of three and 11 to wear a seat belt no matter where they are seated in the car. Children three and under must be secured in child car seats.)

Greenfield has pushed to make seat belt violations a primary offense — allowing police to pull over violators — in hopes of prompting greater compliance.

The Department of Public Safety estimates that 64 percent of Minnesota motorists complied with the seat belt law in 1996. Greenfield said his bill would prompt a 15 percent increase in compliance.

And that, he said, would save lives.



Tom Baker and Nancy Mulder testified in favor of a bill that would make not wearing a seat belt a primary offense for which police can stop you. The two spoke to the Transportation and Transit Committee April 9 about Pat Mulder, their son and friend, who won't be able to graduate with his class because he has to relearn simple tasks after suffering a head injury in a car accident. He was not wearing a seat belt.

Greenfield supports his case with public safety department statistics showing that in 1995 car accidents claimed the lives of 239 people who were not wearing seat belts and only 134 people who were.

"There are few people with an opportunity to save lives with a single action or a single word," said Christine Krueger, coordinator of the Minnesota Safety Belt Coalition.

"You have such an opportunity," she told members of the committee.

But the committee was not swayed. Proposals to make seat belt violations a primary offense have consistently drawn opposition from lawmakers who are hesitant to give police new power to pull over motorists.

Greenfield's bill drew little debate before being rejected by the committee.

Young farming drivers

A bill to ensure that 15-year-olds are allowed restricted driver's licenses to help out on the family farm was approved April 9 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

HF768, sponsored by Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake), would provide an exception to a new state law requiring anyone under age 18 to hold a learner's permit for at least six months before becoming eligible for a driver's license.

The 1996 Legislature passed the new learner's permit requirements, which took effect Feb. 1, 1997, with hopes that the law would give teenagers more driving experience before they hit the road on their own.

But the law had an unintended side effect, according to Westrom. It cuts in half the time farm families can benefit from a long-standing state law allowing 15-year-olds to get restricted driver's licenses to help with farm business.

That law allows 15-year-olds whose parents are farmers to drive only during daylight hours and only within 20 miles of the family farm.

Westrom's bill would temporarily exempt 15-year-olds who are eligible for a restricted farm driver's license from the new six-month learner's permit requirement. The exemption would stay in place until the end of 1997.

Another change prescribed in the bill would allow eligible 14-year-olds to receive learner's permits so they can prepare to get a farm driver's license when they turn 15. (Current law sets age 15 as the minimum age for driving instruction.)

After April 1, 1998, anyone applying for a

farm driver's license would be required to have held a learner's permit for six months, under the bill.

Westrom's bill now moves to the House floor.

Selling abandoned cars

Minneapolis and St. Paul police would be required to hold impounded vehicles for only 15 days before putting them on the auction block, under a bill approved April 9 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

HF342, sponsored by Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul), was crafted to address a problem that has Minneapolis and St. Paul impound lots overflowing with cars abandoned by their owners.

Current state law requires a 45-day wait before an impounded vehicle can be sold. Farrell's bill would exempt Minneapolis and St. Paul from that law and set a 15-day limit for those cities.

The bill would require local approval by the city councils in Minneapolis and St. Paul before it could take effect.

Farrell said current law causes real problems in the cities, especially during winter months. A winter that brings heavy snowfall — such as this winter — leads to a lot of parking violations and a lot of cars being towed from city streets to the impound lot.

In St. Paul, where the city impound lot holds 750 vehicles, space in the lot can run out quickly, said St. Paul Police Deputy Chief Ted Brown.

Most people pay the fine and pick up their cars from the impound lot within a few days,

but others would rather lose their vehicles than pay up, according to Brown. As a result, vehicles that — in effect — are abandoned must be allowed to take up valuable lot space for 45 days before they can be sold off.

"The 45-day rule simply makes it too difficult to operate efficiently," Brown said.

Farrell's bill now moves to the House floor.

Mama D



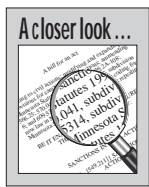
At a press conference April 9 in the State Office Building, Giovanna D'Agostino, otherwise known as Mama D, urged legislators to dedicate more welfare dollars for legal immigrants cut off by a new federal law. Mama D, a metro area restaurateur, spoke about the obstacles and racism her family faced when they immigrated from Italy to this country in 1912.

House chamber music



Eiji Oue, conductor of the Minnesota Orchestra, and violinist Fleeznis Jorja, right, perform a piece by Mozart for legislators and staff during a recess of the House floor session April 10.

Smart card debate: privacy versus convenience



In less than a year, Minnesota state employees could be asked to take part in a pilot project testing the leading edge of modern technology. It would involve credit card sized MNCards, which would replace the cards employees now use for identification, and building and parking access.

But the cards also could be used for placing long-distance telephone calls, monitoring employee attendance, identifying medical insurance coverage and medical information, making vending machine and cafeteria purchases, and bank and credit union transactions. In the future, they could be inserted in an employee's computer as a means of access and security. All that remains to be decided.

In fact, there's almost no limit to the potential information the cards can hold and functions they can perform. That's because of the 1/2" square computer chip each card would contain. "This is the next generation" of cards that currently function by a magnetic strip, said John Gunyou of the Minnesota Office of Technology. "It looks like a credit card, but the chip can hold a ton of information." Often called smart cards, they're in limited use around the country, most commonly on college campuses.

The goal of the pilot project, in which participation would be strictly voluntary, is to determine which functions people desire and are comfortable using, and to deal with any glitches or drawbacks, he said. "There are a number of issues that have to be worked out regarding security, data, and privacy. That's why we're doing a pilot."

HF635, the bill that makes the project possible, was debated extensively in the House Judiciary Committee's Data Practices Subcommittee. On April 8, it was approved by the House Governmental Operations Committee and now rests in the committee's State Government Finance Division. (**HF635**, sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), also establishes the North Star government on-line service and information initiative and sets up a telecommunications community resource initiative to promote electronic information about health care, education, and commerce.)

The committee meetings resulted in several important provisions regarding MNCards, Gunyou said. One ensures that



State employees who choose to participate in Minnesota's smart card program may soon carry cards similar to the University of Minnesota's UCard (pictured), which uses a magnetic strip to store data.

cardholders have access to the information on the cards through "card readers" at each participating state agency.

The bill also sets up a broad-based steering committee to develop the MNCard project and report back to the Legislature with its recommendations. The committee would include representatives from the Minnesota Office of Technology, the Department of Administration, the Office of the State Treasurer, the Information Policy Council, the University of Minnesota (which already uses Smart Cards on campus), Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, health insurance providers, financial institutions, state employees, technology groups and other interested parties.

"One key is that groups will decide what will go on the cards and whether sensitive information will be included," Gunyou said. Plus, he added, "nothing exempts the project from data practices laws. The law is the law and isn't changed by technology." The challenge, he said, is for the law to keep up with the technology, which creates new possibilities before language is on the books to govern it.

A larger issue is the implications of the cards' expanded use by the general public in years to come. Gunyou isn't impressed by fears that the technology threatens personal privacy. "People are raising legitimate issues regarding privacy, but they have to be addressed logically. Some people are opposed to technology in any form. In a few years, the cards will become so common the fears will be lost," he said. "I think there's some irrational Big Brother concerns. But, to me, the cards are a godsend." He thinks cards that carry medical information, for example, would be life-saving. In his case, Gunyou said, the cards could inform emergency personnel of his life-threatening allergies.

While security enhancement — personal and professional — is at the center of the benefits the cards could provide, according to Gunyou, threats to security are the center of card's drawbacks, according to others.

"It's the whole idea of carrying a card that can have large quantities of personal information on it that I have to present to strangers," explained Don Gemberling of the Public Information Policy Analysis Division of the Department of Administration. "How do I know the stranger's machine can't overcome [the card's] security measures? How do I trust that? That's the biggie."

Gemberling also said that smart cards present a whole series of difficult security issues that, without protective measures in place, could turn the cards into "bad dream" cards.

"Will the technology dog wag the privacy tail, or will we finally recognize the right of privacy to be the dog and technology to be the tail?" Gemberling asks in a report about smart cards. "Who controls access to the cards? Who controls what goes on the cards? How does the person carrying the card really know what is on [it]?" Further, he asks, will driver's licenses end up carrying all that additional information, as well as welfare benefits, social security information, and other sensitive information? Can, for instance, an agency punish someone for not paying a bill by "zapping" parts of the card's information?

"I'm not suggesting the whole idea is bad," Gemberling said. "Over time, the cards could offer real benefits," including Gunyou's example of medical emergencies, and by reducing bureaucracy and the number of cards people will have to carry with them. "But I don't want my gas station, for instance, to have access to my medical information."

But Gunyou said that the level of security provided for any one aspect will match the level of security that is needed. He's looking forward to cards providing users with exclusive access to their computer stations and the ability to conduct business transactions over the Internet.

No one knows whether, if the cards become widely used, they would remain voluntary.

Sydney Jensen of the Office of Technology, said that the project expects about 10,000 of the state's 50,000 employees to volunteer. The pilot project would end June 30, 2001.

— Celeste Riley

Income tax sponsor briefly held state's top office

Hjalmar Petersen rose from humble origins to become the state's chief executive, but didn't stay there very long. He has the honor of holding the shortest gubernatorial term ever in Minnesota — 134 days.

Although his stint as head of state was short, Petersen stands tall as a symbol of immigrant success, a small-town newspaperman-turned-politician, buoyed by the waves of populism his immigrant community helped create.

His journey from print shop boy at a remote newspaper in northern Minnesota to head of state in 1936 took place during one of the nation's most exciting times. Industrialization, massive immigration, the First World War, the Depression, and the seeds of the Second World War all occurred during Petersen's professional life. Just as those events played a role in the strength of the populist movement, they contributed to Petersen's transformation from business-oriented Republican to Farmer-Labor representative.

Also influencing his political ideals and practices was Petersen's experience as founder and editor of the *Askov American* weekly newspaper. Whether it was his weekly column for rural newspapers or his aversion to business and political monopolies, Petersen never lost his journalistic instincts.

The literature on Minnesota's 23rd governor is brief. Perhaps that is because he stepped into the office in August 1936 after the revered Gov. Floyd B. Olson died. In Petersen's five months in office, he didn't do anything remarkable — he called a special session, appointed a state Supreme Court judge, an attorney general and helped settle a few metro-area labor disputes. When his term expired, he chose not to immediately run for re-election. He would, however, run later but would not succeed at regaining the governor's office.

But his contributions to Minnesota span decades before and after his gubernatorial term. As a state representative from Pine County from 1930 to 1934, he was a strong Farmer-Labor party member. His second term ended 42 years of Republican dominance in the House of Representatives and he was a key player in electing Charles Munn as Speaker of the House. Naming the former



Hjalmar Petersen, Minnesota's 23rd governor had a rather uneventful five months as the state's chief executive, but was a lifelong champion of populist causes.

Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

Republican to the post drew conservatives to support some Farmer-Labor causes and some say it helped pass the session's most important piece of legislation — the state income tax, sponsored by Petersen himself.

The state income tax, last debated in the 1891 session, was a controversial measure that "in the area of government finance . . . 'was to become the single most important contribution of the Farmer-Labor party during its tenure in office,'" according to Petersen's biography, *Hjalmar Petersen of Minnesota*, by Steven Keillor.

As chairman of the powerful Taxes Committee, Petersen argued the lack of purchasing power was at the root of the nation's problems. An income tax would bring aid to public schools and property tax relief to farmers who, according to the *Askov American*, were paying 20 to 50 percent of their incomes in taxes (compared to 4 percent or less for non-farmers.)

Like he did with many issues, Petersen used the pages of his newspaper to promote the income tax. He refuted the charge that an income tax would hurt the masses by hurting the wealthy.

"If we have to bow and scrape and be afraid of the millionaires and billionaires . . . and if

we can't tax them so it will stick under our present form of government then it is high time to make a right about face and change the system," Petersen said, according to Keillor's book.

Petersen spoke for independence from Wall Street interests, big government, and even media monopolization from his first day in public office as village clerk through his term as governor. His fight for incorporation and thus independence from a township board won him the clerk post in Askov in 1918. Years later, he expressed his independence from big business by switching from Republicanism to what he called the "independent" Farmer-Labor Party.

"The farmer by his vote shows that he regards the Farmer-Labor party as the independent party — the one that represents the cause of the masses," Petersen said.

He used the *Askov American* to oppose U.S. involvement in every war, from World War I to the Vietnam War. As biographer Keillor put it, "being against war was almost a religion" for Petersen.

And he fought to make changes in the systems — political and editorial — of which he was a part. He fought against the Farmer-Labor Party's political patronage machine in the 1936 and 1938 campaigns. He criticized the dominance of Knight Ridder and Cowles media companies in Minnesota journalism. He also favored the right to challenge endorsed candidates at primaries, seeking to open up the system to more and purge the system of powerful political bosses.

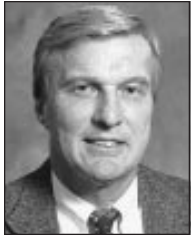
Petersen tried more than once — albeit unsuccessfully — to round up support for an independent party.

Born in Denmark on Jan. 2, 1890, Petersen came to the United States as a baby with his parents. His father, who had worked hard as a farm laborer to become a small merchant, moved the family to Chicago and soon after settled in Tyler, Minn. There, the family was part of a pioneer community where Danes numbered high and American culture was slow to settle in. The language of the Old Country prevailed and debates over whether to adopt mainstream American ways were always under way.

Continued on page 23

Biernat unites legal know-how, teaching, lawmaking

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) may be a legislator, but he's also a teacher. The first-term District 59A representative is on the faculty at Hamline University Law School, where he teaches property law, family law, and legal ethics. In fact, he said, his experience in the Capitol makes him a more effective instructor.



Rep. Len Biernat

Take, for example, the revamped anti-stalking legislation that emerged from the House Judiciary Committee at the beginning of the session. Lawmakers were forced to revisit the issue after the Minnesota Supreme Court all but erased the version passed by the 1993 Legislature for being overly broad.

"I see that as a marvelous opportunity to show [students] the relationship between the courts and the Legislature — to illustrate the separation of powers," Biernat said, adding that the recent effort to recodify Minnesota's set of landlord/tenant laws also provided a measure of practical insight that he shared with his students.

Of course, the legislator/lawyer nexus works two ways. At virtually every turn, Biernat said, he draws on his legal background in some manner, particularly in his capacity as a member of the Judiciary Committee.

"It helps me enormously," he said, "especially in the family law aspect, for example,

with the right-to-privacy matters."

Privacy, he said, is something that has been in the forefront of much of the Judiciary Committee's work this session. The issues surrounding privacy tend to call into question the relationship between citizens and their government, he explained, drawing on another academic experience to illustrate the point.

"I used to bring groups of students over to Norway," Biernat said, "and they have something there called the Data Inspectorate, which is a government agency that makes sure all the citizens' records collected by business are complete."

It is, he said, the Norwegian government's job to examine information on its citizenry.

"It's just the opposite here," he said. "We don't trust the government at all."

Yet, Biernat is more than just another lawyer turned lawmaker. It could be said that politics runs in the family, and that his role as a legislator is nothing less than a family legacy.

His father served in the House for eight years, from 1948 through 1956, and the young Biernat grew up working on campaigns. His brother, Joe, currently serves on the Minneapolis City Council, and Biernat himself sat on the Minneapolis School Board for seven years before throwing his hat into the legislative ring.

That background, Biernat said, gave him the opportunity to get right to work, rather than having to spend his first term learning the ins and outs of the legislative process.

Indeed, for a first-term legislator, Biernat, who also sits on the Education Committee and its K-12 Education Finance Division, has been exceptionally busy. He has sponsored, or co-sponsored, more than 60 pieces of legislation — including one that drew national attention.

"It's interesting," Biernat said of **HF446**, his bill that linked students' grades to their eligibility for a driver's license. "I was getting calls on that from all over the place. It's just an example of what one legislator can do . . . in terms of getting a good policy discussion going."

Biernat hopes to get many more such policy discussions going, particularly on education, although his legislative priorities have shifted since he received his committee assignments. The committee is where the real work is done.

"It's real intense," he said. "But, I'm enjoying it a lot."

— F.J. Gallagher

District 59A

1996 population: 32,699
Largest city: Minneapolis
Counties: Hennepin
Location: northeast Minneapolis
Top concern: "I would rather see education dollars spent where they do the most good . . . improving student performance."

—Rep. Len Biernat

Minnesota's Representation in Washington, D.C.

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New members . . .

Nornes considers legislative post a 'rare privilege'

Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) has gone from broadcasting Minnesota Twins games over his own radio station to debating whether the team deserves a new outdoor stadium.



Rep. Bud Nornes

Now out of the broadcasting business, in which he spent 35 years, Nornes said his tenure as a school board member influenced him to run for the Legislature.

"I believe you always have to have goals . . .

and this seemed like a possibility," he said.

At times, though, the possibility must have seemed distant at best to the former KJJK-AM owner and station manager. Nornes ran for the District 10A seat twice before. In 1992, he lost by fewer than 700 votes, and in 1994, he fell short by a mere 73 votes.

The decision to try again did not come easily.

To become a three-time loser could be embarrassing, he said. Yet, Nornes was not embarrassed. In fact, he won by a substantial margin in a district where nearly an equal number of Republicans and Democrats live.

"I don't regret it," he said. "To have a goal, work hard, and achieve it, well, that's the only way I'd have it."

Now that he's here, Nornes said his goal is to effectively represent the people of his district.

"I came into this job without any axes to grind," he said, "or any agenda, other than to represent my district."

And the people in his district, he said, pulling out a survey he recently sent to his constituents, are concerned with welfare reform and education. In fact, he continued, the survey showed that 96 percent of the 1,500 or so respondents support the notion of requiring able-bodied people to work.

The calls he receives reflect the same sentiment, he said, although lately, he's been getting a lot of calls from people expressing their opinion on the proposed publicly financed stadium for the Minnesota Twins. For the most part, they're against it, he said.

"Some of them want to keep the Twins," Nornes said, adding that the role of government is to guide the process and find the proper funding mechanism — which, according to the people in his district, is one that doesn't include any public dollars.

From all he had heard about life at the Capitol, Nornes said, he expected to spend most of his first term just learning the ropes of the legislative process.

"Once you're elected," he said, "you hear

you'll be ineffective in your first term. I really didn't find that to be the case."

In fact, he said, legislating runs in his family. His great-grandfather represented Albert Lea in 1903. Recently, in between committee hearings and floor sessions, he spent some time in the Capitol, looking at the portraits of the former governors. Eventually, he said, he found the governor of his great-grandfather's era.

"It was interesting to learn the issues of that day," he said, adding that he hopes to spend more than a single term working on the issues of his day. "Fewer than a thousand people have served here, and I have the opportunity to put in a few years . . . it's a rare privilege that very few people get."

— F.J. Gallagher

District 10A

1996 population: 33,047
Largest city: Fergus Falls
Counties: Douglas, Otter Tail
Location: northwestern Minnesota
Top concern: "To honestly do the best job that I can."

—Rep. Bud Nornes

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How a Bill Becomes

Idea

1 A bill is an idea for a new law or an idea to change an old law. Anyone can suggest an idea for a bill — an individual, consumer group, professional association, government agency, or the governor. Most often, however, ideas come from legislators, the only ones who can begin to move an idea through the process. There are 134 House members and 67 senators.

General Orders

7 On General Orders, all House or Senate members, acting as the “committee of the whole,” have a chance to debate the issue, offer amendments, and present arguments on the bill. Afterwards, they vote to recommend: passage of the bill, progress (delay action), or further committee action. And sometimes they recommend that a bill not pass. Members' votes on General Orders are usually not recorded unless there is a specific request to do so. From here, the bill is placed on the Calendar.

Legal form

2 The Office of the Revisor of Statutes and staff from other legislative offices work with legislators in putting the idea for a new law into proper legal form. The revisor's office is responsible for assuring that the proposal's form complies with the rules of both bodies before the bill can be introduced into the Minnesota House of Representatives and the Minnesota Senate.

Calendar

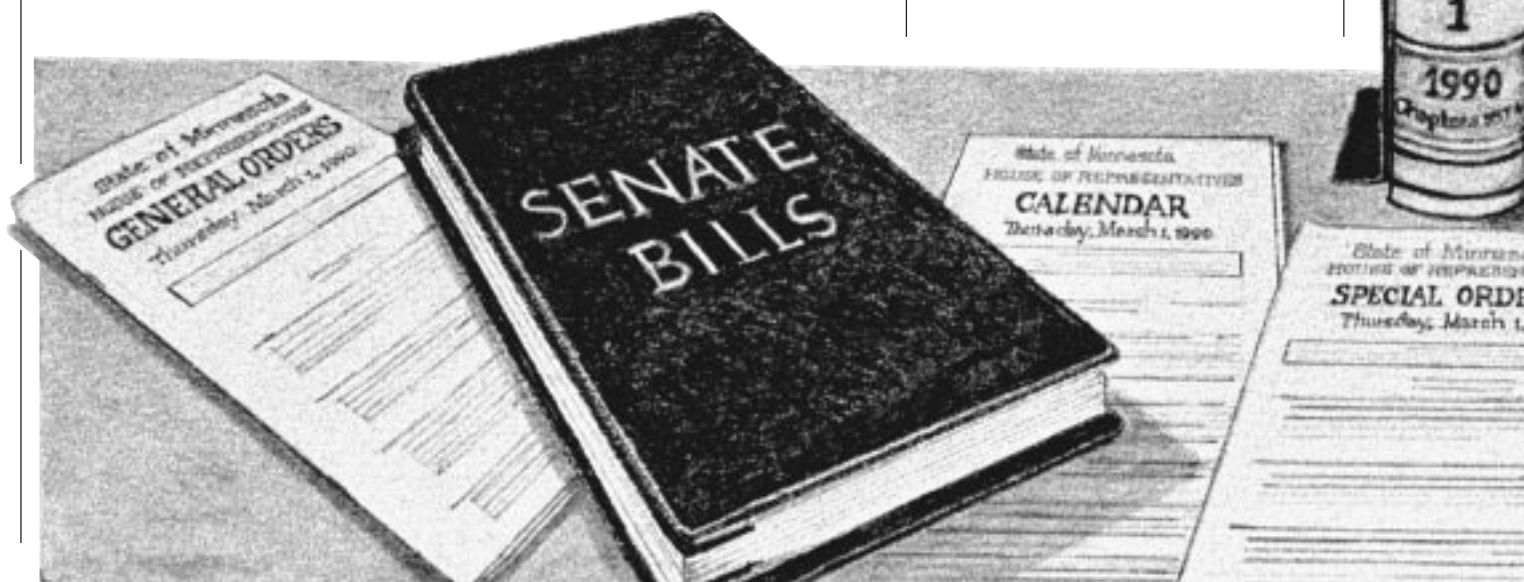
8 The Calendar is a list of bills the full House and full Senate vote on. At this point, the bill has its *third reading*. The bill cannot be amended unless the entire body agrees to it. Here, representatives and senators vote on the bill for the last time. A bill needs 68 votes to pass the House and 34 votes to pass the Senate. If the House and Senate each pass the same version of the bill, it goes to the governor for a signature.

Authors

3 Each bill must have a legislator to sponsor and introduce it in the Legislature. That legislator is the chief author whose name appears on the bill along with the bill's file number to identify it as it moves through the legislative process. There may be up to four co-authors from the House and four from the Senate. Their names also appear on the bill.

Special Orders

9 Toward the end of the session, the rules committees of the House and Senate designate bills from the General Orders calendar to receive priority consideration. These Special Orders bills are debated, amended, and passed in one day. The House also has a Rule 1.10 calendar which allows the chairs of the Taxes and Appropriations committees to call up for consideration any tax or appropriations bill that has had a second reading. These Rule 1.10 bills are debated, amended, and passed in one day.



a Law in Minnesota

Introduction

4 The chief House author of the bill introduces it in the House; the chief Senate author introduces it in the Senate. Identical bills introduced in each body are called *companion* bills. The bill introduction is called the *first reading*. The presiding officer of the House then refers it to an appropriate House committee for discussion; the same thing happens in the Senate.

Conference

10 If the House and Senate versions of the bill are different, they go to a conference committee. In the House, the speaker of the House appoints three or five representatives, and in the Senate, the Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee on Rules and Administration selects the same number of senators to form the committee. The committee meets to work out differences in the two bills and to reach a compromise.

Committee

5 The bill is discussed in one or more committees depending upon the subject matter. After discussion, committee members recommend action — approval or disapproval — to the full House and full Senate. The House committee then sends a report to the House about its action on the bill; the Senate committee does likewise in the Senate.

Floor

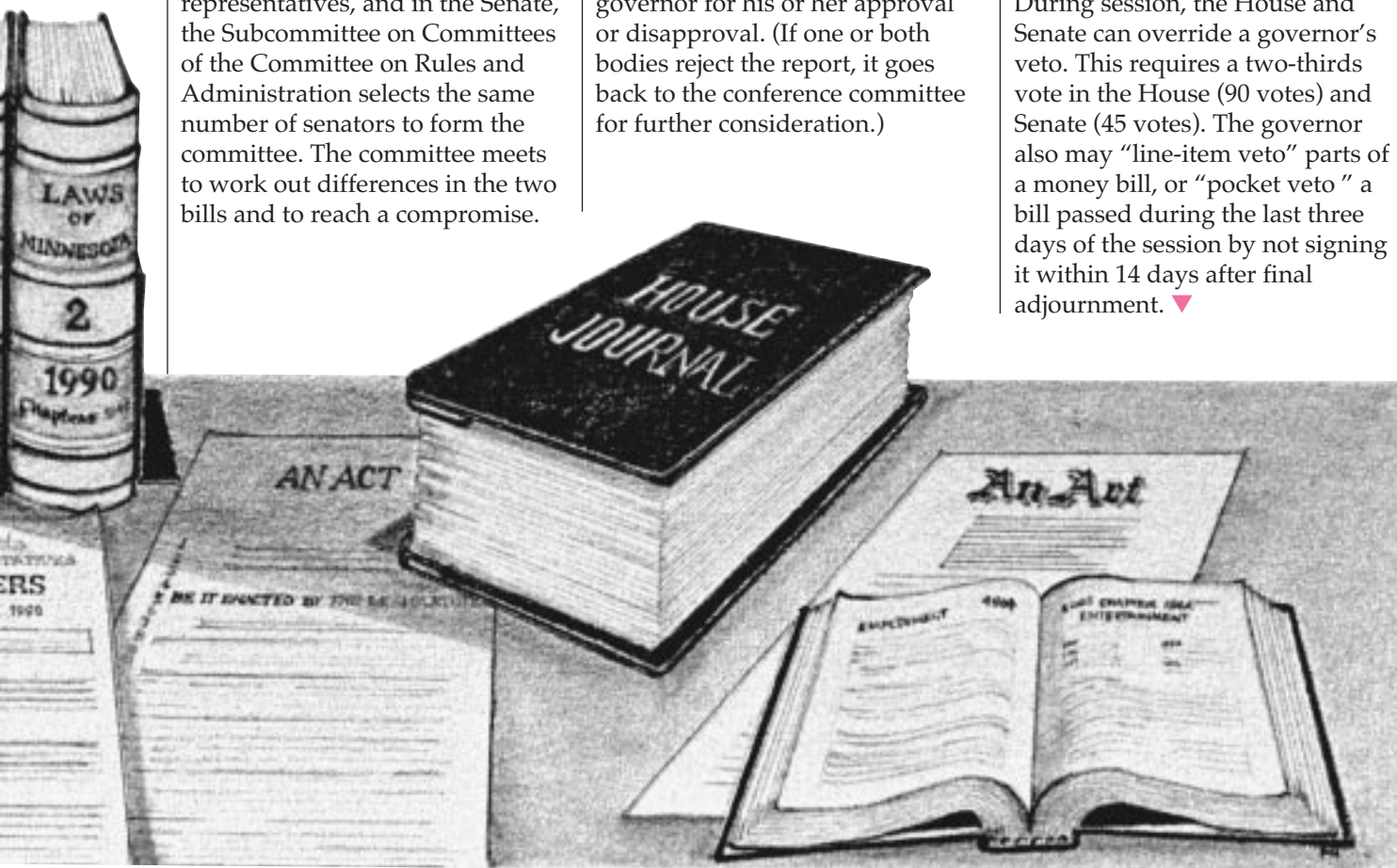
11 The conference committee's compromise bill then goes back to the House and the Senate for another vote. If both bodies pass the bill in this form, it is sent to the governor for his or her approval or disapproval. (If one or both bodies reject the report, it goes back to the conference committee for further consideration.)

Floor

6 After the full House, or Senate, accepts the committee report, the bill has its *second reading*. From here, the bill is usually placed on the House and Senate agendas called General Orders. (A committee can recommend that a local or non-controversial bill bypass General Orders and go onto the Consent Calendar where it usually passes without debate.)

Governor

12 Once the governor has the bill, he or she may: sign it, and the bill becomes law; veto it within three days; or allow it to become law by not signing it. During session, the House and Senate can override a governor's veto. This requires a two-thirds vote in the House (90 votes) and Senate (45 votes). The governor also may "line-item veto" parts of a money bill, or "pocket veto" a bill passed during the last three days of the session by not signing it within 14 days after final adjournment. ▼



1997 Minnesota House Membership by Seniority

21st term

Munger, Willard (DFL)*

13th term

Anderson, Irv (DFL)*
Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)
Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)
Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)

12th term

Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)
Osthoff, Tom (DFL)

11th term

Jaros, Mike (DFL)*
Murphy, Mary (DFL)
Skoglund, Wes (DFL)*

10th term

Greenfield, Lee (DFL)
Long, Dee (DFL)
Sviggum, Steve (R)

9th term

Clark, Karen (DFL)

8th term

Bishop, Dave (R)
Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)
Tunheim, Jim (DFL)

7th term

Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)
Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)
Olson, Edgar (DFL)
Ozment, Dennis (R)
Rest, Ann H. (DFL)
Tompkins, Eileen (R)

6th term

Carruthers, Phil (DFL)
Dawkins, Andy (DFL)
Dorn, John (DFL)
Jefferson, Richard (DFL)
Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)
Kelso, Becky (DFL)
Kinkel, Anthony G. (Tony) (DFL)
Milbert, Bob (DFL)
Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)
Rukavina, Tom (DFL)
Swenson, Doug (R)
Trimble, Steve (DFL)
Wagenius, Jean (DFL)
Winter, Ted (DFL)

5th term

Abrams, Ron (R)
Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)
Hausman, Alice (DFL)
Macklin, Bill (R)
McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)
Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)
Weaver, Charlie (R)

4th term

Bettermann, Hilda (R)
Davids, Gregory M. (R)
Erhardt, Ron (R)
Farrell, Jim (DFL)
Garcia, Edwina (DFL)
Goodno, Kevin (R)
Koppendrayner, LeRoy (R)
Krinkie, Philip (R)
Leppik, Peggy (R)
Mariani, Carlos (DFL)
Orfield, Myron (DFL)
Peterson, Doug (DFL)
Smith, Steve (R)
Wejcman, Linda (DFL)

3rd term

Commers, Tim (R)
Dehler, Steve (R)
Delmont, Mike (DFL)
Dempsey, Jerry (R)
Finseth, Tim (R)
Greiling, Mindy (DFL)
Holsten, Mark (R)
Huntley, Thomas (DFL)
Knight, Kevin (R)
Lindner, Arlon (R)
Luther, Darlene (DFL)
Mahon, Mark P. (DFL)
McCollum, Betty (DFL)
Molnau, Carol L. (R)
Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)
Olson, Mark (R)
Opatz, Joe (DFL)
Pawlenty, Tim (R)
Rhodes, Jim (R)
Seagren, Alice (R)
Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)
Van Dellen, Todd (R)
Vickerman, Barb (R)
Wolf, Ken (R)
Workman, Tom (R)

2nd term

Anderson, Bruce (R)
Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)
Boudreau, Lynda (R)
Bradley, Fran (R)
Broecker, Sherry (R)
Daggett, Roxann (R)
Entenza, Matt (DFL)
Evans, Geri (DFL)*
Gunther, Bob (R)
Haas, Bill (R)
Harder, Elaine (R)
Knoblach, Jim (R)
Kraus, Ron (R)
Larsen, Peg (R)
Leighton, Rob (DFL)
Mares, Harry (R)
Marko, Sharon (DFL)
McElroy, Dan (R)
Mulder, Richard (R)
Osskopp, Mike (R)
Otremba, Ken (DFL)
Paulsen, Erik (R)
Rostberg, Jim (R)
Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)
Sekhon, Kathleen (DFL)*
Stanek, Rich (R)
Swenson, Howard (R)
Sykora, Barb (R)
Tuma, John (R)

1st term

Biernat, Len (DFL)
Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)
Folliard, Betty (DFL)
Hilty, Bill (DFL)
Johnson, Ruth (DFL)
Juhnke, Al (DFL)
Kielkucki, Tony (R)
Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)
Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)
Kuisle, William (R)
Mullery, Joe (DFL)
Nornes, Bud (R)
Paymar, Michael (DFL)
Reuter, Doug (R)
Rifenberg, Michelle (R)
Seifert, Marty (R)
Skare, Gail (DFL)
Slawik, Nora (DFL)
Stang, Doug (R)
Tingelstad, Kathy (R)
Westfall, Robert L. (Bob) (R)
Westrom, Torrey (R)

* non-consecutive terms
House members serve two-year terms.

Bill Introductions

HF2089-HF2135

Monday, April 7

HF2089—Folliard (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
 Cigarette advertising restricted and regulated, and penalties provided.

HF2090—Macklin (R)
Taxes
 Court-or-state ordered electronic monitoring services provided sale tax exemption.

HF2091—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
 Residential homestead property uniform property tax class rate established.

HF2092—Paymar (DFL)
Judiciary
 Domestic abuse perpetrated by minors pilot program established.

HF2093—Entenza (DFL)
Education
 Deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing children education bill of rights provided.

HF2094—Jennings (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
 Ozone; Environmental Protection Agency memorialized to exempt Minnesota from ozone transport provisions.

HF2095—Kahn (DFL)
Education
 Torture Victim Center appropriated money.

HF2096—Dorn (DFL)
Education
 Alternative school year calendar development working group established, and money appropriated.

HF2097—Harder (R)
Agriculture
 Agricultural corporation land ownership limitations modified.

HF2098—Carruthers (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
 State lottery proceed dedication to environment and natural resources trust fund duration extended, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2099—Mariani (DFL)
Education
 Open enrollment opportunities expanded for students of color, and money appropriated.

Tuesday, April 8

HF2100—Osthoff (DFL)
Taxes
 Lottery ticket sales tax exemption provided.

HF2101—Long (DFL)
Taxes
 Cigarette, tobacco product, and liquor excise tax accelerated payment requirement eliminated.

HF2102—Bettermann (R)
Labor-Management Relations
 Workers' compensation burden of proof requirements and third-party liability provisions modified, and cessation of benefit restrictions clarified.

HF2103—Bettermann (R)
Labor-Management Relations
 Workers' Compensation claim time limitation provisions modified.

HF2104—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
 Soils condition Tax Increment Financing districts eliminated, and redevelopment Tax Increment Financing district definition expanded.

HF2105—Evans (DFL)
Judiciary
 Cooperative criminal justice and crime prevention grant program established.

HF2106—Bakk (DFL)
Taxes
 Mining industry replacement equipment sales tax exemption application clarified.

HF2107—Tuma (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
 BWCA; land use restrictions imposed within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and penalties provided.

HF2108—Davids (R)
Health & Human Services
 Abortion data reporting provisions modified, and criminal penalties provided.

HF2109—Jaros (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
 Employment training provided for certain public assistance recipients, and money appropriated.

HF2110—Kielkucki (R)
Education
 Locally controlled graduation rule aid and district assistance provided, locally controlled graduation rule offered, and money appropriated.

HF2111—Rukavina (DFL)
Education
 East Range Secondary Technical Education Center equipment purchase provided, and money appropriated.

HF2112—Broecker (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy
 Lawful gambling net profit expenditure provisions modified.

HF2113—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Taxes
 Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

Wednesday, April 9

HF2114—Lieder (DFL)
Health & Human Services
 Norman County nursing facility interim and settle-up payment rate qualification allowed.

HF2115—Lieder (DFL)
Health & Human Services
 Norman County nursing facility interim and settle-up payment rate qualification allowed.

HF2116—Jefferson (DFL)
Education
 Northside Career and Technology Center appropriated money.

HF2117—Milbert (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
 State-run casinos established, lottery director duties provided, casino revenue use specified, and money appropriated.

HF2118—Osthoff (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
 Water Access Community Initiative Program appropriated money.

HF2119—Chaudhary (DFL)
Education
 School Enrichment Partnership Program appropriated money.

HF2120—Olson, E. (DFL)
Taxes
 Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2121—Stang (R)
Taxes
 Community service organization property tax classification provisions modified.

HF2122—Stang (R)
Education
 Independent School District No. 2364, Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa, fund transfer provided.

HF2123—Kalis (DFL)
Health & Human Services
 Problem-gambling program transferred to health department, and money appropriated.

HF2124—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education
 Nett Lake Community Center appropriated money.

HF2125—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education
 Independent School District No. 707, Nett Lake, appropriated money for a media specialist.

HF2126—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education
 Independent School District No. 707, Nett Lake, grants provided for insurance costs, and money appropriated.

Thursday, April 10

HF2127—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education
 Northeast Minnesota Telecommunications Access Grant Governance Board appropriated money to establish telecommunication connections.

HF2128—Rest (DFL)
Taxes
 Homestead and agricultural municipal credit aid eliminated, and sales tax revenue dedication provided for municipal aid.

HF2129—Peterson (DFL)
Ways & Means
 Flood-related disaster relief provided, and money appropriated.

HF2130—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
 Low-income housing tax credit provided.

HF2131—Juhnke (DFL)
Taxes
 Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2132—Tunheim (DFL)
Taxes
 Flood disaster area residents granted state tax filing and payment extension.

HF2133—Larsen (R)
Taxes
 Flood disaster area residents granted state tax filing and payment extension.

HF2134—Dorn (DFL)
Taxes
 Flood disaster area residents granted state tax filing and payment extension.

HF2135—Lieder (DFL)
Taxes
 Flood disaster area residents granted state tax filing and payment extension.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
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HF755 (Otremba) Sauk River Watershed District levy authorized.
 HF926 (Sviggum) Municipal Tax Increment Financing district addition provisions modified.
 HF1798 (Murphy) City aid base definition modified.
 HF1732 (Evans) New Brighton Tax Increment Financing district establishment authorized.
 HF1663 (Bakk) Lake County redevelopment project area and Tax Increment Financing district established.
 HF1469 (Rukavina) White Tax Increment Financing district duration extension and expansion provided.
 HF816 (Finseth) East Grand Forks Tax Increment Financing district duration extended.
 HF1265 (Swenson, H.) Gaylord Tax Increment Financing district enlargement and duration extension authorized.
 HF1655 (Workman) Chanhassen housing Tax Increment Financing establishment authorized.
 HF1546 (Jefferson) Minneapolis housing transition Tax Increment Financing established.
 HF1739 (Schumacher) Foley Tax Increment Financing district revenue expenditure authorized outside of Tax Increment Financing district.
 HF1779 (Kahn) St. Paul and Minneapolis Tax Increment Financing district establishment authorized.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg
Agenda: HF297 (Jennings) National Guard member tuition and textbook reimbursement grant program provisions modified.
 HF864 (McGuire) Social work board provisions modified, and civil penalties provided.
 Higher Education Finance Division Omnibus Bill.
 HF2079 (Solberg) Finance department expenditure forecast duties clarified.

MONDAY, April 14

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
 Finance Division/
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: HF1397 (Osthoﬀ) Petroleum-contaminated site cleanup provided, and money appropriated.
 Omnibus bill.
 HF1961 (Peterson) Rural policy and development center established, and money appropriated.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: K-12 Education Finance Division Omnibus Bill.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
 JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Committee will meet in the evening at an announced time, if necessary. Additional bills may be added and the order is flexible. Budget decisions. Funding allocations.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF)
 Division/TAXES**

10 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson
Agenda: HF1392 (Kinkel) Exempt real property and fire state aid property tax provisions modified.
 HF1994 (Jefferson) Minneapolis property tax abatement of value and reduction period extended.
 HF1912 (Hasskamp) Unimproved real estate bordering public water property tax rate reduced.
 HF1470 (Rukavina) Virginia-area ambulance district establishment authorized, levy authorized, and local approval required.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT,
 NATURAL RESOURCES
 & AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoﬀ
Agenda: Allocations.
 HF632 (Solberg) Environmental learning centers previous appropriation provisions modified.
 Additional bills may be announced.

9 a.m.

**State Government Finance Division/
 GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

300S State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Budget allocations.
 Omnibus Budget Bill.
 Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

TAXES

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division Omnibus Bill. Tax Increment Finance (TIF) reform update.

TUESDAY, April 15

8 a.m.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
 JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Committee will meet in the evening at an announced time, if necessary. Additional bills may be added and the order is flexible. Continuation of April 14 agenda.

**Transportation & Transit
 Finance Division/
 TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

500S State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: Omnibus bill.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT,
 NATURAL RESOURCES
 & AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoﬀ
Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
 INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
Agenda: Omnibus bill:
 SF120 (Murphy); HF517 (Clark) Housing accessibility loan fund eligibility modified, equity take-out loans authorized for 236 rental property, special needs housing for homeless persons program repealed, and housing trust fund project provisions clarified.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Omnibus Tax Bill.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: Hearing on House Rule 5.09.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg
Agenda: Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division Omnibus Bill. Additional bills may be added.

WEDNESDAY, April 16

8 a.m.

**Economic Development Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: Omnibus bill.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Omnibus Tax Bill.

12:30 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros
Agenda: Economic Development Finance Division Omnibus Bill. Housing and Housing Finance Division Omnibus Bill.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: Transportation and Transit Finance Division Omnibus Bill.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros
Agenda: Continuation of 12:30 p.m. meeting agenda.

THURSDAY, April 17

8 a.m.

**Economic Development Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: Omnibus bill.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Bills passed out of Judiciary Finance Division.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Omnibus Tax Bill.

WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg
Agenda: Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Finance Omnibus Bill. Additional bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: Continuation of April 15 agenda.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Bills passed out of Judiciary Finance Division.

FRIDAY, April 18

10 a.m.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Bills passed out of Judiciary Finance Division.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Omnibus Tax Bill.

Continued from page 15

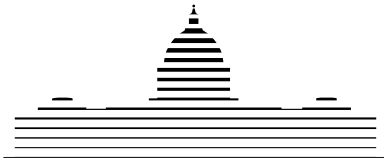
That background shaped Petersen's staunch anti-war sentiments. And no doubt his provincial ways fueled his efforts to keep rural Minnesota informed. During his legislative term, he wrote a column on state politics that was carried by a handful of outstate newspapers.

Before winning a legislative election in 1930, Petersen ran unsuccessfully in both 1926 and 1928. After his gubernatorial stint, he was elected the state's Railroad and Warehouse Commissioner and lost four attempts to win the governor's seat. In 1938, he lost the Farmer-Labor gubernatorial primary and in 1940 and 1942, he lost the election as the Farmer-Labor nominee to Harold Stassen. In 1946, he ran in the Republican primary and lost the governor's race to Luther Youngdahl. Eventually, Petersen was re-elected as

railroad commissioner and served two terms. His last big attempt at elected office was against Eugene McCarthy in 1958 when he tried but failed to get the Democratic-Farmer-Labor nomination for the U.S. Senate. He didn't oppose McCarthy on ideological grounds but simply because he loved the political life and wanted a part of it again, according to his biography.

Along with his wife, Medora, Petersen continued to publish the *Askov American* until his death in 1968. Medora continued to write for the paper until she sold it in the 1980s. A political activist herself, she died April 7, 1997, at a nursing home in Willmar, Minn. She was to turn 101 next month.

— Kendall Anderson



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Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota highways and byways

Areas of state and local government spending over the last 20 years that have grown more slowly than transportation spending	0
Percent of state and local government spending marked for transportation, 1972	13
Percent today	8
Miles of streets and highways in Minnesota	130,198
States with a larger road system	4
Percent of Minnesota roads that make up the trunk highway system	9
State and local government spending on highways, annually, in billions	\$2
Percent of highway and street funding paid for by user taxes, (gas tax, motor vehicle registrations)	40
by local property taxes and assessments	30
by federal funds	10
state funds	6
other	14
Fuel tax revenue marked for city, county, and state roads, FY1997, in millions	\$498
Amount spent per year by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for the construction, repair, and maintenance of state trunk highways, on average, over the last 10 years, in millions (in 1996 dollars)	\$775
Dollars spent or distributed by MnDOT, in billions, 1996	\$1.4
Percent of MnDOT spending on state and local roads	90
Full-time MnDOT employees, June 1996	4,991
Rest areas on state trunk highways	235
on interstates	35
Bridges statewide	19,775
Trunk highway bridges	4,614
Average age of those bridges, in years	34
Percent of those bridges that are deficient by federal standards, for structural or functional reasons, 1995	11.7
Percent of state trunk highway miles estimated by MnDOT to be in "poor or very poor" condition, 1996	6
in "good to very good" condition	71
Average age of trunk highway surfaces, in years, 1995	10.9

Sources: *Highway Spending*, Office of the Legislative Auditor; Minnesota Department of Transportation; *Minnesota Data Book for Legislators*, House Research Department.

For more information



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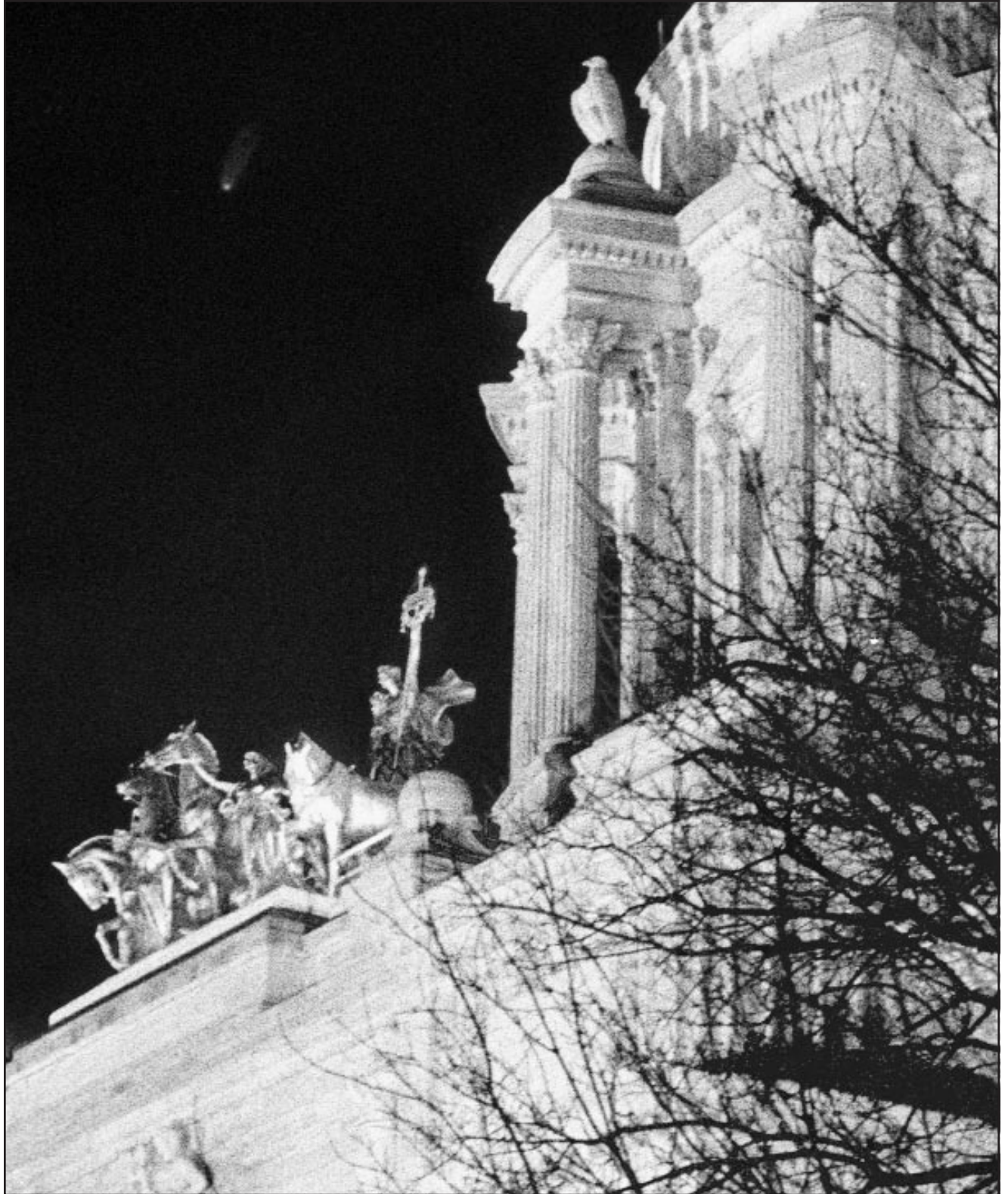
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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ April 18, 1997 ♦ Volume 14, Number 15



SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • April 18, 1997 • Volume 14, Number 15

Session Weekly is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1997-98 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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Update

The words *elusive* and *longevity* are not common words used in everyday activity in the Legislature. But both words can have a major impact on the outcome of certain ideas that get introduced as a bill. After this week's last deadline for bills to be out of committee and headed to the floor for debate, some new and elusive provisions found their way into large omnibus bills, while many legislative studies this session built up a longevity for being studied, introduced, and reshaped, but never made much headway through the entire process.

During these proceedings, the Hale-Bopp Comet was observed from the Capitol grounds this week (*See cover*), and only will be visible in the northern evening sky for a few more days. This Minnesota visitor, probably seen at the cradle of civilization thousands of years ago, is as durable as it is elusive — as intangible, yet persistent, as the effort to improve on an adequate child care/day care bill (**HF 2147**), that passed out of the House April 17. (*See page 9.*)

Just when things don't always seem what they appear to be, history repeats itself. Child care received bipartisan support and support from the governor who introduced day care legislation back in the early 1970s. And though Hale-Bopp has not been seen for about 4,000 years, a 1997 day care bill some 25 years later is now more refined, more inclusive, and finally prepared for passage into law.

Likewise, this week longevity and elusiveness reappeared for Minnesota's elder statesman and former governor, Harold E. Stassen (*See page 16*), who was 90 years old on April 13. The perennial candidate for U.S. president is the last living signer of the United Nations Charter. Three times elected as governor of the state, the statesman shares the same birthday as another well-known signer of a famous document, Thomas Jefferson.

History *does* repeat itself. Jefferson, a lawyer like Stassen, also served as governor (of Virginia) and was 36 years old in his first term. Stassen was 36 years old in his last term. Jefferson, too, ran for the U.S. presidency, but he won; the nation's highest office was not elusive to him. But Stassen's longevity is as acknowledged as Jefferson's. Their presence is a positive continuance.

Jefferson would have celebrated 254 years with Stassen last Sunday. His impressive contributions to the basic foundations of the country are, in part, why reasonable solutions to adequate child care were passed by the Legislature.

Longevity and elusiveness came together this week in different ways: to fully fund child care "for the next 100 years," according to one of the supporting legislators of the bill; to honor the legacy of one of Minnesota's great elder statesmen; and to give a striking photographic finish to a celestial visitor, millions of miles above the State Capitol dome.

— LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: More than twice the size of the famed Halley's Comet, the subject of science classes nationwide when visible in 1986, Hale-Bopp was caught high above the Capitol dome. The comet, astronomers say, probably won't return for another 2,400 years.

— Photo by Laura Phillips

Highlights

K-12 school funding . . .

Omnibus bill stresses technology, standards, safety

A bill advancing in the House would provide \$6.7 billion in state aid for education, lengthen the school year for all public schools, and provide new initiatives to help students who fail the state's graduation tests.

HF1684, sponsored by Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), would provide a total increase in state spending for K-12 education of 13.5 percent. (When enrollment growth is factored out, the proposed funding increase stands at 7.4 percent.)

The omnibus K-12 education finance bill would spend about \$225.4 million more than Gov. Arne Carlson proposed for the 1998-1999 biennium. Some of the governor's major education initiatives — including his plan to provide increased tax deductions and new tax credits for parents who send their children to private schools — are not included in the bill.

However, the bill does include provisions that would target funds to assist struggling students, improve school bus safety, and allow for the creation of more charter schools and new laboratory schools.

The bill was approved by the House Education Committee April 14 and by the House Taxes Committee April 17. It now moves to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Here's a look at some of the major provisions of the omnibus bill.

Formula increases

A total of \$5 billion would be devoted to general education funding for school districts during the two-year budget cycle. The proposal would outspend the governor's recommendations for general education funding by \$52 million.

The bill would provide increases in per-pupil funding for each year of the biennium. Districts currently receive \$3,505 per pupil. The bill would add \$75 in 1998, bringing the sum to \$3,580. (Per-pupil funds are distributed according to "weighted" attendance counts, which provide more revenue for secondary students than for elementary students.)

In 1999, another \$8 would be added, and



The House's omnibus K-12 education finance bill has many provisions that could affect Mrs. Adams' fourth grade class at Snail Lake Elementary School in Shoreview. The proposal provides a 13.7 percent boost in K-12 funding overall, with millions in spending marked for technology and school bus safety initiatives.

other changes would impact the general education funding formula during that year. District cooperation funds that districts now receive separately would be rolled into the per-pupil funding, but revenue for transportation and teacher training would be rolled out. The result is that the per-pupil amount would dip to \$3,355, but districts would show a net gain in dollars.

Hardware, hard cash

The bill includes a total of \$86.8 million to improve technology in schools and public libraries statewide.

A provision in the bill would require each school district to create a technology plan to serve as a road map for future investments in computer equipment and related items. The plan would describe which computer skills will be taught, how technology will be integrated into the curriculum, and how technology will aid implementation of the state's graduation standards. It also would have to provide an inventory of existing technological resources and detail the district's plans for hardware and software investment.

Among other items to be included are

how each district plans to ensure that the technology is accessible to special-needs students and to involve private business, higher education institutions, and other parties in developing and supporting the use of technology use in the classroom.

Each district would be required to submit its technology plan to the Department of Children, Families and Learning for review.

The bill would provide \$30 million for one-time grants to help school districts pursue improvements consistent with their technology plan. The \$30 million would be distributed to districts on a per-pupil basis.

Another \$20 million in grant funding would be available on a competitive basis according to the needs of individual districts. Districts would have to provide matching funds to receive a share of the \$20 million, and the grant funds would have to be spent in a manner consistent with each district's technology plan.

The bill also would provide another \$19 million for telecommunication access grants to help school districts and regional public libraries get connected to the Internet.

Help for skills tests

Students who fail or are at risk of failing the state's basic skills tests required for high school graduation would be eligible for remedial efforts to provide them more time in the classroom.

A total of \$52 million would be earmarked to provide the equivalent of three weeks additional classroom time for students who fail the basic skills tests or are likely to fail. The additional hours could be logged after school, during weekends, or during the summer.

In 1996, the state began giving basic skills tests in reading and math to eighth grade students, who must pass the tests before they are eligible to graduate from high school. The tests are administered once each year.

Statewide, eighth graders given the test in January 1997 experienced high rates of failure, with 41 percent failing in reading and 30 percent failing math. Results in 1996 were similarly disappointing.

Funds to extend classroom time would be distributed to school districts according to a formula that takes into account the number of students in the district who are receiving free lunches.

More time in school

All students would spend three more days in the classroom, under the bill.

Current law sets no minimum for the number of days in a school year, but most districts schedule about 170 days of instruction.

The bill would require all districts to add three days of instruction during the 1997-1998 school year. No additional funding would be provided to districts for the three extra days.

Most districts already contract with teachers for more than 180 days. The bill would simply require that more of those days be used for classroom instruction, leaving fewer days available for training and other activities.

School bus safety

The bill would provide increased funding to school districts for school bus safety improvements that could include retrofitting buses with seat belts and placing adult safety monitors on some buses.

A total of \$6.9 million would be provided to districts for transportation safety funding. That would more than double the amount currently dispersed to districts on a per-student basis.

A total of \$4 million included in that sum would be designated for any of the five following safety purposes: adding seat belts on

buses, providing adult safety monitors, installing video cameras, installing crossing arms, or adding exterior strobe lights.

Adult safety monitors and video cameras are billed as effective methods of improving discipline on buses and making it easier for bus drivers to concentrate on the road. The monitors also can assist drivers in emergency situations.

Crossing arms help to protect children getting on and off buses, and exterior strobe lights help to improve the visibility of buses stopped to pick up or drop off students.

Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) sponsored separate legislation this year aimed at improving school bus safety, and she successfully pushed to have the additional \$4 million in funds for specific safety measures included in the omnibus bill. (Art. 1, Sec. 69)

Luther's proposal was given additional urgency after an April 9 traffic accident involving a school bus headed for a Monticello, Minn., elementary school. Three children were killed and 13 others were injured when a truck collided with the children's bus.

School choices

The governor's 1997 education recommendations called for a variety of changes to increase the school choices available to students and parents.

In addition to his call for tax credits and expanded tax deductions for private school tuition, Carlson proposed changes to increase the number of charter schools in the state and to support the creation of laboratory schools, which are schools run under the auspices of colleges or universities.

The governor recommended that the state provide \$7.3 million in charter school start-up grants, \$2.6 million in charter school lease aid, and \$10 million for laboratory schools.

The omnibus bill would not provide the funding Carlson sought for charter schools, and the bill would provide exactly half of what he recommended for laboratory schools.

However, the bill does include the governor's recommendation to remove a provision in current state law capping the number of charter schools allowed in Minnesota at 40.

And the bill would make it easier for existing schools to convert to charter school status. Current law requires 90 percent of teachers at an existing school to vote in favor of making the site a charter school. The bill would change state law to allow such a change as long as a simple majority of teachers favor the move.

Another provision in the bill would in-

crease the amount of state aid that follows a student to a charter school rather than having the funds remain with the student's home district. Such a change could significantly benefit the coffers of charter schools.

The bill's \$5 million for laboratory schools would provide grants to at least three post-secondary institutions for establishing schools designed to foster innovative teaching techniques.

Grant funding for laboratory schools would be available to public or private post secondary institutions.

Statewide testing

The bill would provide \$5 million for the implementation of a statewide testing system designed to measure educational outcomes and foster accountability in public education.

Separate legislation passed earlier this year and signed into law by the governor requires that the state begin uniform statewide testing during the 1997-1998 school year.

However, that law (**CHI**) does not prescribe exactly how the statewide testing system will work. A special joint committee was created by the House and Senate to develop the framework for the statewide testing system, and the results of that committee's work are expected to be considered in separate legislation.

(Statewide testing has been touted by supporters as a way to increase accountability in public schools by providing a reliable measurement of student and school performance that can be compared to results from other districts and states.)

The House omnibus bill does not address specific characteristics of the new statewide testing requirement, such as who will be tested and what kind of test will be used. But the bill does address how the results of statewide testing would be used to gauge school performance.

Under the bill, test results from 1997-1998 would be used to establish a baseline for each individual school. The future performance of each school would then be evaluated according to its baseline.

The bill also would require the statewide testing system to include rewards for schools that show improvement and assistance for schools that do not.

Superintendent salaries

A provision in the omnibus bill would permit larger school districts to pay their superintendents more than current state law allows.

Existing state law caps the salary of school superintendents at 95 percent of the

governor's \$114,506 annual salary. Some school districts have complained that the cap hurts their ability to compete with districts in other states for top superintendent candidates.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), who backed the plan to allow certain districts to exceed the cap, said the proposal would allow local school boards to better compete for top superintendents and to set the salary for the position according to what is acceptable within the community.

Under the bill, any district with more than 5,000 students would be allowed to exceed the current salary cap, but only if the superintendent achieves performance incentives included in his or her employment contract.

Contract incentives would have to include goals for improving student achievement and could include other factors such as curriculum improvement and student attendance.

The salary cap for superintendents has been in place since 1983, and several legislative attempts to repeal the cap in recent years have failed.

Later starts

A total of \$500,000 would be devoted to grants to help school districts that establish school starting times of 8 a.m. or later.

Advocates of later start times say adolescent students benefit greatly when they are allowed to get a bit more sleep before the school day begins. Better rested students are more prepared to learn and less likely to be disruptive in school, proponents claim.

The case for later start times is supported by a Minnesota Medical Association report showing that adolescents need more sleep — at least 9.5 hours a night — than younger children or adults. And, according to the report, adolescents naturally experience a delayed sleep pattern, which means they are unable to fall asleep as early as adults or younger students.

Supporters also argue that later start times can help to alleviate some of the problems arising when teenagers are released from school early in the afternoon — often as early as 2 p.m. — and left unsupervised.

Earlier in the session, lawmakers considered a proposal backed by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) that would have required all students in grades 7 to 12 to start classes no earlier than 8 a.m. Critics of Entenza's proposal said it amounted to state micro-management of local affairs and that it would be problematic and expensive for many districts.

The bill would not mandate that schools

move to an earlier start time. It would simply provide grants to help cover increases in transportation costs in districts that elect to make the change.

Funds included in the bill would be divided into grants of \$50,000 to help 10 districts with transportation costs related to later start times.

Breakfast at school

A total of \$500,000 would fund a pilot program testing the benefits of providing breakfast to students at designated elementary schools, regardless of the students' economic status.

Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) backed the breakfast program as a way to help improve student learning. Her support centered on the belief that students who come to school hungry are unable to concentrate on learning.

Concerns have been raised about the benefits of programs that provided breakfast only to poor students because the stigma attached to participating in such programs may have kept many children away, according to Johnson.

Under the bill, schools receiving grant funding would be required to make breakfast available to all students every school day. However, only schools with at least 33 percent of students on free and reduced-price lunch programs would be eligible for grant funding.

Stopping hazing

The bill would require new policies to be developed aimed at preventing hazing among students.

Earlier this session, a Roseville mother and her daughter urged lawmakers to take action to deter hazing. The daughter had been a victim of hazing while a student at Roseville Area High School, and she told legislators that the event was traumatic and dangerous.

The girl claims the school did too little to prevent the hazing before it took place and did not respond appropriately when she reported it afterwards.

Under the bill, the Department of Children, Families and Learning would be required to develop a model anti-hazing policy to be made available to districts. Local school boards would have to adopt a written anti-hazing policy.

District anti-hazing policies would apply to student behavior on and off school grounds and during and after school hours. The policies would have to include disciplinary procedures severe enough to deter students from

participating in hazing.

Districts would be required to include their anti-hazing policies in the student handbook and to post the policies in conspicuous places in the schools.

The bill also would require that student hazing be included among the topics covered in each schools' violence prevention curriculum.

Dropping out

The bill includes a provision that would alter the state's compulsory attendance law.

Currently, the state requires anyone age 7 to 16 to be enrolled in school, but a change set to take effect for the 2000-2001 school year would expand compulsory attendance to include everyone age 7 to 18.

The bill would allow students ages 16 to 18 to withdraw from school if they follow procedures designed to inform them of other available educational opportunities.

The student and his or her parent or guardian would be required to meet with school personnel to discuss options such as alternative secondary programs, charter schools, and schools in other districts.

If the student does not elect to continue in an alternative setting, the student and a parent or guardian would be required to sign a statement confirming the student's decision to drop out.

Internet pornography

Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka) urged adoption this year of a requirement that schools use blocking software to shield children from obscene material on the Internet, but the omnibus bill would not go that far.

Critics of the plan to mandate the use of blocking software claim the technology is imperfect and that it denies Internet users access to useful information.

For example, software designed to block sites related to sex can be effective in denying access to pornography, but it also can block sites related to sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, and other legitimate research topics, according to critics of Weaver's proposal.

The bill would require the Department of Children, Families and Learning to develop a model policy for Internet access and use. Each school district would be required to adopt an official Internet use policy within one year of when the department's model policy is prepared.

The department also would be required to evaluate and recommend blocking software to prevent access to obscene or sexually

explicit materials, but use of such software would not be mandated.

Dial-a-teacher

The bill would provide \$350,000 to keep the Minnesota Homework Helpline up and running for two more years.

The Homework Helpline is a statewide service giving students toll-free access to teachers who can provide assistance on a wide range of academic topics.

The service faced a financial crisis earlier this year and was just days away from shutting down when Target Stores stepped up to provide \$58,000 to keep the help line going through the 1996-97 school year.

The \$350,000 included in the bill would be directed to the Southeast Service Cooperative, which manages the help line, and would cover the help line's operating expenses for the biennium.

Another provision in the omnibus bill would provide \$250,000 to support the Metro Hotline for Homework, a separate service that assists students via the telephone or other interactive technology.

— Nick Healy



BUSINESS

Unauthorized switches

It's called slamming. A long-distance telephone company switches a customer's service without the customer's knowledge or approval. The methods can include sending a check, a sweepstakes form, or a survey. What the individual or business often doesn't realize is that by participating or signing, they've authorized the switch.

HF1123, sponsored by Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington), would label slamming as consumer fraud, and authorize the attorney general's office to take action at a customer's request. The bill was passed by the House April 14 on a 132-0 vote.

The bill says that it is fraudulent to change a customer's service without the customer's verified consent, and that it is the responsibility of the telephone company to prove consent.

"If there's any question" on the customer's part about the switch being legally authorized, "the company has to have an authorization in writing," Delmont said.

A 1996 law required that a long-distance company reinstall a customer's original ser-

vice at no charge and then re-bill the customer at a lower rate if the original charges would have been cheaper. The new bill adds that the company could be required to absorb the long-distance costs accrued while the unauthorized service was in effect.

The bill now goes to the Senate.



DEVELOPMENT

Economic development

A \$376.6 million omnibus economic development bill sets aside money over the 1998-1999 state budgeting period for a diverse group of state agencies, from the Minnesota Historical Society to the Department of Economic Security.

A draft of the bill won approval from the Economic Development and International Trade Committee April 16. The provisions of the bill were later combined with the omnibus housing bill, which now moves to the House Ways and Means Committee as **HF2158**.

Among the economic development bill's provisions is a \$10 million appropriation to help Minnesota's welfare families train for jobs. Federal law now requires families to work to receive public assistance.

The bill also sets aside \$10 million to help redevelop vacated, contaminated industrial land, known as brownfields, so new businesses can move in and create jobs. The money would not be used for the cleanup of

the contaminated land (a separate fund does that). Instead, the predevelopment and job creation grant program would pay costs such as land acquisition, demolition of existing structures, and relocation of individuals or businesses.

Minnesota's film industry also would get a \$1 million boost. The money would go to the Minnesota Film Board to establish a film production jobs program. It would pay producers of long-form and narrative films who directly create new film jobs in Minnesota. The Department of Trade and Economic Development would oversee and authorize the payments.

Projects not receiving funding in the bill include the Minneapolis Convention Center and the St. Paul Civic Center. The Minneapolis Convention Center had asked for \$37.5 million to help expand its facilities and make it more competitive nationally. The St. Paul Civic Center had asked for \$51 million in state bonds to help renovate the Civic Center in the hopes of attracting a professional ice hockey franchise. Gov. Arne Carlson had recommended \$4 million in funds for the Civic Center but the Economic Development Finance Division, which put the bill together, opted for no money.

Below is a listing of some of the bill's other provisions.

- \$4 million would go to the Minnesota Youth Program which provides services year-round for young people between the ages of 14 and 21. That dollar figure is above the state base funding of about \$6

Challenge choir



Rich Scherber is the executive director of Minnesota Teen Challenge, a Minneapolis-based program in which adolescents involved in drugs, prostitution, or gangs receive job training skills and learn to live structured lives. He introduced House members to a choir composed of current program participants April 17, after which the students sang a spiritual song.

million. Participants receive education, skills training, and other support services on an individual basis. They receive academic enrichment designed to improve reading and math skills.

- \$100,000 would go to Mankato State University to establish a rural policy and development center to research issues affecting rural Minnesota, encourage collaboration across higher education institutions to help with problem solving, and provide a resource center for rural communities.
- \$1 million would go to certain Minnesota cities in the form of grants to help combat teen curfew violations, truancy, and gang infiltration.
- \$300,000 would go to the Minnesota Historical Society to distribute locally for Minnesota's territorial sesquicentennial and millennium celebrations.
- \$250,000 would go to Ramsey County to expand the Sister-to-Sister mentoring program which pairs former welfare mothers with those currently on welfare to help them move off public assistance. The county would be required to match the money.
- \$25,000 would go to study the feasibility of a state museum to house fishing-related artifacts, equipment, and memorabilia. The Minnesota Historical Society must present study recommendations to the Legislature.



ENVIRONMENT

Environmental spending bill

State spending for environment and agriculture programs would total almost \$624 million over the next two-year budget cycle, under a bill approved by the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee April 14.

HF2150, sponsored by Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), funds the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Minnesota Zoo, the Department of Agriculture, and several other state agencies.

A little more than 62 percent of the state spending in the bill — almost \$388 million — would go to the DNR. The MPCA, the next largest recipient under the bill, would receive about \$83 million. The Department of Agriculture would get \$52.4 million.

The spending bill also includes nearly \$37 million for 89 environmental and recreational programs selected by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), which is funded from a two-cent-

per-pack cigarette tax and limited state lottery proceeds. The bill also would abolish the LCMR and transfer its authority to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee and the Senate Environment and Agriculture Budget Division (*See related story, page 8*).

HF2150 now moves to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Other provisions of the bill include:

State parks, trails, recreation

Funding for state parks and recreation areas would total more than \$57.5 million, a spending increase of \$3.5 million over the previous two-year budget.

A total of \$9 million — \$4.5 million each year — would go to acquire land and improve the metropolitan regional park system. Nearly \$5.1 million would go to expand and improve state park and recreational areas. (An additional \$7 million from the LCMR would supplement the funds for metropolitan and state parks.)

New connections costing \$1.2 million would be added linking the Willard Munger Trail to North St. Paul High School property and to the city of Roseville trail system. Another \$800,000 would be appropriated for other state trail improvements.

The LCMR budget also includes \$1 million for new trail acquisition.

Ethanol production

The bill would appropriate \$52.4 million — \$27.4 million in fiscal year 1998 and \$25 million in fiscal year 1999 — for agriculture programs. Of that amount, \$44.6 million would subsidize ethanol producers over the two-year period.

Ethanol is made from the fermentation of corn and other agricultural products and has been used as an additive in gasoline to make it burn more cleanly.

There are currently six major ethanol plants in Minnesota that produce a total of 92 million gallons of ethanol per year. That is still short of the 120 million gallon state goal which would allow Minnesota to become ethanol self-sufficient. The state still imports ethanol from plants in Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska.

Since October 1995, automobiles in the 10-county metropolitan area have been required to burn "oxygenated fuel" year round. (The law was enacted in 1991 because the Twin Cities was in violation of federal Environmental Protection Agency clean air requirements. Adding one part ethanol for every 10 parts of gas is one way to oxygenate gas.)

Beginning Oct. 1, 1997, all gasoline sold in the state will have to be oxygenated, which will further increase demand for ethanol.

Snowmobile trails

Minnesota's snowmobile trail fund has an operating deficit of \$2.5 million for the 1997 fiscal year, according to a report from the Minnesota Snowmobile Advisory Committee. Dennis Asmussen, director of Trails and Waterways for the DNR, testified at a January committee hearing that the state's Snowmobile Trail Enforcement Account has not been adequate to operate and maintain the existing 18,047 mile trail system.

At the same time, the number of registered snowmobile users in the state increased 41 percent over the past 10 years. Today's snowmobiles are bigger and more powerful than when many of the state's snowmobile trails were built.

The bill would appropriate \$5.1 million each year for snowmobile trails and enforcement. Most of the money would go to local snowmobile clubs to pay for trail grooming under the state grants-in-aid program.

Fish and wildlife

More than \$86.5 million would be spent in fiscal years 1998 and 1999 on programs for lake, stream, and wildlife area management.

Nearly \$2 million would be marked for non-game wildlife management programs. Another \$2.7 million would be marked to fund game and fish critical habitat programs and wetlands protection under the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program.

The LCMR recommendations add another \$3.2 million for RIM programs.

Clean air and water

The MPCA would continue existing programs to clean up Minnesota lakes and rivers with \$23.3 million in state funds, under the bill. It would receive another \$15.4 million for air pollution programs, and almost \$31.2 million for protection of groundwater and management of solid waste.

Agricultural potpourri

Other agriculture programs that would be funded include:

- \$8.3 million for the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute, including \$150,000 for marketing a value-added agricultural product by a community-based youth program, and \$200,000 each year to develop a program for hybrid tree plantations.
- \$1 million for teams of dairy experts to provide professional consulting services to

- small- and medium-sized dairy farms;
- \$500,000 for the University of Minnesota to study livestock odor and low-emission alternative management techniques for swine farrowing and feeder pig production; and
- \$700,000 for the Board of Animal Health, including \$40,000 to identify cattle herds infected with para-tuberculosis or “John’s disease” and \$89,000 for the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine for a companion animal resource education program.

Lottery funding unstuck

The third time was a charm for a bill to extend the dedication of state lottery revenue for environmental purposes. **HF113** won approval from the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee April 14.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), would extend the dedication of 40 percent of net lottery proceeds to the trust fund for environmental projects until the year 2020. Under the Minnesota Constitution, that dedication is set to expire in 2000. As originally written, the bill extended the fund dedication until 2050.

HF113 also would allow up to 25 percent of the annual revenues deposited in the environmental fund to be used for land acquisition and development until 2020. Munger’s original bill would have authorized such expenditures only through fiscal year 1997.

Changes made to the original bill led Munger to withdraw the proposal on two previous occasions, stalling its progress for weeks. This time around, everyone was agreeable. Munger said that while he dislikes the amendments, he still wants the bill to move forward. Greta Gauthier, director of the Environmental Trust Fund Coalition, said her group supports extending the lottery dedication for as long as possible, but is not committed to a specific date.

According to a report from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), the lottery has contributed \$149 million to the trust fund since it began in 1991. The fund is currently worth about \$140 million. Given stable lottery sales, the LCMR projects that the trust fund will reach \$1 billion in assets by 2016.

To date, the trust fund has contributed approximately \$60.5 million to 87 environmental projects. Forty more projects are proposed for 1998-99, which would increase total trust fund expenditures to about \$81 million.

The bill now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Changes to state parks

Land would be added to four state parks, an additional park would get a new name, and another would be allowed to sell beer in its lodge, under a bill passed by the House April 14. The vote was 118-15.

HF299, sponsored by Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to add land to the following state parks:

- Bear Head Lake State Park in St. Louis County which would add 160 acres of adjacent undeveloped land, wooded with mature red and white pine trees. The addition would prevent a proposed housing development near the Taconite State Trail.
- Forestville State Park in Fillmore County which would get an adjacent 40-acre parcel on the south branch of the Root River. The river is a designated trout stream and the surrounding bluffs contain excellent habitat for the endangered timber rattlesnake.
- John Latsch State Park in Winona County which would gain access to the Mississippi River with a 120-acre parcel that includes privately owned water access, a resort, and campground. The resort would continue to be privately operated under contract with the state.
- Split Rock Lighthouse State Park in Lake County which would acquire 80 acres of land along the Lake Superior shore northeast of the park. The land is currently owned by the Congdon family and includes Gold Rock Point, the largest of the few exposed granite cliffs on the North Shore. It also contains 3,700 feet of lake shore and access to the Madeira shipwreck, one of the most popular diving sites in the Great Lakes.

The bill also would change the name of O.L. Kipp State Park in Winona County to Great River Bluffs State Park. O.L. Kipp is the first state park encountered by travelers entering the state from the east on Interstate 90. Great River Bluffs is a more descriptive name that park officials believe will attract more tourists to the park.

Another provision of the bill would allow Itasca State Park in Clearwater County to add beer to the wine menu in its restaurant. And visitors to Tettegouche State Park would be allowed to use the parking lot for one hour without buying a state park permit.

The bill now moves to the Senate.

LCMR changes

The Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) may soon be no more. An amendment added to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee’s omnibus bill (**HF2150**) April 14 would technically eliminate the commission, often a source of controversy.

The LCMR, established in 1963, comprises 16 legislators; half House members and half senators. The commission draws on four state revenue sources and recommends funding for projects to enhance and protect the state’s natural resources. LCMR recommendations are developed through an extensive public review process including input from a variety of individuals and groups interested in the environment. The recommendations then must be adopted by the Legislature. Last year the commission recommended projects totaling \$36 million in state spending.

The amendment, offered by Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), would replace the LCMR membership with the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee and the Senate Environment and Agriculture Budget Division. In all 27 members sit on the committees.

Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), chair of the House Environment and Natural Re-



John Velin, director of the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), listened April 14 as the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee approved an amendment that would significantly alter the composition of the LCMR. The panel recommends the spending of tens of millions of state dollars for environmental projects throughout the state.

sources Committee and a member of the LCMR, said that the commission is doing just fine. He characterized the Holsten amendment as a power grab by the finance committee and said such a policy change should first go through the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, which he chairs.

Holsten argued that his amendment would leave the current public advisory process and support staff in place but put the decision-making authority in the hands of a group more geographically and ideologically diverse than the LCMR. The current LCMR is composed of 12 DFLers and four Republicans. The proposal would make it a 16-11 DFL majority.

The omnibus bill now moves to the House Ways and Means Committee.



FAMILY

Early childhood funding

A bill that sets aside a record \$200 million to pay for the child care needs of welfare and working-poor families passed the House April 17. The vote was 122-11.

The measure also would pay some parents to stay at home with their newborns for the first year of life.

In all, the omnibus early childhood and family education bill (**HF2147**) would spend \$393.6 million over the state's 1998-1999 two-year budgeting period.

Sponsored by Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids), the bill, in addition to child care, appropriates money for programs such as early childhood education, community education, after school programs, adult basic education, Head Start, food shelves, and homeless shelters.

The more money the state invests in its children early in life, "the easier it will be on all of our budgets" later on, said Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) referring to the cost of Minnesota's judicial and welfare budgets.

Providing the dollars for child care is in the state's best interest, lawmakers say. Under a new federal welfare law, states are punished for not moving their welfare parents to work. Specifically, Minnesota could lose millions in federal aid. Logically, if Minnesota expects its welfare parents to work, child care assistance is essential.

Part of the \$200 million for child care — \$98 million — would pay for the child care needs of welfare parents now required to work under federal law. The new work re-

quirement is expected to move another 12,500 Minnesota children into day care over the next few years.

About \$89.5 million would be placed in an existing program that helps low- and moderate-income working families pay for child care using an income-based, sliding fee scale. There are currently about 5,600 Minnesota families on a waiting list for the program, which is called Basic Sliding Fee child care. The money in the bill is expected to eliminate most, if not all, of the waiting list.

Another \$2 million would be used to administer the programs. The remaining \$410,000 would be spent to encourage stay-at-home parenting for some low- and moderate-income families. In effect, it would pay parents on the Basic Sliding Fee child care program to stay at home with their child for the first year of life.

Eligible families already would have had to qualify for the Basic Sliding Fee program and received child care help for at least 30 days. They'd receive 75 percent of the average cost of licensed family home day care for an infant in their county. The bill instructs the Department of Children, Families and Learning to begin the program by March 1, 1998.

The Basic Sliding Fee program has become a vital part of the state's effort to trim its welfare rolls. Without the program, the cost of child care can often push a working poor family onto welfare.

An unsuccessful attempt to delete the stay-

at-home provision was sponsored by Rep. Ron Kraus (R-Albert Lea) who said that tough choices needed to be made. While Kraus said he didn't feel the program was a bad idea, he thought it best to pay parents who want to work.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), who sponsored the stay-at-home provision, defended the measure by noting that the first three years of life are vital in a child's development into a healthy, productive adult. Having one parent stay home to raise the child would prevent societal problems later. "The little baby benefits the most..." Mulder said.

Other unsuccessful amendments included one to cut programs in the bill by 1 percent across the board and another to cut child care funding by \$10 million to save the taxpayers money.

Below is a listing of some of the bill's highlights.

- \$10 million would be spent to encourage people to enter the child care profession by offering forgivable loans for course work and training. A portion of the money also would be used to expand child care facilities. All of this is in preparation for the expected onslaught of new children into day care. Based on past experience, more children in day care will mean an estimated 90 more child care centers, 650 more family child care homes, and 3,875 more legal unlicensed relatives and neighbors to take care of the children are needed, according to the Department of Children, Families and Learning.
- \$30.5 million over the two-year budgeting period would pay for a program that brings babies and toddlers together with their parents to learn about a child's emotional, physical, mental, and educational development. The Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program is a 23-year-old program designed for children from birth to kindergarten and their parents.
- \$12 million would pay for after-school enrichment programs. Grants are provided to select neighborhoods so they may offer after-school programs for 9- to 13-year-olds. The amount is \$7 million more than the 1996-1997 budgeting period. The program's purpose is to reduce juvenile crime, school suspensions, and increase student achievement.
- \$30.2 million would pay for Head Start, a 31 percent increase from the previous budget. Head Start is a federal/state program that provides low income preschool children with emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological services.

Speech training



Minority Leader Steve Sviggum gave 11-month-old Megan Danaher Wright, daughter of Jeanne Danaher, executive director of the House Republican Caucus, a lesson in speechmaking April 11 on the House floor.

- \$24.6 million would pay for adult basic education over the biennium. The program provides educational opportunities for adults with low educational levels. Services such as literacy training, work force education, and General Educational Development (GED) preparation.
- \$2.3 million would pay for Minnesota food shelves, a 65 percent increase over the previous two-year budget. The increase is in anticipation of an even greater demand on food shelves this spring when many of Minnesota's poor will see a cut in their federal food stamps.
(See April 11, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 3.)



GAME & FISH

Assistant anglers allowed

Anglers who need help wetting their fishing lines due to age, blindness, or disability are given a break by a bill (**HF311**) approved April 14 by the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.

Seniors and disabled people currently receive free fishing licenses, but those assisting them often must pay for a separate license. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), would allow aged and disabled people to be assisted by an unlicensed person as long as only one line is in the water.

"One of my constituents, Mark Jacobson, of Brooklyn Park, brought the problem to my attention," Luther said. Jacobson's mother is disabled and needs assistance to pursue her favorite sport. Since she has several assistants, Jacobson found he would have to pay for a separate fishing license for each assistant.

The bill now moves to the house floor.



GOVERNMENT

State government funding

The House Governmental Operations Committee approved a wide-ranging omnibus bill April 17 that doles out nearly \$632 million to fund the state's governmental functions and contains a number of substantial policy revisions.

SF1905, sponsored in the House by committee chair Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), appropriates funding through the 1998-99 biennium for virtually every aspect of state government activity: the Legislature, courts

and administrative agencies, as well as numerous offices, boards, and commissions. It also funds several new government endeavors, including \$700,000 to the city of Wabasha to develop the American Bald Eagle Center, and \$250,000 to International Falls, Minn., to design an interpretive library and conference center.

The omnibus state government finance bill also contains:

- more than \$1 million to remodel the Capitol cafeteria;
- nearly \$8 million for public television throughout Minnesota;
- \$300,000 to shore up the struggling Hockey Hall of Fame in Eveleth, Minn.;
- \$20 million to the Minneapolis Employee Retirement Fund; and
- almost \$9 million to fund amateur and youth sports projects.

"This is a good bill," said the committee's State Government Finance Division chair Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) in response to critics of the version that emerged from his division April 16. "Everything was done out in the open."

The full Governmental Operations Committee, though, considered more than a dozen amendments to **SF1905**, and ultimately removed what some called the bill's most controversial aspect. By a 13-6 vote, the committee deleted the provision allowing the state to purchase the Minnesota Twins — if the team came up for sale — with \$100 million from the budget surplus and the general fund.

Still in the bill is language that would raise the state's minimum wage. (Members sent an identical minimum wage proposal (**HF1389**) on to the House Ways and Means Committee for consideration as a separate bill. Effective Sept. 1, 1997, both would force the state's large employers to pay workers at least \$5.40 per hour. Small employers would have to pay at least \$5.15 per hour.

The committee also left in place a provision that would repeal the state's price-of-government legislation. The Legislature enacted the price-of-government law, which expresses as a percentage the maximum share of personal income to be collected in taxes and other revenues, in 1995. Lawmakers use the percentage as a target to assemble the state's budget.

"It's really written very badly," Kahn said of the law, "and the tax committee has said they would take it up. This would make sure they do."

Other provisions follow.

Expanding technology

Under **SF1905**, authority over the state's technology infrastructure would fall to the Office of Technology, which would be elevated to the status of a full state agency that answers directly to the governor.

The bill defines the nature and extent of the office's responsibilities and would require the office's executive director to coordinate all of Minnesota's information and technology systems. The office also would evaluate technology proposals, along with hardware and software purchases, made by other state agencies to ensure a comprehensive approach to technology applications.

Minnesota's North Star on-line service, with its biennial budget of more than \$8 million, also would come under the aegis of the technology office. **SF1905** would require governmental units considering on-line initiatives to use North Star. The service would have to develop a secure means of conducting government business on-line.

North Star also would be charged with the task of creating an information and technology community resource development program. Designed to encourage economic development, the resource program would promote technology applications in health care, education, and commerce. The office also would award grants to increase public/private technology partnerships around the state.

SF1905 also would appropriate \$23 million through the biennium for the state's Year 2000 project to cope with anticipated computer problems brought on by the approaching end of the millennium.

Planning community development

Earlier in the session, Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) and Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) introduced bills aimed at coordinating Minnesota's burgeoning development efforts. Both bills adopt the 10 planning guidelines issued by the Metropolitan Council and appear in **SF1905**.

The community planning provisions contained in **SF1905** would allow municipalities to create joint planning districts that would control development decisions. The Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning would oversee the districts, which would have to agree to submit a comprehensive plan for review. The bill also requires communities to define urban growth areas and details a mediation process designed to mitigate any conflicts that arise out of development initiatives.

The bill also contains a \$250,000 appropriation to establish at least two joint-planning pilot projects.



HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education funding

The House passed the omnibus higher education finance bill April 16. The vote was 112-20.

One of the main thrusts of the bill (**HF2136/SF1888***) is to stem the tide of spiraling college costs to make attendance feasible for more low- and middle-income students.

"This bill makes a commitment . . . toward affordable and accessible higher education," said bill sponsor Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), who noted postsecondary spending has dipped from 15 percent of the state budget to its current 11 percent over the last decade. As a result, he said, there have been double-digit tuition increases across Minnesota's higher education systems.

"With the commitment that the Minnesota House of Representatives made to [spending] \$70 million dollars over the governor['s recommendations], this bill ensures that tuition — if there are increases — will be at or less than the rate of inflation. This is a huge change from what has happened in the past," Pelowski said.

The final total for bill is \$2.3 billion. That includes over \$1 billion for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU), \$1.1 billion for the University of Minnesota (U of M), and \$2.4 million for the Mayo Medical Foundation.

Other bill provisions include a \$1.6 million appropriation to establish the Coya Knutson endowed chair in political science at the U of M. Knutson was the first and only woman from Minnesota elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Her career was derailed after her husband launched a public campaign to persuade her to come home.

Several bill supporters said that educational institutions in Minnesota, a state considered an agricultural leader, have fallen behind in maintaining high-quality agricultural programs. The bill seeks to remedy the problem through the broadbased Minnesota Agriculture Education Leadership Council, which would establish a grant program to develop agriculture education programs, develop legislative recommendations, coordinate agriculture policy, identify critical needs for educators, and link the agribusiness and the educational sectors. The work would be coordinated through the proposed Minnesota Center for Agriculture Education.

Successful floor amendments included one

by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) that would require colleges and universities with NCAA Division I men's hockey programs to develop women's varsity hockey programs.

Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth) successfully proposed an amendment that enhances the free-speech rights of students against institutional policies.

Before the final vote on the bill, Rep. Hilda Bettermann (R-Brandon) said. "This is a good bill. It attempts to make up for a lack of higher education funding in the last few years and upholds many of the governor's initiatives."

Other provisions are detailed below.

Helping families save

The bill exempts \$25,000 in family assets from consideration when a student applies for financial aid. Two more bill initiatives would add another \$25,000 exemption and provide other savings boosts.

The firm. Gopher State Bonds program, would allow the sale of state general obligation bonds, which are exempt from state and federal taxes, in increments as low as \$500. Normally, the bonds are available at \$5,000 or more.

While the bonds would be available for purchase to anyone, several provisions would encourage their purchase for college savings: the \$25,000 that would be exempt in determining state grant eligibility, and payroll withholding employees could deduct from the purchase of the bonds.

"Not only will families get a tax break, they get a break in their needs assessment when a student applies for aid," Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) has said. Similar programs operate in 24 other states.

The Gopher State savings bonds program would apply to all higher education programs.

A second program, Edvest, would provide state matching grants of up to 15 percent — for a maximum benefit of \$300 — of college savings. The interest earned would be taxed at a lower rate that would apply to students when it is used for college costs.

The program would encourage matching contributions from individuals, foundations and businesses to provide additional grants to participating students.

Keeping technologically fit

The omnibus higher education finance bill includes three technology initiatives:

A total of \$1 million would be appropriated for the Minnesota Career and Education Planning System, a program to allow K-12 and college students to access career

Under **SF1905's** community-based planning act, communities could receive technical and financial assistance from the strategic planning office in exchange for embracing the agency's procedures. Communities would prepare their development policies, submit them to the strategic planning office for review, and coordinate their efforts with the surrounding local governments. A local government could not implement a plan until it has been approved by the state office.

The community-based planning act also would create a 22-member advisory council to develop the overall framework of the state's development strategy. The advisory council would be required to propose legislation for the 1998 session to place that framework in statute.

Buying prescription drugs

Another section of the law would direct the commissioner of the Department of Administration to establish a contracting alliance that would purchase pharmaceuticals in bulk and re-sell them less expensively.

The alliance, which could take advantage of volume discounts, would make the drugs available at the lower price to pharmacies across the state. Participating pharmacies would be required to pass on to consumers at least 75 percent of the contract price's savings.

The bill also prohibits health plans from discriminating against consumers who buy drugs through the program and requires that lower priced generic compounds be made available whenever possible.

Public sector pay raises

Many of Minnesota's public servants would see fatter paychecks under **SF1905**.

The bill increases the pay of legislators by 5 percent, effective Jan. 4, 1999. The bump would raise the current salary of \$29,658 to \$31,140.

The salaries of judges go up by 2.5 percent in 1998, again in 1999, and are tied to the average general salary adjustment for state employees in 2000 and 2001.

SF1905 also would hike the maximum pay of state agency heads, who haven't seen a pay scale increase in nearly a decade. Proponents say top candidates for the jobs are escaping due to insufficient salaries.

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

information that would help them devise educational plans.

The second, MNLink, which Pelowski called "the mother of all on-line services for library access," would provide Internet linkage among public libraries, school and private libraries, and U of M and MnSCU libraries. The higher education institutions would provide staff and technical support. The bill appropriates \$12 million for the plan.

The bill also appropriates money to develop courses that could be delivered through the Virtual University which would be a collaboration between the U of M, MnSCU and private colleges that will enable students to register for classes via the Internet at almost every college and university in the state.

"This would serve as a gateway leading to all higher education existing in Minnesota," Pelowski explained at an earlier meeting. "It's the first time the three entities have worked together to enhance higher education in the state."

The plan is based on the World Wide Web page currently used by the University of Minnesota. According to information from John Gunyou of the Minnesota Office of Technology, the plan is meant to improve access to course offerings, expand choices in degree programs, allow for the transfer of credits between schools, and increase off-campus learning opportunities.

The bill funds research for adding course work to the program.

Other provisions:

- \$250,000 each year would fund grants to minority students enrolled in nursing programs and programs to recruit persons of color.
- \$50,000 in non-recurring funds would be marked for the loan repayment assistance program for law school graduates working for economically disadvantaged groups, tribal governments, court systems, public interest organizations, public defense corporations, or the state board of public defense.
- \$3 million would go to design, construct, and equip a recreation facility at the Minneapolis campus of the U of M that would include an ice rink for use by the women's athletic program.
- The bill allows students to gain work-study credits through work with qualified private employers. Formerly, only educational or nonprofit organizations qualified in work-study programs.
- The bill encourages schools to expand work-study programs by sending higher education students into public elementary and

secondary schools for activities such as tutoring.



HOUSING

Omnibus housing finance bill

A \$63 million proposal to fund state housing programs that aid the homeless, the disabled, first-time home buyers, and others won approval from the Housing and Housing Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee April 15.

The bill would appropriate \$36.6 million in fiscal year 1998 and \$26.4 in fiscal year 1999 for programs administered by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

The provisions of the omnibus housing finance bill were later combined with the omnibus bill assembled by the committee's Economic Development Finance Division. That bill (**HF2158**) now moves to the House Ways and Means Committee. Below are some of the bill's key housing sections.

Service funds



Nellie, a trained service dog, rests under the witness table as her owner, Lois Weber, of Mankato, testified April 16 in favor of a bill before the House Health and Human Services Finance Division that would provide funds to organizations that train or provide service dogs for people with disabilities.

Homeless assistance, prevention

According to Department of Economic Security figures, the number of people using emergency shelters and transitional housing in the state has tripled over the past 11 years. Of the 4,981 Minnesotans needing services in 1996, 44 percent were children. Any increase in homelessness triggered by federal and state welfare reforms going into effect this year could strain an already overburdened support system.

The bill includes several programs to aid the homeless and prevent homelessness. The largest such appropriation would mark \$5.7 million for grants to organizations providing case management to help low-income people with poor rental histories rehabilitate their rental records and find housing. Part of the funding would also go to innovative approaches for housing people with poor rental histories.

Mental illness can often lead to homelessness. Under the bill, \$1.7 million per year would go to rental housing assistance for mentally ill persons with housing problems.

The Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program would get \$2.7 million per year to assist families who are homeless or are at imminent risk of homelessness. This program provides grants and encourages innovative responses to homelessness at county, regional, and local levels.

Another \$583,000 per year would go to the Foreclosure Prevention and Rental Assistance Program to provide borrower counseling and interest-free loans for renters and homeowners who are facing eviction or foreclosure due to a temporary financial hardship.

Affordable rental housing

The Affordable Rental Investment Fund would get \$16.4 million for the biennium to provide no-interest first mortgages or deferred loans for low-income rental housing. Households earning 80 percent of the state median income and in need of affordable housing are the target of this program.

Housing Trust Fund

The bill would provide \$2.3 million per year for the Housing Trust Fund. The fund makes deferred interest loans for the development and rehabilitation of low-income rental housing, limited equity cooperatives, and home ownership through community housing organizations.

Indian housing programs

Home ownership and rental opportunities for low- and moderate-income American Indians are provided by two programs. The Urban Indian Housing Program would receive \$187,000 per year to assist Indians living in urban areas. The Tribal Indian Housing Program would get \$1.7 million to help Indians living in Greater Minnesota.

Homestead support

The Minnesota Urban and Rural Homesteading Program would get \$186,000 per year to acquire vacant, condemned, or abandoned single family homes for rehabilitation and sale. The properties are offered to first-time homeowners on a contract-for-deed basis.

Accessibility Loan Program

A program that provides deferred payment loans to low-income homeowners for improvements directly related to the basic housing needs of physically disabled persons would receive \$4.3 million per year. The program is operated by local agencies and is limited to households in which one or more persons have a long-term disability that substantially affects functioning in the home.

Housing demolition

A \$1 million appropriation requested by House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) would pay for the acquisition, demolition, and removal of substandard multi-unit rental property. The measure was added to the bill even though some members questioned whether it would run counter to existing state housing policy and lead to an actual decrease in available low-income housing.

Lead poisoning prevention

The bill would establish a state advisory task force on lead hazard reduction. The 15-member task force would study and propose a program to certify residential rental property as lead-safe (meaning that no lead contaminants are accessible to children).

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, lead poisoning is the number one environmental threat to America's children. Children are typically exposed to lead in the form of paint chips or dust inside the home. Exposure to even a small amount of lead can have devastating effects on a young child, potentially leading to a slower growth rate, lower intelligence, impaired hearing, behavioral disorders, and metabolic problems.

The task force would propose essential maintenance practices to ensure that a resi-

dence remains lead-safe after certification. The legal rights and liabilities of tenants and landlords also would be studied in regard to providing lead-safe housing and in cases where a child is lead poisoned.

A one-time appropriation of \$50,000 would fund the task force's activities.

Committee resolution

In an unusual move, the committee approved a resolution sponsored by Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) protesting the fact that the Housing and Housing Finance Division was not given an opportunity to review a provision of the state's welfare reform bill (**HF159**) which would reduce benefits to families living in federally subsidized housing by \$100 per month. Mariani called this provision, now contained in both the House and Senate welfare proposals, the "most significant housing policy and funding decision in the 1997 legislative session."

The resolution, which was signed by six members of the committee, states that the provision may result in the statewide loss of 1,000 publicly subsidized housing units, substantially reducing access to affordable housing in the state.

The resolution calls on House leadership and the House Ways and Means Committee to take measures to offset the negative impact of this policy on welfare recipients living in subsidized housing.

Protecting tenants

A bill that would prohibit landlords from penalizing tenants for calling 911 for emergency help was passed by the House on April 14 on a 132-0 vote.

The bill responds to a problem that developed after some cities passed anticrime ordinances that penalize landlords whose properties are subject to frequent police visits. As a result, some landlords began warning tenants against calling police, often with the threat of eviction. Many targets of the warnings have been women who suffer domestic abuse.

HF686, sponsored by Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul), says that a landlord may not impose a penalty on a tenant for calling 911 in response to domestic abuse or any other conduct, and that landlords and tenants cannot enter into agreements that would permit the practice. The legislation supersedes local regulations and authorizes the attorney general's office to investigate and prosecute violations. It would slap landlords with civil penalties for actual damages

or \$500, whichever is greater, and would award them to tenants, in addition to any attorneys' fees incurred to obtain them.

The bill states that its provisions do not protect tenants from penalties for lease breaches or disruptive behavior.

HF686 now goes to the Senate.



HUMAN SERVICES

Welfare proposal advances

Just how much money Minnesota's poor and legal immigrants should receive in their monthly welfare checks is now in the hands of a small panel of lawmakers.

A conference committee is meeting to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions of a welfare reform bill (**SF1*/HF159**).

Both bills use Minnesota dollars to make up for some of the federal cuts to legal immigrants and require welfare families to work or be penalized. As it stands now, the House would spend about \$732.6 million over the 1998-1999 state budgeting period. The Senate, \$760 million.

Neither version allocates money, however. The omnibus human services spending bill in both the House and Senate is expected to carry the appropriations.

Aside from the money differences, there are policy differences as well.

The House bill, for instance, discourages welfare moms from having another child while on public assistance. The Senate version does not.

The House bill also requires legal immigrants to have lived in Minnesota on March 1, 1997, to receive public assistance. The Senate bill does not.

Compared to the Senate, the House version would move people off welfare more quickly by reducing the amount of money they can earn while receiving benefits.

The House bill also would more severely punish people on welfare who are not working.

The Senate bill would exempt certain people from the federal 5-year lifetime limit on welfare benefits due to advanced age, illness, pregnancy, or family crisis. The House bill does not.

Unlike the Senate bill, the House bill authorizes a truancy prevention pilot program in two school districts across the state for children who are under age 13, frequently tardy or truant, and whose families are on public assistance.

While both bills exempt from work the



House research analyst Elisabeth M. Loehrke, *right*, prepares an amendment for one of the many bills awaiting action by the House Health and Human Services Finance Division April 15.

caregiver of a newborn for one year, the House bill only offers the exemption as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The Senate bill sets no limits.

Overall, both bills would expand statewide an experimental welfare-to-work program operating in a handful of Minnesota counties over the past few years. The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) would become permanent in all 87 Minnesota counties.

MFIP allows families to accept lower-paying jobs while receiving some public assistance such as extra monthly cash and subsidized child and health care. In theory, allowing someone to work while still receiving benefits helps a low-skilled parent gain work experience and eventually obtain a better job.

MFIP statewide would replace the traditional Aid to Families with Dependent Children program done away with by the 1996 federal welfare law.

States across the country are hurrying to pass new welfare laws after the federal government scrapped the long-standing welfare system in August 1996.

The House passed the bill April 11 by a vote of 118-14. The Senate passed the bill March 20, by a vote of 67-0.

(See Jan. 24, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 9; Feb. 7, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 3 and page 12; March 7, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 17; March 21, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 15; and March 28, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 11).

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LABOR

Strawberry workers supported

The House went on record April 16 in favor of better treatment of California strawberry workers. A bill (**HF1877/SF1675***) already approved in the Senate passed the House on a vote of 76-54. It was sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), chair of the House Labor-Management Relations Committee.

Strawberry workers, represented by the United Farm Workers Union, are conducting a national campaign to call attention to their plight. The typical strawberry worker earns about \$8,500 per season for working as many as 12 hours a day, stooped over the low berry plants. Despite record production levels and sales revenue of \$650 million per year in the strawberry industry, most workers have not had a significant raise in 10 years.

According to the bill, workers also claim a variety of workplace abuses including: demand for sexual favors in exchange for employment; hiring and firing on whim; lack of fresh water and clean toilet facilities; and lack of health care in an occupation that exposes them to hazardous pesticides and chronic back injuries.

Strawberry workers who have struggled to change these practices and organize a union have faced firing and blacklisting. Workers who have voted for union representation have seen the fields they work plowed under.

The House resolution would put the state on record along with a number of other states, consumer groups, environmental organizations, churches, labor organizations,

and others in support of the strawberry workers' cause.

The bill now goes to Gov. Arne Carlson. If approved, the secretary of state would be directed to transmit the resolution to President Bill Clinton and to the governor of California.



MILITARY

Enlist and enroll

A bill to increase the amount of individual education grants for Minnesota National Guard members was approved by the House Ways and Means Committee April 14.

HF297 would enhance a standing program that reimburses guard members for their tuition costs. Under the current program, participants can receive a maximum grant equivalent to up to 75 percent of the cost of lower-division undergraduate tuition in the college of liberal arts at the University of Minnesota (U of M).

At one time, the program also covered up to 50 percent of tuition costs for more expensive programs, such as medical school. **HF297** would restore the organization's authority to pay for some of those programs. It would cover up to 50 percent of actual tuition costs for programs at any Minnesota public educational institution or a comparable program at the U of M, including graduate degree programs approved by the guard.

Bill sponsors said the provision is necessary to keep the guard attractive to future members of the medical or other professions the guard needs.

In the case of medical school, for example, the 50 percent reimbursement rate would be higher than the current maximum grant amount tied to the cost of lower division courses at the U of M.

According to bill sponsor Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), the initial change can be made with money currently in the program. The organization has discretion over the number of students who are reimbursed and the educational programs that qualify.

Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township), an Air National Guard member and bill co-sponsor, said the education grant program is an important incentive to attract new members. "We have an all-voluntary military. This is an attempt to allow people to serve and reap a reward for doing so," he said.

HF297 next will be heard on the House floor.



TRANSPORTATION

Omnibus transportation bill

Financial support for the state's road, bridge, aviation, and public safety projects won approval from the House Transportation and Transit Finance Division April 15. The bill recommends \$3 billion in state spending for transportation and public safety purposes over the next two years.

HF19, sponsored by Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston), now moves to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Public safety

The bill calls for \$111.6 million in spending for the Minnesota State Patrol. Included is \$3.5 million to fund an additional 30 state troopers — not the full complement requested by the governor, but 30 more than the Legislature authorized last year. The governor refused to enact a speed limit increase called for by lawmakers in 1996 because the trooper funding was missing.

Also included is \$2 million for computer-aided dispatching and records management and \$1.7 million to install video cameras in state patrol vehicles. Another \$69.5 million would go to the department's Driver and Vehicle Services Division over the next biennium. Also, \$2.6 million would go to the Department of Public Safety and the Minnesota Safety Council for various public safety programs.

The bill includes \$652,000 to provide survivor benefits to the families of state patrol officers who have died or been disabled in the line of duty. Though they are eligible for pensions, many of these officers and their families lost their health care benefits once they could no longer serve as peace officers. An average of three officers per year lose their lives in the line of duty in Minnesota.

Road and bridge construction

State road construction projects would receive \$1.2 billion for the next two years. Local roads would get \$841.6 million and local bridges \$39.8 million in state aid.

Transit

The Metropolitan Council, which runs the metropolitan area's public transportation system, would receive \$130.1 million over the next biennium. Of that money, \$34.6 million would go to Metro Mobility, which provides rides to approximately 25,000 metropolitan-area people with disabilities. The bill also authorizes and would fund a \$100,000 study of coordinating public tran-

sit and school transportation in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The Met Council had requested and the governor had recommended \$138.1 million for the next biennium in state funds to run its transportation programs.

An additional \$29.6 million would go to assist transit programs in Greater Minnesota.

Aviation

The bill appropriates \$36.3 million for air transportation programs, including \$26 million for airport development and assistance. Other funds support the Civil Air Patrol and provide general support for aviation in the state.

Railroads and waterways

A total of \$6.9 million would go to fund rail and water transportation. This includes a \$1 million study to look at utilizing existing freight railroad corridors for a commuter rail service in the metropolitan area.

Young drivers

A bill to ensure that 15-year-olds are allowed restricted driver's licenses to help out on the family farm was approved April 16 by the House. The vote was 134-0.

The bill (**SF475*/HF768**), sponsored by Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake), would provide an exception to a new state law requiring anyone under age 18 to hold a

learner's permit for at least six months before becoming eligible for a driver's license.

The 1996 Legislature passed the new learner's permit requirements, which took effect Feb. 1, 1997, with hopes that the law would give teenagers more driving experience before they can hit the road on their own.

But the law had an unintended side effect, according to Westrom. It cut in half the time farm families can benefit from a state law allowing 15-year-olds to get restricted driver's licenses allowing them to help with farm business.

Restrictions placed on such licenses allow 15-year-olds whose parents are farmers to drive only during daylight hours and only within 20 miles of the family farm.

Westrom's bill would exempt 15-year-olds who are otherwise eligible for a restricted farm driver's license from the new six-month learner's permit requirement.

The bill now goes to the governor.



Late nights, long hours, and many amendments are just a part of the recipe needed to craft an omnibus finance bill in time to meet the final committee deadline. During such a stressful time, a sense of humor can fit nicely into the mix as well.

Article 8, Section 13, on page 120 of the omnibus state government finance bill (**SF1905**) instructs the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation to study the creation of the Tommy Rukavina High Tech Iron Range Info Center.

"Visitors to the center will learn how to find the computer in a room full of office equipment; how to turn the thing on; why it costs so much; what a computer can do that a pencil and a piece of paper can't; and where the Internet is," the bill says of the institution that would bear the name of Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), who chairs the committee's State Government Finance Division.

Rep. Kevin Knight (R-Bloomington), who wrote the bill's info center language and sits on the finance division, said he and the division members have heard so much testimony on dozens of technology initiatives this session, many of which prompted Rukavina to proclaim his exasperation with things technological.

"When you think of Rukavina, you think of technology," Knight said with a grin. "It's about time that people know that Tommy Rukavina is a high-tech genius."

The section was later deleted.

Rural rights



Susan Coultrap McQuin, Ph.D., dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and professor of women's studies at Mankato State University, testified April 14 before the Economic Development Finance Division in support of a bill that would establish a rural policy and development center designed to promote research relating to issues confronting rural Minnesota.

Would-be president . . .

Gov. Harold Stassen has proud, progressive legacy

The *Encyclopedia Americana* is less than kind to Harold Stassen. While rightfully characterizing him as an American political leader, the brief entry also notes, “He is known chiefly for his persistent and futile pursuit of the office of president of the United States.”

Stassen did seek the Oval Office nine times, coming closest during his first campaign, when, in 1948, he lost the Republican nomination to Thomas Dewey. But his quixotic attempts should not define his place in history. Harold Stassen, who turned 90 on April 13, was a visionary on international issues and a consistent progressive voice in the Republican party. His long and storied political career, spanning generations and continents, stems from humble beginnings on a West St. Paul farm.

Born the third of five children in 1907, Harold Edward Stassen was raised in a strong Baptist family, where dinner table conversation touched on weighty issues with implications far beyond Minnesota’s borders. Politics was in Harold’s blood. His father, William, served as head of the local school board and as mayor of West St. Paul.

An excellent student, Stassen the “wonder boy” completed high school at 15, his undergraduate studies at 19, and emerged from the University of Minnesota with law degree in hand at age 21. Two years later, in 1930, he would win his first election, and served as Dakota County attorney. After a second term, Stassen prepared for his first statewide election. The victory, by more than 291,000 votes, would make him, at age 31, the youngest governor in the nation.

Candidate Stassen ran a good-government campaign, promising Minnesotans that the patronage system for state government jobs would end. Upon election, he called the establishment of the civil service system “one of the first and foremost problems” facing his administration.

“A place on the state payroll must be based upon doing a good day’s work for the people of the state, for a day’s pay received . . . There must be no percentage collections by political bosses,” he said in his first inaugural address. He was true to his word, and later signed landmark legislation which established the basis for today’s state government employment system.

While he enjoyed success as a governor, and easily won re-election to the office in both 1940 and 1942, it was on the national



Harold Stassen, three-term Minnesota governor, internationalist, and adviser to presidents, addressed the Minnesota House March 10, 1992, in the midst of his final run for the presidency. His subject: seven mighty moves to make America great. Rep. Dee Long looks on from the speaker’s chair.

and international stage where Stassen shined brightest, beginning with his speech before the Republican National Convention in June 1940.

In his keynote address, delivered just nine days after the Germans entered Paris, Stassen told delegates that “once again the black shadow of despotism falls over the world.” While many in the Republican party banged the drum of isolationism, Stassen said it was “clear that our interests lie with the encouragement of freedom and progress for all mankind and the development of order among nations . . .” It is this vision of internationalism that led Franklin D. Roosevelt to send Stassen to San Francisco five years later, where, as one of seven U.S. delegates, he would help draft a charter for the United Nations.

Stassen had been championing such an organization for years, writing in the *Saturday Evening Post* in May 1943 of the “need to develop a new and higher level of government to serve mankind.” He believed “the nations of the world must not merely agree that they wish to live together in peace; they must establish a mechanism of government to achieve this end.” On July 2, 1945, the United Nations Charter was presented to the U.S. Senate for confirmation.

The charter’s preamble states the organization exists to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.” Halting the arms race, reducing and eventually eliminating all

weapons of war remain major concerns of the United Nations. These were also major concerns of Stassen’s, when in 1954 he assumed the position as chief of arms negotiations in the Eisenhower administration.

Again, his voice of internationalism rose above the fray, which often put him at odds with others in the administration, particularly Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, “who wanted only formal, diplomatic exchanges” with post-Stalinist Russia, Stassen said. Stassen wanted the lines of communication wide open.

“I was convinced . . . that if you opened up exchange in the world between the communist areas and the non-communist areas and you got an exchange of people and ideas and information, and you would maintain a very alert and powerful military position at the same time, and develop trade, that you had a better chance of a gradual modification of the communist system away from absolute dictatorships, and that you had a better chance of evolution of the world without the tragedy of a nuclear war,” he told Dr. Thomas Soapes, of the Eisenhower Library in 1977.

Stassen also was a war hero himself, resigning as governor in 1943 to join the Navy and its Pacific Fleet. He was in Tokyo Bay in August 1945 to free American prisoners of war.

But instead of returning home to Minne-

Continued on page 19

A Capitol honor . . .

Monuments, memorials, guidelines for immortality

Ever since its completion in 1905, the Capitol and its surrounding grounds have been viewed as the perfect setting for memorials to various historic figures and events.

In recent years, though, that sentiment has grown, along with the number of monuments — now holding at 15 — spread over the Capitol mall. In fact, this year the House Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division heard funding requests for three additional memorials to be placed in or around the Capitol, causing some critics to wonder if, perhaps, monument mania has gotten out of control.

The first monument appeared on the Capitol grounds in 1912, when admirers of former Gov. John A. Johnson placed a statue of him near the building's front entrance, according to *North Star Statehouse: An Armchair Guide to the Minnesota State Capitol*, by Thomas O'Sullivan. The larger-than-life tribute to

bus and Leif Erikson, the two men who "discovered" America, albeit more than 400 years apart.

Over the years, additional monuments were placed on the mall, and lawmakers created the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Commission in 1967 to oversee the process. To the commission, which later became a board, falls the task of maintaining and preserving the Capitol building and grounds. The board, according to Minnesota statute, serves as the Capitol area's planning and design review agency.

Mary Duroche, a planner with the architectural board, said the agency tries to remain true to Capitol architect Cass Gilbert's original vision for the institution. In 1993, Duroche said, the board adopted a monument plan based on grouping the tributes by theme. Memorials to former governors and other distinguished men and women of state, for example, would continue to be placed near

on the surrounding grounds.

The board adopted the guidelines in 1993, Duroche said, at the behest of the Legislature, where a growing number of members had become concerned about the proliferation of monuments that had sprouted up on the Capitol grounds.

"Nobody wants to be against these things. But if somebody proposes a monument to Mother Teresa, who could vote against that?" Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) told the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* in 1992.

The policy describes not only the aesthetic considerations by which a monument's design will be judged, but also the specific criteria that must be met before an individual can be memorialized.

For example, an individual has to have been dead for at least 10 years, according to the board's policy, before a monument on the grounds to the person could even be considered, and a minimum of 25 years to be eligible for a commemoration to be placed inside the building. The Capitol, Duroche said, has a finite amount of space in which to place memorials, including a number of alcoves designed for just that purpose — hence the restrictions.

"They [the Legislature] decided they better set up some standards and rules to assure that there would be some spaces left for others," who emerge as significant influences in the future, Duroche said.

The Legislature, though, did not place the board's policies in statute. Instead, only a description of the board's mission and responsibilities received the force of law. The policies remain mere guidelines to be observed at the Legislature's discretion, which is why people continue to come before the finance division to seek funding for more memorials. Some meet the criteria established by the board. Others don't.

"We don't have the authority to originate these things," Duroche said. "We . . . wait until somebody comes along with some grand plan."

— F.J. Gallagher



The Capitol grounds hold 15 monuments and memorials, honoring Christopher Columbus, left, Gov. Floyd B. Olson, right, and Vietnam veterans, among others. Additional honorees may soon join them, given provisions contained in omnibus bills now moving through the Legislature.

Johnson features a quartet of workmen who represent four of Minnesota's vital industries and is meant to honor both the stalwart laborers and tremendous natural resources of the state.

A second statue, erected in 1928 and honoring former Gov. Knute Nelson, flanks the Johnson memorial, while a third Minnesota governor, Floyd B. Olson — the state's first third-party chief executive — was honored with a monument in 1958. In between, the state also erected permanent memorials on the Capitol grounds to Christopher Colum-

bus and Leif Erikson, the two men who "discovered" America, albeit more than 400 years apart. The ones on the Capitol mall are more apt to be devoted to a movement or an event," Duroche said of the monuments. "There haven't been any statues, as such, since the 1985 Lindbergh."

In addition to the overall design plan, Duroche said, the board also developed a policy for installing new commemorative works, both inside the Capitol building and

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (612) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.

Early statesman . . .

Pierce Butler: first Minnesotan on nation's high court

Every day in St. Paul, Minn., thousands of travelers on Snelling Avenue pass the signs for the Pierce Butler Route, a 3.5 mile stretch that runs through the Energy Park area of town, starting where Cleveland Avenue ends under Interstate-94 and running east to Como Avenue. The signs commemorate Pierce Butler Jr., a St. Paul lawyer and civic leader.

But without the "Jr." on the signs, they also serve as the most visible reminder in the state of Butler's father, Pierce Sr., who became the first Minnesotan to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

The elder Butler was born in 1866 in Dakota County, Minnesota, when it was still part of the frontier, and where, according to David Danelski in *A Supreme Court Justice is Appointed*, "hostile bands of the Sioux and Ojibway Indians still roamed." His parents, Patrick and Mary, were Irish immigrants who came to the area to farm. Butler was the sixth of nine children.

Patrick Butler was an educated man and former school teacher, who, according to Danelski, tutored his children in the three R's, as well as in Latin, German, and mathematics. Later, Pierce Butler enrolled at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., five miles from the Butler farm. A month after graduation, he came to St. Paul where he studied law at the firm of Pinch and Twohy. In 1888, St. Paul attorney Walter H. Sanborn approved Butler's admission to the bar "after quizzing him in open court, as was the custom in those days," Danelski writes.

That same year, Butler cast his vote for Grover Cleveland as president "and henceforth was a Democrat."

While Butler was making a name for himself in St. Paul, his five brothers were heavily involved in mining in the Mesabi and Cuyuna ranges "and by 1914 had eighteen mines under contract," according to *Minnesota: A History of the State* by Theodore C. Blegen. "In later years . . . they employed a thousand or more men. Contractors, builders, and engineers, they created a Minnesota firm that has left its mark not only on the iron-ore industry but also on vast building operations, including Minnesota's State Capitol."

By 1894, Butler was cited in the *Minnesota Law Journal* as "one of the best in the history of Ramsey County." The magazine said "he has no equal for his age as a criminal lawyer in the state," and "he has a charming and agreeable manner, is an eloquent speaker,



Pierce Butler, the first Minnesotan to win appointment to the nation's highest court.

Photo courtesy Legislative Manual 1973-1974

and his integrity, ability, and fearlessness . . . made him what he is today." From 1893 to 1897, Butler served as Ramsey County attorney, his only elective post.

Soon after beginning his law practice, Butler gained detractors but more admirers, for his fierce reputation in the courtroom, which, by some accounts, was extreme. "Another critic called Butler 'a veritable bully, aggress-

"He has no equal for his age as a criminal lawyer in the state, . . . he has a charming and agreeable manner, is an eloquent speaker, and his integrity, ability, and fearlessness . . . made him what he is today."

—*Minnesota Law Journal*, 1894

sive to the point of being insulting,' who treated 'witnesses with a ruthlessness seldom seen in court,'" Danelski writes.

Years later, one man, William A. Schaper, head of the Department of Political Science at the University of Minnesota, would come to know Butler's ruthless side. Butler, who served on the university's board of regents from 1907 to 1924, led the board in what would become a permanent stain on its record by almost destroying Schaper's career and reputation in the course of a day.

In 1917, the board received a letter from a member of the Public Safety Commission that included Schaper's name on a list of

professors "whose loyalty was suspect." The regents immediately requested a meeting with Schaper. "He was rigorously cross-examined by Butler on his views concerning the war," Danelski writes. The cross-examination included accusations and innuendo that Schaper was a patriot only to the extent that would keep him out of jail; that he was a lackey for the German Kaiser, whom he wanted to dominate the world; that, as a University employee, he lived off public money; and was a draft dodger, even though he was past draft age.

Schaper told the board that he considered it his duty to "abide by the law and not hinder in any manner the government's conduct of the war." He had encouraged students to enlist. He had advised them against peace activities. He would not, however, as an avowed pacifist, "boost" for the war, he said.

The same day, the board of regents informed Schaper that it had voted unanimously that he should resign on the grounds that he was a disloyal American citizen, permanently ending his career at the university, Danelski writes.

For years to come, Schaper struggled financially and fought to have his name and his position restored. But it took almost two decades before the board of regents would vote to make Schaper a professor emeritus and pay him \$5,000 in compensation. The Legislature had begun to investigate the ear-

lier board's actions. By that time Schaper had found work as a professor of finance at the University of Oklahoma.

Still, the incident didn't seem to have implicated Butler directly as it did the board of regents, except, perhaps, in Schaper's mind. He later would fight vigorously against Butler's nomination to the high court.

Years before the Schaper incident, however, and after his term as Ramsey County attorney, Butler's career went into higher gear as a corporate attorney. He had already successfully represented the federal government in an important case against Midwest millers for selling tainted flour, and in a case

against midwest meat packers for violations of the Sherman Antitrust Act.

In 1915, the Canadian government enlisted his aid in effort to take over the Grand Trunk Railroad. "One of the arbitrators in the Grand Trunk arbitration was former president William Howard Taft," Danelski writes. "For several weeks Taft watched Butler in action and was impressed by what he saw; the St. Paul lawyer more than held his own with the best barristers in Canada. The two Americans soon became friends When, near the end of the arbitration, Taft received word that he had been nominated Chief Justice of the United States, he and Butler celebrated the occasion." Taft would later play a major role in Butler's passage to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Danelski writes of the tortuous process by which Butler was ultimately appointed to the high court, in which many other candi-

dates and groups with varied interests lobbied for influence. He was ultimately nominated by President Warren G. Harding, a Republican. The U.S. Senate confirmed the nomination in a 61-8 vote, with 27 abstentions. On Jan. 2, 1923, Butler was sworn in as associate justice.

His tenure on the court confirmed some fears about him and dispelled others. Contrary to his behavior in the Schaper incident, he proved a champion of due process. But, Danelski writes, "in cases involving substantive issues of freedom, however, was a curious reversal of his due-process record." He voted for the individual only 29 percent of the time, compared with the court's average of 50 percent. In cases regarding government and the economy, he was a conservative and was in the majority in a 5-4 decision that invalidated New York's minimum wage law for women. Further, "the progressives'

expectation that Butler would side with the railroads . . . was also correct," Danelski says. Finally, "Butler's activity in economic cases was consistent with his value of laissez faire" government.

Butler died on Nov. 16, 1939, while still serving on the court. He had raised eight children with his wife, Annie M. Cronin. In 1961, the St. Paul City Council changed the name of the Northern Route to the Pierce Butler Route, in honor of a son, born in 1893, who would follow in his father's footsteps as a public servant.

Since Butler's term, two more Minnesotans have served on the U.S. Supreme Court. Warren Burger, of St. Paul, served from 1969-1986, and was named chief justice. Harry Blackmun, who was raised in Rochester, has been serving on the court since 1970.

— Celeste Riley

Continued from page 16

sota to continue his political career, where many say he could have handily won a U.S. Senate seat in a 1948 match against Minneapolis Mayor Hubert Humphrey, Stassen aimed higher. He wanted to be president.

In the race against New York Gov. Thomas Dewey to carry the party banner, Stassen held his own in a series of presidential primaries, until the Oregon contest in May 1948.

Beginning May 1, Dewey launched a three-week offensive designed to weaken Stassen. In response, Stassen delivered a strong anti-Communist speech on May 12 in Portland, in which he said "for the best hope of a future of peace and freedom . . . Communist organizations should be promptly outlawed in America and in all freedom-loving countries." Dewey held the opposite position.

Many say it was their nationwide radio debate — the first of its kind, marking the birth of modern-day, face-to-face presiden-

tial debates — that marked the turning point in the contest. Newspapers and pundits gave Dewey the edge. Three days later, Stassen lost the Oregon primary — his first electoral defeat. He would come no closer to winning the U.S. presidency.

Instead, he turned to academic life, accepting the role of president of the University of Pennsylvania, where he served until 1953. After joining the Eisenhower administration, Stassen served as director of the Mutual Security Agency, director of the Foreign Operations Administration, and assistant to the president on disarmament.

Stassen would unsuccessfully seek a number of local, state, and federal elective offices over the succeeding three decades. His run for the presidency in 1992, which brought him to Minnesota's House chamber to address state lawmakers, was his last.

Newspaper accounts of his many campaign efforts all hold similar quotes.

"I have become increasingly concerned

that none of the candidates in my view have been discussing and coming up with solutions for the real issues before the country," he told the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* in 1987.

While many, from Johnny Carson to editorial writers throughout Minnesota and elsewhere, have pilloried Stassen for chasing the White House, no one can criticize him for lacking ideas.

Those ideas, particularly his progressive views of American foreign policy in an era of cold war protectionism, helped forge the creation of the United Nations, as well as open lines of communication with post-Stalinist Russia.

"He runs," Stassen's wife, Esther, told the *Minneapolis Tribune* in 1978, "because he isn't happy unless he's speaking out, getting his ideas across. He's happy doing it. That's what counts."

— John Tschida

Committee deadlines

Each year the House and Senate set deadlines by which most bills must be heard in a committee and forwarded through the process. The deadlines serve to weed out some of the several thousand bills introduced each year.

The third and final deadline has come and gone.

By **Friday, April 18**, all appropriations bills must have cleared their policy and finance committees and moved to either

the Taxes Committee or Ways and Means Committee.

Of course, there are exceptions to the deadlines. Any lawmaker may try to convince the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, which includes leaders from both party caucuses, to hear a bill after the deadline.

While some committees will continue to meet, much of the legislative action now moves from the hearing rooms to the House floor.

When lawmakers convened Jan. 7,

floor sessions were held twice weekly. The week of April 14-18 was the first this year in which floor sessions were held each day. The pace is expected to quicken. The daily sessions will continue to lengthen.

The only remaining deadline date is now **Monday, May 19**, the anticipated date for adjournment. The Minnesota Constitution prohibits the Legislature from meeting after the first Monday following the third Saturday in May. This year, that date is May 19.

Governor's Desk

CH 1-CH 38

Bills await governor's action

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
- do nothing, which results in the bill becoming law in the first year of the biennium.

The timing of these actions is as significant as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the

important thing to remember is that the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each

house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Internet access to this information is available at:
<http://www.governor.state.mn.us> (select "legislative issues" folder)

Key:
CH=Chapter; SF=Senate File; HF=House File

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
Res. 1	538*	1239	Resolution to mitigate economic competition among states.	4/16/97	
1	1*	3	Education caps removal.	2/14/97	
2	13*	17	Revisor's bill.	2/19/97	
3	121*	109	Youth initiative grant; neighborhood addition provided.	2/25/97	
4	343	264*	Housing Finance Agency; providing temporary approval for home improvement loans.	2/25/97	
5	631*	508	Hopkins performing arts center modified.	3/5/97	
6	125*	160	Kenyon tax levy recertification authorized.	3/11/97	
7	35*	12	Revisor's bill.	3/11/97	
8	374	274*	Adoption assistance.	3/11/97	
9	220	202*	Property disposition modification.	3/13/97	
10	431	315*	Business corporations and limited liability companies technical modifications.	3/18/97	
11	441*	299	Uniform commercial code changes.	3/18/97	
12	100*	114	Emergency snow removal.	3/19/97	
13	40	129*	Minnesota ID cards for minors.	3/19/97	

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
14	582	463*	St. Paul teacher training institute building rental authority.	Recalled by Senate 3/26/97	
15	564	417*	Becker County economic development authority.	3/26/97	
16	483	124*	Towns emergency service charges.	3/26/97	
17	105	85*	Payment of claims against state.	4/3/97	
18	1088*	1030	Candidate name rotation allowed on ballots.	4/4/97	
19	1093*	1104	Metropolitan town election date change authorized.	4/4/97	
20	219*	118	Civil Air Patrol members provided unpaid leaves of absence from employers	4/4/97	
21	640	504*	Nashwauk gas utility establishment authority.	4/8/97	
22	794	624*	Minnesota professional firms act.	4/8/97	
23	941	700*	City mayor and fire chief positions compatibility.	4/8/97	
24	453*	99	Military provisions modifications.	4/8/97	
25	281*	147	Natural gas public utilities performance regulation plans.	4/8/97	
26	447*	398	Direct patient access to obstetric and gynecologic services.	4/8/97	
27	265*	1371	Farm crisis assistance personnel employment status clarified.	4/11/97	
28	266*	796	BWSR voting membership increase.	4/11/97	
29	439	368*	Alternative dispute resolution presiders liability immunity.	4/11/97	
30	1885	1645*	Mille Lacs treaty implementation costs.	4/11/97	
31	293*	216	Tax provisions technical corrections and administrative changes.	4/15/97	
32	1213	1052*	Moorhead land transfer authorized.	4/16/97	
33	908	305*	Prison inmate lawsuit provisions clarified.	4/16/97	
34	2132*	1904	Income tax filing extension for flood disaster area residents.	4/15/97	
35	90*	61	Commercial drivers license requirements exemption for snowplows.	4/16/97	
36	835*	754	County operated day training and habilitation program audit exception.	4/16/97	
37	958*	748	St. Louis County unorganized territory attachment authorized.	4/16/97	
38	1382*	1051	Show boiler and engine inspection provisions modified.	4/16/96	

Bill Introductions

HF2136-HF2159

Monday, April 14

HF2136—Pelowski (DFL) Ways & Means

Omnibus higher education appropriations bill.

HF2137—Garcia (DFL)

Taxes

Minneapolis Convention Center construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

HF2138—McCullum (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 622, North St. Paul-Maplewood, lease levy authorized.

HF2139—Wenzel (DFL)

Ways & Means

Federal flood disaster relief matching funds provided, and money appropriated.

HF2140—Kalis (DFL)

Ways & Means

Omnibus bonding bill providing public improvements of a capital nature, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2141—Marko (DFL)

Ways & Means

Flood-related disaster relief provided, and money appropriated.

HF2142—Chaudhary (DFL)

Taxes

Omnibus property tax and education financing reform provided, senior citizen property tax deferral provided, and money appropriated.

HF2143—Westrom (R)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

State senate district size provisions modified, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2144—Lieder (DFL)

Ways & Means

Flood-related disaster relief provided, and money appropriated.

HF2145—Kelso (DFL)

Ways & Means

Flood-related disaster relief provided, and money appropriated.

HF2146—Johnson, R. (DFL)

Ways & Means

Flood-related disaster relief provided, and money appropriated.

HF2147—Kinkel (DFL)

Taxes

Omnibus early childhood and family education appropriations bill.

Tuesday, April 15

HF2148—Bishop (R)

Capital Investment

University Center Rochester capital improvements requirements consolidated.

HF2149—Jennings (DFL)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Minnesota electric industry restructuring act adopted.

HF2150—Osthoff (DFL)

Ways & Means

Omnibus environment and natural resources and agriculture appropriations bill.

Wednesday, April 16

HF2151—Wenzel (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Jim Rice Memorial Expressway designated on Interstate Highway No. 94 in Minneapolis.

HF2152—Davids (R)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Insurance agent contract termination regulated.

Thursday, April 17

HF2153—Evans (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Anoka County airport jet aircraft ban imposed, and penalty provided.

HF2154—Pugh (DFL)

Education

Locally controlled graduation rule aid and district assistance provided, locally controlled graduation rule offered, and money appropriated.

HF2155—Abrams (R)

Taxes

Business taxation studied, and money appropriated.

HF2156—Commers (R)

Education

Locally controlled graduation rule aid and district assistance provided, locally controlled graduation rule offered, and money appropriated.

HF2157—Jennings (DFL)

Ways & Means

Public employee and official compensation regulated.

HF2158—Jaros (DFL)

Ways & Means

Omnibus economic development and housing bill, and money appropriated.

HF2159—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Violent crime offense penalty provisions modified, and mandatory sentence provisions recodified.

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

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

This nonpartisan office provides committee meeting schedules, legislator information, publications including the *Session Weekly* newsmagazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

Most publications can be viewed on the Legislature's World Wide Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

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231 State Capitol (612) 296-0504

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

Senate Media Services

B-44 State Capitol (612) 296-0264

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

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
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MONDAY, April 21

8 a.m.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Omnibus Tax Bill.

8:30 a.m.

WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg
Agenda: State Government Finance Division
 Omnibus Bill.
 Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert
Agenda: Confirmation of Charles Slocum to
 the Ethical Practices Board.

11 a.m.

The House meets in session.

11:30 a.m.

Conference Committee Employee Health and Wellness Bill/ HF473/SF197

316 State Capitol
 Chrs. Rep. Satveer Chaudhary,
 Sen. Charles Wiger

TUESDAY, April 22

7 a.m.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Mark-up of Omnibus Tax Bill.

8:30 a.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: Judiciary Finance Division
 recommendations for Thistledeew Camp.
 Bill re-referred under House Rule 5.09.

WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg
Agenda: To be announced.

11 a.m.

The House meets in session.

WEDNESDAY, April 23

8:30 a.m.

WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg
Agenda: Health and Human Services Finance
 Division Omnibus Bill.
 Judiciary Finance Division Omnibus Bill.
 Additional bills may be added.

11 a.m.

The House meets in session.

THURSDAY, April 24

8:30 a.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: Bills re-referred under House Rule
 5.09.

WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg
Agenda: Omnibus Tax Bill.
 Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

The House meets in session.

FRIDAY, April 25

10 a.m.

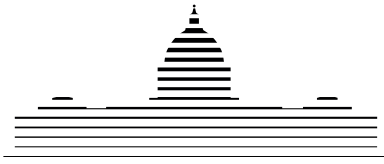
The House meets in session.

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 231 Capitol 296-0271
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Committee Hotline, Senate ... 296-8088

Committee Hotline, House 296-9283
Sergeant at Arms, Senate
 Senate Chamber 296-7159/6-1119
Sergeant at Arms, House
 45 State Office Building 296-4860
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 G-17 Capitol 296-4791
Research, House
 600 State Office Building 296-6753
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 645 State Office Building 296-3398
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PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
175 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
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Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

University of Minnesota

Enrollment at the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus, fall 1996	37,018
Percent of those students from Minnesota	74
Undergraduates enrolled at the Twin Cities campus	23,715
Undergraduates enrolled throughout the state of Vermont	23,408
Enrollment at all U of M campuses	48,690
Population of Minnetonka, Minn.	50,569
Additional students enrolled in continuing education and extension courses .	18,522
Different countries represented by U of M international students	126
Bachelor of Arts degrees conferred at the U of M's first commencement in 1873	2
Total U of M degrees awarded through June 1996.....	505,023
Number of those that were PhDs	22,779
Degrees awarded in 1995-96	10,755
Student services fees, per quarter, Twin Cities campus	\$156.71
Crookston campus	\$76.10
Library systems in North America larger than the U of M's	16
Full-time academic staff, all campuses, Nov. 1996.....	5,759
Number of endowed chairs and professorships, 1996	241
in 1985	17
Full-time civil service/bargaining unit employees, all campuses, Nov. 1996	10,435
State appropriations to the U of M, in millions, 1995-96	\$471
Dollars collected by the U of M in student tuition and fees, in millions,	
1995-96	\$217.4
Number of U of M presidents since the University was founded	13
Number of rooms in Eastcliff, the official home for the University president	21
Year the home was turned over to the University	1958
Year the "Minnesota Rouser" was written by Floyd M. Hutsell.....	1909
Amount Hutsell won in the <i>Minneapolis Tribune</i> -sponsored contest	
to choose a fight song for the U of M	\$100
Years between the time U of M English instructor Augusta Norwood Smith	
chose maroon and gold as the school's colors (1880) and their official	
approval by the Board of Regents (1940)	60

Sources: University of Minnesota (<http://www.umn.edu/system/facts.html>); Minnesota Planning; Profiles of American Colleges, compiled and edited by the College Division of Barron's Educational Series.

For more information

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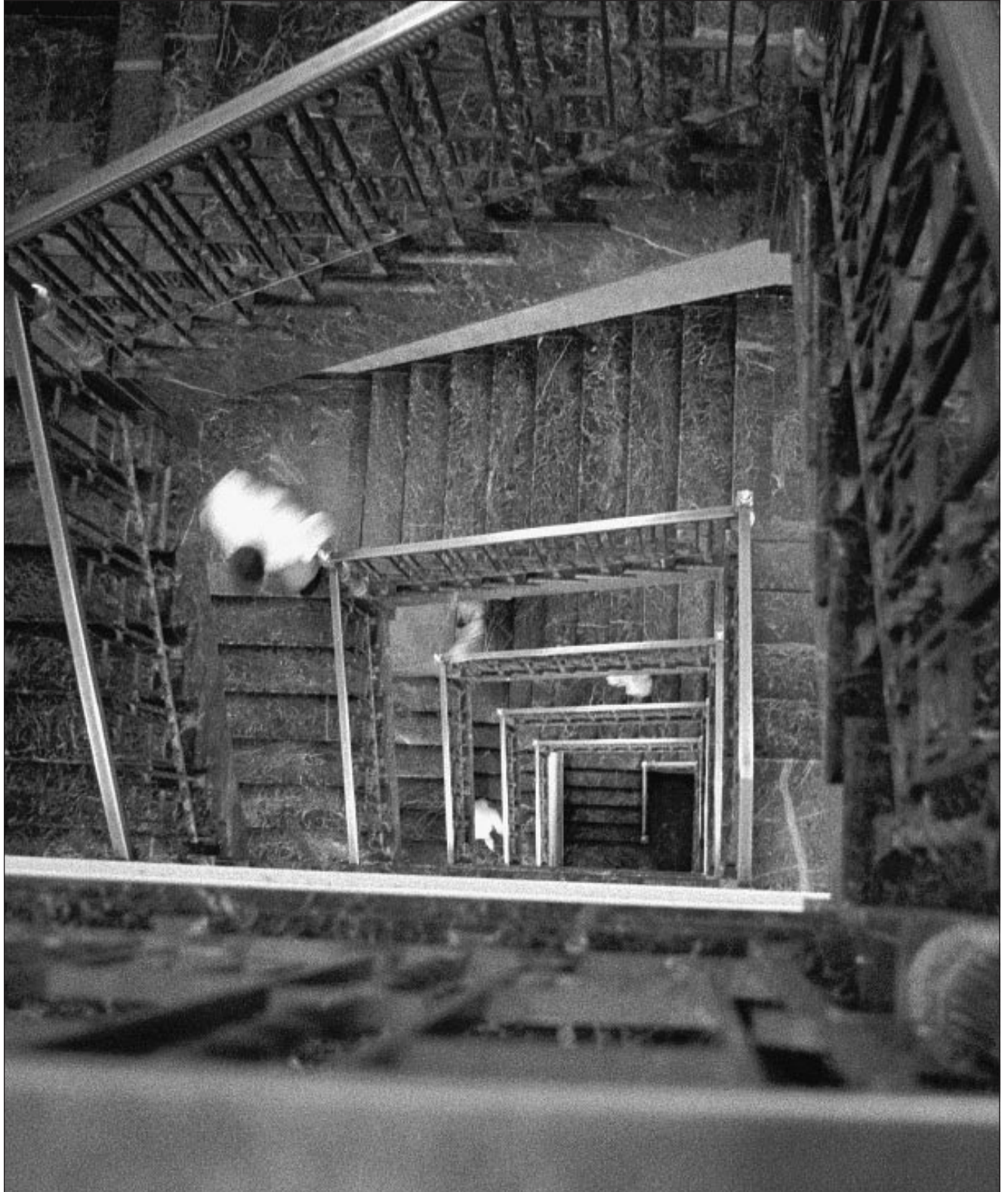
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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ April 25, 1997 ♦ Volume 14, Number 16



Session Weekly is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1997-98 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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SESSION WEEKLY

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Update

The rivers of Minnesota have always played a major role in affecting the lives of people. From the majestic St. Croix and mighty Mississippi rivers on the east boundary to the roaring Red River on the west, waterways have been instrumental in formulating the shape of things to come in the state.

Before 1849, when Minnesota became a territory, and thereafter, the rivers have been used for logging, shipping, milling flour, travel, and recreation. The geographic boundaries of the east, west, and part of the north were determined by using rivers and lakes as borders. The shape of the eastern border seems to depict, with a bit of imagination, a profile of George Washington, "The Father of Our Country," facing west and conceptually overseeing the future of the land west of the Mississippi and the fate of its people.

Rivers then, as now, are not the only entities that gave shape to the state. The people have been the most important contributors to its future. In true pioneering spirit, a government was established to oversee the preservation of the territory and the rights and privileges of its citizens, present and future. However, in early stages of statehood, Minnesotans were often at odds with each other.

In 1857, for example, north-south border proponents disagreed with the east-west faction over what the state's boundaries should be. The east-west group wanted the Capitol built in St. Peter with the northern boundary of the state drawn just north of St. Paul. Other disagreements arose at the constitutional convention over who would write the state's constitution, Democrats or Republicans. While the two parties refused to sit in the same room or to sign each other's documents, the legislative assembly solved the problem by adopting both.

Fortunately, in times of struggle, Minnesotans come together in support of a common cause. Not long after becoming a state, volunteers from the 1st Minnesota Regiment, for example, joined with the Union Army to fight in the Civil War. Today, while the Legislature is busy completing its work for 1997, a different kind of war is being waged along the Red River border where thousands have been affected by major floods.

The Capitol is located some 235 miles to the east of the Red River, and legislators and staff cannot physically go to help their fellow Minnesotans in need just yet. But they, like other citizens around the state, are volunteering and gathering goods and financial donations. This is just an initial offering of help. There is already talk of a special session to discuss funding and relief for the western and eastern borders and some central locations devastated by the flood of 1997.

— LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: Several individuals make their way down the State Office Building's staircase April 23 as committee action winds down and legislative action moves to the House floor.

— Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Highlights

Omnibus tax bill . . .

Property tax, education finance systems overhauled

Fulfilling a pledge made by nearly every legislator during the campaign season, the House Taxes Committee approved a bill April 22 that would dramatically alter Minnesota's property tax, education finance and local government aid systems.

"This is a bill that goes a long way toward property tax reform, while at the same time providing immediate relief to taxpayers," committee chair Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) said of the measure, which was approved on a 19-6 vote.

The House Ways and Means Committee approved the proposal April 24. The bill goes now to the House floor.

HF2163 not only reduces the tax rates for many of the state's property tax classifications, it compresses the system itself, spreading the levies more evenly between classes. The omnibus legislation also modifies the state's sales and income tax codes, and imposes new restrictions on the budget surplus and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts. Moreover, the bill would amend dozens of other tax-related provisions, such as extending the date by which counties can issue capital improvement bonds, and applying the property tax to all but the smallest wind energy power generators.

To fund the reform package, **HF2163** draws on a newly created property tax reform account, which, in turn, would draw funds from Minnesota's budget surplus. A summary prepared by the House Fiscal Analysis Department estimates that in 1997, the surplus account has a balance of \$487 million available to begin implementing the changes.

The House committee passed its tax bill less than a week after the Senate Committee on Taxes approved their version, **SF493**. Although the two measures contain many similarities, there are a few distinct differences.

For example, **SF493** would impose a new business tax, known as the business activities tax (BAT), which would apply not only to a firm's profits, but to wages, benefits, and interest paid out as well. The idea behind the tax, supporters say, is to more effectively capture revenue from those firms that suc-



The House omnibus tax bill not only reduces the tax rates for many of the state's property tax classifications, it compresses the system itself, spreading the levies more evenly between classes. The legislation also modifies the state's sales and income tax codes, and imposes new restrictions on the budget surplus and Tax Increment Financing districts.

—Photo illustration by Tom Olmscheid

cessfully shelter their profits or from companies that do business in Minnesota but don't have an established corporate presence in the state. The Senate plan would establish a 0.45 percent BAT, and reduce the rates at which businesses pay property taxes.

HF2163, on the other hand, provides an appropriation to study the feasibility of adding a BAT.

The House tax bill also would refund to Minnesota taxpayers 8.5 percent of their 1997 property tax burden. For renters, the rebate would equal that portion of rent that went toward property taxes, assumed to be 17 percent of the amount paid in 1997, and 20 percent thereafter. Under **SF493**, sponsored by Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Cook), renters would get back 20 percent of their rent.

Neither bill contains the education tax credits favored by Gov. Arne Carlson. Carlson's property tax plan featured an education homestead credit equal to 50 percent of the state's General Education Levy.

"Senate and House members have been working together closely on property tax reform and that's paved the way," Long said.

"The differences are contentious, but not problematic."

Property tax reform

The House bill incorporates two separate phases with regard to reforming the system: the first, effective with property taxes payable in 1998; the second, for taxes payable in 2000.

The first phase provides a number of rate reductions and modifies many of the subdivisions that exist within property classifications. For example, the values included in the first tier of residential homesteads and cabins would expand from \$72,000 to \$80,000, while the identical tier in commercial/industrial property would rise from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

In addition, the first and upper tiers in the commercial classification would enjoy rate reductions — from 3 percent to 2.8 percent for the lowest strata, and from 4.6 percent to 4.3 percent for the upper division. Market-rate apartments also would receive a rate reduction.

Low-income rental properties, currently taxed as much as 2.3 percent, would be taxed

at 1.5 percent under the bill. In exchange, though, they become subject to new rules. To qualify for the new, reduced rates, a property must be occupied by low-income tenants and have had a rent restriction agreement with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency in place for at least five years. The properties also must meet minimum housing standards and be inspected regularly by the agency.

Beginning in the year 2000, **HF2163** would forsake the 1998 modifications in favor of an entirely new model that relies on only four classifications. The four classifications — residential, agricultural, commercial/industrial, and apartment — would be subject to two separate taxes, a local property tax and a state general education levy, both with a uniform rate structure.

The property tax refund program would also see major changes under the House bill's year 2000 provisions. Homeowners with incomes below \$100,000 would receive a standard refund of 0.25 percent of their home's market value — to a maximum of \$180 — and an income-sensitive refund tied to the amount of property tax paid. A total of \$750 could be refunded under the law.

Aid to local governments

With the reclassification in 2000 also would come substantial changes to the manner in which the state provides aid to local governments.

Under the House plan, the Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid (HACA) program would be eliminated, and a new county Local Government Aid (LGA) program established. The existing LGA plans for cities and towns would be modified so all local aid

would be administered on a needs basis, determined by a formula that takes into account a municipality's population, income level, geographic size and net tax capacity.

The LGA calculation also would consider an area's sprawl population, defined as all the people in cities or towns that are closer to a given city with 5,000 or more than any other city. Sprawl population is defined only for non-metro cities with 5,000 or more residents.

Cities that contain a significant amount of state-owned properties would receive payments in lieu of property taxes. The payments, 25 cents per square foot for educational and correctional facilities and 75 cents per square foot for all others, would be limited to no more than \$15 per capita.

Education finance changes

Under **HF2163**, the manner in which the state finances education would see significant changes designed to reduce the reliance on property taxes.

The bill would reduce the state's general education levy by \$210 million for taxes payable in 1998 and \$250 million for 1999. In addition, a number of the existing levies and entitlements, such as the alternative facilities levy and early childhood family education aid, would be converted to state aids.

The levy reductions also would be converted, in amounts equal to the decreases, to state aids. To cover the cost of the education levy reductions, **HF2163** would draw on funds from the property tax reform account and the general fund.

HF2163 also would prohibit school districts from conducting levy referendums

before Jan. 1, 1998, unless approved by the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning. Moreover, the commissioner could authorize an aggregate total of only \$16.5 million in additional referenda.

By 2000, all additional school district levies would be prohibited, and replaced with state aids. Moreover, the bill would equalize school district referenda. That is, any proposed referendum would be levied against the district's local tax capacity.

Any school district levies enacted after Jan. 1, 1997, would automatically expire and become state aid entitlements after fiscal year 2000.

The changes would effectively increase the state's share of education spending to approximately 60 percent of the total.

Local levy limits

In crafting the bill, several legislators expressed concern that some communities — particularly those worried about seeing a decrease in education funding — might simply increase their local levies. As a result, **HF2163** would establish levy limits for local governments, effective for taxes payable in 1998, 1999, and 2000.

The bill uses the taxes levied in 1997 as a base for a community's limit, with adjustments allowed for inflation and population growth. The specific amounts would be calculated by the commissioner of revenue, who would notify the community of their limit by Aug. 1.

Local governments could exceed the levy limit with voter approval in either a general or special election. Special levies could be imposed for debt, increased costs due to welfare reform or the 1997 floods. A community also could authorize a special levy if it was done by referendum and spread evenly over market values.

HF2163 also would allow a community of 1,000 or more that enacts an increase over its specified levy limit to hold a reverse referendum.

If 5 percent of the voters sign a petition calling for the referendum within 21 days of the increase's adoption, voters would have to approve the action in a special election held the third Tuesday in January.

HF2163 also would modify property tax notices to shift the focus to local government spending. Each local government would have to publicize not only the time and date of hearings, but also the budget and spending amounts under consideration. The bill also allows for cities and counties to hold joint public hearings.



Lobbyists, state agency staff, University of Minnesota students, and members of the Willmar High School Student Council listened as the House Taxes Committee put the final touches on the omnibus tax bill April 21.

Sales tax modifications

HF2163 also contains provisions, many of which emerged as recommendations from the report of the Sales Tax Advisory Council, designed to more efficiently administer Minnesota's sales and use taxes.

The bill would allow several new exemptions from the state's sales tax, including replacement capital equipment. The sales tax on new farm equipment also would be phased out, while used farm equipment would be permanently exempted.

Other products, which are currently exempt, would become subject to the tax. Most food and drinks prepared for immediate consumption would be taxable regardless of whether they are heated or not. Telephone calling cards also would become taxed.

Emerging technology, such as the Internet, has created new ways for consumers to make purchases, many of which are beyond the reach of existing sales tax law. **HF2163** would create an advisory council to study the changes and suggest methods of broadening the sales tax base to capture the lost revenue. The council would report back to the 1998 Legislature with its findings.

Tax Increment Financing

Many communities have come to rely on TIF districts to create economic development. Using TIF, a local government creates a specific district in which property tax values are frozen. As a developer proceeds with a project, the increase in property value over the frozen amount, known as the increment, is diverted from the normal revenue stream (education finance, local services, etc.) to finance the economic development.

A recent report by the Office of the Legislative Auditor determined that, in many cases, communities have incorrectly applied the state's existing TIF dollars. As a result, **HF2163** contains new provisions designed to crack down on the abuses of TIF throughout the state.

Under **HF2163**, communities would have to apply a but-for test to additional spending in existing TIF districts. That is, but for TIF, the development would not occur. Any money left unspent when a district expired would have to be returned to the local tax jurisdiction.

In addition, the bill imposes a number of restrictions on the uses to which TIF money can be put, and adopts explicit definitions aimed at tightening the use of TIF district creation.

Mandates on local governments

HF2163 also regulates the imposition of state mandates on local governments. The bill creates a division of state and local mandates within the Department of Finance, and requires the division to prepare fiscal notes explaining the costs to local governments imposed by any proposed mandate. The notes must accompany any bill that would impose a new mandate.

This provision would require detailed explanations of how and why a mandate was being imposed.

Other provisions

The House bill also contains a number of miscellaneous measures, many of which would allow specific local governments to enact particular taxes within their jurisdictions. Hennepin County, for example, would impose a deed and mortgage tax, as would Ramsey County, and cigarette retailers could pass on manufacturers' discounts as lower prices under the Unfair Cigarette Sales Tax.

— F.J. Gallagher



CHILDREN

Adoptions and race

The House unanimously passed a bill April 18 that would significantly reduce the role race plays in placing children for adoption and in foster care. The vote was 127-0.

"The federal government said that [placement considerations] must be in the best interests of the child, and that there should be no delays," bill sponsor Rep. Barb Vickerman (R-Redwood Falls) said.

The bill says that placement of a child in foster care could not be delayed or denied because of the race, color, or national origin of the child or potential parents. (It would not alter federal law regarding the placement of Indian children.)

HF209 also would delete current law that says a child's best interests are met by giving consideration to race or ethnic heritage when making foster care or adoption placements. Instead, the bill would require "an individualized determination of the needs of the child" to be conducted, detailing "how the selected placement will serve" those needs.

Factors that could be considered include the child's functioning and behavior; medical, educational, and developmental needs; past experience; religious and cultural needs; connection with a community, school, and church; interests and talents; relationship to

current caretakers, parents, siblings, and relatives; and reasonable preferences of the child, if of an appropriate age.

The emphasis on race or ethnic heritage in child placements has become controversial in recent years. Critics have said that a shortage of minority foster and adoptive families has caused children to languish needlessly while interested families were disqualified on racial grounds, and that race is not important in family bonding.

In 1994, Congress passed the Multiethnic Placement Act, provisions of which are incorporated into **HF209**. Failure to comply with the act could result in federal violations and reduced federal funding.

"The bill tries to get children placed as quickly as possible in a loving environment," said Rep. Barbara Sykora (R-Excelsior). "To keep them waiting allows problems to develop that never would have happened."

The bill now moves to the Senate.

(See April 11, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 4.)



CRIME

Omnibus crime bill

Crime and justice in Minnesota would cost the state almost a billion dollars over the next two years, under a bill moving through the House.

HF163/SF1880* sailed through the House Ways and Means Committee April 23, its last step before reaching the House floor.

The \$990 million bill funds the state's court and correctional systems; law enforcement and public safety agencies; and departments such as the office of the Attorney General and the Human Rights Division.

Under the bill, judges would see a raise, work loads for probation officers would be reduced, judicial districts would set up drug courts, women leaving prostitution would find help, and money would travel to community advocacy groups to help battered women.

The Department of Corrections (DOC) would be expected to reduce the daily (per diem) cost of housing prisoners, making layoffs possible.

Low income families would have easier access to legal representation in court, as would low-income farmers. Courts would be given money to launch a pilot program to improve the resolution of family matters. The program would assign one judge to hear domestic abuse, probate, juvenile and delinquency matters within a single family.

County attorneys, public defenders, victim advocates, and shelter personnel would be trained in how to help victims of crimes that involve possible exposure to HIV.

The public safety appropriation includes funds to provide the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) with an additional forensic scientist to process arson evidence samples, and to provide laboratory equipment and training. The BCA also would receive funds for a polygraph specialist and a database on gang activities and member characteristics.

Also part of the public safety appropriations is \$1 million in each of the next two state budget years to pay the overtime necessary to police high crime areas.

The bill sets aside \$320,000 from a DOC's existing pot of money (earned from housing certain federal inmates) to construct a new building for the wilderness endeavors program for juvenile offenders at Thistledeew Camp in northern Minnesota. Another \$300,000 would be used to establish a weekend program at Camp Ripley, near Little Falls, Minn., for first- or second-time male offenders ages 11 to 14. "The camp shall be a highly structured program and teach work skills, such as responsibility, organization, time management, and follow-through," the bill states. Later, the juveniles would be expected to develop a community services plan that they would fulfill upon release.

The DOC appropriations also would cover a restorative justice program in which the accused would meet with the victim and others such as family members and law enforcement personnel. The groups would discuss the impact of the crime; assign a sanction to the offender; and, if the offender is from the community, provide methods for reintegration. The bill appropriates \$175,000 each year for the restorative justice program.

The DOC would be required to look into a victim notification system that would keep victims informed of an inmate's current status and location, and report back by February 1998.

Below are some highlights of **HF163/SF1880*** in more detail.

Gang strike force

A major initiative in this year's crime prevention bill is to establish a gang task force and oversight council. The strike force would look at gang problems throughout the state, and be overseen by the council, which would be made up of top law enforcement officials from across the state. In addition to setting up the strike force, the council would develop a plan to investigate and prosecute

crimes committed by gangs. The strike force would assist and train local governments and law enforcement agencies to identify gang members and to prosecute their crimes. Its members would have jurisdiction throughout the state to conduct investigations and make arrests.

Gang crime is not only exploding within the Twin Cities metropolitan area, but is increasingly felt in smaller towns and rural communities throughout Minnesota, according to Hennepin County Sheriff Pat McGowan. A coordinated effort is needed because gang and criminal activity do not honor boundaries, he added. The bill appropriates \$2.1 million each year for the next two years to fund the council and strike force, and allows up to 10 additional special agents to be hired.

A second tool to fight gangs would be a gang intervention pilot grant program, in which the DOC, through local agencies, would provide services to gang members who want to leave their gang. To qualify for help, a gang member must be under 25 years old and not currently serving time. They must not have received similar services through other programs, and they must comply with the program requirements and be employable.

The DOC would report back to the Legislature on the program's success by January 1999.

Arson strike force

The bill would set up an arson-fighting strike force that would provide expert investigative and prosecutorial assistance to local agencies in complex and serious cases of arson. The strike force would consist of representatives from the fire marshal's department, the BCA, the attorney general's office, police and fire department officials, the county attorney's association, private detectives, and other experts. The law responds to an epidemic of arson fires throughout the state, especially fires related to gang violence.

In addition to battling fires, the strike force would help train public safety personnel and set up educational programs for them and for prosecutors.

Related provisions in the bill would establish a statewide juvenile fire starter intervention network, and make clear that refusal to testify or produce evidence in an arson case can be punished through district courts. Further, a person who commits arson in an effort to conceal another crime could not only be convicted of both crimes but sentenced for both.

Juvenile crime

Closely associated with efforts to combat gang problems are initiatives to address problems among juveniles, the focus of many committee hearings. The bill includes at least five measures to prevent juvenile crime.

Community service grant pilot project.

Children under age 16 in high crime neighborhoods in Ramsey and Hennepin counties would be recruited to perform voluntary community service. The project would provide funding to community-based organizations to administer the project. The goal is to encourage good citizenship and discourage illegal activity among participants. The programs could offer children scholarships, gift certificates, tickets for entertainment or group outings, or other nonmonetary rewards.

The bill stipulates that participating community agencies must be closely connected with the community and local governmental units, represent a diverse population, have a demonstrated ability to successfully coordinate the program and to interact with juveniles, and have a successful history working with schools and parents of juveniles.

Enhanced probation pilot project; Ramsey County

This program would provide intensive monitoring and coordination between juvenile probation officers, local law enforcement personnel, and culturally specific community nonprofit agencies. The focus of the effort would be juveniles on probation who are considered at risk for committing violent crimes and are associated with gang and drug activities in Ramsey County.

The goal is to discourage young people from criminal activity by providing intensive intervention by the involved community and law enforcement groups. The county must provide a status report to the Legislature by March each year.

Pilot for school-based probation in Anoka and Dakota counties

Established by the DOC, the program would select one middle or junior high school and one senior high school in each county for an experiment in placing probation officers within schools to help address behavioral incidents by students on probation. The officers would work with school personnel, families, and other agencies to coordinate responses to behavioral problems. A report on the project's effectiveness would be due to the Legislature by January, 1999.

Pilot for juvenile gun offenders in Hennepin County

Juveniles in Hennepin County who are caught illegally possessing a pistol would be committed to a local county correctional facility for not less than 30 days. Twenty-three of those days could be stayed (postponed), however, if the juvenile successfully completes a 40-hour course on gun education after seven days. The county would report on the project's effectiveness by January 1999.

Restitution

A working group would be created to study ways in which repeat juvenile offenders could provide restitution to their victims. The group would look at having the offender pay their job wages to the victim.

Community social services

Currently, community social services already help families with children under 18 and who are experiencing special problems, wards of the state, vulnerable adults, people over 60 having trouble living independently, people who are mentally retarded, drug addicts, and others. The omnibus bill adds adolescents to the list of those eligible for certain benefits provided by county boards.

Adoption, foster care, placement

Many laws governing adoption and foster care placement would be altered under the bill.

Residential placements

- Responsible placement agencies would have better access to records including educational, psychological, psychiatric, and social or family history data.
- A parent or parents considering relinquishing a child to a residential facility would be notified that they have the right to legal counsel and the right to change their minds. They also would be notified that evidence gathered at the time of placement may be used later as a basis for continued placement or termination of parental rights, and, in the event the child is deemed in need of protection, that the parent and child each are entitled to legal counsel at public expense.
- Relatives of children placed in residential facilities would be notified if permanent removal from the home is imminent and given an opportunity to be considered as a placement option.

Adoptions and permanent placements

- Courts could halt efforts to unite a child in need of protection or services with his or her family if such efforts are deemed futile

for reasons such as a parent's history of abuse of the child or other children.

- Relatives of an adopted child with whom the child previously lived would be able to enter into legally binding agreements with adoptive parents to maintain contact and communication.
- Mental illness and deficiency would be added to the list of characteristics that would classify a child as being in need of protective services and, therefore, a candidate for placement. The classification would apply to children found not guilty in connection with a delinquency proceeding, extended jurisdiction juvenile prosecution, or a proceeding involving a petty offense.
- Attorneys would be prohibited from simultaneously serving as a child's guardian ad litem and requires that a guardian ad litem be appointed in all cases where a child is in need of protective services. Currently, cases regarding truancy, runaways, or where another child of the same parent has been the subject of a termination of parental rights hearing in the past five years, do not require guardians.
- A conviction for homicide or assault would be added to the grounds for terminating parental rights.
- In the event that a parent's rights are terminated, the courts would maintain jurisdiction over a child when either adoption or long-term foster care is the intended disposition.
- The Department of Human Services would look for strategies to recruit foster and adoptive families.
- Courts would be required to develop a system similar to the "one judge, one family" model used in Ramsey county.

Teen court

The bill would allow the establishment of teen courts, which would offer alternatives to juvenile proceedings in cases in which a teen is alleged to have committed a minor offense. Teen courts could be established by any group of two or more adult sponsors who are affiliated with an appropriate agency or group, such as a school or community service organization. With the permission of local law enforcement, county attorneys, schools, or probation agencies; upon notification to the victim; and with the offender's agreement and that of a jury of his or her peers, the offense can be tried through teen court.

Teen courts could impose community service, counseling, treatment, law-related educational classes, participation as a juror in future teen court proceedings, restitution,

or a small fine, to compensate for the crime.

Other provisions say that the teen's parents or legal guardian must accompany him or her in all teen court proceedings. A teen must acknowledge responsibility for the offense to qualify. Other agencies could refer cases to teen court.

In the event a teen fails to comply with the teen court's ruling, they could face a juvenile court proceeding or a school disciplinary proceeding.

General crime provisions

The bill would make more than 30 changes to crime-fighting laws that range from increased penalties for repeat offenders to studying exactly how much crime costs communities and society.

Certain misdemeanor crimes, including prostitution, tampering with a motor vehicle, damage to property, and some weapons and controlled substance crimes, would become gross misdemeanors and subject to increased penalties if the defendant has a history of committing those crimes. The measure is an effort to clean up neighborhoods plagued by petty crime and drug dealers. In that same interest, witnesses to the crimes would be kept apprised of the final outcomes of the cases.

The bill strengthens laws protecting police and Department of Human Services employees against assault. A person who commits a first-degree assault against a police officer would be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years behind bars. The bill would make it a gross misdemeanor to assault a human services employee while that person is performing a duty mandated by law, if the assailant knows the victim is a human services employee, if the offense causes significant bodily harm, and if the assailant is under commitment or being evaluated for commitment due to mental illness or psychopathic personality disorder; or is a sexually dangerous person.

Elderly and handicapped persons would get more protection against con artists who prey upon them. The bill would make it a gross misdemeanor to commit certain types of fraud that would cause the victim to lose assets or income.

Criminals should stop when asked to by police. The bill would increase from a gross misdemeanor to a three-year felony the crime of fleeing a police officer by means of a motor vehicle.

This year a loophole was discovered in the law regarding harboring a fugitive: It didn't cover the abettor if the fugitive happened to be on probation. The bill makes it clear that

you can't harbor fugitives from the law — probationers or otherwise.

Crime costs society in a myriad of ways: lost possessions, decreased property values, high-cost security systems, and high insurance payments. It also costs in terms of quality of life: neighborhood degeneration and loss of a personal sense of security. The bill would request the legislative auditor to study the direct and indirect costs of crime on the state and local communities. The study will include the costs of “responding to, prosecuting, and punishing criminal offenders, but also the indirect economic and social costs” of crime. The report would be due to the Legislature by February 1998.

Stalking and harassment

A 1993 law to protect victims of stalking and harassment had the wind pulled out of its sails in a recent Supreme Court decision. For that reason, the Legislature has rewritten the law to restore and clarify the protection. The bill states that if a person “knows or should know [the behavior] would cause the victim . . . to feel frightened, threatened, oppressed, persecuted, or intimidated,” it constitutes harassment. Importantly, the bill says that prosecutors do not have to prove the intent of the harasser or stalker — only that the behavior caused the victim to feel threatened or harassed. It also adds certain behaviors to those constituting stalking: sending messages or telephoning the victim, regardless of the destination of the communications.

Getting the final word

In many states, including Minnesota, the defense in criminal cases gets the final word on the courtroom floor. Some lawmakers believe this provides an unfair advantage to the defense side. Under current law, the court can allow the prosecution to rebut, but only if it determines that the defense's closing argument contained misstatements. The prosecution's rebuttal must pertain only to the misstatements.

The bill would change the rule so that prosecutors could have a right of rebuttal to any issues raised in the defendant's closing arguments. The defense could, in turn, respond to the rebuttal. Both sides would be limited to five minutes in these final arguments.

Controlled substances/needle sales

In addition to adding certain drugs to the list of controlled substances, the bill would change the law pertaining to illegal drugs by permitting the sale of hypodermic needles

and syringes without a prescription. The intent of the measure is to decrease the rate of HIV infection among drug users. Registered pharmacists could sell the products in quantities of 10 or less.

Sex offenders

The bill would require sex offenders leaving federal prisons to register under the sex offender registration law. The current law covers offenders leaving correctional facilities and halfway houses other than those in the federal system. (The sex offender registration law enables law enforcement agencies to notify communities when a released offender moves in.) The bill also would add offenders who commit indecent exposure to those subject to the registration law.

Also, the bill would also make it mandatory for local law enforcement agencies to disclose the information to the public. The current law only authorizes them to do so.

Young people would get greater protection against window peeping and other invasions of privacy. Current law makes it a misdemeanor to surreptitiously gaze, stare, or peep in the window of a place “where reasonable persons would have an expectation of privacy.” Under the bill, if the victim is a minor under the age of 16, the crime would constitute a gross misdemeanor, subject to increased penalties.

The bill would also provide five-year felony penalties for indecent exposure if the crime involved confining or restricting the victim. The offender would also be required to submit to DNA testing upon sentencing.

Crime victims

The Alex and Brandon Frank Child Safety Act

Alex and Brandon Frank were two Minnesota boys, aged four and five, murdered by their father last July. The crime occurred during their parents' divorce proceedings. Many people feel the system failed to respond to warning signs that could have helped prevent the tragedy.

The bill would tighten the rules regarding visitation when a restraining order has been filed against one or the other parent.

A petition for marriage dissolution would have to state whether a restraining order is in effect. If so, a judge would have to consider the restraining order before making a decision regarding visitation. In deciding custody issues, the judge would have to consider any finding of domestic abuse.

The act also would award grants to create or maintain a family visitation center to safely facilitate visitation decisions.

Victims of juveniles

The bill would create an exception to the rule that all information regarding juvenile court matters are closed to the public. People who are victimized by youthful offenders would be allowed to learn the offender's name upon request. The names would not be released if doing so would interfere with the trial or if the victim's motives are suspect.

Vehicle theft

People who have had their cars stolen would be notified within 48 hours after the police have recovered the car.

Confidentiality

Prosecutors could opt to withhold information pertaining to victim addresses or places of employment for the sake of victim safety.

Keeping victims posted

In addition to other measures that would inform victims of the status of certain cases, the bill would require that they be notified if a sentence for a felony might be modified or appealed. The bill also would add vehicular homicide to the list of offenses that require notification.

Inmate employment, computer access

Earlier this year, the public learned that an inmate with a history of sex offenses was keeping a list of names of Minnesota children. The list was compiled through access to the Internet. Prisoners use computers for work and educational purposes.

The crime prevention bill would forbid inmates from participating in such work activities unless adequate security is provided by the facility. Access to the Internet would be prohibited except for work, educational, and vocational purposes. Regular monitoring of inmate computer use would be required.

A related provision would restrict access by probationers and parolees to the Internet.

Other controls on inmate work, not related to security, require that inmates be compensated at a rate similar to that paid to non-inmates for the same work, and that the work not displace other workers. A related bill provision says that work performed in sentence to serve programs, in which offenders provide work services in lieu of confinement, must not result in displacements.

Nuisances

Finally, in a measure intended to help neighborhoods, the bill strengthens tenant and nuisance laws. Prostitution and fire arms violations would be added to prohibited behaviors in landlord-tenant covenants. A per-

son filing a complaint against a tenant for nuisance or other illegal behavior could request an expedited hearing. If granted, the hearing would be held in five to seven days after a summons is issued. Further, a nuisance abatement action would not be brought if a property owner improves the problem or agrees to a plan to abate the problem within 30 days of receiving notice.



DEVELOPMENT

Economic development, housing

A bill that spends \$381 million on economic development throughout Minnesota and another \$63 million on housing programs passed the House April 22 by a vote of 79-52.

The measure (**HF2158**) merges omnibus bills from the Economic Development Finance Division and the Housing and Housing Finance Division.

For economic development, the bill sets aside money over the 1998-1999 state budgeting period for a diverse group of state agencies, from the Minnesota Historical Society to the Department of Economic Security.

For housing, the bill appropriates money to aid the homeless, disabled, and first-time home buyers through programs administered by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. (See *Session Weekly*, April 18, 1997, page 6 and page 12).

Among the bill's provisions is a \$10 million appropriation to help Minnesota's welfare families train for jobs. Federal law now requires families to work to receive public assistance.

The bill also sets aside \$10 million to help redevelop vacated, contaminated industrial land, known as brownfields, so new businesses can move in and create jobs. The money would not be used for the cleanup of the contaminated land (a separate fund does that). Instead, the predevelopment and job creation grant program would pay costs such as land acquisition, demolition of existing structures, and relocation of individuals or businesses.

Minnesota's film industry also would get a \$1 million boost. The money would go to the Minnesota Film Board to establish a film production jobs program. It would pay producers of long-form and narrative films who directly create film jobs in Minnesota. The Department of Trade and Economic Development would oversee and authorize the payments.

Projects not receiving funding include the Minneapolis Convention Center and the St. Paul Civic Center. The Minneapolis Convention Center had asked for \$37.5 million to help expand its facilities and make it more competitive nationally. The St. Paul Civic Center had asked for \$51 million in state bonds to help renovate the Civic Center in the hopes of attracting a professional ice hockey franchise. Gov. Arne Carlson had recommended \$4 million in funds for the Civic Center.

HF2158 now travels to the Senate.

In the area of housing, a variety of programs were funded.

The bill includes several programs to aid the homeless and prevent homelessness. The largest such appropriation would mark \$5.7 million for grants to organizations providing case management to help low-income people with poor rental histories rehabilitate their rental records and find housing. Part of the funding would also go to innovative approaches for housing people with poor rental histories.

According to Department of Economic Security figures, the number of people using emergency shelters and transitional housing in the state has tripled over the past 11 years. Of the 4,981 Minnesotans needing services in 1996, 44 percent were children. Any increase in homelessness triggered by federal and state welfare reforms going into effect this year could strain an already overburdened support system.

In other housing provisions, the Afford-

able Rental Investment Fund would get \$16.4 million for the biennium to provide no-interest first mortgages or deferred loans for low-income rental housing. Households earning 80 percent of the state median income and in need of affordable housing are the target of this program.

Home ownership and rental opportunities for low- and moderate-income American Indians would be provided by two programs. The Urban Indian Housing Program would receive \$187,000 per year to assist Indians living in urban areas. The Tribal Indian Housing Program would get \$1.7 million to help Indians living in Greater Minnesota.

The Minnesota Urban and Rural Homesteading Program would get \$186,000 per year to acquire vacant, condemned, or abandoned single family homes for rehabilitation and sale. The properties are offered to first-time homeowners on a contract-for-deed basis.

A program that provides deferred payment loans to low-income homeowners for improvements directly related to the basic housing needs of physically disabled people would receive \$4.3 million per year. The program is operated by local agencies and is limited to households in which one or more people have a long-term disability that substantially affects functioning in the home.

A \$1 million appropriation requested by House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL Brooklyn Center) would pay for the acquisition, demolition, and removal of substandard multi-

Daughters' Day



Caritza Taina Mariani, accompanied her father, Rep. Carlos Mariani, on the House floor. Daughters were seen throughout the Capitol complex April 24, the fifth annual National Take Our Daughters To Work Day.

unit rental property. The measure was added to the bill even though some members questioned whether it would run counter to existing state housing policy and lead to an actual decrease in available low-income housing.



EDUCATION

K-12 bill clears House

All public school students would spend an extra three days in school, and those who fail the state's graduation tests would get three weeks of additional classroom time, under a \$6.7 billion education funding bill passed April 24 by the House. The vote was 96-38.

The omnibus K-12 education finance bill (**HF1684**), sponsored by Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), would increase state aid for education by 13.5 percent over the next two years and provide a variety of new measures to improve student achievement.

House members voted to delete a provision in the bill that would have provided \$500,000 in grants to help school districts that establish school start times of 8 a.m. or later. The funds would have been earmarked for increased transportation costs expected to accompany the move to later start times.

Advocates of later start times claim adolescent students benefit greatly when they are allowed to get a bit more sleep before the school day begins. Better rested students are more prepared to learn and less likely to be disruptive in school, proponents claim.

Critics argue that changing start times for adolescents can have costly repercussions and that the problem may be more easily solved by having students get to bed a little earlier in the evening.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) offered the amendment to delete the grant funding for later start times. It was approved by a margin of 69-64.

Kelso's bill would spend about \$225.4 million more than Gov. Arne Carlson proposed for the 1998-1999 biennium. Some of the governor's major education initiatives — including his plan to provide increased tax deductions and new tax credits for parents who send their children to private schools — are absent from the bill.

However, the bill does include provisions that would target funds to assist struggling students, improve school bus safety, and allow for the creation of more charter schools and new laboratory schools.

The Senate also passed its version of the education funding legislation April 24, but

the upper chamber's bill (**SF1003**), sponsored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls), has significant provisions not found in the House bill.

The Senate bill would spend \$6.9 billion and would provide \$100 million to allow low-income students to receive funds to attend "common schools of excellence," which would include public or private schools that meet certain academic standards and other requirements.

Differences between the House and Senate bills will be reconciled in conference committee.

Here's a look at some of the major provisions of the House bill.

- A total of \$5 billion would be devoted to general education funding for school districts during the two-year budget cycle. The bill would provide increases in the per pupil funding that districts receive for each year of the biennium.

Districts currently receive \$3,505 per pupil. The bill would add \$75 in 1998, bringing the sum to \$3,580 per pupil. In 1999, another \$8 would be added, and other changes would impact the per pupil formula during that year. District cooperation funds that districts now receive separately would be rolled into the per pupil funding, but revenue for transportation and teacher training would be rolled out. The result is that the per pupil amount would be \$3,355, but districts would show a net gain.

- The bill includes a total of \$86.8 million to improve technology in schools and public libraries. A total of \$30 million for one-time grants to help all school districts pursue improvements, and another \$20 million in grant funding would be available on a competitive basis according to demonstrated needs of individual districts. The bill also would provide another \$19 million for telecommunication access grants to help school districts and regional public libraries get connected to the Internet.

- A total of \$52 million would be earmarked to provide the equivalent of three weeks additional classroom time for students who fail the basic skills tests or are likely to fail. The additional hours could be logged after school, during weekends, or during the summer.

- All students would spend three more days in the classroom during the 1997-1998 school year. Under current law, the state sets no minimum for the number of days in a school year, but most districts schedule about 170 days of instruction.

- A total of \$6.9 million would be provided to districts for transportation safety funding.

That would more than double the amount currently dispersed to districts on a per student basis. A total of \$4 million would be for designated purposes, including adding seat belts on buses, providing adult safety monitors, installing video cameras, installing crossing arms, or adding exterior strobe lights.

- The bill includes the governor's recommendation to remove a provision in current state law capping the number of charter schools allowed in Minnesota at 40. The bill also would make it easier for existing schools to convert to charter school status.

- The bill includes \$5 million for laboratory schools that would be distributed in grants to at least three postsecondary institutions for the establishment of schools to foster innovative teaching techniques. Funding for laboratory schools would be available to public or private postsecondary institutions.

- A number of provisions crafted to boost accountability in the schools are included in the bill. For example, a new state office of educational accountability would be established. The office would monitor the performance of Minnesota schools and students and report results directly to the public. Also, \$5 million would be earmarked for implementation of a statewide testing system (as yet to be determined this session by lawmakers) designed to measure educational outcomes in public schools.

- Larger school districts would be allowed to exceed the salary cap in current law for school superintendents. State law now caps the salary of school superintendents at 95 percent of the governor's salary of \$114,506 a year. Some school districts have complained that the cap hurts their ability to compete with districts in other states for top superintendent candidates. The bill would allow districts with more than 5,000 students to exceed the current salary cap as long as the superintendents achieve performance incentives included in their contracts.

(See April 18, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 3.)

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (612) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.



ENVIRONMENT

Recognizing Earth Day

The Legislature went on record April 22 in support of Earth Day.

HF1692/SF1342* memorializes the U.S. Congress to recognize Earth Day on April 22 of each year as a national day of service and education. The bill also establishes Earth Day as a state day of service and education.

Both the House and Senate passed the bill April 22. The House voted 115-11 and the Senate voted 56-0. Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) sponsored the bill in the House and Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township) was the Senate sponsor.

Earth Day has been celebrated informally by environmentally concerned citizens since the spring of 1970 when environmental leaders staged a nationwide teach-in. The day is often marked with volunteer environmental cleanup efforts and public education programs. Earth Day has now gone international with programs planned in several countries.

The bill, which is on its way to the governor's desk, directs the secretary of state to transmit the state's wishes to the president of the United States and leaders of the U.S. Congress.

Environmental spending bill

Following several hours of debate and 18 amendment attempts, the omnibus environment, natural resources, and agriculture finance bill (**HF2150**) passed the House April 21. The vote was 110 to 23.

State spending for environment and agriculture programs will total almost \$624 million over the next two-year budget cycle, under the omnibus bill. Included are funds for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Minnesota Zoo, the Department of Agriculture, and several other state agencies.

A little more than 62 percent of the state spending in the bill — almost \$388 million — goes to the DNR. The MPCA, the next largest recipient under the bill, will receive about \$83 million. The Department of Agriculture gets \$52.4 million.

The spending bill also includes nearly \$37 million for 89 environmental and recreational programs selected by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), which is funded from a 2-cent-per-pack cigarette tax and limited state lottery proceeds.

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) unsuccessfully attempted to re-insert a provision abolishing the LCMR. (The House Ways and Means Committee had removed the LCMR provision from the bill April 18.)

Sviggum's amendment would have replaced the LCMR membership with the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee and the Senate Environment and Agriculture Budget Division. The LCMR recommends funding for projects to enhance and protect the state's natural resources after an extensive public review process. LCMR recommendations must be approved by the Legislature.

State parks and recreation areas will get more than \$57.5 million, a spending increase of \$3.5 million over the previous two-year budget. Agriculture programs will receive \$52.4 million — \$27.4 million in fiscal year 1998 and \$25 million in fiscal year 1999. Of that amount, \$44.6 million will subsidize ethanol producers over the two-year period. An amendment to increase the ethanol spending to \$49.6 million, offered by Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), failed.

There are currently eight ethanol plants in Minnesota that produce a total of 92 million gallons of ethanol per year — short of the 120 million gallons needed for Minnesota to become ethanol self-sufficient. Since October 1995, automobiles in the 10-county metropolitan area have been required to burn "oxygenated fuel" year round. Beginning Oct. 1, 1997, all gasoline sold in the state will have to be oxygenated.

The bill appropriates \$5.1 million each year for snowmobile trails and enforcement. Most of the money will go to local snowmobile clubs to pay for trail grooming under the state grants-in-aid program.

More than \$86.5 million will be spent in fiscal years 1998 and 1999 on programs for lake, stream, and wildlife area management.

Nearly \$2 million is marked for non-game wildlife management programs. Another \$2.7 million will fund game and fish critical habitat programs and wetlands protection under the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program.

The MPCA will continue existing programs to clean up Minnesota lakes and rivers with \$23.3 million in state funds, under the bill. It would receive another \$15.4 million for air pollution programs, and almost \$31.2 million for protection of groundwater and management of solid waste.

The Senate amended **HF2150** and passed it April 22. The bill now goes to a conference committee.



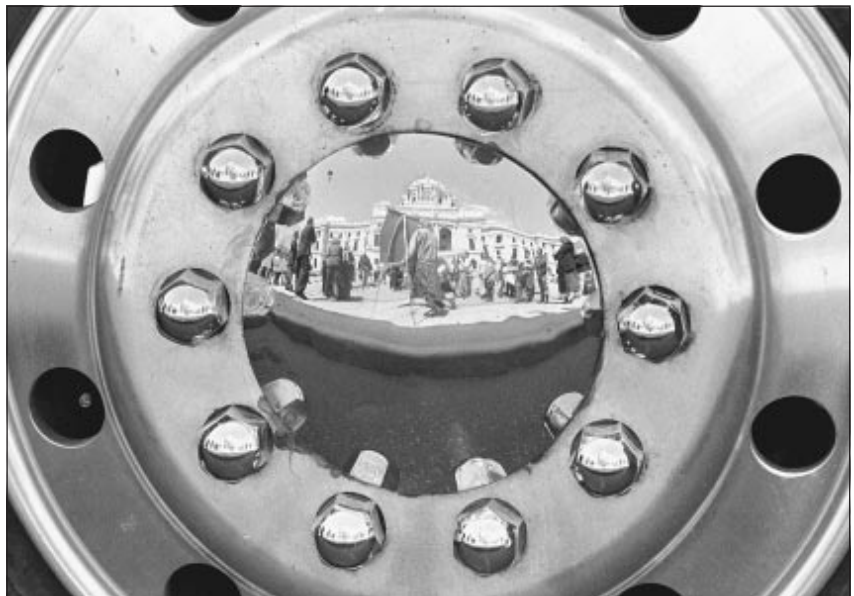
GOVERNMENT

Omnibus data practices bill

On April 14, the House unanimously passed the data practices omnibus bill. The vote was 125-0.

"The bill allows greater access to some information and less to other information in ways that I think are appropriate," said Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights), sponsor of the bill and chair of the Judiciary

Rally reflection



A rally in support of legislation to clean up and redevelop polluted industrial properties, known as brownfields, is reflected in the hub cap of a dump truck that hauled in polluted dirt for the event, which was held near the Capitol April 22.

Committee's Data Practices Subcommittee.

Bills confined to data practices have been introduced in the House since 1984, and the data practices subcommittee has met since 1987. Each year the committee considers new alterations to the state's Data Practices Act. "The Legislature is handling the issues in a deliberative way," said Don Gemberling of the Public Information Policy Analysis Division of the Department of Administration. "This year's bill is a little smaller, but deals with a lot of separate issues."

That's because living in the Information Age poses a multitude of questions regarding the collection and dissemination of data, and the classification of data as either public or private, he said. "Lots and lots of bills came up this time. I think it's interesting that we've gone back to where the discussion started, which isn't [concern about] the public finding out information as much as it is the collection of information by the government," Gemberling said.

This year's omnibus bill (**SF1460**) primarily affects three areas of law: access to and dissemination of records by law enforcement agencies; the treatment of student health records; and the treatment of juvenile offender records.

The bill next will be taken up a House-Senate conference committee.

Access by law enforcement

The bill would make it easier for law enforcement agencies to collect data on fugitives from the law if a fugitive happens to be collecting welfare benefits, or if the local social service agency has reason to believe another individual on welfare could provide information about the fugitive.

The bill says that certain welfare and housing data may be disclosed to law enforcement officers regarding felons who are fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or confinement, or are violating a condition of probation or parole. The social service agency also would provide information on other individuals if it is necessary to help catch the fugitive. The agency would be required to provide the address, social security number, and photographs of the individual or other household members receiving food stamps. The bill also eliminates a requirement that the police provide the individual's social security number. Housing agencies would be required to provide that same information.

No information was available regarding how many cases these new provisions would affect each year.

The bill also would require the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) to put cer-

tain criminal history data on the Internet, including a convicted criminal's identity and offense record, which already are considered public. The BCA is currently required to provide that information at no charge through a computer monitor at its central office.

Student health records

Current law requires elementary and secondary schools to maintain student health records—mostly immunizations—forever. The bill would change the requirement so that schools keep those records until a student turns 23. Further, schools no longer would be required to transfer a child's health records to the health department when the student leaves the school. (This section of the bill was amended on the floor to prohibit those records from being used in an immunization registry. But because schools do not submit them for that purpose and the registry bill would not require them to, it is not clear what effect, if any, this provision will have.)

The bill also would loosen provisions regarding required tetanus and diphtheria (DPT) immunizations. A student who has received three doses, with the last having been received between the ages of six and 11, is not required to have additional immunizations for another 10 years. The law currently requires that students in later grades must have had an immunization at 11 years of age or older.

A third provision regarding student records would make it clear that school districts or school boards have the authority to enforce immunization requirements. Current law specifies that students must submit those records within 30 days after enrolling in a new school, but does not say who has enforcement authority. The bill also would exempt crisis nurseries from the immunization requirements.

Juvenile records

The bill would help the BCA collect some information on juveniles and authorize the agency to disclose other information.

The computerized information the bureau currently keeps on juvenile criminal histories is considered private. Some of it can, however, be disclosed to other law enforcement agencies and the court system. Under the bill, that information also could be disclosed to agencies in other states. It also would clarify that the information released for background checks must pertain to the juvenile's adjudication—or court—history.

The bill also would require the BCA to keep juvenile records "for the longest time

period applicable to any item in the individual juvenile history record." That could mean permanently if the juvenile goes on to commit crimes as an adult.

Conversely, the bill would require that the records be disposed of quickly should the charges fail to stick. The bill provides that in a dismissal, the records would be destroyed immediately. If the juvenile is not referred to a program or no petition has been filed within six months after the arrest, the files must be destroyed.

If the juvenile is referred to a diversion program—an alternative to jail, after which the record is cleared—the files are destroyed after he or she reaches age 21. If the juvenile is guilty of a gross misdemeanor or felony, the files are maintained until the juvenile reaches age 28. The bill says that an agency that receives juvenile data from the BCA must destroy it according to the same schedule.

Other juvenile data provisions would require that other law enforcement agencies to provide the BCA with records on juveniles who commit gross misdemeanors or felonies. Targeted misdemeanors include DWI and order for protection violations; fifth degree assaults interference with privacy; harassment or restraining order violations; and indecent exposure.

The bill also would require the BCA to give any other relevant information—to police departments to help in investigations.

Finally, the bill would provide the public defender's office with electronic access to public criminal and juvenile justice data.

Other provisions

The bill also makes changes to laws regarding access to information on people in some professions. Judges and police officers could request to have their names omitted from lists naming registered voters; and people in health care professions would be allowed to use addresses other than their home address for public purposes. Advocates for those provisions said they were necessary to maintain the individuals' security. "It raises an interesting question," Gemberling said. "If it's good for some people, maybe it's good for others."

The law would change regarding the records of the deceased. Health care providers could destroy records seven years after a patient's death, and survivors and other interested parties would have fewer obstacles in obtaining access to tax returns filed by or on behalf of someone who has died.

The bill would eliminate the requirement

that government entities pay \$200 to the Department of Administration for opinions related to data practices law.

Other bill provisions deal with tax law. For instance, the IRS could disclose to the lottery the amount of a winner's delinquent state taxes if the individual won \$600 or more. Currently, the minimum winnings before disclosure is \$1,000.

Rap vs. Rachmaninoff

It came down to rap vs. Rachmaninoff, said Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) at the April 23 House Ways and Means Committee meeting.

Rachmaninoff won when the committee voted to delete a section of the omnibus state government finance bill that would have required Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) to sell its classical music station — KSJN-FM 99.5 — to a minority-owned group with a rap music format before MPR could receive any additional public funding.

The MPR must-sell provision was backed by Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) who maintained that MPR misused tax dollars to outbid a minority-owned private group when the station came up for sale. That private buyer, Osskopp said, would have created a station that played an urban/contemporary format and served the Twin Cities' African-American community.

Overall, the Ways and Means Committee eliminated many controversial provisions and passed out a bill (SF1905) that appropriates \$629 million to fund state government activity such as the Legislature, courts, administrative agencies, and numerous offices, boards, and commissions.

The committee also deleted a section that contained pay raises for elected officials, judges, and administrative executives, along with a provision that would have required a state agency — including Minnesota state colleges and universities — to obtain state permission before contracting out consultant services worth more than \$25,000.

Members also deleted a provision that would raise the minimum wage for Minnesota's workers. Effective Sept. 1, 1997, the wage would raise to at least \$5.40 per hour for employees of larger companies and \$5.15 per hour for employees of smaller companies. The provision will be considered as a separate bill.

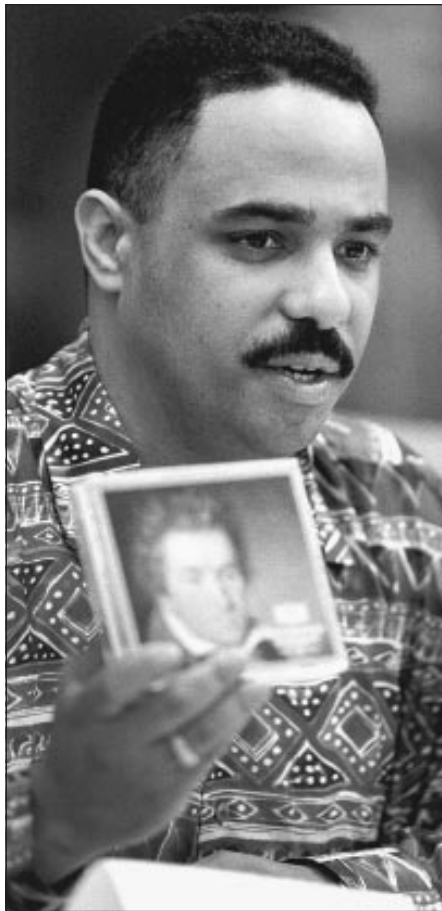
"These are things that should be dealt with separately, and not in the state department finance bill," said House Speaker Phil Caruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Park).

Committee members added a provision that would establish a new juvenile court aimed at keeping low-level offenders out of the criminal justice system.

SF1905 provides a one-time \$250,000 appropriation to the Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning to help establish "teen courts" to be set up by a group of two or more adult sponsors approved by the agency. As a participant in a teen court, juvenile offenders accused of a minor offense would go before a jury of their peers. If convicted, sentences would range from community service and mandatory counseling to paying fines and restitution.

The House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee also approved the bill, as amended by Ways and Means, April 23. It now goes to the House floor.

(See *Session Weekly*, April 18, 1997, page 10)



Thomas Ross, of Minneapolis, held up a classical compact disc and told the House Ways and Means Committee April 23 that he has nothing against classical music but would like to see Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) sell their classical FM radio station. A provision in the omnibus state government finance bill would have made an \$809,000 state appropriation to MPR contingent upon their sale of the station, which was purchased, in part, with public funds. It was later deleted from the bill.



HUMAN SERVICES

Omnibus bill advances

Same sex marriages would be prohibited, drug addicts could buy clean needles at their local pharmacy, and state hospital patients buried years ago in unmarked graves would be recognized, under the omnibus health and human services spending bill.

The \$5.4 billion bill pays for state health and social service programs over the next two years and includes a hodgepodge of projects and policy changes in its 365 pages.

A large chunk of the bill's price tag — \$1.7 billion — would pay to cover the health care needs of poor Minnesotans under two separate programs: Medical Assistance and General Assistance Medical Care.

Another \$2.2 billion would pay for certain nursing home, disability, mental health, group housing, chemical dependency, and other long term care services.

About \$422 million would fund the state's welfare program which was overhauled this session after the federal government scrapped the old system, cut benefits to legal immigrants, and required welfare recipients to work.

The bill (SF1908), sponsored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), passed the House Ways and Means Committee April 24. It heads next to the floor.

Below are some of the highlights in the bill.

Same-sex marriages

The bill prohibits marriages between people of the same gender and prohibits the recognition of such marriages in Minnesota even if the marriage occurred in a state that allows people of the same gender to marry.

The proposal began as an attempt to respond to the possibility that Hawaii may recognize same-sex marriages and prepare for people who might move to Minnesota from that state. Hawaii had passed a law prohibiting same sex marriages, but a lower court ruled the law unconstitutional. The state has appealed to its state Supreme Court.

Clean needles

To help prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS among drug addicts, the bill would allow pharmacies to sell, without prescription, new hypodermic needles and syringes. They could only be sold from behind the counter and not readily available on store shelves.

Naming the dead

The bill would spend \$200,000 to replace the unmarked or numbered graves of thousands of mentally retarded people who died decades ago while patients in Minnesota's state hospitals. The state dollars, however, would be withheld until private money raised to replace the grave sites has been exhausted.

Child care licensing

With the federal welfare changes requiring parents on public assistance to work if they want a monthly helping hand, officials anticipate a huge increase in the demand for child care. The bill sets aside \$200,000 to add two more fire marshal positions to the Department of Human Services' licensing division to speed up the licensing of child care programs. A separate House bill deals with many other licensing requirements for child care programs.

Assistance dogs

Minnesota nonprofit groups that train dogs to help people with disabilities would receive \$50,000 over the 1998-1999 two-year state budgeting period. The dogs are often rescued from animal shelters and help their owners to lead independent lives at home and at work.

Teen gambling

Lottery money in the amount of \$250,000 over the biennium would fund a compulsive gambling prevention and education project for adolescents in St. Louis County.

Women's mental health crisis center

Hennepin County would become home to a one-year experimental center for women who are experiencing a mental health crisis as a result of childhood physical or sexual abuse. The bill spends \$250,000 in fiscal year 1998 and instructs the county to contract with a four-bed adult foster care facility.

Women, Infants and Children

To make up for recent federal cuts to the Women, Infants and Children nutritional program, the bill spends \$650,000 in 1998 to maintain the current caseload level of about 95,500 monthly cases. Otherwise, some 1,900 women and children would have been cut off. In addition to the \$650,000, the bill appropriates another \$1.5 million to the program which provides supplemental food, nutritional counseling, and health screenings for low-income, high-risk pregnant, breast feeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children under the age of five.

Father adoption registry

The bill appropriates \$286,000 over the 1998-1999 budgeting period to pay for the Department of Health to register the names of fathers — or potential fathers — with the state.

A separate bill carries the specifics of the registry where men who want to be a part of their children's lives can be assured of notification if their child is put up for adoption. The registry is a way to protect a birth father's rights in the event his child is put up for

adoption, and to protect children from having adoptions unduly disrupted.



INSURANCE

No insurance rate hikes

A bill headed for the governor's desk would prevent insurance rate hikes for people who are passengers on city buses involved in traffic accidents.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul), passed the House April 21 by a margin of 131-0. The Senate passed the bill April 16 by a margin of 67-0. Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the bill in that body.

The impetus for the legislation came from an 86-year-old resident of Farrell's legislative district in St. Paul.

The woman was injured in January 1997 after she boarded a city bus to return to her East Side home from a doctor's office in downtown St. Paul. As the woman walked toward an open seat, the bus slammed to a stop to avoid a collision.

The sudden stop sent the woman toppling backwards, bouncing off the windshield, and landing at the bottom of the steps inside the bus door. She wound up spending five days in the hospital with a variety of injuries and has since gone through weeks of physical therapy.

Unfortunately, the woman had to absorb another blow when she returned from the hospital and called the bus company to discuss the accident. She was informed that the bus company would not pay for any medical expenses she incurred. That, she was told, was the responsibility of her own insurance company.

The state's no-fault insurance law requires that the woman's coverage come under her own automobile insurance policy.

Farrell's bill (**HF1045*/SF759**) would provide a remedy for people in such a situation without taking on the highly controversial area of no-fault law.

The bill would prohibit insurance companies from increasing a policyholder's premium if the person is involved in an accident while a passenger in a bus, taxi, or commuter van.

Farrell said his constituent did not see an increase in auto insurance rates after the incident on the city bus, but that he hopes to prevent anyone else in similar circumstances from seeing a rate hike.

Prescription prices



Minnesota Senior Federation members, *right to left*, Jim Stahl, St. Paul, Charles Spooner, Minneapolis, Gene Taylor, Minneapolis, and Janis Ray, West Concord, each wear a prescription bottle and a badge that reads "Vote for Fair Rx Prices for All" as they listen to the House debate SF1905 April 24. A discount prescription drug program is contained in the bill.

Diabetes management

Health plans would be required to provide coverage for training and education to assist diabetics in managing their disease, under a bill headed for the governor's desk.

The bill (**HF653/SF495***) was passed by the House April 18 by a margin of 124-5. The Senate voted 62-2 to pass the bill April 21.

The bill would expand a 1994 law requiring medical insurance companies and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for syringes, blood-testing devices, and other equipment diabetics need.

The aim of the proposal is to ensure diabetics are properly trained to use the medical equipment and to monitor their own condition. Medical nutrition therapy also would be required to be included in health coverage, under the bill.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) and Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-New Brighton).



TRANSPORTATION

Omnibus transportation bill

The omnibus transportation finance bill was adopted by the House April 23. The proposal (**SF1881**), which appropriates \$3 billion in state dollars for roads, bridges, aviation, and public safety over the next two years, passed on a 102-30 vote.

The state's authority to build toll roads also would be repealed by the bill. The Legislature created that authority only four years ago as a possible means to pay for the ever-rising cost of highway construction. "People have told us that they don't like tolls," said Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), sponsor of the amendment. Workman is concerned that Highway 212 in his district would be converted to a pay-to-drive road.

The bill also was amended to require that motorists on freeways use the left lane only for passing. A ticket would be issued and a fine imposed for improper use of the left lane.

Another amendment sponsored by Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka) would allow trailers carrying dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles, or snowmobiles to be attached to a fifth-wheel style camper trailer towed by a pickup truck. Towing of boat trailers in this configuration is already allowed under current law.

A conference committee will soon be appointed to resolve differences between the House and Senate proposals.

(See April 18, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 15.)

Transit

The Metropolitan Council, which runs the metropolitan area's public transportation system, would receive \$130.1 million over the next biennium, \$32 million more than Gov. Arne Carlson recommended. Of that money, \$34.6 million would go to Metro Mobility, which provides rides to approximately 25,000 metropolitan-area people with disabilities. The bill also authorizes and funds a \$100,000 study of coordinating public transit and school transportation in the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

An additional \$29.6 million would go to assist transit programs in Greater Minnesota.

Road and bridge construction

State road construction projects would receive \$893 million for the next two years. Local roads would get \$841.6 million in state aid, local bridges, \$39.8 million.

Public safety

The bill calls for \$111.6 million in spending for the Minnesota State Patrol. Included is \$3.5 million to fund an additional 29 state troopers — not the full complement requested by the governor, but 29 more than the Legislature authorized last year. The governor refused to enact a speed limit increase called for by lawmakers in 1996 because the trooper funding was missing.

Also included is \$2 million for computer-aided dispatching and records management and \$1.7 million to install video cameras in state patrol vehicles. Another \$69.5 million would go to the department's Driver and Vehicle Services Division over the next biennium. Also, \$2.6 million would go to the Department of Public Safety and the Minnesota Safety Council for various public safety programs.

The bill includes \$652,000 to provide survivor benefits to the families of state patrol officers who have died or been disabled in the line of duty. Though they are eligible for pensions, many of these officers and their families have lost their health care benefits once they could no longer serve as peace officers. An average of three officers per year lose their lives in the line of duty in Minnesota.

Aviation

The bill appropriates \$36.3 million for air transportation programs, including \$26 million for airport development and assistance. Other funds support the Civil Air Patrol and provide general support for aviation in the state.

Railroads and waterways

A total of \$6.9 million would go to fund rail and water transportation. This includes a \$1 million study to look at utilizing existing freight railroad corridors for a commuter rail service in the metropolitan area.



Q: How are bills amended?

A: Bills going through the Legislature are often amended, which can greatly change the thrust of a bill.

Most often legislators make amendments to bills when they are being considered in committee. Committee members are usually well-versed in the subjects of the bills, and they have the time at this point to consider making changes. Legislators can also amend bills when they reach the House floor. In both cases, amendments are adopted by a majority vote.

Generally, the legislator offering the amendment will have the proposal drafted by legislative staff before offering it for discussion.

Q: When do new laws go into effect?

A: Most new laws go into effect on Aug. 1 following a legislative session unless a bill specifies another date. Exceptions are bills that contain an appropriation, which become effective July 1, the same date the fiscal year begins.



With the close of this year's session rapidly approaching, and a passel of omnibus bills still on the table, legislators aren't the only ones to feel an increased sense of urgency. Lobbyists are also working harder to get their points across — some, apparently, a little too hard.

"I've been asked by some members to ask lobbyists not to follow them into the washroom," House Taxes Committee chair Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) announced at an April 21 meeting.

Some things are, after all, not subject to debate.

Press freedom ruling stems from 1925 state gag law

A bill that attracted little controversy as it sailed through the Minnesota Legislature in 1925 later became the subject of an uproar that touched the lives of prominent public officials and the center of a landmark ruling in constitutional law.



Jay M. Near

The 1925 law — perhaps the most direct effort to allow suppression of the press since the passage of the Alien and Sedition Acts in 1798 — declared certain types of newspapers and other publications a nuisance and allowed for injunctions to halt their circulation.

The circumstances that prompted passage of the law are somewhat uncertain. Apparently, it was backed by a legislator intent on silencing a newspaper editor who was attacking him. But the editor died before the law could be applied to his work, according to an analysis of the case by John Hartmann published in the December 1960 edition of *Minnesota History*.

State Sen. Freling H. Stevens, a Progressive-Republican from Minneapolis, sponsored the bill in upper chamber, where the measure moved quickly through committee and passed easily on the Senate floor. Similarly strong support greeted the bill in the House, and Gov. Theodore Christianson signed the legislation into law at the close of the 1925 session.

Specifically, the law declared it a nuisance to publish “an obscene, lewd, and lascivious newspaper, magazine or other periodical, or a malicious, scandalous, and defamatory newspaper, magazine, or other periodical.”

The law set up procedures allowing a county attorney to bring action in district court to receive a temporary restraining order blocking circulation of a publication and allowing the court to grant a permanent injunction to prevent future circulation of a publication.

In the 1920s world of “yellow journalism,” it was only a matter of time before a county attorney somewhere in the state would use the new law to silence one of that day’s many purveyors of newspaper sensationalism.

As it turned out, the 1925 gag law would be put to the test when Hennepin County Attorney Floyd B. Olson — soon to be governor of Minnesota — brought action in 1927 to stop distribution of the *Saturday Press*, a

weekly Minneapolis scandal sheet published by Howard A. Guilford and Jay M. Near.

Guilford and Near were old hands in the wild world of newspaper publishing. In earlier days, both had served as editor of the *Twin City Reporter*, a sensational weekly published from 1915 to 1927. Each issue of the paper followed a prescription calling for steady doses of sex, sexual perversion, and attacks on public officials and prominent citizens.

When Guilford and Near began publishing the *Saturday Press* in September 1927, they announced a crusade to clean up Minneapolis by exposing corruption among public officials. The paper’s first target was Chief of Police Frank W. Brunskill, whom the publishers claimed was aligned with powerful gangsters who were “practically ruling Minneapolis.”

Soon the publishers extended their criticism to the mayor and to Olson, whom Near and Guilford attacked for failing to replace the police chief or to charge him for wrongdoing.

Olson quickly responded by asking a Hennepin County District Court judge to grant an injunction to block circulation of the *Saturday Press*.

The lawyers for Guilford and Near did not challenge Olson’s claim that the newspaper fit the description of a nuisance under the “gag law.” They based their defense on the claim that the law was unconstitutional — setting off a lengthy legal battle that would end in the U.S. Supreme Court.

The district court ruled against Guilford and Near, as did the Minnesota Supreme Court in 1928. A permanent injunction was issued, and the publishers were out of business.

However, the case had by then attracted the attention of publishers of major newspapers around the country. *Chicago Tribune*, *New York Times*, and *Cleveland Plain Dealer* editorialists weighed in on behalf of Guilford and Near and ripped the Minnesota law.

Colonel Robert R. McCormick, publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*, took up the cause of the Minneapolis publishers and provided financial backing to appeal the case to the nation’s highest court. (The case would carry only Near’s name because Guilford withdrew from the litigation.)

In the meantime, attempts were made in the Legislature to repeal the “gag law,” but all

were unsuccessful. In 1931, while the case was pending before the U.S. Supreme Court, Olson began his first term as governor by calling for the repeal of the law he had embraced four years earlier.

“The cases in which the law was used were proper exercises of the operation of the law, but I believe that the possibilities for abuse make it an unwise law,” Olson said, according to *Minnesota History*. “The freedoms of speech and the press should remain inviolate . . .”

Members of the House voted that year to repeal the law, but a powerful minority in the Senate used a procedural move to block the effort during the final days of the session.

Later in 1931, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in the case of *Near v. Minnesota*. Although the justices were split by a 5-4 margin, the court’s ruling would become a significant milepost in the history of constitutional law.

The majority opinion effectively “nationalized” the freedoms of speech and press by wiping out a state law limiting such liberties, according to *Minnesota History*. And the ruling provided a powerful precedent forbidding prior restraint of the press.

However, Justice Pierce Butler — the first Minnesotan appointed to the Supreme Court and the leader of the dissenters — argued that a ruling in favor of Near would render the states powerless.

With the injunction finally lifted, Near resumed publishing the *Saturday Press* later that year, but the newspaper took on a decidedly less inflammatory tone.

Guilford soon started a new publication called the *Pink Sheet*, but the paper was short-lived. He returned to the *Saturday Press* within a year.

In 1934, Guilford was shot and killed as he drove toward his Minneapolis home. Some claimed the gangsters and corrupt officials Guilford had tried to expose were responsible for his death, but no solid evidence was found to support such claims. The case went unsolved.

— Nick Healy

Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

Agricultural boom . . .

Minnesota hemp: a new financial high for farmers?

There's a booming worldwide agricultural industry that would seem to be a natural for Minnesota's fertile soil. It centers on a crop that has no disease problems, requires no pesticides, grows quickly and densely and the entire plant can be used to make commercial products. Unfortunately, the plant is hemp, a close cousin of mind-altering marijuana, and outlawed in the United States under the 1972 Controlled Substances Act.

Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Ada) has sponsored a bill (**SF1182**) that would make Minnesota the first state to authorize the farming of hemp. The proposal is now awaiting action before the full Senate. The House version of the bill (**HF349**), sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), calls for the state to study the issue of commercial hemp farming. It's pending before the House.

Proponents say the state could reap huge economic benefits with an early entry into the hemp business. Opponents — largely law enforcement agencies — make no distinction between industrial hemp, which scientists say is not mind-altering, and its intoxicating relative. They say hemp's legalization would undermine current anti-drug efforts.

The business of hemp

What cannot be argued is that hemp production is a booming business. The number of retail stores nationwide selling hemp products, according to David Morris, of the Minneapolis-based Local Institute for Self-Reliance, has risen from 2 in 1988 to over 1,200 today. In 1993, worldwide hemp sales were \$5 million. By 1995, sales stood at \$75 million, according to HempTech, a California company that tracks the industry. It estimates the amount will top \$200 million in 1997, and \$600 million by 2001. In the last few years, industrialized hemp has been legalized in Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

Once cultivated by both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, hemp is now used in a variety of products, including pa-



An unknown farmer harvests Minnesota hemp in October 1937.

Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

per, clothing, cosmetics, and cleaning supplies. A draft of the Declaration of Independence was written on hemp paper and the U.S. flag sewn by Betsy Ross was made of hemp. (The newest byproduct, Hempen Ale, made with sterilized hemp seeds, will hit liquor stores April 28.) Hemp products have always been legal, and many of them are imported. Others are manufactured in the United States — since hemp commerce is protected by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade — with hemp brought from Asia or Europe, where the plant has been farmed for thousands of years.

History of hemp use

Hemp is believed to have been first used by the Chinese for its stem fiber around 5000 B.C. It was growing in Chile by 1545 and in the American colony at Jamestown in 1619. It was here the first law regarding marijuana

was passed: Farmers were ordered to grow hemp. Massachusetts passed a "compulsory grow" law in 1631. Connecticut followed in 1632. The reason? Hemp's major use was as a heavy cord fiber, or rope. Its natural resistance to rot was perfect — and in great demand — for maritime uses, including sails. As European seafaring expanded, so did the importance of hemp.

The crop moved west with the pioneers, with Kentucky being the principal producer of hemp fiber until the Civil War. At about this time, in 1860, the first small crops came to Minnesota.

Thirty years later, state business executives and government officials were touting the virtues of hemp.

"[T]his fibrous plant ought to be raised to advantage in this state. The soil is favorable and nearly every vacant lot in Minneapolis and St. Paul, shows a luxuriant crop of the plant growing wild, without cultivation, and I have personally cut a stem fifteen feet high, in Minneapolis," wrote J. Carmichael Allen, a director of Minneapolis Linen Mills, in 1891.

A report the same year from the Minnesota House Committee to Investigate Flax and Hemp said

"to each farmer in this state, grow flax; grow hemp; study flax; study hemp." It cited the success of J.T. Smith, a farmer from Heron Lake, Minn., who grew 500 acres of hemp in 1890. Smith's argument for widespread hemp farming is similar to that used by proponents today.

"A market is found in all the large cities of this country for hemp fiber," he said.

(One of Smith's likely customers was the Stillwater State Prison, where inmates made twine and rope from hemp from the late 1800s until 1957.)

A bill to subsidize the production of hemp in Minnesota "of a quality suitable for the making of binder twine," was introduced in the 1891 House. It called for a \$2 payment for every 100 pounds of fiber.

But despite calls for its increased produc-

Continued on page 18

Continued from page 17

tion, large-scale processing facilities wouldn't appear until the 1930s.

Hemp processing plants

The first plant, National Cellulose Corporation (later renamed the Hemp Chemical Corporation) appeared in Mankato in 1933, followed by two additional plants in Winona in 1937.

The *Winona Republican-Herald* trumpeted the industry as one "which promoters see a good future development bringing an increase in jobs . . . and a new and profitable cash crop for Winona area farmers."

The larger of the two Winona plants, Chempeco, Inc., which removed fiber from raw hemp, had 40 employees and took hemp from local farmers grown on about 950 acres. The smaller operation, Cannabis, Inc., had 12 employees and spun hemp fiber to make rugs, mops, and "cloth used in upholstering furniture," the *Republican-Herald* said.

But despite local optimism, the federal Marijuana Tax Act of 1937 and anti-drug sentiment brought the fledgling industry to a quick halt. During World War II, the industry was briefly resurrected, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt initiated the "Hemp for Victory" campaign.

"With Philippine and East Indian sources of hemp in the hands of the Japanese... American hemp must meet the needs of our Army and Navy as well as our industry," the narrator read in a 1942 U.S. Department of Agriculture film. "Just as in the days when Old Ironsides sailed the seas victorious with her hempen shrouds and hempen sails," the film concludes. "Hemp for victory."

The arguments

Today, industrial hemp is permitted in 26 countries and nearly a dozen states are discussing the issue. Most recently, North Dakota Gov. Edward Schafer signed into law March 23 a bill mandating North Dakota State University's agricultural experiment station to "study the feasibility and desirability of industrial hemp production." Pro-hemp forces include big business giants like International Paper Co., the world's largest paper firm, as well as the American Farm Bureau. The latter passed a resolution in 1996 calling for research into the "viability and economic potential" of hemp.

Locally, both the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council and the Minnesota Farmers Union support hemp growth, as did the *Fargo Forum* in a March 30 editorial. Chris Leifeld, director of legislative affairs for the farmers union, has said industrial hemp would have several benefits for farmers.

"It's a good opportunity for our farmers to have access to a new market" and the crop could be easily integrated into rotation, Leifeld said.

But hemp opponents — both locally and nationally — say legalizing hemp growth is a step back in the war on drugs. The federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) lobbied against a 1996 Colorado proposal to authorize a hemp pilot project, saying it was impossible to distinguish legal from illegal crops when doing air searches. While industrial hemp won't produce the "high" when smoked, as marijuana does, the DEA doesn't distinguish between the two. "Hemp is a controlled substance," DEA spokesman James McGivney recently told the *Washington Post*.

Likewise, a Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) official opposed industrial hemp at an April 9 House Agriculture Committee hearing.

"There are plenty of scoundrels out there who will divert this product into the illegal drug market," said Michael Campion, assistant superintendent of the BCA.

A memo distributed at the same hearing from Captain B.C. Baker, of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, also cited a "desensitizing of the concerns about the harm of marijuana" in opposing similar legislation. Wisconsin's attorney general has cited similar concerns.

Minnesota lawmakers supporting the bill are quick to voice their support of continued anti-drug efforts. Moe also has said the crop could do wonders for rural Minnesota. Kahn has sought to further educate members on the benefits of hemp — and the differences between the industrial and high-octane varieties. Gov. Arne Carlson, according to spokesman Brian Dietz, has yet to take a position on the matter.

Whether the state allows the commercial farming of hemp, Tari Sullivan, owner of The Third Stone, which sells hemp-based products, expects her retail business to continue to grow. Since moving her store from Albert Lea to Minneapolis in 1994, the number of hemp products has exploded, she said. Prices aren't necessarily down, she said but availability is up. Sullivan sells everything from kids clothes to women's business suits. She stocks t-shirts from three United States clothing companies that have begun manufacturing hemp-blends with cotton or rayon. Demand, she said, is increasing. While she has no immediate plans to open new stores, she has been encouraged by customers to do so. "My business," she said, "is doing very well."

— John Tschida

Minnesota State Agencies

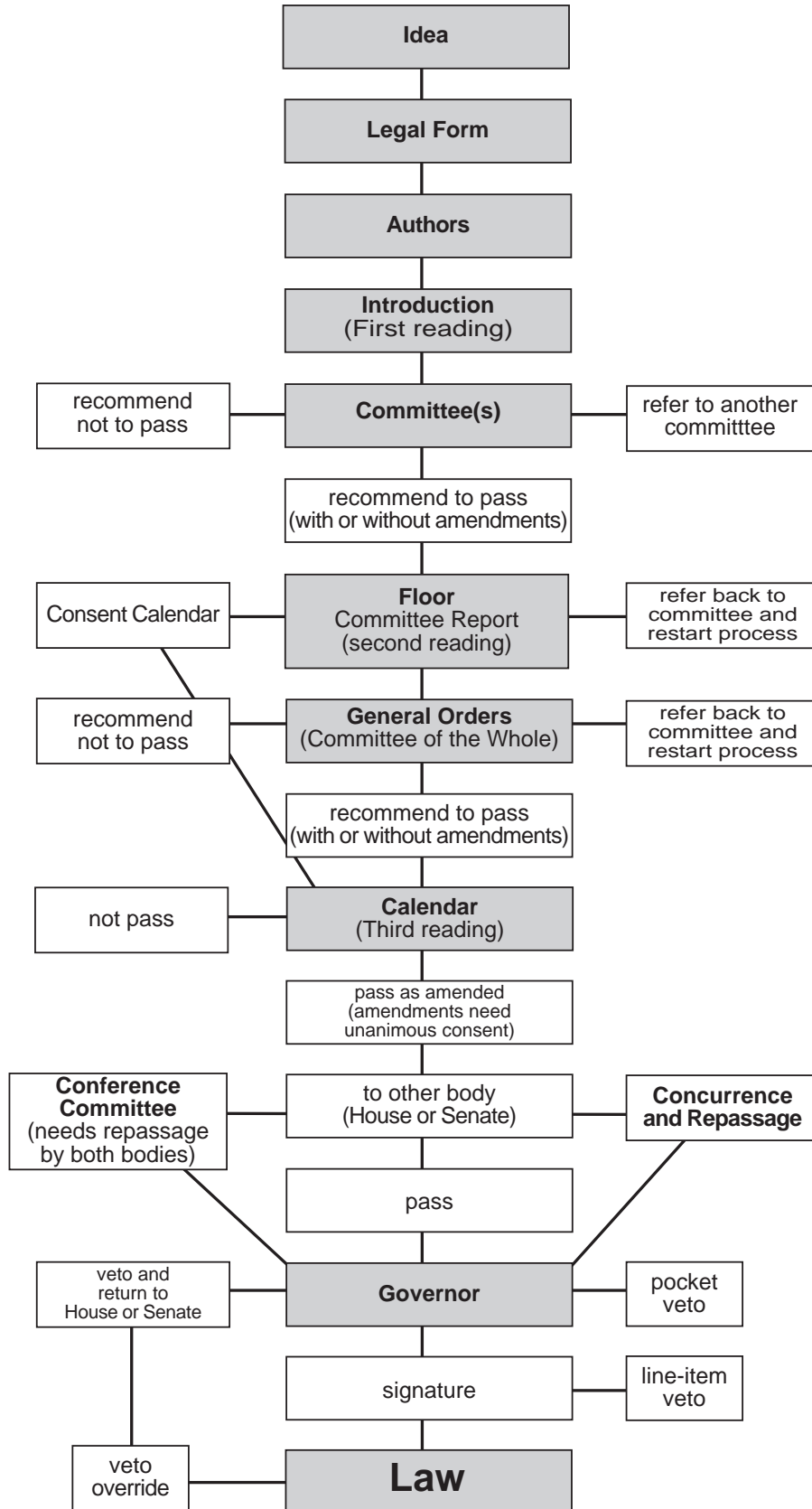
Agriculture	297-2200
Commerce	296-4026
Corrections	642-0200
Children, Families and Learning	296-6104
Employee Relations	297-1184
Job Information	296-2616
Finance	296-5900
Gaming Gambling Control Division	639-4000
MN State Lottery Division	635-8100
Toll Free	1-800-475-4000
MN Racing Commission ..	496-7950
Health	623-5000
Human Rights	296-5663
Toll Free	1-800-657-3704
Human Services	296-6117
Economic Security	296-3711
Labor and Industry	296-6107
Military Affairs	282-4662
Natural Resources	296-6157
Public Safety	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services	296-6911
Fire Marshal	215-0500
Liquor Control	296-6159
State Patrol	297-3935
Pollution Control	296-6300
Public Service	296-7107
Revenue Taxpayer Assistance	296-3781
Toll Free	1-800-652-9094
Trade and Economic Development 297-1291 Office of Tourism	296-5029
Transportation	296-3000
Veterans Affairs	296-2562
State Information	296-6013
House Information	296-2146
	1-800-657-3550
Senate Information	296-0504
	1-888-2341112

Clarification

The "State Government Funding" story contained on page 10 of the April 18, 1997, *Session Weekly* should have said that **HF1389**, sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), also proposes salary increases for legislators, constitutional officers, judges, and state agency heads. The article also should have named Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) as the chief House sponsor of **SF1905**, the omnibus state government finance bill. We regret the errors.

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Minnesota

The lawmaking process is a technical one, filled with many arcane rules and procedures that can determine whether a bill will or will not become law. While this chart shows how most bills become law, it does not account for all possibilities.



Governor's Desk

CH39-CH66

Bills await governor's action

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
 - veto the bill;
 - line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
 - do nothing, which results in the bill becoming law in the first year of the biennium.
- The timing of these actions is as significant as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the im-

portant thing to remember is that the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Internet access to this information is available at:
<http://www.governor.state.mn.us> (select "legislative issues" folder)

Key:

CH=Chapter; SF=Senate File; HF=House File

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
39	2009	227*	Federal payments in lieu of taxes on entitlement land distributed.	4/21/97	
40	972	424*	Ramsey County eligibles certification under county rules.	4/21/97	
41	1187*	1306	Buffalo Lake wastewater treatment facility contract bid requirements.	4/21/97	
42	566*	434	Itasca County government innovation and cooperation board law.	4/21/97	
43	1257	1071*	Luverne Maplewood Cemetery bodies removal and reinterment.	4/21/97	
44	1884	1356*	State House District 9A description modification.	4/21/97	
45	436	127*	Environmental advisory councils and committees provisions modifications.	4/21/97	
46	718	137*	Conservation Corps youth advisory committee modifications.	4/21/97	
47	429	458*	Fire insurance escrow account requirements.	4/21/97	
48	768	475*	Farm worker driver's license exemptions.	4/23/97	
49	645*	622	Health insurance plans care definition.	4/23/97	
50	108*	56	Range technical employees retirement benefits protection.	4/23/97	
51	385	539*	Trunk Highway 19 designated memorial highway.	4/23/97	
52	1005	1527*	Minnesota Insurance Guaranty Act modifications.	4/23/97	

*The legislative bill marked with an asterisk denotes the file submitted to the governor.

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
53	255*	354	Environmental Quality Board membership increase.	4/23/97	
54	763*	696	Zion Lutheran Church historic place designation.	4/23/97	
55	1861*	1663	Farm animal facilities entry restriction.	4/23/97	
56	356*	284	Local government units official newspapers designation cost consideration.	4/23/97	
57	653	495*	Diabetes outpatient self-management training and education health insurance coverage required.		
58	971	1116*	Hennepin County radio system facility lease authorized.		
59	211*	201	School district extended area telecommunications service.		
60	179*	178	Driver's license health care directives designation.		
61	889*	786	Mobile home park owners rights modified.		
62	949*	885	Mercury devices disposal prohibition expansion.		
63	1301*	884	St. Paul Ramsey County Public Health Department classified service definition.		
64	1045*	759	Automobile insurance surcharge prohibitions.		
65	626	432*	Designated caregiver agreement execution and consent agreements modified.		
66	312	145*	Re-employment insurance technical and administrative changes.	4/23/97	

One of thousands of 19th century Americans who chose to go west, Lucius F. Hubbard made the best of the opportunity promised to await them on the frontier.

From New York orphan to Civil War general to Minnesota's ninth governor, Hubbard built an impressive list of achievements despite his lowly beginnings.

After being raised by his aunt in Chester, Vt., Hubbard was an 18-year-old apprentice to a tinsmith in Salem, N.Y., when he decided to head west in 1854.

He practiced his trade in Chicago for three years before he picked up and moved again. This time he landed in Red Wing, Minn.

"The newcomer at once became infected with the hopefulness and enthusiasm that was in the air . . ." Hubbard said in a 1905 speech to the Minnesota Historical Society. There was adversity "but the pioneer is always hopeful, ever determined, and never daunted by obstacles that might discourage the average man."

He promptly founded the *Red Wing Re-*

It's a fact!

publican, installed himself as editor, and began working to drum up readership.

"The new editor was no printer, but he soon became more or less of an expert in 'sticking type,' working the press, and writing boom editorials in exploitation of the locality," Hubbard later said.

The paper (which still exists as the *Republican Eagle*) was a success, but Hubbard left it behind during the Civil War to begin an Army career that saw him rise to the rank of general in less than four years.

He fought in major Civil War battles at Corinth, Vicksburg, and Nashville, and tales of Hubbard's battlefield exploits include twice having his horse shot from underneath him.

After the war, Hubbard returned to Minnesota and started grain and milling business ventures, and he built two railroad lines in the state.

He was elected governor as a Republican

in 1881 and two years later was re-elected for a three-year term. (The three-year term was necessary to get state elections in tune with national elections and to begin biennial legislative sessions.)

Hubbard's tenure as governor was relatively unremarkable. The significant advancements attributed to his administration include the creation of the state Railroad and Warehouse Commission and initiation of state grading and weighing of grain.

Perhaps most significantly, the Civil War veteran signed the first state law prohibiting racial discrimination in public places.

Hubbard, for whom Hubbard County in northern Minnesota was named, returned to Red Wing after his second term in office. He was later called on by President William McKinley to serve as a brigadier general in the Spanish-American War.

The former governor lived out his final years in St. Paul and Minneapolis, where he died in 1913 at the age of 77.

Bill Introductions

HF2160-HF2173

Monday, April 21

HF2160—Greiling (DFL) Taxes

Property tax reform provided, general education levy reduced, first tier homestead bracket extended, class rate reduction provided for certain properties, and business activities tax established.

HF2161—Skoglund (DFL) Judiciary

Violent crime penalties and mandatory minimum sentences increased.

HF2162—McCollum (DFL) Education

School building handicap access and fire safety requirements modified, and disabled access revenue, aid, and levy established.

Wednesday, April 23

HF2163—Long (DFL) Ways & Means

Omnibus tax bill and money appropriated.

HF2164—Olson, E. (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Forest resources council membership modified.

HF2165—Tunheim (DFL)
Ways & Means
Flood related disaster relief provided for property damage grants and loans, and money appropriated.

HF2166—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Ways & Means
Flood related disaster relief provided for property damage grants and loans, and money appropriated.

HF2167—Mulder (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Sandy Lake Band of Mississippi Chippewa provided state Indian tribe recognition.

HF2168—Mulder (R)
Local Government & Metro Affairs
Local government, school, and business cost increases caused by state mandates reports provided, grants authorized, and money appropriated.

Thursday, April 24

HF2169—Skare (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Flood disaster relief assistance provision by nonaffected cities and counties allowed.

HF2170—Luther (DFL)
Education
Public postsecondary educational institution tuition reduction intent stated, and money appropriated.

HF2171—Luther (DFL)
Education
Higher education financial aid asset consideration provisions modified, and state grant formula provided.

HF2172—Luther (DFL)
Education
Student loan interest accrual provisions modified, higher education tuition income tax credit provided, and money appropriated.

HF2173—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Ways & Means
Real estate default and contract for deed termination notice requirements provided.

Minnesota House and Senate Membership

1 A • Rep. Jim Tunheim-(DFL) B • Rep. Tim Finseth-(R) Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-DFL	15 A • Rep. Al Juhnke-(DFL) B • Rep. Gary W. Kuby-(DFL) Sen. Dean E. Johnson-R	29 A • Rep. Jerry Dempsey-(R) B • Rep. Mike Osskopp-(R) Sen. Steve Murphy-DFL	43 A • Rep. Tom Workman-(R) B • Rep. Barb Sykora-(R) Sen. Edward C. Oliver-R	57 A • Rep. Nora Slawik-(DFL) B • Rep. Sharon Marko-(DFL) Sen. Leonard R. Price-DFL
2 A • Rep. Bernie L. Lieder-(DFL) B • Rep. Edgar Olson-(DFL) Sen. Roger D. Moe-DFL	16 A • Rep. Joe Opatz-(DFL) B • Rep. Jim Knobloch-(R) Sen. Dave Kleis-R	30 A • Rep. Fran Bradley-(R) B • Rep. Dave Bishop-(R) Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-R	44 A • Rep. Betty Foiliard-(DFL) B • Rep. Jim Rhodes-(R) Sen. Steve Kelley-DFL	58 A • Rep. Joe Mullery-(DFL) B • Rep. Richard Jefferson-(DFL) Sen. Linda I. Higgins-DFL
3 A • Rep. Irv Anderson-(DFL) B • Rep. Loren A. Solberg-(DFL) Sen. Bob Lessard-DFL	17 A • Rep. LeRoy Koppenderayer-(R) B • Rep. Leslie J. Schumacher-(DFL) Sen. Dan Stevens-R	31 A • Rep. William Kuisle-(R) B • Rep. Gregory M. Davids-(R) Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel-R	45 A • Rep. Ron Abrams-(R) B • Rep. Peggy Leppik-(R) Sen. Martha R. Robertson-R	59 A • Rep. Len Biernat-(DFL) B • Rep. Phyllis Kahn-(DFL) Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-DFL
4 A • Rep. Gall Skare-(DFL) B • Rep. Anthony G. (Tony) Kinkel-(DFL) Sen. David J. Ten Eyck-DFL	18 A • Rep. Jim Rostberg-(R) B • Rep. Loren Geo Jennings-(DFL) Sen. Janet B. Johnson-DFL	32 A • Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-(DFL) B • Rep. Michelle Rifenberg-(R) Sen. Steven Morse-DFL	46 A • Rep. Ann H. Rest-(DFL) B • Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson-(DFL) Sen. Ember R. Junge-DFL	60 A • Rep. Dee Long-(DFL) B • Rep. Myron Orfield-(DFL) Sen. Ellen H. Spear-DFL
5 A • Rep. Tom Rukavina-(DFL) B • Rep. David J. Tomassoni-(DFL) Sen. Jerry R. Janezich-DFL	19 A • Rep. Mark Olson-(R) B • Rep. Bruce Anderson-(R) Sen. Mark Ourada-R	33 A • Rep. Arlon Lindner-(R) B • Rep. Rich Stanek-(R) Sen. Warren Limmer-R	47 A • Rep. Darlene Luther-(DFL) B • Rep. Phil Carruthers-(DFL) Sen. Linda Scheid-DFL	61 A • Rep. Karen Clark-(DFL) B • Rep. Linda Wejman-(DFL) Sen. Linda Berglin-DFL
6 A • Rep. Thomas (Tom) Bakk-(DFL) B • Rep. Thomas Huntley-(DFL) Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-DFL	20 A • Rep. Robert "Bob" Ness-(R) B • Rep. Tony Kielucki-(R) Sen. Steve Dille-R	34 A • Rep. Steve Smith-(R) B • Rep. Todd Van Dellen-(R) Sen. Gen Olson-R	48 A • Rep. Bill Haas-(R) B • Rep. Alice M. Johnson-(DFL) Sen. Don Betzold-DFL	62 A • Rep. Lee Greenfield-(DFL) B • Rep. Wes Skoglund-(DFL) Sen. Carol Flynn-DFL
7 A • Rep. Willard Munger-(DFL) B • Rep. Mike Jaros-(DFL) Sen. Sam G. Solon-DFL	21 A • Rep. Marty Seifert-(R) B • Rep. Richard Mulder-(R) Sen. Arlene J. Lesevski-R	35 A • Rep. Carol L. Molnau-(R) B • Rep. Dan McElroy-(R) Sen. Claire A. Robling-R	49 A • Rep. Charlie Weaver-(R) B • Rep. Luanne Koskinen-(DFL) Sen. Leo Foley-DFL	63 A • Rep. Jean Wagenius-(DFL) B • Rep. Edwina Garcia-(DFL) Sen. Jane B. Ranum-DFL
8 A • Rep. Mary Murphy-(DFL) B • Rep. Bill Hilty-(DFL) Sen. Becky Lourey-DFL	22 A • Rep. Ted Winter-(DFL) B • Rep. Elaine Harder-(R) Sen. Jim Vickerman-DFL	36 A • Rep. Eileen Tompkins-(R) B • Rep. David L. Knutson-R	50 A • Rep. Kathleen Sekhon-(DFL) B • Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-(R) Sen. Paula E. Hanson-DFL	64 A • Rep. Matt Entenza-(DFL) B • Rep. Michael Paymar-(DFL) Sen. Richard J. Cohen-DFL
9 A • Rep. Kevin Goodno-(R) B • Rep. Robert L. (Bob) Westfall-(R) Sen. Keith Langseth-DFL	23 A • Rep. Barb Vickerman-(R) B • Rep. Howard Swenson-(R) Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-R	37 A • Rep. Dennis Ozment-(R) B • Rep. Bill Macklin-(R) Sen. Pat Pariseau-R	51 A • Rep. Mike Delmont-(DFL) B • Rep. Doug Swenson-(R) Sen. Jane Krentz-DFL	65 A • Rep. Andy Dawkins-(DFL) B • Rep. Carlos Mariani-(DFL) Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-DFL
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Committee Schedule

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dedication to environment and natural
 resources trust fund duration extended, and
 constitutional amendment proposed.
 HF296 (Wejcman) Father registry created and
 adoption notice and consent provisions
 modified.
 HF361 (Solberg) Wholesale food processor
 and manufacturer fees modified.
 HF1542 (Solberg) Public employment labor
 agreements ratified, technical modifications
 provided, and definitions modified.
 HF435 (Long) Environmental response and
 liability act provisions modified, and money
 appropriated.
 HF1646 (Trimble) Milk marketing competition
 and economic fairness provided, and milk and
 milk product retail price flexibility allowed.

THURSDAY, May 1

8 a.m.

WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg
Agenda: HF1750 (Bakk) Timber sale permit
 extension provided.
 SF94 (Moe); HF551 (Sekhon) State land
 boundary line and trust sale provisions
 modified, property tax payment by natural
 resources commissioner provided, and public
 land sales authorized.
 HF707 (Wagenius) Toxics in products
 requirements and enforcement provisions
 modified.
 SF164 (Wiger); HF535 (Juhnke) Bison
 designated as livestock, and federal food rule
 conformity provided.
 HF2157 (Jennings) State agency heads, judges,
 and legislators compensation regulated.
 HF1004 (Entenza) Omnibus DWI Bill.
 Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

The House meets in session.

MONDAY, April 28

8 a.m.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

10 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson
Agenda: HFXXXX (Anderson, I.) Relating to
 real estate; requiring 60 days notice of
 termination of a real estate contract for deed
 and eight weeks notice of commencement of a
 sale and foreclosure proceedings.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: MinnesotaCare.
 Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

The House meets in session.

4 p.m.

The House and Senate meet in joint session.

10 a.m.

The House meets in session.

4:30 p.m.

Conference Committee Secretary of State housekeeping bill/ HF156/SF269

125 State Capitol
 Chrs. Rep. Nora Slawik,
 Sen. David Ten Eyck.

WEDNESDAY, April 30

8 a.m.

TAXES

15 State Capitol
 Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Presentation of stadium proposals
 (informational hearing).

11 a.m.

The House meets in session.

4 p.m.

TAXES

15 State Capitol
 Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Public testimony on stadium bills.
 (Call 296-5388 to testify.)

FRIDAY, May 2

10 a.m.

The House meets in session.

TUESDAY, April 29

8 a.m.

WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg
Agenda: HF632 (Solberg) Environmental
 learning centers previous appropriation
 provisions modified.
 HF113 (Munger) State lottery proceeds

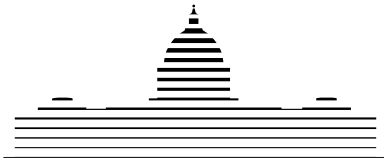
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 Majority Leader: Ted Winter
 Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

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Source: *Ethanol Programs*, Office of the Legislative Auditor, Feb. 1997

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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ May 2, 1997 ♦ Volume 14, Number 17



SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • May 2, 1997 • Volume 14, Number 17

Session Weekly is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1997-98 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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Update

In just four days, most House and Senate legislators and staff, individuals in the executive and judicial branches, and friends of friends in the Capitol complex joined together in nonpartisan unity to assist the flood victims northward along the Red River and down through the Minnesota River Valley. A phenomenal amount of food, household goods, and pet supplies were collected because it was a proper thing to do, and it was a way to ease a feeling of helplessness in a hopeless situation.

The effort began when two or three people in the State Office Building decided they needed to do something for the stranded Minnesotans devastated by the worst flood in 500 years. With a letter signed by the leaders of both political parties in the House and Senate, and flyers and signs asking for food, supplies, and financial donations placed all over the complex, the plan brought a flood of donated goods to the collection point in 96 hours! Even the Animal Humane Society of Hennepin County, Pets Plus, and Petfood Outlet called to lend assistance. The *Saint Paul Pioneer Press* donated two delivery trucks to haul the goods.

Early on Saturday, April 26 at the State Office Building, and with little fanfare, scores of volunteers loaded an extraordinary collection of diapers, gloves, bleach, water, ginger ale, sponges, bath soap, washcloths, blankets, toothpaste, squeegees, and many other items into one truck. Once it was full, they filled a second truck to capacity with pet food and supplies, kitty litter, cat crates, and dog kennels (*See photo, page 11*).

So, last week, while the lives of Minnesotans at the Capitol were controlled by a session deluged with controversial bills up for debate, political partisans and others rallied, united, and performed a highly commendable act of honor and duty. With a sense of purpose and much heartfelt compassion, their unselfish effort came together in spirit and action.

The volunteers responded with help for the courageous, yet displaced Minnesotans along the state's flooded areas in and near East Grand Forks as the Red River continued to flood the valley north toward Canada. Food, supplies, animal shelters and \$10,750 collected (\$6,385 designated for the American Red Cross, and \$4,365 for the Salvation Army) also was shared with people in Ada, Breckenridge, Brown's Valley, Kent and Moorhead — all victims who live to the south whose towns were devastated earlier in April by the river. And they gave to residents of cities along the Minnesota River — Ortonville at the headwaters, Granite Falls, Montevideo, and others.

A few hundred Minnesotans — Capitol officials and staff — once again demonstrated a united effort and responded to the call for making the needs of others far more important than divided political beliefs.

— LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: Twin Cities' kids helped plant a Little Leaf Linden tree as part of the Arbor Day celebration held on the State Capitol grounds April 24. The 1997 Arbor Day Fair, sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry gives inner-city kids the opportunity to learn about the importance of planting and preserving trees and the impact trees have in their urban communities.

—Photo by Laura Phillips

Highlights

Educating students . . .

Statewide testing: accountability for schools, kids

— By Nick Healy

Minnesota would establish a statewide testing system requiring that uniform exams at several grade levels be given virtually to every student to measure individual as well as school performance, under a bill approved by the House April 29.

HF2179, sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), would require uniform, statewide testing of third, fifth, and eighth graders beginning in the 1997-1998 school year and eleventh graders beginning no later than the 1999-2000 school year.

Opatz said the tests would be an integral part of the state's move toward an education system that demands schools and students be more accountable for the taxpayer funds invested in education.

"What we need to do is to tell schools what we expect, give them the resources they need, and — with these tests — measure their performance," Opatz said. "Right now, we don't know [how schools are performing]."

Statewide testing had been a controversial issue at the Capitol in years past, but this year it drew bipartisan support. Such testing is touted as a way to provide a reliable means for comparing the performance of schools and districts.

The move toward establishing a statewide testing system took a great leap forward early



Students like these third graders from Jackson Elementary School in St. Paul soon may be required to take a statewide achievement test. A bill moving through the House would require uniform, statewide testing of third, fifth, and eighth graders beginning in the 1997-1998 school year and eleventh graders beginning no later than the 1999-2000 school year.

A special House-Senate committee was then created to devise a more specific plan to implement statewide testing. Opatz's bill is the House version of the plan recommended by the special committee.

Under the bill, the basic skills tests in reading and math — already required under the state's graduation rule and first given to students in the eighth grade — would count

"overly prescriptive" about how the testing system will work. Instead, the Department of Children, Families and Learning will be given the authority to determine which tests would be given and at what time during the school year.

One of the dicey issues in the statewide testing debate concerns who would be tested and who would not. Opatz's bill would allow only narrow exceptions to the testing requirements. For example, students who are new to the United States and are not proficient in English would be exempt.

Another key provision in the bill would require that 1997-1998 test results from each individual school and each district be used to establish a baseline against which their future performance could be measured.

"This sets the stage for a more sophisticated system of accountability that relates to performance incentives for schools," Opatz said. "You can't do that efficiently until you set a baseline for each school, and that's what these tests would do."

Opatz said he eventually hopes to see a state aid system that rewards schools that improve from their baseline levels and targets assistance for struggling schools.

"This sets the stage for a more sophisticated system of accountability that relates to performance incentives for schools. You can't do that efficiently until you set a baseline for each school, and that's what these tests would do."

— Rep. Joe Opatz

in the 1997 Legislative Session when Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) successfully moved to attach a requirement for such testing to a separate bill.

Moe's action led to an agreement between legislative leaders to lift the statutory ban on statewide testing and instead institute such testing during the 1997-1998 school year. The pact was included in the first new law produced during the 1997 Legislative Session. (See story, page 6.)

as the statewide test for that age group.

Third and Fifth graders would be given tests selected by the Department of Children, Families and Learning. The department could use a test it has developed or a nationally recognized test such as the California Achievement Test or the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. Any test used for the statewide testing system would have to fit in with the state's graduation standards.

Opatz said his bill is not intended to be

The bill, approved by 109-23 margin, is headed for a conference committee. The Senate passed a statewide testing bill April 30 that is very similar to the House bill but does not include a testing requirement for 11th graders.

"If you don't include the 11th grade, you're removing from this testing system an entire segment of education — namely high school," Opatz said.

The push for statewide testing this year has received strong support from Gov. Arne Carlson's administration and from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

Bob Wedl, commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning, who sat on the special committee created to craft statewide testing legislation, said he is satisfied with the "broad policy" for statewide testing included in the legislation approved by the House.

"We've had no comparable statewide information," Wedl said. "We felt [statewide testing] was really crucial to being able to understand how Minnesota as a whole is doing."

Rep. LeRoy Koppendraye (R-Princeton), a long-time advocate of statewide testing, links the newfound consensus on the issue to press reports related to the performance of public schools and the need for reliable measurements of student learning.

"The key is to make sure no kid graduates from high school who doesn't have at least minimum competency in reading and math," Koppendraye said.



AGRICULTURE

Milk prices slashed

Minnesota grocers would be allowed to sell milk at lower prices under a bill approved April 29 by the House Ways and Means Committee.

HF1646, sponsored by Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul), would temporarily lift current law forbidding retailers to sell milk for less than they paid for it. The change in milk pricing policy would be in effect for one year.

"It's an attempt to free up the market," Trimble said. The change should bring lower prices for consumers and may help farmers by driving up demand for dairy products, he added.

Trimble and other supporters of the bill argue that the current law has helped to create hardships for dairy farmers and consumers in the state. Minnesota's dairy farmers have seen the prices they get for their

product drop significantly in recent months, but the state's consumers continue to pay some of the nation's highest retail milk prices.

"That's what we're trying to deal with here," Trimble said. "We're trying to bring the free market to bear."

The one-year change in retail pricing regulation would allow lawmakers to assess the situation during the 1998 session. If the Legislature takes no action at that time, existing law setting a floor for retail milk prices would then be in effect.

Critics of the bill argue that it would lead only to instability in the milk market and could wind up hurting small grocers and dairy farmers.

The Ways and Means Committee rejected an amendment to extend the period during which lower milk prices would be allowed and another to make the change permanent.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) offered the amendment to allow lower milk prices to be allowed for two years. She argued that the new pricing policy would not be in effect long enough before the 1998 Legislative Session for lawmakers to make a solid judgment about whether it should be extended.

But Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) said extending the no-minimum pricing policy could hurt small, independent grocers who cannot afford to get into a price wars with large, chain-store competitors.

"Pushing it out for two years will be long enough to make sure [small grocers] go out of business," Molnau said.

Kahn's amendment was rejected by a margin of 12-9. An amendment proposed by Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview) that would have made the pricing policy change permanent was rejected on a voice vote.

Trimble's bill now goes to the House floor.



CHILDREN

Open court for abused kids

The House passed a bill April 29 that would open to the public court cases involving abused or neglected children. The vote was 84-49.

Under current law, all juvenile court proceedings and records are closed. **HF254** would open the doors and paper work for cases involving Children in Need of Protective Services (CHIPS). The bill would not apply to juvenile delinquency proceedings.

Arguments for and against keeping the CHIPS hearings closed centered on protecting children.

"We need to open the proceedings so that

those who care about these kids can see what goes on," said bill sponsor Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls). Later he added that scrutiny often comes too late. "Why do we wait until they're dead?"

Skoglund was part of a team that went on a fact-finding mission to Michigan, where all juvenile proceedings are open. "Every last person told me that the system was improved when it was opened up. The lot in life of many poor, neglected, and abused kids got better."

Skoglund said that allowing courtroom access to organizations who care about children, as well as watchdog organizations like the press, will increase accountability and serve children's best interests. "Right now grandma, foster parents, aunts, and siblings, are locked out. This causes great harm to kids."

Detractors said that open hearings would subject children to additional suffering. "In rural areas especially [where there is less anonymity], press coverage and public scrutiny in the courtroom could be incredibly shaming, humiliating, and embarrassing to families," said Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul). Bill supporters have said they are depending on the press to not disclose children's names, similar to the policy it maintains regarding rape victims

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) said there are other ways to reform the system. "If there are problems we should solve them by looking at the system, not opening it up," he said, adding that it was risky to depend on the press to be responsible.

Bill supporters pointed out that many cases involving the neglect or abuse of children are open to the public already because they involve the criminal activity of an adult. "But what happens if the county wants to send a child back with a dangerous offender?" Skoglund asked. "It's happened in this state, I hate to tell you. That's when you want [others] to get through that locked door."

As it was first presented on the floor, the bill would have opened only CHIPS cases in Hennepin County, which accounts for about 40 percent of the children in the state, according to Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls). Jefferson submitted an amendment to open CHIPS cases statewide, which passed in a 69-64 vote.

Supporters also noted that judges would have the same authority to close hearings (at their discretion) as they do in cases regarding other areas of law.

"Right now we're protecting the system, not the children we supposedly care so much about," said Rep. Barbara Sykora (R-Excel-

sior). "If the system isn't working, it's high time we knew it."



CRIME

Crime bill clears floor

The House passed a sweeping omnibus crime-prevention bill April 25 on a 126-5 vote. The \$990 million proposal funds the state's court and correctional systems; law enforcement and public safety agencies; and departments such as the attorney general's office and its human rights division.

Under changes that took place on the floor:

- A provision to allow pharmacists to sell hypodermic needles and syringes without a prescription was amended to require that purchasers turn in an equal number of used needles before buying new ones. The program is intended to decrease the spread of HIV among drug users. The needle exchange element is to reduce the incidence of needle litter in public areas.
- People who interfere with facilities that are involved in selling or providing services for animals or use animals for research would be subject to prosecution under the state's anti-harassment and stalking laws.
- A provision that would have given prosecutors the right to rebut any statement made in the defense's final argument during a criminal trial was changed so that prosecutors can only respond to inflammatory statements or misstatements of fact or law. (The Senate version of the proposal would allow prosecutors the last word, regardless of what the defense says.)

Additionally, a prolonged debate to adopt the death penalty for first-degree murder was defeated on a 102-30 vote.

HF163/SF1880*, sponsored in the House by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), also includes a provision to give judges a raise. Caseloads for probation officers also would be reduced. Counties could implement drug courts; women leaving prostitution would get help; and funds would be supplied to community advocacy groups helping battered women. The state would pay the overtime costs for police in high crime areas.

The Department of Corrections would be expected to reduce the daily (per diem) cost of housing prisoners. Layoffs would be possible.

Low income families would have easier access to representation in court matters, as would low-income farmers. Courts also would be given money to launch a pilot program to improve the resolution of family

matters. The program would assign one judge to hear domestic abuse, probate, and juvenile and delinquency matters within a single family.

Dozens of other initiatives also would be funded. A House-Senate conference committee will negotiate a final version of the bill to be voted on later this session.

(See April 25, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 5.)

Harassing, stalking, sentencing

A bill to strengthen the state's anti-stalking law and toughen penalties for those violating orders for protection and restraining orders passed the House April 28. The vote was 125-7.

House-Senate conferees agreed to define harassing or stalking behavior as intentional conduct that the offender knows or has reason to know would cause the victim to feel frightened, threatened, oppressed, persecuted, or intimidated. Importantly, the bill states that prosecutors would not be required to prove that the offender intended to cause those reactions in the victim, only that the offender knew or should have known that the conduct would cause the reactions and that the victim did, in fact, experience them. In the event a dangerous weapon is used during a harassment or stalking violation, the offense would be punished by a mandatory minimum sentence. (If the weapon is a firearm, a three-year penalty applies for the first offense, and a five-year penalty applies to subsequent offenses; if the dangerous weapon is not a firearm, a one-year penalty applies to the first offense, and a three-year penalty applies to subsequent offenses.)

The changes were necessary given a recent Minnesota Supreme Court ruling that weakened the current stalking law.

Similar anti-stalking language is included in the omnibus crime-prevention bill passed by the House on April 25. (See April 25, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 5)

HF5, sponsored by Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights), also would create felony penalties for violating an order for protection or a harassment restraining order under certain circumstances. Such cases would include violations occurring within five years after sentencing from two or more previous protection orders or a restraining order violation, or if the offender possessed a dangerous weapon during the offense.

Other violations of restraining orders would draw the felony penalty if the act is motivated by race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, or national origin; if the offender intends to interfere with a judicial proceeding or retaliate against an official involved in a case; if the victim is a minor and the offender is at least three years older; or if the offender falsely impersonates another.

Under the bill, offenders could be sentenced to a maximum of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. A minimum of 30 days in jail (and counseling) would be mandated for a felony protection order violation in cases where the court stays the sentence as a condition of probation.

Finally, the bill would affect current law regarding how judges sentence criminals, stating that an offender may not waive the right to be sentenced under the state's sentencing guidelines. The measure is a result of the Minnesota Supreme Court's ruling in *State v. Givens* and is intended to promote consistency and predictability in sentencing.

In the *Givens* case, the defendant agreed to accept probation instead of incarceration for a purse-snatching offense. However, under the conditions of the agreement, if he

Big bang



Lt. John Fritsche of the New Ulm Battery fired a reproduction of an artillery cannon as part of the third annual Freedom Day celebration held on the Capitol mall May 1. The event re-enacts Civil War battles.

violated probation, he would serve double the jail time recommended under the guidelines. The offender later did violate probation, but appealed the sentence.

The bill would make it clear that while the guidelines are advisory to the courts, they are not rights that a defendant can waive.

The bill also states that if a defendant agrees to be sentenced outside the guidelines, he or she may not appeal the sentence after 90 days or after committing another crime, whichever is first.

HF5 now goes to the governor.



EDUCATION

Spending caps removed



The first new law produced during the 1997 session removed statutory caps on education spending and requires uniform statewide testing of public school students.

The law lifted a provision approved by lawmakers in 1995 that called for a \$337 million cut in state aid to school districts during the next two years.

Considered a top priority at the start of the legislative session, the proposal to remove the spending caps won broad, bipartisan support.

Statewide testing was initially linked to the spending caps proposal through an amendment approved on the Senate floor. The legislation that the House originally passed did not include any such language.

The eventual result was legislation to do three things: repeal the caps on education funding, repeal current law prohibiting statewide testing, and establish that Minnesota will require standardized testing of all students.

Supporters of statewide testing tout it as a way to increase accountability in public schools by providing a reliable measurement of student and school performance that can be compared to results from other schools and districts.

The specifics on how statewide testing will work are not included in the new law. A special House-Senate committee was created to devise separate legislation (**HF2179**) prescribing how statewide testing is to be implemented. (See related story, page 3.)

The repeal of the funding caps was effective Feb. 15. Statewide testing will be required beginning in the 1997-1998 school year.

The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Alice

Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) and Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon).

HF1*/SF3/CH1



ENVIRONMENT

Relays added to mercury law



A bill regulating mercury-containing products was signed by Gov. Arne Carlson April 28.

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that can cause permanent nervous system damage. Since mercury is a volatile element, it does not degrade in the environment, but becomes airborne and eventually returns to earth to contaminate watersheds. It also accumulates in animal tissue as it moves up the food chain. Consumption of fish from 90 percent of Minnesota's lakes is currently restricted because of mercury contamination.

The law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), adds commercial electrical relays to a list of products from which mercury must be removed for reuse or recycling prior to disposal. The new restriction takes effect July 1, 1998.

"When we originally passed the bill to regulate mercury recycling in products, we left out electrical relays," Wagenius said on the House floor March 20. "These relays are showing up in the waste stream and need to be included [in the law]."

Regulations currently in effect include such devices as thermostats, thermometers, and switches. Manufacturers are required to label all mercury containing products and accept them back for recycling or proper disposal.

Sen. Janet Johnson (DFL-North Branch) sponsored the Senate proposal.

HF949*/SF885/CH62



FAMILY

Signing up for fatherhood

A bill to register the names of fathers — or potential fathers — with the state was approved April 29 by the House Ways and Means Committee.

HF296, sponsored by Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls), would require the Department of Health to establish a registry for men who want to be assured notification if their child is put up for adoption.

The registry would be for any male who is or may be a child's father but is not married

to the mother and has not otherwise established paternity.

The registry would protect a birth father's rights in the event his child is put up for adoption, and protect children and adoptive parents from having their families "ripped apart," Wejcman said.

The bill aims to address scenarios where the parents of a child have little or no relationship beyond the time of conception.

The bill would allow a father or potential father to register from the time of conception until 60 days after a child's birth. (A man would be able to register even without certainty that a pregnancy resulted from a sexual encounter.)

Under the bill, a father who does not register within 60 days of a child's birth would not — under most circumstances — be allowed to contest an adoption.

Registering also would serve as the first step in a paternity claim. The bill says that within 30 days of registering, the father would have to file with the court an intent to claim parental rights.

That way, a father would preserve the right to maintain an interest in the child and would receive notice of a pending adoption proceeding.

The bill would apply only to parental rights related to adoptions — not to child support, custody, or other parental issues.

HF296 now moves to the House floor.



GAME & FISH

Assistant anglers allowed

Anglers who need help wetting their fishing lines due to age, blindness, or disability are given a break by a bill (**HF311/SF574***) approved April 29 by the House. The vote was 131-0.

Seniors and the disabled currently receive free fishing licenses but those assisting them often must pay for a separate license. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), would allow aged and disabled persons to be assisted by an unlicensed person as long as only one line is in the water.

"One of my constituents, Mark Jacobson, of Brooklyn Park, brought the problem to my attention," Luther has said. Jacobson's mother is disabled and needs assistance to pursue her favorite sport. Since she has several different assistants, Jacobson found he would have to pay for a separate fishing license for each assistant.

The bill now goes to the governor.



GOVERNMENT

State-run drug program

The House approved a \$630 million omnibus state government finance bill April 24, after members voted to retain a section that would put the state in the prescription drug business. The final tally was 75-57.

Under **SF1905**, sponsored in the House by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), the commissioner of the Department of Administration would be required to establish a consortium to purchase pharmaceuticals in bulk. The drugs would, in turn, be sold to pharmacists who would then pass the savings on to consumers.

Opponents of the measure argued that it would greatly expand the role of government and that the issue needed further study.

Supporters said the program would reduce the price of prescription drugs by 10 percent and allow some senior citizens to avoid making a choice between buying the medicine they need and eating.

The House deleted language in **SF1905** that would have thrown a monkey wrench into the construction of a new steam plant at the University of Minnesota, which is currently under way at a site near the banks of the Mississippi River. The bill would have prevented Minneapolis or St. Paul from building a steam plant until the end of the 1998 Legislative Session.

“What it would do is effectively delay what is going on right now,” said Rep. Hilda Bettermann (R-Brandon), who introduced the amendment to strike the steam plant section of the bill. “Any further delays continue to cost us money.”

The members also adopted an amendment offered by Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) that would appropriate \$1 million for the Minnesota Film Board. The money, Krinkie said, would help the board bring a Hollywood film company to the state to produce a sequel to “Twins,” which starred Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito.

A conference committee will meet soon to resolve differences with the Senate version of the bill.

(See April 18, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 10.)

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (612) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.

Meetings via interactive TV

The House passed a bill April 30 that would authorize state and local officials to conduct meetings via interactive television. The technology is like a telephone conference call with the addition of live video. Meeting participants at different places can talk to and hear one another through television.

Under the bill (**HF829/SF755***), sponsored in the House by Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), regular, special, and emergency meetings could be held via interactive technology. That means House committee members, for example, could vote on bills while in locations other than a legislative committee room.

The House has used the technology in a limited capacity over the past few years, with legislators meeting in the State Office Building linking to remote locations around the state. There is currently one House hearing room equipped for interactive television hearings.

The proposal also would apply to other local units of government, such as counties, cities, and school boards.

Under the bill, meetings would be open to the public and subject to the same notification requirements as other meetings. It also requires that all participants and observers be able to see and hear each other. Further, at least one legislator or member of a local government unit would have to participate from the committee’s “home” location where the meeting would normally be held.

A successful amendment sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Crookston) would allow members of the Rural Finance Agency or the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to officially meet — and vote — by phone. The move would save time and money, Tunheim said, given the diverse geographic representation of those governmental bodies.

A conference committee will be appointed to resolve differences in the House and Senate proposals.



HEALTH

More MinnesotaCare enrollees

Minnesota hospitals and health care providers would see a tax break and more of the state’s poor would become eligible for state-subsidized health insurance, under a bill moving through the House.

The measure (**HF1441**) would expand the state’s MinnesotaCare program and at the same time cut the 2 percent tax on hospitals

and health care providers (used to fund MinnesotaCare) to 1.5 percent.

Overall, it is expected to cost about \$30 million over the next two years to add more people to the insurance plan. The tax cut would save hospitals and health care providers about \$81 million over the same time period. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), next goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Currently, the 2 percent tax generates about \$323.6 million over two years and that doesn’t include separate revenue sources such as premiums and other taxes collected.

MinnesotaCare is a state-subsidized insurance plan created in 1992 to extend health insurance to the uninsured. The program serves about 97,000 people who pay premiums (based on income) and co-payments for some services. Currently, (depending on their income), single people, couples without children, and families with children younger than 21 are covered.

Specifically, the bill would affect single people and couples without children. It would increase the annual income limits of those two groups to 175 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$13,807 for single people and \$18,567 for couples without children. The current income limit is 135 percent of the federal poverty level or \$10,651 and \$14,323, respectively.

HF1441 also includes a prescription drug program for seniors over age 65 who earn less than \$9,468 per year (120 percent of the federal poverty level).

The program would provide coverage, effective Jan. 1, 1998, for certain prescription drugs. Participants would be expected to pay premiums based on their income.

To qualify, a senior citizen also must be enrolled in Medicare parts A and B and have no insurance coverage for prescription drugs.

The new program is expected to cost about \$3.2 million over the next two years.

The bill also sets aside \$9 million over the next two years to provide grants and loans to rural hospitals to make building improvements. The Department of Health would have the authority to award interest-free grants or loans of up to \$1.5 million per hospital.

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature’s web page at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>



Welfare reform



It's official. Beginning January 1998, Minnesotans on welfare must work or lose a chunk of their monthly public assistance check.

After months of debate, Gov. Arne Carlson April 30 signed Minnesota's new welfare law, a response to a 1996 federal act that scrapped the long-standing welfare system and required states to move welfare recipients to work or face millions of dollars in federal penalties.

Minnesota's passage of the law meets the deadline (July 1, 1997) imposed by the federal government requiring all states to report just how they plan to move welfare families to work.

Both bodies of the Minnesota Legislature passed a compromise version of the bill April 28. The House voted 120-14 and the Senate voted 67-0.

While much of Minnesota's new law focuses on moving welfare families to work, there is a second theme — softening some of the cuts found in the federal law aimed at immigrants. Under the federal law, legal immigrants will lose almost all public assistance benefits, including food stamps, effective this summer.

Minnesota's welfare law (**HF159/SF1*/CH85**) will use state dollars to replace some of the cuts, but will leave most immigrants hundreds of dollars short each month compared to previous federal benefits.

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) and Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd) sponsored the bill.

Below is a summary of some of the new law's highlights.

Immigrants

Although the federal law has left legal immigrants with little, some in Minnesota will be eligible for about \$290 a month in cash assistance — \$203 per month as part of General Assistance (GA) and \$87 per month to replace lost food stamps.

GA is a state program that offers help to those in poverty who do not qualify for other state or federal welfare programs. However, only those legal immigrants living in Minnesota by March 1, 1997, will qualify for GA. Those who become elderly or disabled while living here also could receive GA. (Art. 3, Sec. 34)

It is important to note that the \$87 a month to replace lost food stamps is tempo-



Gov. Arne Carlson, center, gestures "that's it" after signing a landmark welfare reform law April 30 that requires families on welfare to work. He is surrounded by Lt. Gov. Joanne Benson, right, and legislators and state agency heads.

rary. It is only offered from July 1, 1997, to June 30, 1998. (Art. 3, Sec. 42) In Minnesota, an estimated 16,000 legal immigrants will lose their federal food stamps in 1997.

Another 5,400 elderly and disabled immigrants are expected to lose their federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI). SSI began in 1974 and provides about \$400 per month to the needy who are aged, blind, or disabled. The state's offer of GA will help replace that income.

In addition to GA, the new law keeps certain legal immigrants eligible for other Minnesota welfare programs, from Medical Assistance (a joint state-federal program for those who can't afford health care) to the state's new welfare-to-work program known as the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP). (Art. 1, Sec. 7 and Art. 3, Sec. 19)

The measure, however, requires that the income of a legal immigrant's American sponsor be considered when determining eligibility for public assistance. This is in keeping with the federal law.

Work for welfare

For several years, Minnesota has experimented with a welfare pilot program in eight counties that requires poor families with children to work for public assistance.

Under the new law, that experiment will become permanent beginning Jan. 1, 1998, and cover all 87 Minnesota counties. (Art. 1, Sec. 1)

The Minnesota Family Investment Program, or MFIP as it is called, allows families to accept lower-paying jobs while receiving some public assistance such as extra monthly cash and subsidized child and health care. In

theory, allowing someone to work while still receiving benefits helps a low-skilled parent gain work experience and eventually obtain a better job.

MFIP replaces the traditional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program done away with by the 1996 federal welfare law. And, in keeping with federal law, Minnesota's law sets a five-year, lifetime limit on receiving MFIP welfare checks. (Art. 1, Sec. 32)

There are some exceptions to the five-year limit, including victims of domestic abuse who need time to find safety before they can settle into a job. (Art. 1, Sec. 32, Subd. 4)

Under MFIP, a parent or guardian is required to develop a job search and employment plan and accept any suitable job once they've completed all the steps in their plan. As is the case now, the state will continue to pay for employment and job training services.

In a two-parent family, at least one parent must find work right away. Single parent families have up to six months to find work. (Art. 1, Sec. 40)

Income limits

The new law does set income limits on how much a family can earn on the job and still continue to receive a monthly MFIP check.

For a family of three, a limit of \$1,311 per month is set. A family of three in the current pilot MFIP program, can earn up to \$1,554 per month before being cut off. Officials maintain the state couldn't afford the higher amount and still take the program statewide. (Art. 1, Sec. 13)

Penalties for no work

Families who refuse to work or otherwise break the rules will see their grant cut by 10 percent for at least a month and until the violation is corrected.

For subsequent occurrences, a county will directly pay a family's rent, and possibly utilities, out of a grant and cut the remainder by 30 percent before forwarding it to the family. (Art. 1, Sec. 36, Subd. 1)

Education limits

The law also limits the amount of postsecondary education a person may receive while on MFIP. Under the current AFDC program, some parents are allowed to attend college for four years while still receiving their monthly welfare check, child care, and health care services.

Generally, the measure limits approved postsecondary or training programs to a year or less but does allow for up to two years if the diploma or degree can be shown to help the welfare parent earn a better income and he or she agrees to pay back the cost of the second year when they earn 150 percent of the federal poverty level, which is now \$11,835 per year. (Art. 1, Sec. 44, Subd. 1 and 4)

New mom exemption

Although most welfare recipients would be required to work, the law does allow for certain exemptions, such as a parent who stays home to care for a child under the age of one. In two-parent households, only one parent could claim the exemption, and then only for 12 months in a lifetime. (Art. 1, Sec. 47)

Residency requirement

The law mandates a 30-day residency requirement to receive welfare and requires that, for the first year, families who move to Minnesota receive either the benefit amount they would have received in their previous state, or Minnesota's rate, whichever is less. (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Subd. 1a and 3; and Art. 3, Sec. 27)

Penalties split

The federal welfare law puts a great deal of pressure on states to move people off the welfare rolls or lose money. It is unclear, however, if the state plans to share that pressure with counties, which operate most welfare programs.

Beginning with fiscal year 1997, each state must show that 25 percent of its families on welfare are working at least 20 hours per week. By fiscal year 2002, that jumps to 50 percent working at least 30 hours per week. There are cash penalties for states that do not meet the percentages.

At one point a legislative proposal would have forced counties to share in the federal penalty. But the new law takes a softer approach. Instead, it requires the Department of Human Services and counties to work together to develop a plan on how to pay a federal penalty. They must report their conclusions to the Legislature by Oct. 1, 1998. (Art. 1, Sec. 63)

Drug offenses

Anyone convicted of a felony drug offense after July 1, 1997, will be barred from participating in MFIP until they complete their sentence. When and if they qualify for a monthly check, the law requires counties to pay rent and utilities first before mailing out the balance. Random drug testing also is required. (Art. 1, Sec. 16, Subd. 1)

Those convicted of a drug felony after July 1, 1997, will be barred from receiving \$203 per month under GA for five years after they completed their sentence. That is, unless the person is in treatment or on a waiting list for treatment. (Art. 3, Sec. 28)

Parole violators and felons on the run will face a lifetime ban for both MFIP and GA. (Art. 1, Sec. 16, Subd. 2 and 3; and Art. 3, Sec. 28, Subd. 2) Those convicted of fraudulently attempting to receive benefits in two or more states at one time will be barred from both MFIP and GA for 10 years. (Art. 1, Sec. 16, Subd. 4 and Art. 3, Sec. 28, Subd. 4)

HF159/SF1*/CH85

Omnibus bill passes House

A \$5.4 billion bill that pays for state health and social service programs passed the House April 28 but not before lawmakers underwent a lengthy debate about same-sex marriages. The bill passed 123-11.

The measure (**SF1908**) includes a hodgepodge of projects and policy changes but few drew debate like the one that prohibits marriages between people of the same gender. It also prohibits the recognition of such marriages in Minnesota even if the marriage occurred in a state where they are sanctioned.

Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), a supporter of the provision, introduced an amendment to delete it. His strategy was to force a debate and a public vote on the issue. Lawmakers voted 105-24 to keep the provision.

The proposal responds to the possibility that Hawaii may recognize same-sex marriages and would affect people who might move to Minnesota from that state. Hawaii had passed a law prohibiting same sex mar-

riages, but a lower court ruled the law unconstitutional. The state has appealed to its state Supreme Court.

Before passing the bill, the House added several provisions. One would revise the state's physician abortion-reporting form to include the specific reason why each mother seeks an abortion. Another would shift \$1.2 million from family planning services and spend it on programs to teach teens about abstinence. Still another would spend \$30 million over the next two years to increase the pay of people who work with seniors and people with disabilities in community-based programs.

The omnibus health and human services bill provides money for all sorts of programs ranging from welfare and nursing homes to restaurant inspections and clean needle programs for addicts.

A large chunk of the bill's price tag — \$1.8 billion — would pay to cover the health care needs of poor Minnesotans under two separate grant programs: Medical Assistance and General Assistance Medical Care.

Another \$2.7 billion would pay for certain nursing home, disability, mental health, group housing, chemical dependency, and other long term care services.

About \$432 million would fund state welfare grants. Minnesota's welfare program was overhauled this session after the federal government scrapped the old system, cut benefits to legal immigrants, and required welfare recipients to work.

SF1908 now sits in a conference committee where differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill will be worked out.



INSURANCE

Direct OB/GYN access



A new state law will forbid health insurers from requiring women to receive a referral in order to see an obstetrician or a gynecologist.

The law, effective Jan. 1, 1998, will require that insurance companies and health maintenance organizations allow female enrollees direct access to obstetricians and gynecologists.

Under the law, women will be allowed to schedule an appointment with either health professional without prior approval from the insurer or a referral from a "gatekeeper" primary care physician.

The law will require direct access for annual examinations, any subsequent treatment deemed necessary by the specialist,

maternity care, and treatment of acute or emergency conditions.

Health plans also will be barred from charging women extra for direct access.

The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) and Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan). Gov. Arne Carlson signed the measure into law April 8.

HF447*/SF398/CH26



LAW

Inmate lawsuits



A new law will clarify when a prisoner may appeal a ruling that a lawsuit was frivolous or malicious.

Some prisoners, after having a lawsuit thrown out in court, have attempted to have the case "retried" through corrections department processes, according to Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul), the bill's House sponsor. Effective Aug. 1, the new law states that inmates do not have a right to an additional hearing within the correctional facility's disciplinary system regarding such a finding, and that the corrections department must uphold the court's ruling.

Existing law provides penalties for filing the suits. Once the court has judged that an inmate's suit lacks merit, corrections officials may determine and impose the appropriate penalty, which may mean the loss of privileges, segregation, loss of credit for good behavior, or additional confinement. The bill states that the officials must limit punishment to that specified in the law and are "limited to the nature and extent of the infraction penalty to be imposed."

The law's Senate sponsor is Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township).

HF909/SF305*/CH33



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Saving Roseville tax dollars



A new law will save the city of Roseville some of its citizens' hard-earned tax dollars. It was signed by Gov. Arne Carlson April 23.

For a variety of reasons, cities, townships, and counties must publish legal notices in local newspapers. The advertisements serve as public notice for land sales, class action lawsuits, and other government actions.

Under current law, local governments can publish such notices only in newspapers whose primary offices are within their jurisdiction.

But that limitation can cost local governments more than necessary when nearby newspapers charge substantially less for ad space.

Sponsored in the House by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), the law will allow the city of Roseville and Independent School District No. 623 to officially designate any newspaper with at least 25 percent of its circulation within the Roseville city limits or within the boundaries of the school district.

A letter from the Roseville City Council to the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee detailed the problem that city has faced.

"The council designated the *Roseville Review* as the official newspaper for 1996, based on substantially lower cost." But the letter of the law required the city to select the *Roseville Focus*, based on the paper's office location. The restriction caused Roseville to pay approximately 75 percent more, an extra \$4,500, for legal notices in 1996.

Originally, the proposal was drafted to apply to all local governments in Minnesota but was restricted to the city of Roseville by an amendment in the Senate. According to Greiling, the Minnesota Newspaper Association feared that the law might be used by some local officials to retaliate against newspapers that disagreed with their governmental actions.

Another Senate amendment protects local officials if errors occur in the publication

of public notices.

The law takes effect upon approval of the Roseville City Council.

Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

HF356*/SF284/CH56



MILITARY

Enlist and enroll

A bill that increases the amount of maximum grant-aid to cover educational costs for Minnesota National Guard members passed the House April 30 on a 133-0 vote.

HF297/SF4*, sponsored in the House by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), would cover up to 50 percent of tuition and textbook costs at any Minnesota public institution of higher education. For programs outside of Minnesota, the grants would cover the equivalent of half the cost of a comparable program at the University of Minnesota.

Currently, the tuition grant program covers the equivalent of up to 75 percent of the cost of undergraduate programs at the University of Minnesota or the same amount at another school. But because graduate programs often cost considerably more, the guard was having trouble enrolling members in programs such as medical school that it deemed necessary or beneficial to the organization. Bill sponsors have said that the provision is necessary to keep the guard attractive to potential members.

A little peek



Five-year-old Tessa Farrell peeks over the top of the desk chair of her father, Rep. Jim Farrell, while spending some time on the House floor April 29.

The national guard can target specific programs and students for grant aid. The change will not cost the guard any additional funds.

A conference committee will adopt a final version of the bill.

(See April 18, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 14.)



OUTSTATE

State flood relief

The House passed a bill April 30 that would provide \$21 million in relief for victims of the flooding throughout Minnesota, but many lawmakers said the Legislature will eventually have to do more.

The bill (**HF2129/SF1894***), sponsored by Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison), would draw funds from the state's \$522 million budget reserve and would temporarily lift some bureaucratic regulations to ease relief efforts.

"I think this is a message to the people of Minnesota and the people who are affected [by the flood] beyond our imagination," Peterson said. His bill passed 133-0.

The bill would send \$20 million to the Department of Public Safety for distribution to counties, cities, and towns affected by the flood. The money could be used for costs associated with flooding, including their use as matching funds to receive federal emergency relief aid.

Another \$1 million would be earmarked to help state agencies deal with expenses related to flood relief efforts.

A variety of state agency rules and fees would be waived to speed flood relief efforts. For example, a business owner would not be required to pay fees for any state inspections that may be necessary to get his or her business up and running again.

The bill also would provide an adjustment in state aid to help school districts affected by the flood.

Flood relief funding included in the bill would be added to the \$3 million for flood costs that was part of a \$20 million emergency snow removal costs bill passed earlier this session and signed into law (**HF100*/SF114/CH12**). (See Jan. 24, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 5; March 14, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 12; March 28, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 9.)

It's still unclear what the total price tag will be to clean up and repair the many homes, businesses, and schools damaged by the disastrous flooding this spring along the Minnesota and Red rivers.

President Clinton vowed to deliver \$488

million in federal aid when he visited the hard-hit Red River Valley in April, but some now say that amount may fall well short.

Earlier this week, Peterson said the damage to housing and infrastructure in Minnesota likely will exceed \$800 million. And a preliminary Federal Reserve Bank estimate of total property damage in the Red River Valley (including the hard-hit cities of East Grand Forks, Minn. and Grand Forks, N.D.) offered a figure of \$1.2 billion to \$1.8 billion.

"This is not going to be done for a long time yet," Peterson said.

Several other lawmakers whose districts include areas hit by flooding echoed Peterson's remarks.

"This is the first step, and it's going to be the first step in a long process of making these people whole," said Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead).

Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus) said state lawmakers will have to continue to work on getting needed relief to flood victims.

"This is not going to be the only bill relating to the flood this year," Finseth said. "This is not enough. We will have to do more."

In the meantime, a separate bill (not yet assigned a House File number) that would put a moratorium on loan foreclosures for flood victims is advancing in the House.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), would allow people who have had their homes, business, or property damaged by flooding to avoid foreclosure on mortgages, car loans, and other types of loans.

Also this week, Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, announced the creation of an 18-member task force headed by Peterson to coordinate flood relief efforts in the Legislature.

The task force is expected to tour flood-damaged communities around the state and to hold hearings on relief proposals.

The bill now goes to the governor.

Capitol relief



State staff, officials, and legislative lobbyists filled two trucks with cleaning and pet supplies for the victims of Minnesota's floods. They also raised \$10,750 for the Red Cross and Salvation Army.



TAXES

Cabin tax break

The House of Representatives approved its 1997 omnibus tax bill April 25, setting the stage for comprehensive property tax and education finance reform.

"This bill fulfills our obligation to reform" the system, Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), who chairs the House Taxes Committee, said of **HF2163**, which passed on a 101-32 vote. "There are major relief elements . . . and there are also major reform elements."

Indeed, **HF2163** reduces the tax rates for many of the state's property tax classifications, compresses the tax rate structure, and requires the state to assume a greater share of the education finance responsibility. It also modifies the state's sales and income tax codes, and contains new restrictions for Minnesota's Tax Increment Finance districts.

Before passing **HF2163**, members stripped the bill of a measure designed to protect taxpayers from the increased local levies that some say could result from changing the education funding mechanism. By a vote of 78-53, members adopted an amendment by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) that removed the so-called "reverse referendum" provision.

Under the reverse referendum process, any new tax — over the amount specified by the bill's levy limits — imposed by local officials would be subject to voter approval if

Highlights continued on page 17

Video gambling on table to fund new Twins stadium

Several proposals aired at joint House-Senate tax hearing

— By Steve Compton

Lawmakers once again heard from proponents of several ideas, some old, some new, for building and funding an outdoor ballpark for the Minnesota Twins. State support for a new stadium was the subject of a joint meeting of the House and Senate tax committees April 30. No votes were taken on any of the proposals.

The April 30 informational meeting was co-chaired by tax committee chairs Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Tower) and Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls).

"The public has debated this issue for the past year," Rest told the panel as she presented the latest version of her bill. "It is very clear that a new ballpark is not anyone's top priority, but preserving major league baseball in Minnesota is."

Now on the table and drawing the increasing support of lawmakers and the ire of tribal representatives is a proposed casino on the grounds of the struggling horse racing facility, Canterbury Park in Shakopee. Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) and Sen. Dick Day (R-Owatonna) have proposed the state-run casino as a revenue source to pay for a new stadium.

Their bill (**HF1300/SF492**) would authorize the Minnesota State Lottery to place 1,500 video slot machines in a new facility at the racetrack, just a few miles from the most successful Indian-run casino in the state, Mystic Lake. Forty percent of the new gambling revenue would be dedicated to the Environmental Trust Fund, Holsten said. Another 2 percent would go to fund urban American Indian programs. But the remainder of the money could be used for whatever purpose the Legislature deems necessary, including a new ballpark, Holsten said.

"The citizens of Minnesota love to gamble," Holsten said in response to those who are opposed to the idea. "You can't go anywhere in the state and not gamble."

"The main thing we want to stress is that this doesn't involve one dime of tax money," said Day.

This idea is widely opposed by leaders of Minnesota's 11 American Indian reservations who

now have a monopoly on casino gaming in the state. (See related story on page 16.)

Twins owner, Carl Pohlad, wants the state to help him secure the new ballpark to help turn around the team's ailing financial picture. He says that without a new stadium he may be forced to sell the team outside the state. Gov. Arne Carlson supports Pohlad's request. But public opinion polls have consistently shown that, though Minnesotans want to keep the Twins, they don't want a new stadium built with tax dollars.

Major League Baseball's Acting Commissioner Bud Selig said without a new stadium, the Twins will leave.

"There isn't a doubt in my mind that a new stadium built the proper way, that produced the kind of revenue that I know Carl and Jerry and everybody wants, will keep this club competitive... But without it, they have no team," he said.

Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) is the House sponsor of the bill (**HF1367**) now before the House Taxes Committee. It would authorize the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission or a similar entity to design and build a \$439 million retractable roof ballpark for the Twins in Minneapolis. Building the ballpark would be contingent on the Twins signing a 30-year lease and advanced sale of a substantial number of private boxes, club seats, permanent seat licenses and season tickets.

Rest is proposing an amendment requiring Pohlad to donate \$15 million toward construction costs and invest another \$35 million to be paid back with revenues from naming rights and concessions contracts. The bill currently requires that Pohlad donate \$50 million, a provision he finds unacceptable.

In exchange for the state's investment in the ballpark, Pohlad has offered, and the bill requires, that 49 percent of the team's ownership and net operating profits go to the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission. This would need to be approved by Major League Baseball.

Rest's bill pays for the stadium with taxes from



"There isn't a doubt in my mind that a new stadium and everybody wants, will keep this club competitive."

a special tax district; a 4 percent surcharge on player earnings; a \$1 per vehicle parking tax around the stadium; a \$1 ticket surcharge; a 9 percent sales tax within the stadium; a 10 percent wholesale tax on sports memorabilia; and a special state lottery game.

If the bill falls short of the \$37.9 million needed yearly to pay for the stadium, Rest told the committee that she would not object to adding a cigarette tax increase. Carlson's original deal with the Twins called for a 10-cents per pack cigarette tax to pay for the stadium. That provision was deleted from subsequent versions of the bill.

Some lawmakers have other ideas for how to make up the funding deficit. The most frequently discussed option has been the use of gambling revenue. Carlson has indicated that he would not be opposed to gambling as a source of stadium revenue. Rest has been more circumspect but has not closed off the gambling option.



... stadium built the proper way, that produced the kind of revenue that I know Carl and Jerry are competitive . . . But without it, they have no team.”

—Major League Baseball’s Acting Commissioner Bud Selig

Other ballpark options

There is no shortage of ideas floating around the Legislature on how to address the Minnesota Twins’ request for a new outdoor ballpark. They all got a hearing before a joint meeting of the House and Senate tax committees April 30. The proposals include the following:

• **HF936/SF1323:** “We are being told we only have two choices, either build the stadium or the Twins leave,” said Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul).

Anderson and Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) have sponsored a bill that offers a third option: buying the Twins. The bill would appropriate \$100 million in state funds to purchase the team from the Pohlads and resell it to the public. The Pohlads would be asked to continue operating the team for the state.

• **HF1962/SF1727:** Sponsored by Sen. Ed Oliver (R-Minnetonka) and Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excel-

sior), this bill calls for the Pohlads, other private sector investors, and the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission to each invest \$80 million in the new stadium. The city of Minneapolis would provide \$30 million to purchase and prepare land for the ballpark.

The commission would pay for its investment with state revenues from an existing tax on sports, health, athletic, and country club memberships. Additional revenues would come from a ticket tax, rent on the stadium, and sale of naming rights on the facility. The Twins would retain all other stadium-related revenue.

• **HF107:** House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) proposes to have the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission sell off its Met Center property, use the proceeds to pay off the remaining debt on the Metrodome, and sell the dome for \$1 to its current occupants, the Twins and the Vikings. The Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission would be disbanded.

An amendment to **HF1367** offered by Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) mirrors the Holsten/Day proposal in nearly every way except location.

“The best site for a state run gambling facility is on land we already own in Bloomington next to the Mall of America,” Milbert said.

Such a facility would bring in \$100 million per year, he said.

This proposal is strongly opposed by Bloomington city officials and legislators, said Sen. William Belanger (R-Bloomington).

Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth) also proposes putting slot machines at Canterbury Park, but the goal would be only to raise enough revenue to purchase Twins tickets and void the escape clause in the Twins’ lease that allows them to leave the Metrodome after the 1998 season.

The Twins have lost money the last two seasons and the escape clause activates if operating losses continue this season. The Twins are projecting that will be the case. Van Dellen said that buying the tickets would prevent the team from moving. The tickets would be donated to charitable organizations.

Both the House and Senate tax committees are expected to take up the stadium bills separately next week.

• Marty proposal

Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville) proposes to finance the stadium by selling revenue bonds to private investors. The bonds would then be paid off with projected revenue increases generated by the new stadium. Surplus revenues would be turned over to the Twins as profit.

According to an economic analysis by David Welle for the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, the new stadium would collect \$99.1 million in its first year of operation in 2001. Under Marty’s plan, the Twins would get \$47.9 million off the top (their current annual revenue, adjusted for inflation). Debt payment on the ballpark would get the next \$37.9 million. The remaining surplus revenue of \$13.2 million also would go to the Twins.

The Pohlads would retain 100 percent ownership of the team under Marty’s plan and the taxpayers would not be put at risk.

An interview with Bud Selig

Should public dollars be used to finance baseball stadiums? Is a new stadium the only way to increase revenue for small-market teams such as the Twins? These questions and others were posed to Major League Baseball's acting commissioner and Milwaukee Brewers owner Bud Selig, who agreed to an exclusive interview with *Session Weekly* prior to his appearance April 29 before a joint meeting of the Legislature's taxes committees.

— By F.J. Gallagher

***Session Weekly:* Why should the Legislature use public dollars — either a broad-based approach such as an expanded sales tax or a narrower set of user fees — to subsidize what is essentially a private business by building a new stadium?**

Selig: Well, that's an argument, of course, that's gone on in many places for many years, and I guess I would say to you that if I could take you on a trip today and show you what Camden Yards has done in Baltimore after their Memorial Stadium experience, and Jacobs Field in Cleveland, Coors Field in Denver, and many other places. There are two things to be made here. One is the economic argument, and economists debate that — and I've heard them all, and I've talked to them all — the other is what I call the sociological influence. Now, let me cite an example from my own hometown, where we've had the same kind of debate, as you know, in Wisconsin. Fifty years ago — 48 years ago, after a very long and bitter debate — these are always long and bitter — County Stadium [in Milwaukee] was built. No major league team had ever moved or contemplated being moved, and there was no expansion contemplated. And yet, they had the vision and courage to build a stadium without a tenant. As a result came the very moving Braves experience, with Hank Aaron and Eddie Mathews and Warren Spahn, the Green Bay Packers, with Vince Lombardi, Paul Hornung and Jim Taylor, who never would have survived without having Milwaukee and County Stadium. And then 28 years of the Brewers, with Paul Molitor and Robin Yount, Gorman Thomas, and so on and so forth. And so you must ask yourself the question, and I've asked this of many people: was Milwaukee, Wis., not a better place to live because of their vision and courage? And unequivocally, the answer is yes, and I submit to you that any area is a better place to live because it has a stadium — and the economic development, I think, is critical. The very worst people can say is, well, it's

a wash. Well, no other public spending of money ever creates an economic wash. At the best, it creates \$200 to \$300 million a year.

***Session Weekly:* I don't know how familiar you are with the proposal the Pohlads have put on the table here, but Twins owner Carl Pohlad has offered 49 percent of the team to the state in return for a new stadium, yet for years, baseball has ruled out the public ownership of teams. How will the other major league owners react to Pohlad's proposal?**

Selig: We don't know yet. Carl has been fastidious, and [Twins President] Jerry Bell, in keeping us informed. It's before the ownership committee and the executive council. It will continue to be. We're reviewing all types of new, suggested ownership forms, but at this point I couldn't tell you today how that's all going to come out. I think that Carl Pohlad and his *incredible* desire to keep a team here — remember, there are other communities willing to build stadiums, and so one has to ask themselves — I would ask the same question, and I'll do it today — if the concept of the public spending money is so foreign, is everybody in every other city and arena in America and the North American continent and the world wrong? I used to say in Milwaukee, Wis., are we the only smart people in the world? I'd say the same thing to all of you.

***Session Weekly:* Several of the representatives have said to me that the extraordinarily high player salaries offend many of their constituents. Wouldn't building a new stadium exacerbate that phenomenon — drive salaries up, and anger fans even more?**

Selig: Well, look, baseball economics and sports economics are what they are. We have, I think, made more progress in the last year and a half in dealing with these problems than ever before. We now have revenue sharing, which is very substantial for teams like the Minnesota Twins and the Milwaukee Brewers. We have cost restraints, while maybe not exactly what we wanted, certainly [they] are at least a quantum leap forward from anything we've ever had. But what do people really want? They want their team to be competitive and they want to win, and last year, when you see the top eight teams in the playoffs, the eight top payroll teams, they're drawing well. Their fans aren't angry about anything. The only fans that are angry are those that lose. So with all due respect, I may have to disagree with that.

***Session Weekly:* Building the stadium could essentially put the state on the hook for bonding payments for a number of years. What would happen if there was another strike. What would the state do, in terms of making that payment?**

Selig: Well, number one, I can't forecast what's going to happen in terms of — I mean, we have labor peace for five years. I want to believe, and I do believe that all parties, after the 1994 experience, are not going to let that happen in their lifetime. I feel very comfortable with that, and I think that if Don Fehr [who negotiated the agreement on behalf of the players] were here, he'd would not disagree with that either. And so, I think that you're building — after all, when you build a stadium, you build it for a generation and a half, maybe two generations . . .

***Session Weekly:* Well, that depends. I mean the Metrodome here is . . .**

Selig: Well, okay, this has been a little bit unique, and it's true in other places, but most stadiums will last 40 to 45 to 50 years. There has been so much that's changed since 1982, that in all fairness, nobody could see.

***Session Weekly:* Getting to revenue sharing, as of June 1996, the owners did come to an agreement on a revenue-sharing deal, but teams in large markets still have an**



"The very worst people can say is, well, it's a wash. Well, no other public spending of money ever creates an economic wash. At the best, it creates \$200 to \$300 million a year."

edge, to a large extent, because TV dollars are still mostly under local control. What can be done — besides putting the smaller market teams in new stadiums where they get a bigger slice of the revenue pie — to address that?

Selig: Good question, but you just made the compelling case. I said that I had run a small-market team for years. It's one of the advantages, doing this job, having had a lot of practical experience, when you look around at markets like Minneapolis-St. Paul, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Seattle, San Diego, you can look at the demographics of your market. Media revenues are tied to share demographics. They're tied directly to the number of households. And so when you explore your options, the only way for a small market to be viable is to have a stadium that produces the amount of revenue that will make it competitive, and we came to that conclusion, and there isn't a doubt in my mind that a new stadium built the proper way, that produced the kind of revenue that I know Carl and Jerry and everybody wants, will keep this club competitive, as it will the Brewers in Milwaukee. But without it, they have no team.

Session Weekly: Team values and profits, according to a February issue of *Financial World* magazine — I don't know if you're familiar with that . . .

Selig: I am. I'm familiar with it, but don't equate my familiarity with either accuracy or belief.

Session Weekly: The point of the article was that the values of the franchises and the profit margins have been growing, yet owners say their profit margins have taken a beating. That's essentially what Mr. Pohlad has been saying.

Selig: I don't think *Financial World* said the profit margins have been growing because they're showing the industry to have a huge loss and almost every team losing.

Session Weekly: Well, how can we reconcile the value of the franchise increasing, yet the profit margins . . .

Selig: I don't know that the values of franchises have increased in their local markets. I don't know that that's true at all. In fact, I would submit to you there is no empirical data to support that position. The fact of the matter is, a franchise is only valuable when it's on the loose, when it's moving, and that's when its value goes up. I would say that one of the things that gets lost in all of this is that when a Carl Pohlad — who struggles and strains to keep a team in his home town, which is remarkably different from most people who own sports these days — there is no question that he's taking a financial hit to do so, and a considerable financial hit. There is no doubt about it.

Session Weekly: A lot of people, specifically in Congress, have raised the point that baseball enjoys an anti-trust exemption. It's the only major sport that does. Why should baseball continue to enjoy the anti-trust exemption?

Selig: A simple reason and I can say it here: because it's good public policy. We haven't moved a team in 25 years, and so we have been good citizens.

Session Weekly: But the specter of moving a team crops up continually.

Selig: Well, the specter of moving a team — look, the National Football League moved a series of teams because they couldn't control it, not because they didn't want to — because the National Football League is very responsible, and I know Paul Tagliabue felt very deeply about it. The fact of the matter is, we've been good citizens. We haven't abused that thing. We also have a minor league system that needs protection. We have 177 minor league teams in this country that without an anti-

trust exemption would probably be out of business, and so it's still there. It may be an anomaly, I don't think there's any question about that, but it's there because practically, when you look at the effects of it, it's been good public policy.

Session Weekly: What would happen if Congress did decide to remove it?

Selig: It would make it easier to move franchises. It'll be interesting, because the very people who cried about it were crying the loudest after their football teams got moved. It would hurt the minor league system, as I just said, terrifically, to a point that would harm a lot of local economies. And then I would ask you the question: then what good was done as a result of all the damage that was created all over?

Session Weekly: Well, people who would be for the anti-trust exemption would say, certainly there would be some moving of teams around in the beginning as the free market shakes out.

Selig: But what about the hurting [of] the entire minor league system that affects the many small towns and small and medium markets in America?

Session Weekly: The people who were for the free market might say the market would answer that question, and some mechanism would crop up . . .

Selig: The market may answer that question, but not to the benefit of the communities that have minor league teams. The market will answer the question, but not happily.

Session Weekly: What do you think is the biggest problem facing baseball today?

Selig: Continuing to deal with the disparity of revenues between clubs and we've made an enormous amount of progress and we're going to continue to make an enormous amount of progress, but we need to continue to be very sensitive to that problem.

Session Weekly: A lot of the new parks being built — Camden Yards, Jacobs Field, PacBell Park in San Francisco — are baseball only facilities. Yet a lot of communities — Boston, New York, etc. — are investigating building facilities that are multi-purpose stadiums so that you can put more than one team there. Here in Minnesota, for instance the Twins share the Dome with the Vikings. How can one reconcile the apparent divergence of interests between the owners, who apparently favor baseball-only stadiums for their enhanced revenue opportunities, and the obvious public need to accommodate a number of different sports?

Selig: Well, I think what we have proved over the years — this debate has gone on in a lot of places — multi-purpose stadiums just don't work any more. They don't, for the



"There's no question, baseball will have a commissioner. It'll have one at the right time . . . but for anybody to think that this so-called strong, independent commissioner will clear up some of the things that we've discussed today is just, frankly, plain mythol-

baseball team, produce the kind of revenue they need, and for the football team, quite frankly, it's a problem for the football team. So when you look at what needs to be done, these cities like Baltimore, now Cleveland, and many other places, building a baseball-only park makes sense because it produces the economic result, and football, which has a different type of facility and needs to produce, can't do it together. So what you have when you have a multi-purpose facility, you have two unhappy tenants. What's the plan?

Session Weekly: Twenty years ago, everybody was saying multi-purpose was the way to go. What's changed?

Selig: The economics, the ability to produce revenue, everything.

Session Weekly: Well, what should we do with the Metrodome, given, let's say that the Twins move out?

Selig: Well, I think that's a problem that I shouldn't comment on because, after all, I'm not here and I don't know what the Vikings want.

Session Weekly: A lot of people say that what baseball needs is a strong commissioner who has the authority to address matters of public confidence and integrity in business areas. For better or worse, you, as acting commissioner, seem to be perceived as a sort of "chairman of the owners' board." When do you plan to step down in favor of a permanent replacement?

Selig: Well, let me just — without getting into a lot of detail here because it's very tough — this business about the strong, independent commissioner. The union has their own head. We don't intervene in that process. I've heard for years that commissioners in all sports, quote and unquote, work for the owners and so on and so forth,

and the fact is, there's a lot of mythology surrounding the commissioner's job. There's no question, baseball will have a commissioner. It'll have one at the right time — we have a search committee that's under way and looking for it — but for anybody to think that this so-called strong, independent commissioner will clear up some of the things that we've discussed today is just, frankly, plain mythology, and you have 70 years of history under the commissioners that prove that.

Session Weekly: Any names on potential candidates?

Selig: No.

Indian leaders speak out on stadium gaming option

—By Steve Compton

After several proposals to open a state-run casino were discussed at a joint meeting of the House and Senate tax committees April 30, five American Indian leaders weighed in with their opinions.

Currently, Minnesota's 11 American Indian reservations enjoy a monopoly on casino gambling operations in the state. The tribes operate 17 separate facilities from the large and lucrative Mystic Lake Casino in Shakopee to a tiny operation in Red Lake. However, three gaming proposals are being put forth as a source of revenue to pay for a new ballpark for the Minnesota Twins. (*See story on page 12.*) In a recent *Minneapolis Star Tribune* poll, 60 percent of the respondents favored allowing slot machines at Canterbury Park racetrack.

"Indian gaming was not granted to us by the state," said Bobby Whitefeather, Red Lake tribal chair. "It is inherent in our sovereign nation rights."

Whitefeather sought to dispel the myth that all of the state's Indian reservations are getting rich from casino gambling. Red Lake is in a remote area of the state, he reminded lawmakers, and its three casinos are tiny compared to some of the larger operations near population centers.

"We are a gaming tribe but we still do not have the resources to provide basic services for our people," he said. "We use it to fund medical services, a nursing home, youth recreation, elderly nutrition programs and basic government services."

Indian gaming in Minnesota has been one of the model operations in the country, Whitefeather said, with Indian gaming producing in excess of 14,000 new jobs in the state, mostly for non-Indians. "In Red Lake, we've created 300 new jobs without state assistance."

Whitefeather said that the proposals being discussed would open the floodgates to other non-Indian gaming developments.

Bill Lawrence, a Red Lake tribal member and newspaper publisher from Bemidji, told the panel that though there are currently 60,000 Indian people in the state, 80 percent do not live on reservations. Minneapolis' 25,000 member Indian community is one of the poorest in the country, he said. Less than 10 percent of Minnesota Indians receive any benefit from Indian gaming, Lawrence claimed, and less than 5 percent receive any noticeable benefit.

"If the Minnesota Twins and Canterbury Park are the vehicle that Minnesota Indians must use to work themselves out of poverty, then I and many other will support it,"

Lawrence concluded.

Dallas Ross, chair of the Board of Trustees for the Upper Sioux Community and a member of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, told the panel that the gambling proposals would have a negative impact on Indian tribes in the state. "With reservation gaming, we have been able to realize some benefits for our people," Ross said. "But you can't undo in seven years what took 150 years to put in place."

Ross asked the legislators how they would be able to say "no" to future gaming proposals for other causes if they say "yes" to this one.

"This is a divide and conquer proposal," said Harlan La Fontaine of the provision to give grants from Canterbury Park gambling to urban Indian organizations. "Many urban Indians are already benefiting both directly and indirectly from tribal gaming," he said. La Fontaine is a Sisseton Dakota who lives in Minneapolis and is a member of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

Mike Bongo, executive director of the Minnesota Indian Chamber of Commerce and chair of the Minneapolis American Indian Center, said that only three tribes receive substantial benefits from the state's four suc-

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cessful casino operations. He added that since two of those tribes are the state's smallest, only about 1,000 Minnesota Indians receive direct benefits from casino profits.

He refuted the idea, however, that urban Indians get no benefit from casinos, citing jobs provided at nearby Treasure Island and Mystic Lake casinos and the many grants given to urban Indian causes from casino proceeds.

Bongo concluded by suggesting that gambling revenue for the stadium should have been discussed as part of the welfare reform package since it "is corporate welfare for the rich, elite, and privileged at the expense of Indian people."

Highlights Continued from page 11

5 percent of the electorate signed a petition objecting to the increase. If the voters failed to approve the measure, local officials could not assess the new tax.

House members also accepted an amendment, offered by Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope), that would reduce the rate at which seasonal and recreational properties worth more than \$80,000 are taxed. Opponents of the provision argued that approving the decrease would only shift the tax burden onto an area's year-round residents, many of whom are struggling with high taxes as it is.

"You're giving money to millionaires," at the expense of blue-collar workers, said Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), whose district is home to some of Minnesota's most valuable lakeshore property.

The Senate has passed a different version of the bill. Differences between the two will be resolved by a conference committee.

TRANSPORTATION

Selling abandoned cars

Minneapolis and St. Paul police would be required to hold impounded vehicles for only 15 days before putting them on the auction block, under a bill passed by the House April 30. The vote was 116-17.

HF342/SF166*, sponsored in the House by Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul), was crafted to address a problem that has Minneapolis and St. Paul impound lots overflowing with cars abandoned by their owners.

Current state law requires a 45-day wait before an impounded vehicle can be sold. Farrell's bill would exempt Minneapolis and

St. Paul from that law and set a 15-day limit for those cities.

The bill would require local approval by the city councils in Minneapolis and St. Paul before it could take effect.

Farrell said current law causes real problems in the cities, especially during winter months. A winter that brings heavy snowfall — such as this winter — leads to a lot of parking violations and a lot of cars being towed from city streets to the impound lot.

In St. Paul, where the city impound lot holds 750 vehicles, space in the lot can run out quickly, St. Paul Police Deputy Chief Ted Brown told House Transportation and Transit Committee members earlier this session.

Most people pay the fine and pick up their cars from the impound lot within a few days, but others would rather lose their vehicles than pay up, according to Brown. As a result, vehicles that — in effect — are abandoned

must be allowed to take up valuable lot space for 45 days before they can be sold off.

"The 45-day rule simply makes it too difficult to operate efficiently," Brown said.

A conference committee will be appointed to resolve differences with a similar bill passed by the Senate.

Minnesota State Agencies

Agriculture	297-2200
Commerce	296-4026
Corrections	642-0200
Children, Families and Learning	296-6104
Employee Relations	297-1184
Job Information	296-2616
Finance	296-5900
Gaming	
Gambling Control Division	639-4000
MN State Lottery Division	635-8100
Toll Free	1-800-475-4000
MN Racing Commission ..	496-7950
Health	623-5000
Human Rights	296-5663
Toll Free	1-800-657-3704
Human Services	296-6117
Economic Security	296-3711
Labor and Industry	296-6107
Military Affairs	282-4662
Natural Resources	296-6157
Public Safety	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services	296-6911
Fire Marshal	215-0500
Liquor Control	296-6159
State Patrol	297-3935
Pollution Control	296-6300
Public Service	296-7107
Revenue	
Taxpayer Assistance	296-3781
Toll Free	1-800-652-9094
Trade and Economic Development	
297-1291	
Office of Tourism	296-5029
Transportation	296-3000
Veterans Affairs	296-2562
State Information	296-6013
House Information	296-2146
	1-800-657-3550
Senate Information	296-0504
	1-888-2341112

Really bugged



Michael Battle, an 11-year-old from Capitol Hill School, got up close and personal with a Madagascar hissing cockroach in the Capitol Great Hall April 25. Many exotic arthropods were on display to educate kids about the important role these creatures play in balancing the environment. The Department of Natural Resources hired Tree House Productions to "Bug" the Capitol as part of the Arbor Day celebration.

Grams views state, federal government as partners

— By Steve Compton

Using the 1997 floods as an example, U.S. Sen. Rod Grams urged a joint session of the Minnesota Legislature April 28 to view the federal government as a partner in solving state problems.

Grams, accompanied to the Capitol by representatives of seven Minnesota towns devastated by the floods, praised the work of volunteers and community leaders and the courage of flood victims. He introduced mayors and city council members from Ada, Breckenridge, Crookston, East Grand Forks, Granite Falls, Montevideo, and Moorhead.

President Clinton has requested \$448 million in disaster assistance for flood victims, Grams reminded lawmakers. "I anticipate it will pass quickly and with overwhelming bipartisan support."

Grams also has introduced legislation, the "Depository Institution Disaster Relief Act," which would give hometown bankers and credit unions more flexibility in lending practices in areas hardest hit by the floods.

Grams stressed that Minnesota's farmers will need special help. "Nearly two million acres of prime farmland are under water," he said. "The loss of livestock is enormous."

Speaking to "that complex, evolving relationship" between Minnesota and Washington, Grams said that the power of government has shifted dramatically over the past 50 to 75 years to the federal level. "There is no longer an appropriate balance between the powers of the state and those of the federal government," he said.

"What we are striving for in 1997 is to change the role of the federal government from that of a dictator to that of a partner," Grams said. "The goal of this new partnership should be for Washington to give back to the states the authority to meet the needs of our state's residents, without the historical burden of mandates or expensive federal rules."

Grams said that every area of responsibility currently held by the federal gov-



U.S. Sen. Rod Grams told lawmakers April 28 that the federal government should be a partner and not a dictator to the states.

ernment needs to be reexamined. "If certain powers and responsibilities would be more effectively carried out by the states, then those powers should be restored to the states," he said.

"Whether here in Minnesota or in Washington, there is no government issue more fundamental than that of budget and taxes," said Grams, sounding a popular conservative theme.

"It is ineffective for the federal government to continue playing the role of the middleman who collects the tax dollars from hard-working Minnesotans and then redistributes them, minus the high cost of the Washington bureaucracy," he said. "Contrary to what some people think, we don't have a national debt because people are not taxed enough. We have a debt because government spends too much money."

Grams outlined four steps he said the federal government must take to avoid a fiscal disaster: Balance the budget and pay down the debt through increased

efficiency; cut family taxes; cut taxes for small businesses and farmers; and "rip the tax system out by its roots and replace it with one built on simplicity, equality, and honesty."

The senator mentioned his own proposal for a \$500 per-child tax credit, which has yet to pass, as one method of cutting family taxes. "By leaving that money in the family budget, taxpayers are then empowered to use it to directly benefit their households," Grams said.

On nuclear power, Grams noted that Minnesota utility rate payers have contributed nearly \$270 million into a \$13 billion federal fund to pay for a permanent national repository for nuclear waste by Jan. 31, 1998. The federal government has yet to identify a site for that repository.

"Minnesotans have the right to expect Washington to live up to its legal obligations to store nuclear wastes. The D.C. Court of Appeals agrees, and will hand down a decision in the near future," Grams said. He warned that a Clinton Administration plan to pay any compensation the federal court orders in that case, could "make the [savings and loan] crisis appear small."

On a more positive note, Grams pointed to federal and state efforts in welfare reform as "a powerful sign" of the newly developing partnership between the federal and state governments. "This new approach to welfare is an acknowledgement that welfare is not a right — it is a charity from someone else's labor," he said.

Grams concluded by urging legislators to grasp and use the opportunity to build a state-federal partnership that serves first the interests of the people and then the interests of the government. "Minnesota has a strong voice that needs to be heard," he said. "It would be a tragedy if a lasting legacy of the twentieth century were the complete dominance of the federal government and the silencing of the voice of the people here on the state level."

Frank Kellogg: rural attorney, international diplomat

— By Celeste Riley

He was born to farmer parents in Potsdam, N.Y., in 1856, and moved with his family to Olmsted County, Minn., when he was 9 years old. Little about his youth distinguished him from others of mid-19th century America, according to biographer David Bryn-Jones, but Frank Billings Kellogg would go on to become a successful lawyer, a U. S. senator, U.S. secretary of state, and jurist on the World Court before dying on the eve of his 81st birthday in 1937.

Today Kellogg's memory is kept alive in St. Paul by Kellogg Boulevard, downtown St. Paul's major artery along the river bluff. His Crocus Hill home still stands on Fairmount Avenue in St. Paul. A high school in Roseville, Minn., bore his name until becoming part of Roseville Area High School in the 1980s.

Until recently the Nobel Peace Prize he won in 1930 for his extensive efforts to prevent war was on display in the rotunda of the State Capitol. He was the fifth American to win the prize.

In *Frank B. Kellogg: A Biography*, Bryn-Jones describes Kellogg's ascent during the World War I era and, especially, its aftermath, in which countries throughout the world struggled to define and establish interrelations. Kellogg's talents and interests were in this area and it is where, mostly in his role as U.S. secretary of state, he made his most important contributions.

But long before he would gain world renown for his diplomatic and peace work, Kellogg would make a name for himself in Minnesota as an attorney in partnership with Cushman Davis, at the time one of the state's best-known practitioners and later Minnesota governor and U.S. senator.

Kellogg had entered the legal profession through a means long-since closed. With very limited schooling, he left the family farm for Rochester, Minn., and began work in the law office of H.A. Eckholdt, a Norwegian immigrant. By the time he left the firm, Kellogg had prepared himself, through independent study, for admission to the state bar. "Something must be credited to the less exacting standards of legal practice in a state still comparatively new . . ." Bryn-Jones writes.

The author also quotes from Kellogg's memoirs about his education: ". . . we did have an educational institution, a modest little country school known as the Old Stone School House about two miles from our place, and in the winter I went to school for three months; and, besides, I should say that from my eleventh to my fourteenth year, I probably went to that school for a couple of months each summer. I think that after I was fourteen years old I never went to school at all."

That probably seemed insignificant years later, when, his career gaining momentum, Kellogg would win the first of a string of anti-trust lawsuits against railroad companies. The suits would establish Kellogg's reputation and enhance important friendships he was making along the way with the likes of Theodore Roosevelt. By the 1910s Kellogg would be known as "the Trust Buster," according to Bryn-Jones.

In 1916, the man who had once suffered a crisis of confidence due

to his limited schooling was ready for bigger things. After declining several proposals from party representatives to run for the U.S. Senate on the Republican ticket, Kellogg was finally persuaded when about 70 newspaper editors of the Press Association of Minnesota signed a petition asking for his candidacy, Bryn-Jones writes.

Kellogg had been an avowed and committed Republican since the day years earlier he was asked to run for county attorney in Olmsted on the Democratic ticket. "I was a Republican and I could not think that it was just the thing under the circumstances to run on the Democratic ticket . . . And I have never regretted my decision," Kellogg said years later.

The newspapermen, however, would ultimately hold sway over his decision to run. Kellogg served in the U.S. Senate from 1917-1923. Then, in his bid for reelection, he was astonished to be turned out of office. According to Bryn-Jones, Kellogg had not studied closely enough the social and political changes to visit Minnesota during his term and conducted a lackluster campaign. In 1922, times had been hard on agriculture and labor, ushering in the era of the Farmer-Labor Party. Kellogg had made no friends with brewers as a Prohibitionist. The Republican party was in disarray. Kellogg lost his Senate seat to Henrik Shipstead of the Farmer-Labor party. Shipstead was the first non-major party candidate from Minnesota to serve in the U.S. Senate, according to Joseph A. Burnquist in *Minnesota and its People, Vol. I*.

The loss, Bryn-Jones writes, may well have spelled the end of Kellogg's political career. He prepared to leave Washington for St. Paul to resume his law practice. Instead, his record and contacts conspired to alter that plan. In 1923, President Warren G. Harding recruited Kellogg to join the U.S. delegation at the Fifth Pan-American Conference in Santiago, Chile. The next year, with his friend Calvin Coolidge in office as president, Kellogg was asked to assume the office of ambassador to Great Britain. When Coolidge's secretary of state, Charles Evans Hughes resigned, the president asked Kellogg to take over the post, which he held from 1925-1929. "On the whole, Kellogg was a reasonably capable but undistinguished Secretary of state," writes L. Ethan Ellis in the *Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XI*, edited by Harris Starr and Robert Schuyler. "He was generally conservative, an irascible but still a friendly colleague and chief, not prone to long flights of fancy or of leadership . . ."

Kellogg would become an ambassador for peace to nations across the globe, according to Bryn-Jones, with his crowning achievement the Pact of Paris in 1929, which renounced war.

Kellogg would live out his later years as an elder statesman, serving on the Permanent Court of International Justice (or World Court) and collecting awards and recognition. In 1928, Carleton College conferred upon him an honorary LL.D degree; in 1931, University of Minnesota echoed the gesture. Hamline University awarded him a DCL degree, also in 1931. That was in addition to honorary degrees from 12 other colleges and universities in the U.S. and around the world. Health problems forced him to resign from the court in 1935.



Frank B. Kellogg

Photo from *Frank B. Kellogg - A Biography* by David Bryn-Jones, 1937; an AP photo

Pipestone quarry site long sacred to Indian peoples

At an ancient time the Great Spirit, in the form of a large bird, stood upon the wall of rock and called all the tribes around him, and breaking out a piece of the red stone formed it into a pipe and smoked it, the smoke rolling over the whole multitude. He then told his red children that this red stone was their flesh, that they were made from it, that they must all smoke to him through it, that they must use it for nothing but pipes: and as it belonged alike to all the tribes, the ground was sacred, and no weapons must be used or brought upon it.

— Dakota account of the origin of pipestone, as recorded by George Catlin, 1836.

— By Steve Compton

Pipestone National Monument in southwestern Minnesota marks a stone quarry that has been in use by Native Americans since prehistoric times. Stone pipes have been used in North America for at least 2,000 years, with ancient specimens found at archeological sites as far away as Florida and Ohio.

Digging at the pipestone quarry was first

ing had evolved into a true art form with elaborate animal and human effigies. The popular T-shaped calumet pipes became widely known as “peace pipes” because they were often encountered by whites at treaty ceremonies.

As America grew westward in the 19th century, pipes found their way into white society through trade. Pipes became a source of income for their makers, taking on a significance beyond their cultural use. By the

Sioux, Minnesota Territory, relinquishing their rights to most of southwestern Minnesota, including the pipestone quarry area. The treaty did not, however, include the Yankton Dakota Band. A separate treaty with the Yankton in 1858 restricted the tribe to a reservation 150 miles north of the quarry but set aside one square mile of land centered on the quarry as a reservation for their use.

As the quarry became increasingly lucrative, white settlement threatened to consume the Indian claim. The city of Pipestone, a mile south of the quarry, was platted in 1876, and whites were soon digging new pits and extracting the sacred stone. Other settlers erected homesteads on the Yankton land. For decades the Indians struggled to maintain their rights to the quarry and surrounding reservation. During this period, efforts to create a state park at the quarry stalled due to the dispute over ownership of the land. Finally, in 1928, the Yanktons sold their claim to the federal government.

Ironically, as soon as the government took over the property, local residents in Pipestone began clamoring for the establishment of a “National Indian Pipestone Park” to preserve the historical and ethnological values of the area and to “grant quarrying rights to Indians of all tribes.”

Formal legislation to make the area a national park was introduced by Minnesota Sen. Henrik Shipstead in 1934 but stalled in committee. A similar bill put forth the following year passed the Senate but was ignored by the House. Reintroduced two years later with the name changed to Pipestone National Monument, the bill finally passed and was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Aug. 25, 1937.

Federal park recognition did not unleash a flood of money to develop the 116 acre site, however. Sporadic local and federal improvement efforts continued for the next few years. The register for 1941 showed 1,500 out-of-state visitors. Development activity was renewed after World War II when federal regulations governing Indian quarrying rights were adopted. The monument was placed on a year-round operational basis in 1948. During the next decade, roads were improved, trails added, and visitor facilities upgraded. An exhibition pit was opened and later, an adjacent visitor center. In 1957, an additional 167 acres were annexed to the park, bringing it to a total of 283 acres. The

Continued on page 21



Indians at Pipestone Quarry in 1893.

Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

noted by French trappers in the 17th century. Indian carvers prized this durable yet relatively soft stone, which ranged in color from mottled pink to brick red. Minnesota’s pipestone deposit was originally used by most of the Plains tribes. By about 1700, though, the Dakota Sioux controlled the quarries and distributed the stone through trade.

Smoking was regarded as a sacred activity and marked many ceremonies of the Plains people. By the time writer and artist George Catlin visited the quarry in 1836, pipe carv-

ing had evolved into a true art form with elaborate animal and human effigies. The popular T-shaped calumet pipes became widely known as “peace pipes” because they were often encountered by whites at treaty ceremonies.

As America grew westward in the 19th century, pipes found their way into white society through trade. Pipes became a source of income for their makers, taking on a significance beyond their cultural use. By the

late 1840s, pipestone was an item of some value in frontier commercial trade. Increasing contact between whites and Indians inspired new subject matter for carvers. Effigies often depicted white politicians and explorers, sometimes with caricatures far from flattering. In 1849, a piece of pipestone was sent to Washington, D.C. to be incorporated into the Washington Monument.

Uncovering history . . .

Map discovery reveals details of Fort Snelling's past

— F.J. Gallagher

Almost 175 years ago, a United States Army officer named Josiah Vose, who served at Fort St. Anthony during its construction, sent a detailed map of the outpost back to his family in Massachusetts, perhaps as a sort of postcard from the frontier.

For years, the map lay undiscovered, tucked away in the Vose family collection, even as historians struggled to accurately reconstruct the old outpost, now known as Fort Snelling. Recently, though, in what representatives from the Minnesota Historical Society are calling perhaps their most important acquisition, the document has resurfaced.

Last week, in the rotunda of the State Capitol, accompanied by guards clad in period uniform, state officials displayed the map for the first time since purchasing it for \$11,500 from a Connecticut military document dealer.

"The map provides insight as to why some changes were made . . . in the transition from fort to community," historical society archaeologist Bob Crouse said. "We also know that there were other changes made and that some of the things constructed here were later moved within a year and a half."

Scholars involved with reconstructing the fort in the 1970s based their work on construction plans now housed at the National Archives in Washington D.C., and archaeological evidence gathered at the site, Crouse said. Many times, they had to guess at the answers to basic questions. This map, Crouse said, not only confirms as correct many of those decisions, it gives historians a much more accurate picture of the fort's evolution.

"Almost all the maps made at that time were done for official use," and consequently are owned by the federal government, Jon Walstrom, historical society map curator, said at the April 25 unveiling. "This is rare."



Students from Bloomington's Oak Grove School were among the first to get a glimpse of an 1823 hand-drawn map of what is now Fort Snelling. The map is a recent and significant acquisition by the Minnesota Historical Society displayed in the Capitol rotunda April 25.

The state purchased the 19-inch by 26-inch map with a donation made by John and Elizabeth Driscoll, of St. Paul. The hand-drawn document is signed by its maker, Joseph E. Heckle, a quartermaster stationed at the fort, and Vose apparently used the margins to describe for his family many of the living conditions of the day.

Vose arrived in the area around 1819 as part of a military expedition, under the command of Lt. Col. Henry Leavenworth, to establish an outpost on the frontier. The soldiers, looking to protect the burgeoning fur trade with a permanent American presence, built a stockade at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers, about a half-mile away from where the permanent structure would be located.

Conditions at the time, according to a recent *Minneapolis Star Tribune* story, were brutal. Leavenworth begged his superiors

for a transfer, even as his troops died building the permanent fort. By the spring of 1820, 30 men were dead, but Leavenworth got his wish. Command of the facility was assigned to Col. Josiah Snelling, for whom the structure was named in 1825.

The map can be seen at the Minnesota History Center, near the State Capitol, where it will be on display until June 2, when curators will move it into environmentally controlled storage. The historical society also plans to reproduce the map and publish a book explaining the margin notes and the process by which the map was created.

"It is rare to have an opportunity to add such a remarkable map to the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society," Walstrom said. "Both the information value and the artifactual value of the map are immeasurable."

Continued from page 20

site today includes a waterfall on Pipestone Creek, quartzite bluffs, native tallgrass prairie land, and a three-quarter-mile trail.

Pipestone National Monument is currently visited by more than 100,000 people

each year. Any registered member of a recognized Indian tribe may obtain a permit to dig pipestone in the quarry.

Plains Indian culture has undergone radical change since the era of the free-ranging buffalo herds, yet pipe carving is by no means

a lost art. Pipestone carvings today are still appreciated as works of art and for their spiritual and cultural significance.

Governor's Desk

CH67-CH85

Bills await governor's action

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
- do nothing, which results in the bill becoming law in the first year of the biennium. The timing of these actions is as significant as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is that the gover-

nor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each

house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Internet access to this information is available at:
<http://www.governor.state.mn.us> (select "legislative issues" folder)

Key:

CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
67	591*	578	Faribault Trunk Highway 218 easement transfer requirement.	4/29/97	
68	1123*	1156	Telecommunication company slamming and loading prohibited.	4/29/97	
69	750	652*	Autism treatment options advisory task force.	4/29/97	
70	1223	1025*	Impounded vehicle notice required within 10 days.	4/29/97	
71	571	465*	Long-term care insurance policy sales regulated.	4/29/97	
72	473*	197	Metropolitan Council employee recognition services program.	4/29/97	
73	1183	1094*	Real estate tenant referral compensation regulated.	4/29/97	
74	271*	608	Re-employment insurance wage reporting requirements modification.		
75	2169	1928*	Counties and cities flood assistance authority.		
76	1075*	891	Professional health services regulation.		
77	1637*	1424	Fire insurance provisions modification.		
78	601*	869	Boundary commissions provisions modifications.		
79	1162*	363	State employment provisions modifications.		
80	1880*	1519	Employer re-employment compensation payment schedule.		
81	1383*	1081	Occupational safety and health notice service provision modified.		
82	317*	16	Municipal wastewater infrastructure action authorized.		
83	966*	911	Wages payment requirements modification.		
84	807*	456	Tax bill.		
85	159	1*	Welfare reform bill.	4/30/97	

*The legislative bill marked with an asterisk denotes the file submitted to the governor.

Bill Introductions

HF2174-HF2185

Friday, April 25

HF2174—Kelso (DFL) Education

Omnibus K-12 education statutes recodification.

HF2175—Lieder (DFL) Ways and Means

Gasoline and special fuel additional taxes imposed, money allocated for repair and reconstruction of highways and roads damaged by 1997 spring flooding, and money appropriated.

HF2176—Jefferson (DFL) Ways and Means

Local relief association benefit plans modified, post-retirement adjustments for certain retirees and recipients provided, Richfield fire department relief association benefit plan changed, and St. Paul police and fire accounts consolidated.

Monday, April 28

HF2177—Long (DFL) Taxes

Dependent income tax subtraction expanded.

HF2178—Long (DFL) Taxes

Minnesota working family income tax credit increased.

HF2179—Opatz (DFL) Education

Statewide education testing and reporting system formulated.

Tuesday, April 29

HF2180—Huntley (DFL) Education

University of Minnesota, Duluth, library construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Wednesday, April 30

HF2181—Pelowski (DFL) Education

Minnesota science and math foundation established, and money appropriated.

Thursday, May 1

HF2182—Kubly (DFL) Taxes

Business property tax due date extension provided.

HF2183—Dempsey (R) Economic Development and Int Trade

Hastings Le Duc mansion refurbished, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2184—Finseth (R) Ways and Means

Flood hazard mitigation grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2185—Bettermann (R) Economic Development and Int Trade

Douglas county; Ida and Lake Mary townships sanitary sewer improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Coming Up Next Week . . . May 5 - 9, 1997

Committee Schedule

MONDAY, May 5

8 a.m.

WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: HF313 (Milbert) Fish habitat and propagation provisions modified, special hunting events established for youth, airboats restricted, minnow taking provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF2157 (Jennings) State agency heads, judges, and legislators compensation regulated.

HF1299 (Jennings) Electric Energy Task Force renamed the legislative commission on utility competition, and electric industry restructuring review process established.

HF647 (Jefferson) Public pension benefit accrual rates increased, defined contribution early retirement options authorized, homestead and agricultural credit aid modified, and money appropriated.

SF412 (Terwilliger); HF1389 (Jennings) Public employee and official salary and compensation provisions modified.

SF985 (Foley); HF1004 (Entenza) Omnibus DWI Bill.

9:30 a.m.

The House meets in session.

TUESDAY, May 6

8 a.m.

Joint CAPITAL INVESTMENT/ Senate STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

123 State Capitol
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis,
Sen. Richard Cohen

Agenda: Presentation by Jim Steinmann, Revenue Building Consultant, SGS Group.

WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: SF94 (Moe); HF551 (Sekhon) State land boundary line and trust sale provisions modified, property tax payment by natural resources commissioner provided, and public land sales authorized.

HF1390 (Solberg) Floodwood Joint Recreation Board tax levies regulated.

SF164 (Wiger); HF535 (Juhnke) Bison designated as livestock, and federal food rule conformity provided.

HF1579 (Swenson, H.) Game and fish license subagent sale commission retention allowed.

HF1441 (Greenfield) Health insurance loss ratios limited, health care commission repealed, health technology advisory committee modified, MinnesotaCare program eligibility

expanded, and Medicare assignment provisions modified.

9:30 a.m.

The House meets in session.

WEDNESDAY, May 7

8 a.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/ JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: Presentation on Electronic/Digital Signatures.

9:30 a.m.

The House meets in session.

THURSDAY, May 8

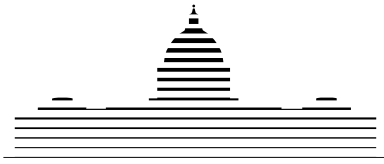
9:30 a.m.

The House meets in session.

FRIDAY, May 9

9:30 a.m.

The House meets in session.



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

Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
 Majority Leader: Ted Winter
 Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Special education in Minnesota

Year that Minnesota adopted a broad special education system.....	1957
States that had adopted some form of legislation requiring school districts to educate kids with disabilities by 1973	45
Year that Congress passed what has come to be known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to help states provide children with disabilities a “free appropriate public education”	1975
Percent increase in the number of special education students served, 1977-1996	43
Special education students served in Minnesota public schools, fiscal year 1996	101,000
As a percent of all K-12 students	10.9
Number of “primary disabilities” used to categorize special education students ...	13
Percent of special education students with learning disabilities	38
Percent with emotional/behavioral disorders	17
Special education students with speech or language impairments	1 in 5
Amount that Minnesota school districts spent on special education students, in billions, fiscal year 1995	\$1.1
As a percent of total school district budgets	21
Cost per special education student, fiscal year 1995	\$12,100
Regular education students funded with the same amount	2.1
Percent of special education costs paid for with school districts’ general funds, fiscal year 1995	40
Percent paid by state categorical aid	37
Percent of costs paid by special education property tax levies	17
Percent paid by federal categorical aid	6
Special education students age 6-21 taught in a regular classroom setting, fiscal year 1995	6 in 10
Maximum age that special education students may remain in class as high school seniors, if necessary	22

Source: *Special Education*, January 1997, Office of the Legislative Auditor

For more information

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(612) 296-2146 or
1-800-657-3550

To obtain a copy of a bill, call:
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(612) 296-2314

To find out about bill introductions or the status of a specific bill, call:
House Index Office
(612) 296-6646

For up-to-date recorded message giving committee meeting times and agendas, call:
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Teletypewriter for the hearing impaired.
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Check your local listings to watch House committee and floor sessions on TV.

This document can be made available in alternative formats.

SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ May 9, 1997 ♦ Volume 14, Number 18



SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • May 9, 1997 • Volume 14, Number 18

Session Weekly is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1997-98 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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Update

By law, the legislative session in an odd-numbered year must complete business at midnight on the first Monday after the third Saturday of the fifth month. Therefore, deliberations must be completed by May 19, 1997. This means very long days for everyone, but most staff and the work they perform prevail as the silent heroes in these final hours.

It is not unusual for staff to work 12 to 18 hours a day as they research amendments, rewrite bills, or even as they: assist members with preparing their meeting schedules; ensure that all legislative decisions are accurately recorded; and perform many other legislative duties unseen by the general public. In a two-week period, some individuals accrued more time than the 88 hours they get paid for. One, for example, chalked up 182 hours, while another spent 177 hours accomplishing assigned responsibilities!

As House members meet in session to move bills toward passage, other legislators meet with the Senate in conference committees to iron out differences in companion bills. This can be a marathon effort for staff who must be available at all times to assist with accomplishing whatever is necessary to get bills passed on to the governor.

Silent heroes usually serve as observers of the legislators in conference. Quietly, they watch as members sometimes go through a process likened to an acrimonious Monopoly game standoff ("You can have Park Place; I will take Boardwalk!") before companion bills go back to the respective legislative bodies.

Other silent heroes perform their duties in House Research, the revisor's office, majority and minority caucus leadership, the reference library, caucus media and research departments, the Fiscal Analysis Department, the House Public Information Office, the Sergeant's office and Educational Programs, and administrative services and supply. Heroes also include legislative assistants and committee administrators to the elected body, TV Services, and Duplicating, where bills and House Journals get printed, often at 3 a.m.

It is not uncommon to see the main desk staff of the Chief Clerk's Office working at their stations two hours after session has ended. Others in the clerk's office maintain the status of bills, proofread, search the index for names or numbers of bills for individuals, and perform other duties to keep the process flowing.

Other heroes like the editors, writers, and photographers of House Information and its assistants who answer hundreds of telephone inquiries, also spend an unusual amount of hours on an ongoing basis to give an up-to-date account of the Legislature and its actions.

Particular tribute is given to the pages in the Sergeant's office who are always the last to leave a committee meeting or a late night session.

About 209 hours are left (as of 7 a.m., May 9) before the 1997 Legislative Session must adjourn. Legislators and staff have "... miles to go before [they] sleep!"

—LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: Daffodils add softness and warmth to the State Capitol's granite landscape.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank

Highlights

Drunk drivers . . .

DWI changes: Lowering the legal limit controversial

By Celeste Riley

An omnibus DWI bill cleared the House Ways and Means Committee on May 7, and now heads to the House floor. An often challenged provision to lower the legal blood-alcohol limit from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent remains in the bill.

HF1004/SF985* is an effort to tighten laws that discourage and prohibit driving while under the influence of alcohol. Last year in Minnesota, police made 38,900 DWI arrests, a significant jump from the year before, when 33,355 arrests were made, according to Alan Rodgers of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

"Last year was the most [arrests] we've ever had," Rodgers said. "There were so many [that] I questioned the number. It had been going down" in previous years. Of 576 traffic deaths in Minnesota in 1996, about 200 were alcohol-related, he said. Nationwide, alcohol played a role in 17,000 of 40,000 traffic deaths.

An amendment to limit the 0.08 standard to repeat offenders only, as the Senate version of the bill currently does, was narrowly defeated. Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) said that the lower standard will unnecessarily criminalize people and does not accurately reflect the facts about alcohol impairment. He said that people pulled over for unrelated traffic offenses, such as a burned out headlight, could be arrested for a failed breath test, even though their driving wasn't affected.

"They [bill supporters] want a presumption of guilt. They don't want to have to prove the cases," Bishop said. "We're going to apply [the lower standard] whether or not driving and behavior are being influenced."

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), the bill's sponsor, said that the new standard would save lives. A House Research Department report states that based on studies of other states, the lower level could save about 14 lives every year in Minnesota and about \$6.3 million in associated social costs.

The 0.10 standard is arbitrary and "wasn't based on research," Entenza said, adding that new understandings of impairment from



Drinking and driving continues to threaten Minnesotans. Last year in Minnesota, police made 38,900 DWI arrests, a significant jump from the year before, when 33,355 arrests were made. A provision in the omnibus DWI bill would lower the legal blood-alcohol limit from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent.

blood alcohol content strongly support a lower limit. Further, he said, drivers who cause alcohol-related fatalities are overwhelmingly first-time offenders, which is why he wants to make sure the measure is not weakened. He was backed by Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake), who said, "We need to send a message to everyone that you need to be sober when you drive."

If the bill becomes law, Minnesota will join 10 other states and nine countries with 0.08 percent limits. Seven countries now set the limit below 0.08 percent.

According to information compiled by the House Research Department, the new limit would mean that a 175-pound man could drink three drinks in an hour within the legal limit; the fourth would put him over it. A 130-pound woman could drink two drinks in an hour, but would reach a blood-alcohol level of 0.077 percent, bringing her closer to the limit than a man would be at three drinks.

Other factors, of course, would make a difference, such as the amount of food people eat and how quickly they drink.

In addition to lowering the legal blood-

alcohol limit, the bill also would lower to 0.04 percent the legal limit for drivers under 21 years old. An amendment to eliminate the provision was defeated by a 13-8 vote.

"This will make criminals out of kids," said Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia). "[A person] isn't drunk at 0.04."

Swenson disagreed. "We know statistically that young drivers are overrepresented in fatal crashes. They're inexperienced with driving and with drinking and are generally immature, making them more dangerous on the road. They kill themselves and they kill others," Swenson said. "All people are impaired to some degree [at 0.04 percent]. These people are impaired more."

While state law prohibits any alcohol consumption by people under 21, the 0.04 percent provision would make it easier to apply DWI penalties to youthful offenders.

The bill also would stiffen penalties for DWI offenses. A first offense is now a misdemeanor; the second, a gross misdemeanor. Under the bill, a third offense or more within 10 years would fall under a new classification of enhanced gross misdemeanor, which could mean two years in jail and a \$3,000 fine.

Mandatory criminal penalties also would be restructured. A second gross misdemeanor offense would carry a 30-day minimum sentence in jail. Under the enhanced gross misdemeanor provisions, a third DWI within 10 years would net a 90-day minimum jail sentence with at least 30 days served; the fourth offense within 10 years would net a 180-day minimum sentence with at least 30 days served; a fifth or greater offense within 15 years would result in a one-year minimum jail sentence with at least 60 days served. The remainder of any sentence not served must be served on home detention using electronic monitoring or under an intensive probation program. If an enhanced gross misdemeanor offense involves the endangerment of a child or an alcohol concentration of 0.20 or more, the minimum penalties would be advanced by one level. In other words, a person whose crime would normally be a misdemeanor would be charged with a gross misdemeanor if either of the two conditions applied.

Additionally, those awaiting trial could agree to electronic alcohol monitoring as a means of being released from detention. Under the program, the person could not consume any amount of alcohol and would provide at least one breath sample daily via special equipment, which enables the results to be transmitted to authorities through the telephone.

Alcohol monitoring also could be used as part of a sentence after a conviction. People with two or more convictions within five years (or three or more within 10 years) would participate in alcohol monitoring in addition to other probation or sentencing conditions. Just as under pre-trial monitoring conditions, no alcohol consumption is allowed. The bill also says that the offender may be required to pay the cost of the monitoring.

Other bill provisions include:

- Increased sanctions and penalties for drivers who drink and drive at a blood alcohol level of 0.20 or more, which is twice the current minimum level of impairment. Gross misdemeanor penalties would apply even for a first offense, as would court-ordered counseling at the court's discretion. Electronic alcohol monitoring would be mandatory as a condition of pre-trial release.
- Drivers arrested for DWI offenses would no longer be able to demand that a second alcohol concentration test be conducted by an independent tester.
- The cost to have a driver's license reinstated after a suspension or revocation for any traffic offense would be increased from

\$20 to \$25.25. For people convicted of DWI, the current \$260 fee would remain the same.

- Authorities would have an easier time imposing vehicle forfeiture penalties for DWI offenses. Instead of having to wait for a conviction, cars could be impounded after the offender's driver's license has been revoked.
- A "not-a-drop" standard would apply to school bus drivers. This means any alcohol detected could result in the loss of a driver's license. Currently, bus drivers are subject to a 0.04 blood-alcohol level to define impairment. Drivers of commercial vehicles would be breaking the law with a level of 0.04 or more blood alcohol content.

Entenza said the bill would have a positive fiscal impact because it increases fees for driver's license reinstatement and suspensions and other fees. Rukavina said the costs of the bill will be "astronomical" because it would tie up the court system and cost police departments more for additional DWI testing. 🐜



BUSINESS

Unauthorized switches



The practice is known as slamming and loading. A long-distance telephone company sends a customer a check, a sweepstakes form, or a survey. What the customer often doesn't realize is that by participating or signing, they've authorized the company to remove ("slam") the customer's long-distance service and replace ("load") it with a new one.

A new law signed by the governor establishes the practice as consumer fraud and authorizes the attorney general's office to take action at a customer's request.

The law, effective April 30, 1997, says it is fraudulent to change a customer's service without the customer's verified consent, and that it is the responsibility of the telephone company to prove consent.

"If there's any question" on the customer's part about the switch being legally authorized, "the company has to have an authorization in writing," said Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington), the House bill's sponsor.

A 1996 law required that a long-distance company reinstall a customer's original service at no charge and then re-bill the customer at a lower rate if the original charges would have been lower. The new bill adds that the company could be required to ab-

sorb the long-distance costs accrued while the unauthorized service was in effect.

Sen. Janet Johnson (DFL-North Branch) sponsored the Senate proposal.

HF1123*/SF1156/CH68



CHILDREN

Studying autism



A bill to establish a task force to study the treatment of autism has been signed into law.

Autism is a disorder that affects children and consists of a preoccupation with inner thoughts, daydreams, delusions, and hallucinations. The individual lacks a connection with reality and the self often predominates to the total exclusion of the rest of the world.

Under the new law, the departments of human services and children, families and learning are charged with establishing the task force which will study the spectrum of autistic disorders; treatment options, including behavioral therapy, and outcome data on these treatment options; the role of schools, state agencies, and counties in providing services to children with autism; funding options for children with autism; the use of behavioral therapy day treatment programs, and the use of school and Medical Assistance funds for these programs.

A final report is due to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 1999, and must make recommendations on how to improve the treatment options available to children with autism using existing dollars. Also, it must recommend ways to inform and educate families with autistic children on available resources and expertise for the treatment of autism.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) and Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester) sponsored the new law, which becomes effective Aug. 1, 1997.

HF750/SF652*/CH69



CRIME

Harassing, stalking, sentencing



A new law to strengthen the state's anti-stalking law and toughen penalties for those violating orders for protection and restraining orders was signed by the governor.

The law defines harassing or stalking behavior as intentional conduct that the offender knows or has reason to know would cause the victim to feel frightened, threat-

ened, oppressed, persecuted, or intimidated. Importantly, the bill states that prosecutors would not be required to prove that the offender intended to cause those reactions in the victim, only that the offender knew or should have known that the conduct would cause the reactions and that the victim did, in fact, experience them. In the event a dangerous weapon is used during a harassment or stalking violation, the offense would be punished by a mandatory minimum sentence. If the weapon is a firearm, a three-year penalty applies for the first offense, and a five-year penalty applies to subsequent offenses; if the dangerous weapon is not a firearm, a one-year penalty applies to the first offense, and a three-year penalty applies to subsequent offenses.

The changes were necessary given a recent Minnesota Supreme Court ruling that weakened the current stalking law.

The law also creates felony penalties for violating an order for protection or a harassment restraining order under certain circumstances. Such cases will include violations occurring within five years after sentencing from two or more previous protection or restraining order violations, or if the offender possessed a dangerous weapon during the offense.

Other violations of restraining orders will draw the felony penalty if the act is motivated by race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age or national origin; if the offender intends to interfere with a judicial proceeding or retaliate against an official involved in a case; if the victim is a minor and the offender is at least three years older; or if the offender falsely impersonates another.

Under the law, offenders could be sentenced to a maximum of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. A minimum of 30 days in jail (and counseling) will be mandated for a felony protection order violation in cases where the court stays the sentence as a condition of probation.

Finally, the law clarifies that an offender may not waive the right to be sentenced under the state's sentencing guidelines. The provision is a result of the Minnesota Supreme Court's ruling in *State v. Givens*, and is intended to promote consistency and predictability in judicial sentencing.

In the *Givens* case, the defendant agreed to accept probation instead of incarceration for a purse-snatching offense. However, under the conditions of the agreement, if he violated probation, he would serve double the jail time recommended under the guidelines. The offender later did violate probation, but appealed the sentence.

The law makes it clear that while the guidelines are advisory to the courts, they are not rights that a defendant can waive.

The law also states that if a defendant agrees to be sentenced outside the guidelines, he or she may not appeal the sentence after 90 days or after committing another crime, whichever is first.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) and Sen. Ember Reighcott Junge (DFL-New Hope).

HF5*/SF32/CH96



EDUCATION

Statewide testing finalized

A bill that would establish a statewide testing system requiring uniform exams to be given to virtually all students at several grade levels is on its way to the governor.

The bill (**HF2179*/SF1934**), sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), would require uniform statewide testing of third, fifth, and eighth graders beginning in the 1997-1998 school year.

The bill passed both the House (102-32) and Senate (59-0) May 5.

Opatz said the tests would be an integral part of the state's move toward an education system that demands schools and students be more accountable for taxpayer funds invested in education.

Statewide testing had been a controversial issue at the Capitol in years past, but this year

it drew bipartisan support. Proponents claim such testing would provide a reliable means for comparing the performance of schools and districts.

The first law passed during the 1997 session (**HF1*/SF3/CH1**) mandated that statewide testing would begin during the 1997-1998 school year. Opatz's bill prescribes how that testing system will work.

Under the bill, the basic skills tests in reading and math — already required under the state's graduation rule and first given to students in the eighth grade — would count as the statewide test for that age group.

Third and fifth graders would be given tests selected by the Department of Children, Families and Learning. The department could use a test it has developed or a nationally recognized test such as the California Achievement Test or the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. Any test used in the statewide testing system would have to be aligned with the state's graduation standards.

The version of the bill initially approved by the House also called for testing of 11th graders beginning during a later year, but the Senate bill did not call for testing at the high school level.

Instead, the bill now would ask districts to assess the performance of students at the secondary level according to the standards within the Profile of Learning, a state-developed system of measurements of overall student performance, and a part of the newly developed graduation standards.

The bill calls for the assessment of second-

Statehood week



Sixth graders from Washington Elementary School in New Ulm, Minn., got a special lesson from historic site guide Pamela Larson May 7 as part of Minnesota Statehood Week. State Capitol guides dressed in period costumes and debated the merits of the proposed 1857 boundaries for the new state of Minnesota. To commemorate Statehood Day, which is May 11, the week will culminate in the once-a-year lighting of the Capitol rotunda chandelier.

any students to begin during the 1999-2000 school year, but it leaves the choice of testing instruments and processes to the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

The commissioner would be required to report to the Legislature in 1998 on plans for assessment at the high school level.

The bill would allow only narrow exceptions to the statewide testing requirements. For example, students who are new to this country and are not proficient in English would be exempt.

Another provision in the bill would require that the 1997-1998 test results from each school and each district be used to establish a baseline against which their future performance could be measured.

Test results would be reported to the public in three forms: a raw number representing the mean score for each school and district, a mean score of all students except those who are new to a school or district, and a mean score of all students except those receiving limited English proficiency instruction.

The results released to the public also would include the number of students on free and reduced-price lunch programs, the number of special education students, and the number of students with limited English proficiency at each site.

Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), who chairs the House K-12 Education Finance Division, said the new testing system is important mostly because it will inform parents and other taxpayers.

"Students have always taken tests," Kelso said. "It's not the tests that work to help schools and help students. It is the change that comes with public understanding of student achievement."



ELECTIONS

Absentee voting

Any voter who wishes to vote by absentee ballot could do so under a bill passed by the House May 6 on an 81-50 vote.

HF74/SF78* would eliminate existing restrictions that bill supporters say keep absentee participation unnecessarily low. However, voters still would be asked to state a reason — any reason — for voting by absentee ballot.

Under current law, voters must provide one of several reasons to vote outside an official polling place: an expected absence from the precinct, illness, disability, religious discipline, observance of a religious

holiday, or service as an election judge in another precinct. The bill would eliminate those provisions.

"This way no one has to lie about being out of the precinct," said Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), the bill's sponsor. "We can help about 5 percent of the public to participate in the process who are not currently participating."

Opening the process of absentee balloting is intended to increase voter participation, according to Osthoff and Secretary of State Joan Grove, who previously testified in support of the bill. In Ramsey County, where a four-year pilot program for unrestricted absentee balloting began in 1993, absentee voters have grown to 12 percent, compared with a statewide average of 6 percent.

Bill sponsors believe the proposal will especially encourage the elderly to vote, given recent consolidations of polling places that have made their locations more difficult for such residents to reach.

"Last election we were able to get the numbers up in my district — which has one of the lowest turnouts in Minnesota — by a few thousand votes," said Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul). "We did it by knocking on doors and getting people to register. A lot of people took advantage of the ability to vote by absentee ballot without having to articulate a reason."

The absentee ballot initiative is not the same as a vote-by-mail program, proponents have noted. In the latter, ballots are automatically sent to all registered voters. With absentee voting, voters must request that a ballot be sent to them.

Other provisions would enable hospital patients to have ballots delivered to them by hand. The bill also says that individuals could receive only one ballot each, and ballots can be received and sent via fax machine.

The bill now goes to a conference committee.

Vote by mail

Under a bill passed by the House May 6, more Minnesotans would be able to vote by mail. The vote was 72-59.

Under current law, rural cities and towns with 400 or fewer registered voters are able to conduct mail-in elections. **HF168/SF703***, sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), would allow voters in precincts with 50 or fewer voters to vote by mail. Adding the precinct designation, even with the smaller number of voters, allows more areas to participate in mail-in voting. That's because some towns with populations of more than 400 lie in more than one county,

creating very small precincts within metropolitan areas.

The bill would allow those precincts to avoid the expense of operating a polling place and other election-related efforts for their limited number of voters.

"This is a bill that allows very small precincts to vote by mail. Statewide, it affects only about 284 registered voters," Tunheim said.

The bill now returns to the Senate.



GOVERNMENT

New home for revenue

Consultants retained by the Legislature to study alternative locations for the Department of Revenue building have recommended that the agency relocate to a new site in Inver Grove Heights.

Jim Steinmann, the executive director of the Los Angeles-based SGS Group, said at a May 6 informational meeting of the House Capital Investment Committee and the Senate Finance Committee's State Government Division that his firm had evaluated four possibilities, including refurbishing the department's existing 10 Riverfront Plaza building, opposite downtown St. Paul on the Mississippi River. Of the four, he said, constructing a new building at the intersection of Interstate 494 and Highway 52 in Inver Grove Heights presents the most cost-effective solution to the department's need for more space. The project, he said, carries a price tag of \$49.5 million.

"We support his recommendation for construction in Inver Grove Heights," said revenue department Assistant Commissioner John Lally, adding that the proposal emerged out of a competitive-bid process.

The revenue department has occupied its current site since 1988, when it relocated from the Centennial Office Building. At that time, the state negotiated a five-year lease — with five one-year renewal options — with St. Paul's JLT Group, who built the building to department specifications. Last year, the department exercised its last renewal option and paid JLT \$6.3 million in rent.

Now, according to the SGS study, the department, has outgrown the riverfront building. It will need even more space by 2010, when it will employ nearly 1,500 workers. Perhaps more importantly, Steinmann said, the pace of technological innovation shows no sign of slowing and the new building would provide an increased capacity to expand the department's information infrastructure.

“We have built into specification every bit of specification for technology that we are aware of in 1997,” Steinmann said. “This is a 40-year building, at least.”

A new building, Steinmann said, would cost less than retrofitting the existing location, which he said also has air quality issues.

The latest SGS report represents something of a departure from previous recommendations. At a Feb. 25 meeting, Steinmann presented the joint committee with two metropolitan locations: a downtown St. Paul site at East 11th and Wabasha streets or the corner of 13th and Robert streets, currently occupied by the state’s motor pool. The Inver Grove Heights location would be nearly \$50 million cheaper than either of those, according to the latest analysis.

James Erickson, representing JLT, disagreed with Steinmann’s remarks. The state, he said, could purchase the Riverfront Plaza building for \$38.9 million, \$10 million cheaper than the cost attached to the SGS proposal. That money, he said, could be applied toward renovations.

“I want you to know, you have a Cadillac of a building here,” Erickson said, adding that he was not aware of any air-quality concerns. “We have an elegant proposal on the table. We have a magnificent building in downtown St. Paul . . . negotiate with us.”

Erickson also pointed out that current law requires the Legislature to locate its principal administrative offices in or near the Capitol, a point that Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) reiterated.

“If we start doing this, we’re never going

to stop,” Trimble said of the move toward the suburbs. “There’ll always be land somewhere that’s cheaper. What are we going to do with that [Riverfront Plaza] land, peddle it off to McDonald’s?”



HEALTH

Managing managed care

A bill that would create a patient protection act in Minnesota to help consumers and doctors better deal with health plans and insurance companies passed the House May 6. The vote was 132-0.

HF1365/SF960* is a beginning and a delicate compromise between consumer groups, health care providers, health maintenance organizations (HMOs), and insurance plans, said House sponsor Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls).

Although she asked lawmakers not to alter her bill and risk dismantling the compromise, several amendments were successful.

Calling the bill “Swiss cheese” with “holes everywhere,” Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) successfully offered an amendment he said would provide more consumer protection.

He labeled the original bill not tough enough and said the compromise leaned too far in favor of the HMOs and insurance companies.

It is important to note, however, that the bill would not affect self-insured businesses, which the state cannot regulate. Roughly

one-third of Minnesotans are in self-insured plans.

Below are some of the highlights of the bill.

- Health plans would be prohibited from retaliating against doctors and other health care providers simply because they criticized a health plan’s coverage or made a recommendation about the desirability of a plan. Doctors and other providers also would be free to discuss — without fear of retaliation — diagnostic, treatment, or referral options not covered or limited under the health plan.

Insurance companies and HMOs also could not punish a health care provider for advocating on behalf of a patient or for telling the patient about the financial agreement between himself or herself and the health plan.

Furthermore, health plans could not retaliate against doctors or other providers who support or oppose legislation and testify on bills either before the Legislature or the U.S. Congress.

Retaliation can take many forms. A health plan, for instance, could choose to eliminate a doctor from its network of providers.

- In certain cases, health plans now hire outside doctors — often from other states — to review what medical tests or procedures are appropriate for which conditions. They can overrule the recommendation of a patient’s doctor. Under the bill, only doctors licensed in Minnesota could review cases involving Minnesota patients. This, Abrams said, would help keep the review doctors accountable.

- Customers enrolled in a health plan or even potential customers would have the right to see a clear explanation of the health plan’s financial agreement with the doctors and other providers in its network. Specifically, portions of the agreement that would in any way make it advantageous for the provider to limit the care offered must be disclosed.

- Under the bill, patients would be notified of their right to their medical records. The measure states that every time a health record is generated, the provider shall notify the patient of his or her right to receive a copy. This provision is the result of an amendment by Rep. Eileen Tompkins (R-Apple Valley).

- A separate provision introduced by Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) requires health plans to make public their top five highest salaries, including all types of compensation.

Welfare rites



The Grim Reaper, played by Yellow Cloud, of Duluth, was on hand with the Minnesota Welfare Rights Coalition as they protested Minnesota’s new welfare law in the Capitol rotunda May 7.

- The departments of commerce and health would review contracts between health plans and doctors and assess civil penalties for violations.
- Health plans would be required to establish, when appropriate, a way for consumers to apply for a standing referral to a specialist. Oftentimes, a patient must see their regular doctor over and over again to get permission to see a specialist.
- Several state agencies would be required to study together the feasibility of consolidating the numerous consumer help offices existing today. Currently, the state has between 15 and 20 different places in government for consumers to call to complain about their health care, said Rep. Tom Huntley (DFL-Duluth).
- The Department of Commerce and the Department of Health would be required to report to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 1998, on how to develop a complaint resolution process for health plans to offer to their customers.

The bill heads next to a conference committee to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions.

Health care directives



A Minnesota driver's license can tell you a lot about a person besides age, height, and weight. A new state law, effective Jan. 1, 1998, will allow for a bit more information to be included on that small plastic card.

Existing law requires a driver's license application to include space to indicate whether a driver has a living will, a document that declares a person's preferences for medical treatment to prolong life under dire circumstances.

A short message to emergency and medical personnel is included on the licenses of people who indicate that they have living wills.

The new law will expand the health-care related information that can be included on a driver's license.

Under the law, the license application will allow people to indicate if they have a "living will/health care directive," and the change will be reflected in the message that appears on licenses.

The expanded license designation will serve people who have granted another person durable power of attorney for health care and people who have other written advance health care directives allowed under state law.

(Durable power of attorney for health care is an arrangement by which someone is designated to make decisions regarding medical treatment for you if you are unable to make those decisions yourself.)

Gov. Arne Carlson signed the measure into law April 28. The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) and Sen. Jane Ranum (DFL-Mpls).

HF179*/SF178/CH60



INDUSTRY

Underground communication

Beneath public streets, countless miles of lines and cables run under the pavement, all carrying services for water, electricity, sewer, natural gas, telephones, and cable television.

The underground has become even busier in recent years with the advent of new technologies and new uses for the technology, such as those for telephones. The result? Increased demand for limited space.

The House passed a bill May 2 that would regulate the rights-of-way to the underground for telecommunications and related companies. **HF322/SF442***, sponsored in the House by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), was passed on a 128-4 vote. Jennings said the bill is the result of months of negotiation between local governments and industry members, and successfully balances public and commercial interests.

Under the proposal, towns and cities would manage underground access by requiring: registration and permits; plans for construction; construction performance bonds and insurance coverage; and project data reports. They also could establish installation and construction standards; location requirements for equipment and facilities; coordination and timing requirements; and removal requirements for abandoned equipment.

Cities may recover "actual costs" from the companies for providing administrative services, such as processing applications, conducting inspections, and issuing permits, but may not charge more. Currently, cities can charge only \$25 in fees. The telecommunications companies remain fully responsible for returning road or other surfaces to their previous condition.

Cities must treat companies equally, according to the bill, and may not deny underground access except when necessary for health or safety reasons, or in the event of a substantial breach of the terms and conditions of access (or several other related conditions).

In the event of a dispute, the bill would require a review by the authorized unit of government, which would have to submit a report in support of its decision. A company then could ask to have the matter settled through arbitration, paid for equally by both parties.

Finally, the bill would direct the Public Utilities Commission to develop a set of statewide standards to govern use of the right-of-way. The rules would apply to construction standards, maintenance, and repair. A report to the Legislature would be due by November 1997.

The bill now returns to the Senate.



INSURANCE

Managing diabetes



Health plans will be required to provide coverage for training and education to assist diabetics in managing their disease under a new state law effective Aug. 1.

The measure passed 124-5 in the House April 18 and 62-2 in the Senate April 21. Gov. Arne Carlson signed the legislation into law April 28.

The law will expand a 1994 law requiring medical insurance companies and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for syringes, blood-testing devices, and other equipment diabetics need.

The aim of the new law is to ensure diabetics are properly trained to use the medical equipment and to monitor their own condition. The law also will require medical nutrition therapy to be included in health coverage.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) and Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-New Brighton).

HF653/SF495*/CH57

Preventing rate hikes



A new state law effective April 29 will prevent insurance rate hikes for people who are passengers on city buses involved in traffic accidents.

Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the measure in the Legislature. Gov. Arne Carlson signed the proposal into law April 28.

The impetus for the legislation came from an 86-year-old resident of Farrell's legislative district in St. Paul.

The woman was injured in January 1997 after she boarded a city bus to return to her East Side home. As the woman walked toward an open seat, the bus slammed to a stop to avoid a collision.

The sudden stop sent the woman toppling backwards, bouncing off the windshield, and landing at the bottom of the steps inside the bus door. She spent five days in the hospital with a variety of injuries and has since endured weeks of physical therapy.

Unfortunately, the woman had to absorb another blow when informed that the bus company would not pay for any of her medical expenses. That, she was told, was the responsibility of her own insurance company.

The state's no-fault insurance law requires that the woman's coverage come under her own automobile insurance policy.

The new state law provides a remedy for people in such a situation without taking on the highly controversial area of no-fault law.

The law prohibits insurance companies from increasing a policyholder's premium if the person is involved in an accident while a passenger in a bus, taxi, or commuter van.

According to Farrell, his constituent did not see an increase in auto insurance rates after the incident on the city bus, but the law will prevent anyone else in similar circumstances from seeing a rate hike.

HF1045*/SF759/CH64



LABOR

Wage hike approved

Minnesota's minimum-wage workers would get a pay increase under a bill approved by the House May 8 on a vote of 76-56.

HF892, sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), would raise the state's minimum wage for employees of large businesses (those with gross sales over \$500,000 annually) to \$5.40 per hour on Sept. 1. Workers at small businesses would have to be paid at least \$5.15.

Currently in Minnesota, there are three separate minimum wage levels. Businesses with more than \$362,500 in annual sales must pay their workers at least \$4.25 an hour, while companies with lesser sales must pay a minimum of \$4 per hour. A federally mandated minimum wage of \$5 per hour affects only businesses with annual gross sales of more than \$500,000. The federal level will increase to \$5.15 on Sept. 1, 1997.

Rukavina characterized **HF892** as a small gesture of support for Minnesota's working

Floor session



Kelly Rand Waters, of Minneapolis, found a sunny spot in the rotunda to attend to her 4-month-old daughter, Sequoia, during a rally celebrating International Midwives Day. The Minnesota Midwives Guild and Minnesotans for Midwifery, together with other interested organizations, are a part of the Midwives Regulation Task Force, which is pursuing state licensure for direct-entry midwives in Minnesota.

class and, in light of the recent welfare reform legislation requiring recipients to work, necessary to sustain a decent standard of living. The bill, he said, would put nearly \$500 into the pocket of someone holding down a minimum-wage job.

He also compared the increase to another bill now before the Legislature that would raise the pay of many of Minnesota's judges and state agency executives.

"I think that we should certainly make a commitment here today," Rukavina said. "Certainly the lowest paid workers in Minnesota deserve a raise."

Opponents of the bill argued that the free market, not the state, should determine wages. Indeed, said Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) the increased wage under **HF892** could hardly be termed a "livable wage."

"The fact of the matter is," Sviggum said, "it's not the role of the government to determine what the wage level is."

During the course of debate on the floor, several members pointed out that Gov. Arne Carlson will most likely veto **HF892**. Carlson vetoed similar legislation in 1994 and 1996.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (612) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.



METRO AFFAIRS

Electing the Met Council

A bill that would transform the Metropolitan Council into an elective body passed the House May 6 on a vote of 68-62.

The Metropolitan Council, created in 1967, is responsible for comprehensive regional planning for the seven-county metropolitan area. One of the largest regional governments in the nation, it also oversees the regional bus system, several wastewater treatment facilities, and Metro Mobility, a transit operation serving the disabled. It has an annual budget of about \$360 million, which is partially paid by property taxes, and manages about 3,500 employees. The council is governed by a board of 17 members appointed by the governor, each representing a different portion of the metro region.

"The Metropolitan Council is the second largest unit of local government in the state" after Hennepin County, said Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls), the bill's sponsor. He said that when an official body has as much authority as the council, it should be and usually is elected. "Taxation without representation is fundamentally contrary to our constitution."

Under **HF423**, Metropolitan Council elections would be nonpartisan and public funding provided for qualified candidates. Salaries of council members would dip from \$20,000 annually to \$12,000. The change, offered by

Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport), was approved on a voice vote.

Other amendments set limits of campaign spending for Met Council offices, set up a Metropolitan Policy Advisory Committee, and set 1996 as the council's tax levy base year.

Several other amendments failed, including one from Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) to limit campaign contributions from non-citizens to Met Council candidates. Under questioning, Seifert said that his amendment was trying to be proactive in response to the foreign contribution scandal at the federal level. "We don't have to wait until the defecation hits the fan to take action," Seifert said.

The amendment failed on a 68-62 vote.

HF423 now goes to the Senate.

(See March 21, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 12, and March 28, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 15.)



TRANSPORTATION

Travel time slashed

Speed limits would increase on Minnesota interstates and divided highways under a bill awaiting action from Gov. Arne Carlson.

The proposal calls for speed limits to jump from 65 mph to 70 mph on rural interstates, from 55 mph to 65 mph on metropolitan area interstates, and from 55 mph to 65 mph on four-lane, divided highways throughout the state.

However, the bill would leave the speed limit at 45 mph on a piece of Interstate 35E stretching from Interstate 94 south to Seventh Street in St. Paul.

The proposed speed limit hikes are included in a bill (**HF458/SF724***) sponsored by Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar). The House approved a bill May 5 by a margin of 120-13.

Last year, lawmakers moved to boost the speed limit to 65 mph on rural, divided highways, but Gov. Arne Carlson blocked the increase by ordering the commissioner

Correction

The May 2, 1997, *Session Weekly* reported that seniors, like the disabled, currently receive free fishing licenses. Free senior fishing licenses were eliminated by the 1994 Legislature. Seniors pay a discounted rate of \$4.50 for their license instead of the \$14 fee. People with disabilities do receive their fishing licenses free of charge.

Holocaust remembrance



In recognition of Holocaust Remembrance Week, Rabbi Joseph A. Edelheit, of Temple Israel, held Torah scroll No. 248 from the Czech Memorial Scroll Trust as he led a prayer on the House floor May 5. The scroll, which survived the holocaust, is from Tabor, Bohemia, where all people of Jewish heritage were killed.

of transportation to maintain the current 55 mph limit on such roads.

The current proposal would void that order, reinstating the speed limit increase approved by the Legislature last year. And the bill would add new increases.

Carlson has said that he will not allow an increase in speed limits unless it is accompanied by additional funding to hire more state troopers to tighten up enforcement. Juhnke's bill does not include any such funding, but it could be included in separate legislation being considered this session.

Juhnke's bill is not the first speed limit increase to be approved by the House this year. In early April, House members passed a separate bill (**HF1540**) calling for a jump in speed limits, but it stalled in the Senate.

The earlier bill would have increased the speed limit on a stretch of Interstate 35E in St. Paul that has become known as the "practice freeway" because of its 45 mph limit.

After years of controversy over whether to build the stretch of highway, the debate shifted to the speed allowed on the road after it was completed in the late 1980s.

Critics of the 45 mph limit argue it is unnecessary and largely ignored by motorists, but supporters claim the lower limit was crucial to the agreement to complete construction of the freeway and keeps noise

levels down in surrounding neighborhoods.

Under Juhnke's bill, the limit would remain at 45 mph on the approximately four-mile segment of Interstate 35E.

Title transfers

Car buyers who fail to promptly transfer the title on the vehicle would face new penalties, under a bill passed May 5 by the House. The vote was 132-0.

The bill (**HF609/SF1404***), sponsored Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina), would clamp down on violators of state law regarding title transfers.

Some car buyers do not transfer the title on a vehicle for a variety of reasons, Erhardt said. For example, the buyer may not want to pay for insurance or may not have a driver's license. (State law requires proof of insurance and a valid driver's license in order to obtain a title.)

To get around the law, some illegal drivers buy cheap used cars with plenty of time left on the tabs and do not follow title transfer requirements.

When a title is not transferred, problems can arise for car sellers, who may be held liable for parking tickets or other infractions occurring after the vehicle has been sold.

Currently, it is a misdemeanor for a buyer to fail to apply for a title transfer within 14 days of acquiring a vehicle. The bill would give buyers just 10 days to apply for a title transfer and to pay the necessary fees.

The Department of Public Safety would suspend the registration on the vehicle if the buyer does not transfer the title within 10 days of the sale, under the bill.

If the vehicle registration is suspended, the buyer would have to pay an additional \$5 reinstatement fee along with the normal title transfer charges. If after 14 days the buyer still has not transferred the title, an additional \$2 late fee will be applied.

Also, law enforcement officers could impound a vehicle if the registration has been suspended because the buyer failed to transfer the title.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

The Chief Clerk's office provides copies of bills at no charge, all agendas for House sessions, and the Journal of the House.

Disgruntled folks seek pay from joint panel

By F.J. Gallagher

A couple of years ago, in the kitchen of one of Minnesota's correctional facilities, a fight broke out among several inmates. In the ensuing melee, one of the prisoners found himself on the business end of a frozen pork chop taken up as a weapon by one of the combatants.

Unfortunately, the handsome young prisoner, who had hoped to pursue a career in modeling upon his release from the big house, got his face cut in the brawl, thereby dashing any dreams he had of earning a living on the strength of his good looks.

So, like hundreds of other inmates who suffer property losses or on-the-job injuries where the state may be responsible, he filed a claim (based on a loss of future income) with the Minnesota Legislature's Joint House-Senate Subcommittee on Claims.

The subcommittee, said clerk D'Ann Knight, did not compensate "Pork Chop Charlie," as he came to be known to claims personnel.

"Ninety percent of the claims come from inmates," Knight said, adding that she processes about 200 of them a year. "We're sometimes called the Court of Last Resort."

Some of the claims, she said, seek compensation for injuries suffered by prisoners, conditionally released inmates, or patients at state hospitals who work in a community service program. The vast majority, though, come from prisoners for lost or damaged property.

The subcommittee, Knight said, will not hear any claims with a value of less than \$10.

"It's amazing, though, how many claims I get that are right around \$11," she said.

Randy Hartnett, the Department of Corrections' assistant claims officer, said an inmate starts the process by filing a claim at the institution. The majority of them, he said, have some validity and are paid by the facility.

"After all," Hartnett said, "we have thousands of inmates who have tens of thousands of pieces of property that are moved thousands of times, and sometimes things do get lost or damaged."

Hartnett reviews those claims the institution denies, and if he denies it also, writes a letter to the prisoner explaining why. At that point, he said, the inmate can bring the claim before the legislative subcommittee. Claims over \$2,500 automatically go to the subcommittee.



Although 90 percent of the claims made against the state for compensation come from inmates, politicians file them, too. Several years ago, this gate at the State Office Building's parking ramp malfunctioned and began closing on cars before they had cleared the gate path. Legislative staffers and lawmakers alike found themselves filing before the Joint House-Senate Subcommittee on Claims. Some call it the "Court of Last Resort."

It used to be, Hartnett said, that inmates could file a claim for free, but in 1994 the Legislature attached a \$5 fee to the process. If the claim is upheld, the fee is returned.

"I think what that did is eliminate a lot of the specious claims," he said.

Of course, not all claims come from prisoners.

For example, Knight said, several years ago, a number of state employees — and legislators — filed claims after the gate at the State Office Building's parking garage malfunctioned and began closing before cars had cleared the gate path. At first, she said, the car owners contacted the Department of Administration about making good on the damage, but the department refused because the consequences were not the result of any state employee's action or inaction.

The disgruntled automobile owners turned to the subcommittee for relief.

"Needless to say," Knight said, "the subcommittee ordered the department to pay it."

Last year, the annual claims bill included \$4,180 to a Grygla, Minn., individual who overpaid tax on an airplane purchase in 1989 and another \$4,000 to a man who built a useless stone wall to prevent erosion based on erroneous information from the Department of Natural Resources.

The subcommittee, Hartnett said, also

hears claims from citizens who suffer damages due to the actions of escaped prisoners or who feel they have been injured by the department. In these cases, according to a memo issued by subcommittee counsel Craig Lindeke (who is also an attorney in the Office of the Revisor of Statutes), the group acts as a "court of equity" and is not bound by legal or procedural rules. Instead, the memo says, the subcommittee pays claims "if rules of fundamental fairness requires it."

Members of the 80th Legislature's claims subcommittee, which meets seven or eight times a year to hear cases, have yet to be named.

"I hear they'll be named after the session," Knight said. 🐾

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

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

This nonpartisan office provides: committee meeting schedules, legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* newsmagazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

State medical licensing follows public's pocketbooks

By Steve Compton

Minnesota is an internationally recognized center for medical innovation. Open heart surgery, pacemakers, artificial heart valves, organ and bone marrow transplants all were pioneered here. The state is home to world-renowned medical institutions such as the Mayo Clinic, University of Minnesota Medical College, Abbott-Northwestern Hospital, and Medtronic.

It hasn't always been this way. When the Minnesota Territory was first settled by non-natives, a variety of unregulated health care practices were common. European immigrant and Native American families shared and practiced traditional folk medicine handed down for generations in their respective cultures. On the other end of the spectrum were allopathic, homeopathic, and eclectic physicians trained at various East Coast and European colleges and universities. In between were all manner of bone-setters, snake oil hucksters, and self-proclaimed "doctors."

Various surgeons served with the U.S. Army at Fort Snelling, but the first trained private practitioner is thought to be Dr. Christopher Cork. A graduate of the University of Heidelberg, Cork set up practice in a tamarack log house on the banks of the St. Croix River in 1841. Dr. John Jay Dewey, the first physician to call St. Paul home, hung out his shingle in 1847.

By 1851, there were 11 trained allopathic doctors in the state. The term allopathy is applied to standard medical practice as we know it today. It is the treatment of disease by medicines that produce effects opposite of those produced by the disease. In 1853, the allopaths organized themselves into the Minnesota Medical Society, a forerunner of today's Minnesota Medical Association.

One of the reasons Minnesota's early allopathic practitioners had trouble establishing themselves was that their profession had largely lost public confidence. While allopathy had made great strides in the scientific understanding of human anatomy and dis-

ease pathology in the 1700s and early 1800s, the therapies it offered, such as bloodletting and the administration of toxic medicines, did more harm than good. When a medical doctor appeared at a patient's door, the Grim Reaper often followed.

Allopaths, homeopaths in harmony

Homeopathy, another major branch of medicine practiced in early Minnesota, was more popular with the public. Homeopathy is based on the idea that diseases are cured by giving very small doses of drugs, which in a healthy person and in large doses would

laws restricting other medical practitioners by the 1850s. When Minnesota became a state in 1858, no medical regulation was included in the state's laws.

In addition to allopaths and homeopaths, there were a few eclectic physicians who formed their own medical society in 1861. The eclectics borrowed freely from all schools of thought, using herbal, homeopathic, and allopathic cures to treat their patients. Present day naturopathy has been called "the new eclectic medicine."

Relations between Minnesota's allopathic and homeopathic physicians were both con-

tentious and cooperative. In their respective professional journals, they criticized each other's medical theory and practice. But in the real world of patient treatment, individual doctors borrowed freely from the other school's techniques, and allopaths and homeopaths often consulted with each other.

The first Minnesota medical law regulated not the practitioners, but those beyond the reach of their treatment. A bill passed in 1875 allowed all legally constituted medical colleges and associations to claim the bodies of persons buried at public expense for purposes of dissection and study.

Homeopaths, who had formed their own medical society in 1867, attempted to pass state medical regulations in 1870 and 1875. They joined forces with the allopaths in 1880 and got a bill through the Senate. But in the confusion following the 1881 State Capitol fire, the House never acted on the bill.

The Minneapolis Homeopathic Hospital began taking in patients in 1882 and the Minnesota Homeopathic Medical College

opened in 1886 in Minneapolis.

Finally in 1887, the state passed laws regulating medical practice and created the Minnesota Medical Examiners Board to license and oversee physicians.

Formal education

The following year, the University of Minnesota founded its Medical Department.



Beginning July 1, 1997, acupuncturists will need a license to practice in Minnesota. The state is an internationally recognized center for medical innovation, but it hasn't always been that way. When the Minnesota Territory was first settled by non-natives, a variety of unregulated health care practices were common.

produce symptoms like those of the disease. The big advantage of homeopathy was that, even when ineffective, the treatment at least was not harmful. Patients under homeopathic care had a higher survival rate and the public responded by flocking to homeopathic doctors.

Public revulsion against allopathic treatments had caused many states to repeal all

The Minnesota Homeopathic Medical College was incorporated as a separate college of medicine alongside the allopathic medical college. Both had identical curricula, but homeopaths had additional training in homeopathic therapeutics and *materia medica*. The university's homeopathic college lasted 21 years and its graduates had a higher success rate in passing the state licensing exam than those from the allopathic college.

Homeopathy's reluctance to improve its training standards in other states or to submit to scientific testing left the profession open to persistent criticism by the American Medical Association throughout the 19th century. That, combined with dramatic improvements in allopathic medicines and other therapies, led to a gradual decline in public interest in homeopathy. The university's homeopathic college was shut down in 1909 when only three students enrolled. The last meeting of the Minnesota Homeopathic Medical Society was held in 1923.

Homeopathy was revived in the 1960s and is practiced today by private nonlicensed practitioners, naturopathic doctors, and a few medical doctors and nurses. Due to their non-toxic nature, homeopathic remedies are widely available without prescription. They are sold at health food stores and were recently added to the product line at Byerly's grocery stores.

Founded in 1995, the Northwestern School of Homeopathy in Minneapolis now offers a 36-month training program in classical homeopathy. The Minnesota Homeopathic Association was started this year with 15 members and the goal of achieving legal definition and certification of homeopathic practice in the state, said association president Valerie Ohanian. The association hopes to be included in the Legislature's deliberations about complementary medicine (*See sidebar*).

Osteopathy gains equal status

Unlike homeopathy, osteopathic medicine grew out of allopathy. Osteopathic doctors receive training similar to medical doctors but with a special emphasis on the body's musculo-skeletal system. The first osteopathic office in Minnesota was opened in Red Wing in 1894 by doctors Harry and Charlie Still, sons of osteopathy's founder Andrew Taylor Still.

The state was in the middle of an epidemic of black diphtheria when the new doctors arrived and they threw themselves into the battle, helping many survive after local doctors had admitted defeat. The medical doctors were so upset that they had the Stills

arrested and jailed for practicing medicine without a license.

But the brothers didn't stay behind bars for long. A noisy mob of people whose families had been helped by the osteopaths gathered around the jail demanding their release. The sheriff, fearing a riot, set the doctors free. From that day, the osteopaths were escorted on their calls by two stalwart men,

"Big Ole" and "Little Ole" Olson, whose children had been saved by the Stills.

The Minnesota Osteopathic Medical Society was founded in 1899 and is still active today. Legislation to license osteopathic physicians first passed in 1909 and was expanded in 1923. With no school of osteopathy, there are currently only about 150 osteopaths practicing in Minnesota.

Naturopathic licensing ...

State to study complementary medical therapies

When the omnibus Health and Human Services bill (**SF1908**) went to a conference committee this week, it contained a \$20,000 appropriation and other provisions to study the scope of complementary medicine practiced in Minnesota.

That provision was all that remained of a bill (**HF396/SF523**) introduced this session to license and regulate naturopathic doctors. The original bill was sponsored by Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls) in response to a request from a naturopathic doctor, Helen Healy; and the Minnesota Association of Naturopathic Physicians.

Last summer, the state Board of Medical Practice accused Healy of practicing medicine without a license and sought an injunction to stop her from doing so. Healy's practice includes treating clients with herbal remedies, nutritional counseling, and massage, among other natural and non-invasive techniques. She has practiced in St. Paul since 1983.

The legal action taken against her prompted an outpouring of support for Healy from clients and other supporters of alternative medical care. The case ended in September when Healy and the medical board signed an agreement allowing her to continue providing naturopathic consultation but prohibiting her from calling herself a physician and, among other restrictions, requiring that she have each client sign an informed consent form at least once each year.

The bill would have provided state licensure and regulation for naturopathic doctors under the auspices of the Board of Medical Practice. Licensed naturopaths would have been required to complete a four-year degree in naturopathy at a recognized college and a two-year internship under a licensed practitioner. The bill passed the Senate Health and Family Security Committee and even gained the support of the Minnesota Medical Association, which has traditionally opposed licensing naturopaths. But when it reached the Senate Government Operations and Veterans Committee, all references to naturopathy were deleted, leaving only provisions for a study of complementary medicine. Those provisions were later incorporated into the omnibus Health

and Human Services bill.

This was the third recent attempt to license naturopaths in Minnesota. Previous bills had been introduced in 1986 and 1993. From 1927 to 1974, naturopaths were able to legally practice by simply registering with the state Board of Healing Arts. Since then, they have existed in legal limbo.

The complexity of medical licensing combined with dozens of committee hours devoted to welfare reform this session pushed the naturopathic issue to the back burner. In addition, legislators heard complaints from a variety of people who have been practicing under the label of naturopathy but who lack the four-year degrees that would have been required for licensing under the bill. Lawmakers in both houses are promising that subcommittees will hold hearings on complementary medicine during the interim this summer and fall.

"The irony for me is that the state is saying I can't practice without a license and yet they haven't set up a licensing procedure," Healy said.

Healy is one of six naturopathic doctors in the state that hold four-year degrees. "Naturopaths don't come to Minnesota because it doesn't have licensure," Healy said. Twelve other states, mostly on the east and west coasts, do license naturopaths.

Current state law permits only medical doctors and osteopaths to "prevent or diagnose correct or treat in any manner or by any means, methods, devices, or instrumentalities, any disease, illness, pain, wound, fracture, infirmity, deformity or defect of any person" except by authority of the board.

Healy said that definition is overly broad and could be construed to prohibit a parent from giving their child vitamins or to shut down weight-loss clinics. "They could just remove that clause from the law and I would be safe," said Healy, who said her practice does not include pharmaceutical medicines or surgery.

Massage therapists and Oriental body workers also came in for licensing this session (**HF1135/SF1011**) but their bill died in committee for many of the same reasons. They also will be included in the complementary medicine study and interim hearings.

—S.C.

Rise of complementary medicine

Since the 1970s, public disenchantment with mainstream medicine has grown. As allopathic medicine has evolved ever more miraculous high-tech diagnostic gadgets and invasive therapies, some patients have become more alienated from the medical mainstream. Increasingly, health consumers have turned to alternative healers for a more humanistic and holistic approach to their health needs.

A 1993 study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* indicated that one-third of all Americans were using some form of alternative health care, spending a total of \$14 billion annually, mostly out of their own pockets. In the Twin Cities, a 1995 study conducted by the health organization Allina revealed that two-thirds of area households had used some form of alternative therapy in the past two years.

These studies have not gone unnoticed by the medical industry. Local health care providers have responded by including acupuncture, massage, chiropractic, nutrition, reflexology, biofeedback, meditation, herbal therapy, and other alternatives along with mainstream medicine, in a mix that is now being called complementary medicine. HealthPartners, Allina, HealthEast, and United Hospital all have recently incorporated complementary therapies.

The University of Minnesota has added alternative therapies to its medical school curriculum and the College of St. Catherine is offering a 10-month course to bring health care professionals up to speed on the various complementary models.

With all of this change taking place, state regulation has some catching up to do.

The most recent addition to medical licensing in Minnesota was for acupuncturists. Since President Richard M. Nixon opened relations with China in the 1970s, there has been a growing interest in acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine in this country. This trend has been fed in Minnesota by the influx of East Asian immigrants since the end of the Vietnam War.

Chinese medical practice and theoretical development traces its history back 4,500 years and is based on ideas about the flows of bioelectrical energy in the body. Western medicine has accepted acupuncture for limited purposes such as anesthesia and pain treatment.

The Acupuncture Association of Minnesota was founded in 1979 and approached the Department of Health about licensing in 1980, according to Edith Davis, a founding member of the organization and president of the Minnesota Institute of Acupuncture and Herbal Studies. Fifteen years later, in

1995, the Legislature approved licensure for acupuncturists under the state Board of Medical Practice. That provision goes into effect on June 30 of this year.

The acupuncture association currently has about 35 members and estimates there are 70 trained acupuncturists in the state. That number has been fed by the 32 graduates of the Minnesota Institute of Acupuncture and Herbal Studies in St. Paul. Founded in 1990, the school offers a three-year program in acupuncture and an additional year covering herbal therapies.

The state Board of Medical Practice currently licenses 14,423 physicians (both medical and osteopathic doctors) to practice in Minnesota. The board consists of five public members, 10 licensed medical doctors and one doctor of osteopathy. The board also regulates physical therapists, athletic trainers, physicians assistants, respiratory care practitioners, athletic trainers, and health care corporations.

Chiropractic, perhaps the oldest alternative therapy, has been licensed by its own board in Minnesota since 1919. Separate state boards also govern licensing for nurses, optometrists, pharmacists, and podiatrists.



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Speaker Dunn's platter turns up tarnished in Texas

By Nick Healy

A Texas woman's garage sale bargain turned out to be a long lost memento of a former speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives and a link to an unusual chapter in the history of the Legislature.

Forty-two-year-old Mission, Texas, resident Frances Wilson knew she had found something valuable when she lifted a tarnished platter from the table at a garage sale not far from her border-town home late last year.

"It was so heavy I said, 'Darn, I wonder what that is,'" Wilson said. "I looked at the back and it said sterling silver, so I knew it would be at least worth its weight."

Wilson paid the 50-cent asking price, took the platter home, and later began to scrub away the thick layer of black that covered the entire piece. Armed only with a steel wool pad, Wilson cleaned away enough filth to uncover the Minnesota state seal inscribed on the oval-shaped platter, along with a special message revealing its origin.

"Presented to the honorable H.H. Dunn, speaker of the House of Representatives, by the members of the 37th session. 1911," reads the inscription.

How did an 86-year-old gift to a Minnesota politico find its way to a junk sale at the opposite end of the country? That remains a mystery. Just who was Dunn? That is an interesting story in its own right.

"He must have been a pretty important fellow," Wilson said. "This is not a plaything. This is a very valuable antique."

Indeed, Howard H. Dunn did hold an important post in the Legislature, but he was something of a political oddity with a brief career marked by unusual entrances and exits.

Dunn first came to the Legislature in 1897, when he assumed a Senate seat amid controversy.

The seat in the upper chamber had belonged to Frank A. Day, a Martin County newspaper publisher who held the position of president *pro tempore* of the Senate.

In January 1895, fresh from election to a four-year term, Day was elevated to lieutenant governor when Gov. Knute Nelson was chosen to represent Minnesota in the U.S. Senate and his second-in-command, David M. Clough, moved up to the governor's office.

But Day did not want to relinquish his position in the Senate, and he continued to act as a member of the body.

At the opening of the 1897 session, Day arrived to take his seat, but Dunn, who was practicing law in Fairmont, Minn., at the time, also was there, with a certificate of election in hand and prepared to take the oath of office.



Former Speaker of the House H. H. Dunn

Photo courtesy Secretary of State's Legislative Manual

After some debate, the Senate decided that Dunn was rightly entitled to the seat. He served the remaining two years of Day's term, but Dunn then left politics for more than a decade. (The Minnesota Supreme Court later rejected the Senate's decision, but the ruling came after the conclusion of the 1897 session.)

Dunn's name did not show up on a ballot again until 1910, after he had moved his law practice to Albert Lea, Minn. He was elected to the House as a Republican, and the 44-year-old managed the now-unthinkable feat of becoming speaker in his first term in the lower chamber.

Various accounts of Dunn's climb to the speaker's chair agree that his selection for the job was very much a product of the uncertain political times. The Legislature was dominated by Republicans then, but members of the party were hardly unified.

Many had followed the progressive lead of Theodore Roosevelt, but others were more conservative defenders of the status quo. The temperance movement also produced sharp lines of separation.

The fight for the speakership came down

to Dunn, a "wet" supported by the brewery lobby, and fellow Republican Joseph A.A. Burnquist, a "dry" backed by the Anti-Saloon League of Minnesota.

"[P]olitical agents of the brewers were active in [Dunn's] behalf," according to Dunn critic Lynn Haines in a review of the 1911 session published that year. Dunn's detractors also claimed the "brewery machine" extended generous political favors to those who supported him.

Dunn oversaw the House during the 1911 session and the special session of 1912, neither of which produced significant legislation favored by the prohibition movement.

However, the 1911 session did produce important legislation of another variety. That year, lawmakers passed a measure abolishing capital punishment in the state.

Dunn returned to the House for the 1913 session, but by then the tide had turned in favor of the progressives within his party. He did not seek another turn as speaker, nor did he seek re-election to the House the following year.

For now, the sterling silver platter given to Dunn at the height of his atypical political career remains in the hands of an amateur antique and cookie jar collector in Texas.

Wilson said she would like to see the platter returned to Minnesota, but she wants a fair price for the piece. She is hoping to get \$2,500 for the platter, although an antique dealer told her it could be worth as much as twice that.

"When you know you've got an antique and you know it's worth something, you don't want to give it away," Wilson said.

She contacted the Minnesota Historical Society in December 1996, and was told to take a picture of the platter and mail it in along with a letter indicating the asking price. The historical society would have to consider the historical value of the platter and an acquisitions committee would have to decide in favor of purchasing it before any deal could be completed.

Wilson said she is still planning to send the necessary information to the historical society, but in the meantime, she is open to other offers.

"I know it would be worth more to the people of Minnesota than it is to the people of Texas," Wilson said. 🐾

A partial listing . . .

1997 House Files incorporated into omnibus bills

If you've lost track of some of the bills you have been following during the session, you may find them on one of these pages. The section includes unofficial listings, as of a certain date, of the House Files that are contained in the various omnibus bills and other larger bills.

Ongoing floor and conference committee action may well alter the makeup of these bills before they reach the end of the legislative process. In many cases, the language found in the major bills may not be exactly as it appears in the original House Files due to amendments that happen along the way.

The list was compiled by the House Public Information Office from a variety of sources, including committee administrators, fiscal analysts, and legislative analysts. In some cases, the location of each of the smaller bills is indicated by article and section numbers in the larger bill. In other cases, the Senate companion file and author is listed along with the House File number and author. Each bill is accompanied by a brief description of its content.

An asterisk after a House or Senate file number indicates the version of the bill that is under consideration.

If you're interested in following conference committee action (and have access to the World Wide Web) point your Web browser to: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

You can also stop by the office and pick up a "Today" sheet which provides the daily meeting schedule.

If you have questions, call the House Public Information Office, (612) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550 or the Senate Information Office, (612) 296-0504 or 1-888-234-1112.

More bill listings will appear in the next issue of *Session Weekly*.

Crime

As of April 24, 1997

Omnibus Crime Prevention Bill

HF163/SF1880* (Murphy)

*Amendments are noted by two asterisks (**)*

HF28 (Skoglund) Interference with privacy offense in presence of minor. (Art. 5, Sec. 15)

HF29 (Skoglund) ** Residing in Minnesota without permission under interstate compact. (Art. 9, Sec. 16)

HF83 (Skoglund) Fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle. (Art. 3, Sec. 14)

HF93 (Skoglund) ** Aiding an offender. (Art. 3, Sec. 15)

HF95 (Skoglund) Community notification concerning federal inmates. (Art. 5, Sec. 17)

HF96 (Skoglund) ** Controlled substances (methcathinone). (Art. 4, Secs. 4 and 5)

HF97 (Skoglund) ** Aggregating sales of controlled substances. (Art. 4, Secs. 8, 11, and 13)

HF98 (Stanek) ** Helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. (Art. 8, Sec. 9)



So far 2,200 bills have been introduced during the 1997 Legislative Session. Some of those bills will make it into law, some won't, and still others will join forces and become incorporated into larger bills.

HF119 (Skoglund) Judicial discretion restricted related to reduction of minimum mandatory fines, surcharges, and penalty assessments. (Art. 3, Sec. 4)

HF135 (Skoglund) Legislative auditor study on costs of crime. (Art. 3, Sec. 28)

HF147 (Weaver) ** Release of investigative data relating to crimes perpetrated by a juvenile; notification of victim when sentence modification occurs. (Art. 7, Secs. 5, 6, and 22)

HF163 (Skoglund) ** Gang strike force; pilot program for juvenile drug offenders; gang intervention services; teen court program; sex offender end-of-confinement review committee. (Art. 5, Secs. 5, 6, 7 and 8; Art. 6, Sec. 1; Art. 8, Sec. 5)

HF195 (Bishop) ** Victim impact statement; notice of appeal to victims; victim and witness advisory council. (Art. 7, Secs. 21, 23, 29, 30, and 31)

HF196 (Bishop) ** Crime victims reparations; release of peace officer records of children to crime victims. (Art. 7, Secs. 6, 26, 27, and 28)

HF225 (Broecker) ** Authorizing peace officers to arrest person within four hours of a violation for failure to yield. (Art. 3, Sec. 1)

HF226 (Macklin) Notification of victims of vehicle theft. (Art. 7, Sec. 1)

HF234 (Macklin) ** Jail booking and confinement fee (Art. 9, Sec. 28)

HF261 (Farrell) Motor vehicle theft. (Art. 3, Sec. 18)

HF338 (Chaudhary) ** Inmates' and parolees' computer and Internet access. (Art. 9, Secs. 15 and 17)

HF350 (McGuire) Interfering with 911 call. (Art. 3, Sec. 23)

HF504 (Murphy) ** Probation service providers. (Art. 9 Secs. 18-21, 23, 24, 28, 29, and 31)

HF509 (Murphy) ** Mandatory minimum sentence for persons who use or attempt to use deadly force against a peace officer. (Art. 3, Sec. 10)

HF541 (Bishop) ** Community notification law. (Art. 5, Secs. 6, 7, and 8)

HF616 (Skoglund) ** HIV and hepatitis testing. (Art. 9, Secs. 1, 3, 4, 25, 26, and 27)

HF617 (Weaver) ** Law enforcement authority to exchange juvenile records. (Art. 8, Sec. 2)

HF619 (Weaver) Payment of restitution before fines. (Art. 7, Secs. 16, 17, and 24)

HF674 (Kraus) Including government entities as victims for the purposes of restitution. (Art. 7, Secs. 16, 17, and 19)

HF746 (Pugh) Corrections privatization. (Art. 9, Secs. 6-10 and 30)

HF762 (Wejzman) ** Community service pilot project for children. (Art. 2, Sec. 6)

HF933 (Olson, M.) ** Restitution work group. (Art. 2, Sec. 4)

HF946 (Hasskamp) Enforcement of orders for protection issued in other states. (Art. 7, Sec. 14)

HF954 (Swenson) ** Clarifying and extending the jurisdiction of the ombudsman for corrections. (Art. 9, Secs. 11, 12, and 13)

HF969 (Chaudhary) ** Expanding the responsibilities of the criminal alert network. (Art. 8, Sec. 4)

HF1011 (McGuire) Clarifying procedures and terminology for pre-sentence domestic abuse investigations. (Art. 7, Sec. 18)

HF1031 (Hasskamp) ** Domestic abuse; visitation issues; orders for protection; pilot project for combined jurisdiction family court. (Art. 7, Secs. 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 15)

HF1033 (Entenza) Criminal penalties for certain unlawful acts against elderly or disabled persons. (Art. 3, Sec. 13)

HF1150 (Greenfield) HIV Testing. (Art. 9, Sec. 2; Art. 4, Secs. 1 and 2)

HF1175 (Clark) ** Increasing penalties for certain repeat misdemeanor violations. (Art. 3, Sec. 5 and 9)

HF1197 (Weaver) County administrative subpoena power. (Art. 3, Sec. 3)

HF1212 (Johnson, R.) Assaults on human service employees. (Art. 3, Sec. 11)

HF1218 (Van Dellen) Conforming the laws involving the sale and possession of heroin to those involving cocaine. (Art. 4, Secs. 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12)

HF1226 (Broecker) Juvenile probation law enforcement community partnership. (Art. 2, Sec. 3)

HF1229 (Biernat) ** Limiting disclosure of victim and witness information. (Art. 7, Sec. 20)

HF1234 (Stanek) Department of Public Safety film rentals. (Art. 8, Sec. 20)

HF1235 (Stanek) Technical correction to ensure vehicle driver is held liable when vehicle is driven without insurance. (Art. 3, Sec. 2)

HF1241 (Pugh) ** School-based probation pilot project. (Art. 2, Sec. 3)

HF1308 (Murphy) ** DARE programs and training. (Art. 4, Sec. 16)

HF1455 (Wejzman) Exception to crime of female genital mutilation for midwives. (Art. 3, Sec. 12)

HF1501 (Skoglund) Indecent exposure crime while confining or restraining another person. (Art. 5, Secs. 1, 11, 12, 13, and 16)

HF1504 (Pugh) Allowing court to extend sex offender's term of probation. (Art. 5, Secs. 9 and 10)

HF1516 (Chaudhary) Landlord-tenant provisions. (Art. 10, Secs. 2-4, 7, and 8)

HF1566 (Winter) Firefighter training. (Art. 2, Sec. 7)

HF1580 (Mullery) ** Witness tampering. (Art. 3, Secs. 16, 17, and 27)

HF1586 (Skoglund) ** Arson. (Art. 8, Secs. 10-17)

HF1657 (Skoglund) CHIPS. (Art. 6, Secs. 2, et. seq.)

HF1825 (Biernat) Registration under predatory offender registration law. (Art. 5, Secs. 1, 2, 3, and 4)

HF1987 (Evans) Drug-free zone around chemical dependency treatment facilities. (Art. 4, Secs. 3, 6, 9, 12, 14, and 15)

HF795 (Koskine) Sliding fee child care. (Art. 4)

HF843 (Clark) Lead abatement. (Art. 2)

HF879 (Seagren) Change revenue formula for ABE. (Art. 3)

HF882 (Dawkins) Pilot/stipends to neighborhood organizations for services to families. (Art. 2)

HF928 (Wejzman) Child care demonstration project. (Art. 4)

HF965 (Delmont) Funding for collaboratives. (Art. 2)

HF991 (Clark) Child care grants. (Art. 4)

HF1121 (Delmont) Child development education loans/training incentives. (Art. 4)

HF1363 (Junke) Willmar child care prevention. (Art. 1)

HF1405 (Mariani) Head Start funding. (Art. 3)

HF1406 (Seagren) Funding for adults with disabilities. (Art. 2)

HF1485 (Solberg) Greenway Readiness Program. (Art. 1)

HF1492 (Jefferson) Adolescent parenting and prevention pilot. (Art. 2)

HF1667 (Luther) ABE Funding for adults with disabilities. (Art. 3)

HF1676 (Pawlenty) Infant development project. (Art. 1)

HF1720 (Rhodes) Clarify what schools close on governor's snow days. (Art. 1)

HF1760 (Delmont) Start up child care grants. (Art. 4)

HF1761 (McGuire) Juvenile assessment centers — pilot project grants. (Art. 2)

HF1799 (Trimble) Meals/snacks for children in licensed day care reimbursed. (Art. 4)

HF1811 (Rhodes) Meadowbrook housing collaboration. (Art. 2)

HF2046 (Nornes) Grant to Fergus Falls. (Art. 1)

HF2047 (Winter) Televised GED programs. (Art. 3)

HF2116 (Jefferson) Northside Career and Technology Center funding. (Art. 2)

HF2147 (Kinkel) Omnibus FACE Finance Bill.

As of April 16, 1997

Omnibus Higher Education Finance Bill

HF2136/SF1888* (Pelowski)

House files were incorporated into HF2136 in total or in part.

HF130 (Carlson) College savings bonds. (Art. 2)

HF273 (Pelowski) Virtual U. Minnesota. (Art. 1)

HF304 (Opatz) No \$ - HEAC Joint Planning. (Art. 1)

HF375 (Bettermann) Art. 13, HF33 governor's budget bill - Edvest. (Art. 2)

HF648 (Johnson, R.) Law School Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP). (Art. 1)

HF1100 (Tuma) HESO modifications. (Art. 2)

HF1132 (Ness) Require technical education diploma/certificate. (Art. 3)

HF1233 (Opatz) St. Cloud Hospital/Mayo Family Practice. (Art. 1)

HF1364 (Bettermann) Modifying provision on private trade schools. (Art. 4)

HF1385 (Bettermann) Physician Loan Forgiveness Program. (Art. 2)

HF1686 (Kubly) Extend farmer-lender mediation. (Art. 3)

HF1713 (Dorn) Continued employment for distinguished service professorships. (Art. 3)

HF1715 (Johnson, R.) Delay student referendum on statewide affiliation. (Art. 1)

HF1758 (Pelowski) HESO - Library Information Network. (Art. 1)

HF1809 (Winter) Minnesota Agricultural Education. (Art. 3)

HF1826 (Clark) Interpreters/Translators Pilot. (Art. 1)

HF1911 (Pelowski) Increase HEFA bonding authority. (Art. 3)

HF1929 (Winter) Land purchase/transfer of local parcels - MnSCU. (Art. 3)

Education

As of April 22, 1997

Omnibus Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Bill

HF2147* (Kinkel)

HF99 (Clark) Emergency Housing Grants. (Art. 3)

HF368 (Koppendrayner) Department of Children, Families & Learning. (multiple articles)

HF725 (Wagenius) Early childhood technology grant program. (Art. 1)

HF769 (Schumacher) Department Technical and Administrative Policy bill. (Art. 4)

HF1951 (Milbert) Land exchange - MnSCU/Inver Grove Heights for public library. (Art. 3)

HF2054 (Johnson, R.) K-12 tutoring/college work study. (Art. 2)

As of April 23, 1997

Omnibus K-12 Education Finance Bill
HF1684*/SF1925 (Kelso)

HF14 (Jennings, Kelso, Johnson A) Chisago Lakes, Taylors Falls debt service allocation. (Art. 4)

HF53 (Solberg) Hill City fund transfer, forgiving fund balance reduction. (Art. 7)

HF60 (Greiling) Anti-hazing in schools; schools to develop policies. (Art. 7)

HF82 (Mares, Carlson, Kelso, Carruthers, Broecker) Year-round school/ extended week or day pilot. (Art. 5)

HF89 (Gunther) Restore Madelia fund balance reduction. (Art. 1)

HF129 (Opatz) Statewide testing system. (Arts. 5 and 6)

HF134 (Sviggum, Kelso) Medford fund transfer. (Art. 7)

HF139 (Ness) Art. 6 HF33 governor's budget bill. (Art. 9)

HF160 (Winter) High School Entrepreneurship Pilot Program. (Art. 3)

HF233 (Tuma) New Prague pre-Labor Day school start. (Art. 7)

HF263 (Abrams, Van Dellen, Stanek, Leppik, Kelso) Wayzata pre-Labor Day school start. (Art. 7)

HF303 (Johnson A, Kelso, Entenza, Carlson) Disciplinary policies. (Art. 7)

HF307 (Koppendrayner) Art. 7, HF33 governor's budget bill - school finance reform. (Art. 1)

HF315 (Seagren) Art. 4, HF33 governor's budget bill - charter schools (Art. 5)

HF330 (Luther) School bus safety. (Art. 1)

HF345 (Folliard) FY 1998 levy adjustment over three years. (Art. 1)

HF357 (Sykora, Opatz, Wolf, Seagren, Paulsen) Art. 12, HF33 governor's budget bill - lab schools. (Arts. 3 and 5)

HF404 (Abrams) FY 98 Levy Adjustment. (Art. 1)

HF437 (Kelso) Wilder Foundation charter school bill. (Art. 5)

HF468 (Peterson, Hilty, Kubly, Davids, Carlson) Remove minimum school size for DSEA. (Art. 4)

HF474 (Kalis) DSEA for Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton. (Art. 4)

HF573 (Luther) Funding for low income concentration grants. (Art. 2)

HF574 (Luther) Osseo levy for at-risk students. (Art. 2)

HF575 (Weaver) Pornography blocking software for schools. (Art. 7)

HF576 (Greiling) Flexibility in using learning development revenues. (Art. 1)

HF579 (Tunheim) Extending exemption for Badger — reduction in general education revenues. (Art. 1)

HF584 (Greiling) Expanding charter school and intradistrict open enrollment. (Art. 5)

HF597 (Tomassoni) Modify supplemental revenue reduction. (Art. 1)

HF604 (Lieder) Modify sparsity for debt service aid. (Art. 4)

HF607 (Davids) Funding for MN Homework Helpline. (Art. 5)

HF643 (Olson, E.) Pine Point School permanent status. (Art. 2)

HF652 (Johnson, A.) Targeted breakfast funding; technology for nutrition analysis. (Arts. 6 and 9)

HF676 (Rifenberg, Siefert, Kielkucki, Stang, Bettermann) Modify eligibility for DSEA. (Art. 4)

HF720 (Westfall, Koppendrayner) Lake Park pre-Labor Day school start. (Art. 7)

HF724 (Molnau) Computerized transportation routing system. (Art. 1)

HF752 (Tomassoni) Hibbing — common teacher retirement. (Art. 4)

HF757 (Harder) Modify debt service eligibility. (Art. 4)

HF769 (Schumacher) Department Technical and Administrative Policy bill. (multiple articles)

HF772 (Evans) Facilities air quality initiatives. (Art. 4)

HF831 (Biernat, Koppendrayner, Entenza, Seagren, Johnson, A.) Funding for alternative education programs. (Art. 2)

HF847 (Entenza) Funding for school lunch program. (Art. 6)

HF850 (Weaver) Remove compulsory age of instruction. (Art. 6)

HF888 (Peterson) Adult farm management levy for Dawson-Boyd. (Art. 3)

HF891 (Harder) Sanborn interdistrict cooperation agreement. (Art. 4)

HF893 (Delmont) Class size project — Centennial School District. (Art. 7)

HF897 (Greiling) Performance contracts for superintendents. (Art. 6)

HF911 (Koppendrayner) Isle pre-Labor Day school start. (Art. 7)

HF957 (Hausman) Modify operating revenue/learning year program. (Art. 1)

HF961 (Greiling) Code of ethics for supervisory personnel. (Art. 5)

HF964 (Murphy) Expanded use of interactive TV revenues. (Art. 9)

HF1018 (Koppendrayner) Capitol grant — Isle. (Art. 4)

HF1028 (Dawkins) Extending Youth Works program. (Art. 3)

HF1044 (Farrell) Construction — St. Paul community-based school. (Art. 5)

HF1047 (Johnson, R.) S. Central Talented Youth Program. (Art. 5)

HF1052 (Koppendrayner) PSEO for non-public students. (Art. 1)

HF1062 (Tomassoni) Historic building aid. (Art. 4)

HF1105 (Nornes) Fergus Falls fund transfer. (Art. 7)

HF1107 (Tuma) Extending Options Plus. (Art. 2)

HF1114 (Boudreau) Technology funding for state academies. (Art. 9)

HF1120 (Tomassoni) Funding multi-county, multitype library systems. (Art. 8)

HF1124 (Schumacher) Modify distribution formula for library grants. (Art. 8)

HF1139 (Lieder) Permitting use of revenue for Goodridge and Fisher. (Art. 4)

HF1158 (Greiling) Funding for children's library services. (Art. 8)

HF1206 (Murphy, Johnson A., Kelso) Funding for physical fitness equipment — community/school Esko. (Art. 7)

HF1216 (Entenza, Seagren, Kelso, Leighton, Mares) LEP funding. (Art. 2)

HF1262 (Olson E) Fosston fund transfer. (Art. 7)

HF1272 (Kelso, Entenza, Seagren, Carlson, Mares) Grant for national teacher standards program. (Art. 5)

HF1280 (Tomassoni) Instructional days — governor's snow day. (Art. 7)

HF1311 (Kelso, Biernat) Extended day, week, year. (Art. 5)

HF1321 (Folliard) Metro integration/magnet school. (Art. 2)

HF1339 (Ness) Restore public transportation funding. (Art. 2)

HF1366 (Winter, Harder) Small school viability pilot project. (Art. 3)

HF1403 (Johnson R) First-grade preparedness. (Art. 2)

HF1407 (Dorn) Model school for truancy. (Art. 7)

HF1419 (Finseth) Modify secondary vocational aid. (Art. 3)

HF1428 (Dehler) Central MN area learning center funding. (Art. 2)

HF1454 (Jennings) Open enrollment technology program. (Art. 9)

HF1498 (Leighton) Summer food service/breakfast outreach. (Art. 8)

HF1526 (Rest) Learning year revenue for 1/2 day kindergarten. (Art. 1)

HF1527 (Westrom) Restore fund balance reduction for Herman/Norcross. (Art. 1)

HF1573 (Folliard) Aquila Community Together Project. (Art. 7)

HF1607 (Carlson) Lifework learning centers — \$.

HF1652 (Ness) Modify secondary vocational ed aid. (Art. 3)

HF1660 (Evans) Funding to implement anti-discrimination policies. (Art. 7)

HF1669 (Wenzel) Grant for a mid-state education district. (Art. 4)

- HF1684 (Kelso) MN International Center — classroom connection. (Omnibus K-12 Finance Bill)
- HF1723 (Greiling) Gifted and talented programs. (Art. 5)
- HF1741 (Biernat) Crime prevention through plays and workshops. (Art. 7)
- HF1762 (Solberg) Joint library operations, Nashwauk and public library. (Art. 8)
- HF1813 (Paulsen) Project Protect. (Art. 7)
- HF1835 (Schumacher) Advanced placement. (Art. 5)
- HF1889 (Lieder) Pre-Labor Day school start — Crookston. (Art. 7)
- HF1916 (Entenza) Wilder St. Paul community school funding. (Art. 5)
- HF1923 (Sykora) Partners for quality improvement grants. (Art. 7)
- HF1934 (Kelso) Shared visions education finance bill. (Art. 5)
- HF1977 (Slawik) South Washington Co. education funding changes. (Art. 1)
- HF1998 (Mulder) Tuition payments for students in non-Minnesota schools. (Art. 4)
- HF2002 (Harder) Remote access program in Storden-Jeffers, Lamberton, Sanborn. (Art. 9)
- HF2003 (Bettermann) Minnesota School-to-Work. (Art. 3)
- HF2014 (Folliard) Exempt Hopkins from limits on participation and support. (Art. 4)
- HF2015 (Folliard) Family Connections Aid. (Art. 8)
- HF2021 (Carlson) Homework hotline. (Art. 5)
- HF2036 (Johnson A.) Telecommunications access grants. (Art. 9)
- HF2039 (Entenza) Urban educator program — DCFL. (Art. 5)
- HF2054 (Johnson, R.) Work-study tutoring in public schools. (Art. 3)
- HF2061 (Leighton) School-to-work/modify student participation. (Art. 3)
- HF2068 (Tunhiem) Regional ants. (Art. 9)
- HF2083 (Leighton) School-to-work/Lifework development. (Art. 3)
- HF2096 (Dorn) Work group on alternative school calendars. (Art. 7)
- HF2122 (Stang) Belgrade fund transfer. (Art. 7)
- HF2125 (Tomassoni) Media specialist for Nett Lake School District. (Art. 2)
- HF2126 (Tomassoni) Insurance/Unemployment comp grant for Nett Lake. (Art. 2)
- HF1267 (Osthoff)/SF1183 (Kelly) St. Paul Police and Fire Consolidation Accounts: limitations on reductions in certain survivor benefits. (Sec. 11)
- HF1640 (Harder)/SF1433 (Vickerman) PERA: treatment of privatized Jackson Medical Center-Tracy Hospital employees. (Secs. 16 and 18)
- HF883 (Stang)/SF626 (Fishbach) PERA; treatment of privatized Melrose Hospital-Pine Villa employees. (Sec. 17)
- HF73 (Rukavina)/SF51 (Janezich) Eveleth Police and Fire Post retirement increase. (Sec. 19)

Article 3: General Employee Retirement Modifications

- HF769 (Delmont)/SF717 (Metzen) Deferred Compensation Program: increase in investment options. (Secs. 1 to 3)
- HF1129 (Kahn)/SF995 (Morse) Teachers Retirement Association (TRA): revision of sabbatical leave contribution requirements. (Secs. 4 to 6)
- HF1130 (Kahn)/SF996 (Morse) Individual Retirement Account Plan (IRAP) and Higher Education Supplemental Plan: various administrative changes. (Secs. 7, 8, and 10)
- HF1128 (Kahn)/SF997 (Morse) Higher education supplemental plan revising contribution procedures. (Sec. 9)
- HF1127 (Kahn)/SF922 (Morse) IRAP: expansion of plan. (Secs. 10 to 17)

Article 4: Actuarial Assumption Modifications

The source was LCPR97-13

Article 5: Miscellaneous Provisions

- LCPR97-48, section 1)
- HF305 (Wagenius)/SF188 (Ranum) Minneapolis Teachers Retirement Fund Association (MTRFA): purchase of service credit by part-time teacher. (Sec. 2)

Article 6: Volunteer Fire Service Pension Maximums

- HF568 (Delmont)/SF466 (Terwilliger) Volunteer fire relief associations: increase in flexible service pension maximums.

Article 7: Retirement Coverage Modifications for Transferred University of Minnesota Academic Health Center Employees

- HF127 (Kahn)/SF922 (Morse) Retirement coverage modifications for transferred University of Minnesota Academic Health Center employees, as amended.

Article 8: General Statewide Employee Pension Plan Modifications

- HF1270 (Kahn)/SF1171 (Morse) TRA and IRAP: modification in reporting and remittance requirements. (Secs. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 9)
- HF1726 (Kahn)/SF1191 (Morse) MSRS general/pension coverage for seasonal revenue employees. (Secs. 3, 4, and 7)
- HF1765 (Jefferson)/SF1545 (Morse) Tax sheltered annuity programs; vendor qualifications. (Sec. 8)

Article 9: Pension Modifications with Local Application

- Amendment SCS0637A-1: Amortization aid following actuarial assumption change. (Sec. 1)
- HF1357 (Jefferson)/SF1099 (Pogemiller) Minneapolis Police Relief Association; unclaimed property dedication. (Secs. 2 and 3)
- HF752 (Tomassoni)/SF694 (Janezich) TRA; resetting retirement date for Hibbing High School teachers. (Sec. 4)

Government

As of May 2, 1997

Omnibus Retirement Bill SF995* (Kahn)

The following is a listing, by article, of the source bills as amended and contained in SF995, second engrossment. The sections indicated below refer to sections in SF995, second engrossment, in which the source bill, as revised by any amendments, appears.

Article 1: Police State Aid and Retirement Coverage Costs

- HF300 (Kahn)/SF163 (Pogemiller) Police State Aid Program

Article 2: Various Local Pension Modifications

- HF170 (McCollum)/SF34 (Wiger) Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA): excluding St. Paul School District pipefitters from PERA coverage. (Secs. 1, 8, and 12)
- HF907 (Garcia)/SF798 (Johnson, D.H.) Richfield Firefighters Relief Association: preconsolidation benefit improvement. (Secs. 2 to 6, 9 and 10, 13 and 14, and 19)
- HF1355 (Solberg)/SF1232 (Lessard) Nashwauk Trust Account: revisions of post-retirement adjustment authority. (Sec. 7)

Article 10: Investment Reporting Modifications

HF2041 (Ozment)/SF1793 (Morse) all funds; investment performance reporting.

Article 11: Correctional Retirement Plan Modifications

HF1249 (Murphy)/SF674 (Knutson) MSRS Correctional; inclusion of certain Red Wing service periods.

Article 12: Miscellaneous Provisions

HF1506 (Kahn)/SF1428 (Pogemiller) MSRS; exemption from re-employed annuitant limitations. (Sec. 1)

Amendment LCPR97-49; TRA; beneficiary designation change. (Sec. 2)

Amendment LCPR97-90; PERA; purchase of service for disabled St. Paul Parks and Recreation Division employee. (Sec. 3)

As of April 25, 1997

Omnibus State Government Finance Bill SF1905* (Rukavina)

HF120 (Kahn)/SF100 (Runbeck) Establishes Office of Technology.

HF188 (Long)/SF180 (Stumpf) Coxa Knutson (planning money only).

HF217 (Opatz)/SF820 (Hottinger) Land planning.

HF256 (Slawik)/SF447 (Frederickson) Department finance earnings reports.

HF285 (Delmont)/SF265 (Lesewski) Gambling Control Board account.

HF401 (Greiling)/SF742 (Marty) State employee parking fees (only a repealer of a statute left of the bill).

HF444 (McCollum)/SF445 (Metzen) Gulf War Veterans' bonus.

HF518 (Entenza)/SF292 (Junge) Sign language interpreters.

HF635 (Entenza)/SF428 (Kelley, S.P.) Only North Star II and IT Community Resource Development.

HF741 (McGuire)/SF502 (Betzhold) Data Privacy Advisory Council.

HF1000 (Long)/SF738 (Morse) Community-based planning.

HF1087 (Rukavina)/SF1008 (Marty) Prescription drug program.

HF1113 (Luther)/SF1061 (Scheid) Law Enforcement Web Network.

HF1221 (Kahn)/SFnone Changing membership of Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

HF1317 (Marko)/SF1122 (Flynn) Local government responsibilities advisory council established.

HF1320 (Jefferson)/SF1263 (Higgins) Restoration of WWII fighter plane honoring Tuskegee Airmen.

HF1374 (Stanek)/SF1117 (Kelley, R.C.) Wireless enhanced 911 service.

HF1399 (Milbert)/SFnone Ice rinks/Mighty Ducks.

HF1473 (Clark)/SF1363 (Hottinger) Corporate subsidy reform commission established.

HF1536 (Wagenius)/SF1639 (Beckman) Economic policy and strategic planning survey.

HF1563 (Garcia)/SF1563 (Wiger) STAR - handicapped/disabled.

HF1583 (Mullery)/SF1809 (Johnson, D.J.) Nellie Stone Johnson bust in Capitol.

HF1782 (Rukavina)/SF1696 (Metzen) Youth sports programs.

HF1793 (Kinkel)/SF1577 (Ten Eyck) Park Rapids Veterans' memorial.

HF1869 (Anderson, I.)/SF1851 (Anderson) LCC - Citizenship Program

HF1945 (Anderson, I.)/SF1752 (Lessard) Voyageur interpretive and conference center.

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6 A • Rep. Thomas Tom Bakk-DFL B • Rep. Thomas Huntley-DFL Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-DFL	20 A • Rep. Robert* Bob* Ness-R B • Rep. Tony Kielkucki-R Sen. Steve Dille-R	34 A • Rep. Steve Smith-R B • Rep. Todd Van Dellen-R Sen. Gen Olson-R	48 A • Rep. Bill Haas-R B • Rep. Alice M. Johnson-DFL Sen. Don Betzold-DFL	62 A • Rep. Lee Greenfield-DFL B • Rep. Wes Skoglund-DFL Sen. Carol Flynn-DFL
7 A • Rep. Willard Mungler-DFL B • Rep. Mike Soros-DFL Sen. Sam G. Solon-DFL	21 A • Rep. Marty Seifert-R B • Rep. Richard Mulder-R Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski-R	35 A • Rep. Carol L. Molnau-R B • Rep. Becky Kelso-DFL Sen. Claire Robling-R	49 A • Rep. Charlie Weaver-R B • Rep. Luanne Koskinen-DFL Sen. Leo Foley-DFL	63 A • Rep. Jean Wagenius-DFL B • Rep. Edwina Garcia-DFL Sen. Jane B. Ranum-DFL
8 A • Rep. Mary Murphy-DFL B • Rep. Bill Hilly-DFL Sen. Becky Lourey-DFL	22 A • Rep. Ted Winter-DFL B • Rep. Elaine Harder-R Sen. Jim Vickerman-DFL	36 A • Rep. Eileen Tompkins-R B • Rep. Dan McElroy-R Sen. David L. Knutson-R	50 A • Rep. Kathleen Sekhon-DFL B • Rep. Kathy Tinglestad-R Sen. Paula E. Hanson-DFL	64 A • Rep. Matt Entenza-DFL B • Rep. Michael Paymar-DFL Sen. Richard J. Cohen-DFL
9 A • Rep. Kevin Goodno-R B • Rep. Robert L. Bob Westfall-R Sen. Keith Langseth-DFL	23 A • Rep. Barb Vickerman-R B • Rep. Howard Swenson-R Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-R	37 A • Rep. Dennis Ozment-R B • Rep. Bill MacKlin-R Sen. Pat Pariseau-R	51 A • Rep. Mike Delmont-DFL B • Rep. Doug Swenson-R Sen. Jane Krentz-DFL	65 A • Rep. Andy Dawkins-DFL B • Rep. Carlos Mariani-DFL Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-DFL
10 A • Rep. Bud Nornes-R B • Rep. Hilda Bettermann-R Sen. Cal Larson-R	24 A • Rep. John Dorn-DFL B • Rep. Ruth Johnson-DFL Sen. John C. Hottinger-DFL	38 A • Rep. Tim Commers-R B • Rep. Tim Pawlenty-R Sen. Deanna Wiener-DFL	52 A • Rep. Salveer Chaudhary-DFL B • Rep. Geri Evans-DFL Sen. Steven G. Novak-DFL	66 A • Rep. Tom Osthoff-DFL B • Rep. Alice Hausman-DFL Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-DFL
11 A • Rep. Roxann Daggett-R B • Rep. Ken Otremba-DFL Sen. Dallas C. Sams-DFL	25 A • Rep. John Tuma-R B • Rep. Lynda Boudreau-R Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-R	39 A • Rep. Thomas W. Pugh-DFL B • Rep. Bob Milbert-DFL Sen. James P. Metzen-DFL	53 A • Rep. Phil Krinkle-R B • Rep. Sherry Broecker-R Sen. Linda Runbeck-R	67 A • Rep. Jim Farrell-DFL B • Rep. Steve Trimble-DFL Sen. Randy C. Kelly-DFL
12 A • Rep. Kris Hasskamp-DFL B • Rep. Stephen G. Wenzel-DFL Sen. Don Samuelson-DFL	26 A • Rep. Bob Gunther-R B • Rep. Henry J. Kalis-DFL Sen. Tracy L. Beckman-DFL	40 A • Rep. Mark P. Mahon-DFL B • Rep. Kevin Knight-R Sen. Dave Johnson-DFL	54 A • Rep. Mary Jo McGuire-DFL B • Rep. Mindy Greiling-DFL Sen. John Marty-DFL	List as of April 24, 1997
13 A • Rep. Torrey Westrom-R B • Rep. Doug Peterson-DFL Sen. Charles A. Berg-Ind	27 A • Rep. Ron Kraus-R B • Rep. Rob Leighton-DFL Sen. Pat Piper-DFL	41 A • Rep. Alice Seagren-R B • Rep. Ken Wolf-R Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-R	55 A • Rep. Harry Mares-R B • Rep. Betty McCollum-DFL Sen. Charles Wiger-DFL	
14 A • Rep. Steve Dehler-R B • Rep. Doug Stang-R Sen. Michelle L. Fischbach-R	28 A • Rep. Doug Reuter-R B • Rep. Steve Sviggum-R Sen. Dick Day-R	42 A • Rep. Ron Erhardt-R B • Rep. Erik Paulsen-R Sen. Roy W. Terwilliger-R	56 A • Rep. Mark Holsten-R B • Rep. Peg Larsen-R Sen. Gary W. Laidig-R	

Governor's Desk

CH86-CH122

Bills await governor's action

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
- do nothing, which results in the bill becoming law in the first year of the biennium. The timing of these actions is as significant as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is that the gover-

nor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each

house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Internet access to this information is available at:
<http://www.governor.state.mn.us> (select "legislative issues" folder)

Key:
CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
86	209*	210	Child placement provisions modifications.	5/6/97	
87	756*	691	State demographer population estimate procedures modified.	5/6/97	
88	810	839*	Employment search firm bond requirements modified.	5/6/97	
89	1144	951*	County boards authorized to assign duties of auditor and treasurer.	5/6/97	
90	1148	1037*	Scott County auditor appointment.	5/6/97	
91	1840	1669*	Benton County offices modification.	5/6/97	
92	890	890*	Motor vehicle broker regulation provided.	5/6/97	
93	1356	1155*	Mental health case management services.	5/6/97	
94	469	36*	Hospital districts authorized to provide services to persons not in need of nursing home care.	5/6/97	
95	311	574*	Disabled residents fishing license requirements exemption.	5/6/97	
96	5*	32	Stalking bill.	5/6/97	
97	694	512*	State employment provision modifications.	5/6/97	
98	182	351*	Legislative Coordinating Commission assigned responsibility for review of legislative reviews.	5/6/97	
99	1029	950*	Teacher background check working group recommendations adopted.	5/6/97	
100	246	513*	Nuisance acts definition expansion.	5/6/97	
101	1379	1146*	Duluth Miller-Dwan Medical Center non-profit corporation creation.	5/6/97	
102	861	662*	Volunteer psychology practitioner licensure requirements established.	5/6/97	
103	75	38*	Medical practice board records maintenance requirements.	5/6/97	
104	1118	413*	Municipal water use permit established.	5/6/97	
105	2129	1894*	Flood-related disaster relief provided and money appropriated.	5/6/97	
106	340	472*	Cigarette and tobacco products sales tax provisions recodification.	5/6/97	

*The legislative bill marked with an asterisk denotes the file submitted to the governor.

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
107	289	101*	Long-term care provisions modification.	5/6/97	
108	342	166*	Impounded motor vehicles sale waiting period reduction.	5/6/97	
109	664*	301	BWSR contributions acceptance authority expansion.	5/8/97	
110	1381	329*	Veterinary services lien provisions modified.	5/8/97	
111	713	525*	Wastewater treatment facility privatization ownership restrictions modified.	5/8/97	
112	1373	813*	Child custody transfer provided via consent decree.	5/8/97	
113	291	333*	Home care providers establishment.	5/8/97	
114	1243	1179*	Snow plowing vehicles seasonal over-width permits.	5/8/97	
115	1106	1693*	Employees exclusive representatives recognition.		
116	1078	854*	Displaced public employees' rights.		
117	630	683*	Self-insured employee benefit plan dissolution notification required.	5/8/97	
118	745	399*	Workforce service areas designation.	5/8/97	
119	1908	1165*	Tree planting stock production restricted.	5/8/97	
120	1702	741*	Respiratory care practitioners registration and regulation.	5/8/97	
121	1287	156*	Utility deposit interest payments regulated.	5/8/97	
122	932	536*	Public nuisance definition expanded.	5/8/97	

Do you know?

What a difference a decade or two makes. Royce Hanson's 1989 book, *Tribune of the People: The Minnesota Legislature and Its Leadership*, provides a look at the Legislature during the 1980s and offers a historical perspective. But the book also reveals how much things have changed in just 10 years.

Back then, for example, House members could eat and drink at their desks without restraint. Today, they use restraint.

But there are other fundamental changes that have forever altered the way lawmakers — and the lawmaking process — works.

Until the 1970s, only the speaker and majority leader had private offices. Each member's desk on the House floor served as his or her office, where they often met with constituents. In 1963, House Speaker Lloyd Duxbury closed the floor to visitors an hour before ses-

sion "to give members a little time free of interruptions," Hanson writes. Back then, formality was seen as obstructing expedience. Today, it's likely to be seen as promoting it.

Instead of the army of highly trained research analysts who today help draft most bills and attend every committee hearing, in the 1970s "there was no professional staff to assist members in drafting bills, conducting research, or serving constituents." Members used telephones from a bank in the hallway outside the chamber and shared a common secretarial pool. The revisor's office — which makes sure every bill says what it means and means what it says in the proper legalese — was adjacent to the Supreme Court. Today, the office and its 56 employees sit atop the State Office Building, and cover the entire seventh floor.

But perhaps the biggest change has

been in the lawmaking task itself, which has grown progressively more complex and the pace more frenzied since sessions became annual events with a 1972 constitutional amendment.

In the 1960s, when members met for three or four months every two years, legislative service could be viewed "as a regular but minor invasion of their work life," even for leadership. Today, members are more likely than ever before to consider legislative service a primary career.

In Hanson's book, the age of the "citizen legislature" was thought to be on the wane. It cited many retiring members who left the Legislature because of the increased workload and modest pay.

That trend may be continuing. In 1963, no House member professed to be a full-time legislator, the same as in 1973. In 1983, 11 said they were; today, 18 make that claim.

Bill Introductions

HF2185-HF2200

Friday, May 2

HF2186—Kalis (DFL)
Capital Investment

Bonding bill authorizing spending to acquire and better public land and buildings, capital improvements provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF2187—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Ways & Means

Flood relief provided, and flood victims' real estate and assets protected from creditors.

Monday, May 5

HF2188—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary

Civil commitment provisions modified related to release on pass for persons committed as mentally ill and dangerous.

HF2189—Olson, E. (DFL)
Taxes

Property tax abatements authorized for property that has lost value due

to flood damage, low-income housing credit priority established, and money appropriated.

HF2190—Marko (DFL)
Transportation & Transit

Transportation fund established for highway and transit capital purposes, motor fuel tax rates increased, terms defined, and constitutional amendment proposed.

Tuesday, May 6

HF2191—Molnau (R)
Transportation & Transit

Motor vehicle emissions inspection program repealed.

HF2192—Chaudhary (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Housing finance agency residential rehabilitation loan report required.

HF2193—Clark (DFL)
Ways & Means

Telephone assistance program expanded to include low-income fami-

lies with children, and voice mail assistance pilot programs established.

Thursday, May 8

HF2194—Chaudhary (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Fridley historical museum restoration provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2195—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

American Indian business loan revolving account established, and money appropriated.

HF2196—Munger (DFL)
Rules & Legislative Administration

State lottery dedication to Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund duration extended, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2197—Pawlenty (R)
Taxes

First income tax bracket rate reduced.

HF2198—Seifert (R)
Governmental Operations

English designated as the official state language.

HF2199—Huntley (DFL)
Education

Glensheen mansion in Duluth capital repairs provided, and money appropriated.

HF2200—Pugh (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Uniform commercial code information license regulation article adopted.

Coming Up Next Week . . . May 12 - 16, 1997

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change. For information updates, call House Calls at **(612) 296-9283**. All meetings are open to the public. Sign language interpreter services: **(612) 282-2331 v/tty**. To have the daily and weekly schedules delivered to your e-mail address, send a message to: listserv@hsched.house.leg.state.mn.us. In the body of the message type: **subscribe h-schedules**

MONDAY, May 12

9 a.m.

Subcommittee on Topic Selection/ Legislative Audit Commission
118 State Capitol
Chr. Sen. Deanna Wiener
Agenda: Review background papers prepared by staff and the results of the legislative interest survey.

9:30 a.m.

The House meets in session.

TUESDAY, May 13

8 a.m.

Ethics
500N State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Mary Murphy,
Rep. Tim Pawlenty
Agenda: Approval of committee rules.

9:30 a.m.

The House meets in session.

WEDNESDAY, May 14

9:30 a.m.

The House meets in session.

THURSDAY, May 15

9:30 a.m.

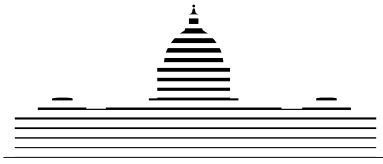
The House meets in session.

FRIDAY, May 16

9:30 a.m.

The House meets in session.

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<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>



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

Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota Tourism

Total tourism expenditures, nationwide, in billions, 1995	\$440
Annual economic impact of domestic and international tourism	
on Minnesota, in billions	\$8.7
Nationwide, travel and tourism jobs, in millions	6.6
Travel and tourism jobs in Minnesota	163,000
Tourism wages and salaries paid in Minnesota, in billions, 1995	\$3.5
Tax receipts, in millions	\$800
U.S. domestic visitors to and through Minnesota on business,	
in millions, 1995	4.2
Pleasure travelers, in millions	18.2
Rank of shopping among travel activities of Minnesota visitors	1
Rank of hunting, fishing, and hiking	2
Percent of Minnesota tourist dollars spent on lodging, 1995	29
Percent of tourist dollars spent on food	23
Nationwide, rank of tourism among retail sales industries	3
Bed and Breakfast operations in Minnesota, 1985	6
in 1996	200
Minnesota state parks	68
Visitors to those parks, 1996, in millions	8.4
International visitors to Minnesota, 1995	982,100
Number of those from Canada	574,000
Estimated number of visitors to the Mall of America, in millions, 1996	40
Percent of those visitors traveling more than 150 miles to get	
to the Megamall	39
National and international charter flights during the 1996 holiday season	
bearing Mall of America shoppers as part of a group tour	23
Number of Indian-run casinos in Minnesota	17
Rank of Mystic Lake Casino, among all Minnesota tourist attractions,	
in number of visitors, 1996	2
Millions of visitors to Mystic Lake, 1996	5.2
Visitors to all Minnesota casinos, 1996, in millions	19.6
Metrodome visitors, 1996, in millions	3

Source: 1997 *Minnesota Travel and Tourism Passport*, Minnesota Office of Tourism

For more information



For general information, call:
House Information Office
(612) 296-2146 or
1-800-657-3550

To obtain a copy of a bill, call:
Chief Clerk's Office
(612) 296-2314

To find out about bill introductions or
the status of a specific bill, call:
House Index Office
(612) 296-6646

For up-to-date recorded message
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Committee Hotline
(612) 296-9283



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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ May 16, 1997 ♦ Volume 14, Number 19



SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • May 16, 1997 • Volume 14, Number 19

Session Weekly is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1997-98 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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Update

A traditional rite of spring is the annual convergence on the State Capitol by thousands of sixth-graders who come to visit Minnesota's seat of government. At a time long forgotten, some teacher thought the trek to see government in action was a worthy activity; the plan soon spread to schools across the state. Now, during the closing days of the legislative session, the descent upon the Capitol can be overwhelming for those who work in the building, but it's satisfying to know that a unique learning experience is in progress.

Some visiting sixth-graders were students from Plainview Elementary near Rochester, and schools in the towns of Amboy, Brainerd, Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Menahga, Osakis, and as far away as Blackduck. In April 1997, 16,183 lively grade schoolers arrived by the yellow busloads, while another 22,000 eager youth will visit by the end of May.

Upon arrival, the grade schoolers bound up the 40 majestic granite steps of the statehouse where they are greeted on the first level by one of the 21 spirited tour guides. These dedicated souls work for the Minnesota Historical Society and greatly enjoy showing off the state's crown jewel of all its buildings.

The rotunda in the center of the 434-foot long edifice is their first stop on the whirlwind 45-minute tour. Here visitors are shown the brass and glass *L' Etoile du Nord* (Star of the North) state symbol in the floor. Around the periphery are favorite relics for sixth-graders. These are the battle flags of past wars, including one carried by the Minnesota 1st Regiment at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. Looking up, the school children can see the magnificent six-foot tall crystal chandelier with 92 light bulbs hanging from the inner dome, over 110 feet above their heads. (*See page 25.*)

The guides then take the exuberant visitors to the bust of Cass Gilbert, the visionary architect who designed the building. The guides note that Gilbert's use of 22 types of marble and other stone, and his strong sense of perspective, symmetry, and decor produced an elaborate design of visual harmony surpassed by only a few buildings in the country.

Grade schoolers are led to and up a unique free-standing marble staircase designed by Gilbert. On the second level, or "grand floor," they view the House and Senate chambers and move on to the Supreme Court ceremonial chamber on the east wing where, in past years, the ghostly likeness of a long since deceased Supreme Court justice was often sighted!

Another quick side trip takes the group to the third level (*see cover*) past the painting of a man with six toes; they climb a long flight of hidden stairs; then walk outside to get a close-up view of the highlight of their trip — the Golden Horses — some 104 feet above street level.

Many sixth-graders may not return to this priceless piece of history but they will remember how the guides, the lawmakers, and staff they met talked about Cass Gilbert and the Minnesota State Capitol with praise and wonderment.

—LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: As the end of session approaches, it is difficult to tell whether people are coming or going. The Capitol becomes a blur of activity.

—photo by Laura Phillips

Highlights

Youth and tobacco . . .

Penalties target sales to minors, punish retailers

By F.J. Gallagher

Minnesota teenagers should smoke 'em if they've got 'em, because under legislation passed by the House May 15, it will be a lot harder for youth to buy cigarettes.

"The one missing element in our law so far has been the responsibility of the retailer," **HF117** sponsor Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) said of the bill, which passed 86-46. "The retailers have been noticeably absent."

HF117, Rest said, would bring the retailers into the regulatory fold. The bill would require communities to license tobacco sellers and conduct at least one compliance check, or "sting" operation, on each license holder every year. In a "sting," someone between the ages of 15 and 18 years old would attempt to purchase cigarettes illegally under the direct supervision of the authorities.

The bill also prohibits the sale of cigarettes from vending machines, except for those in locations — such as a bar — where people under 18 are not allowed. It also bans the open display of single packages of cigarettes or smokeless tobacco in stores, except for those that derive at least 90 percent of their revenue from tobacco sales.

Under **HF117**, cigarette manufacturers would be required to disclose whether their product contains ammonia, arsenic, cadmium, formaldehyde, or lead.

The bill also spells out a number of administrative penalties that would be imposed on licensees and store clerks convicted of selling tobacco products to a teenager, in addition to similar provisions that would apply to the minor who attempted the purchase.

Any license holder convicted of a first offense would draw a \$75 fine. A second offense within a two-year period would cost the retailer \$200 and the third offense within the same period would warrant a \$250 penalty, plus a seven-day suspension of the tobacco license.

The clerk who sold the tobacco would receive a \$50 civil fine. (Clerks already face up to a year in jail and a \$3,000 criminal penalty for selling tobacco to a minor.)



A bill targeting youth access to tobacco passed the House May 15. The proposal would require communities to license tobacco sellers and conduct at least one compliance check, or "sting" operation, on each license holder every year. It also would — for the first time — punish store owners for tobacco sales to minors. Clerks and the buyers would face new fines as well.

Any juvenile found to have illegally purchased tobacco — a petty misdemeanor under the law — could receive a fine of up to \$100, a community service sentence, probation, or be required to participate in substance abuse programs. If the minor used a driver's license to commit the act, the license would be suspended for 90 days.

The proposal explicitly states that local governments may pass ordinances that are more strict than **HF117**. The bill would require tobacco retailers affected by such a proposal to be notified 30 days prior to any meeting on the possible changes.

Last session, a bill to limit youth access to tobacco was derailed by the same issue. After the House rejected a provision that would have prohibited local units of government from enacting tobacco sales ordinances tougher than those contained in the bill, it was pulled by its author and never resurfaced. So-called "pre-emption" laws of varying strengths already are on the books in more than two dozen states.

Although the **HF117** ultimately passed, its

approval was by no means a certainty. Many members rose to speak against the bill.

"How many people are we going to turn into criminals over a lousy cigarette?" asked Rep. Mike Osskopp (R- Lake City).

Indeed, **HF117** narrowly avoided being sent back to the conference committee that generated the version accepted by the House. A motion to reject the committee's report knotted the House on a 66-66 vote, and the measure failed.

The Senate must now adopt the conference committee's report, before the bill can be sent to Gov. Arne Carlson to be signed into law or vetoed.

Gubernatorial spokesman Brian Dietz said Carlson has not yet taken a position on the bill.

Look for a preliminary wrap up of the 1997 session in next week's issue of *Session Weekly*.



DWI

DWI bill clears House

House members voted May 12 in favor of a bill intended to save lives by getting tougher on alcohol-impaired drivers. The bill passed 98-35.

Sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), the most contested provision in **HF1004/SF985*** would lower the legal alcohol limit from the current 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent.

"We know we'll reduce the number of people in Minnesota who will die from drunk drivers," said Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake), adding that states that have lowered the limit have reduced alcohol-related traffic fatalities by 16 percent. He said that medical evidence shows many driving-related skills are affected at 0.08 percent, including steering, braking, and speed control.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (R-Virginia) said the bill will render otherwise lawabiding people criminals and cost the state large sums to arrest and prosecute drivers. "Quit doing bad things to good people," he said.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) said that the bill was "overkill" and offered an amendment to apply the 0.08 percent limit to repeat offenders only.

Entenza said that drivers who cause alcohol-related fatalities are overwhelmingly first-time offenders. Bishop's amendment failed on a 68-65 vote.

The bill's other major provisions would increase penalties for drunken driving, increase restrictions on teen drinking and driving, apply drunken driving restrictions to boats, increase the use of electronic alcohol monitoring for violators, and increase fines and penalties for driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.20 percent or higher.

As presented on the floor, the bill would have applied a 0.04 percent blood alcohol level to drivers under 21 years old. Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) successfully offered an amendment that would apply the 0.04 provision to 16-18 year olds only. While state law prohibits alcohol consumption by people under 21, the provision will lower the threshold at which DWI penalties will apply to young drivers.

The House also removed a provision that would have limited a suspect's right to request additional testing to determine blood alcohol content.

Last year in Minnesota police made 38,900 DWI arrests, a significant jump from the year before, when 33,355 arrests were made,

according to Alan Rodgers of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

A House Research Department report states that based on studies of other states, the lower level could save about 14 lives every year in Minnesota and about \$6.3 million in associated social costs.

If the bill becomes law, Minnesota will join 10 other states and nine countries with 0.08 limits. Seven countries set the limit at below 0.08.

The House research report states that the new limit would mean that a 175-pound man could drink three drinks per hour within the legal limit; the fourth would exceed it. A 130-pound woman could drink two drinks, but would reach a blood alcohol level of 0.077, bringing her closer to the limit than a man would be at three drinks.

Other factors will make a difference, such as the amount of food people eat and how quickly they drink.

Other provisions would apply a "not a drop" standard to school bus drivers, who would risk permanent job disqualification if found to have any alcohol in the blood stream while driving a bus. Current law sets the limit at 0.04 percent.

Further, the cost to have a driver's license reinstated after a suspension or revocation for any traffic offense would be increased from \$20 to \$25.25. For people convicted of DWI, the current \$260 fee would remain the same.

The bill will be heard next in a conference committee.



ELECTIONS

Pillows talk at the polls

People in some areas of Minnesota might want to carefully plan which room of the house should be the master bedroom. The decision could determine the location of their polling place.

According to a bill passed by the House May 6, if an individual's home lies in more than one precinct, the "official" one would be "the precinct in which a majority of the room in which the individual usually sleeps is located."

The provision has become necessary as more housing developments are being built on agricultural land which also serves to mark school district boundaries, according to Joe Mansky, director of the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State. No figures are available to determine the

number of people the provision would affect.

The bill (**HF127/SF72***), sponsored in the House by Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins), passed on a 123-8 vote.

In addition to many technical changes, the bill would require courts to provide the secretary of state's office with the names of convicted felons (who are ineligible to vote), and of those whose voting rights have been restored after having served sentences for felony crimes. The state currently has no record-keeping capacity to keep track of such convicts.

The bill also provides that all candidates for county sheriff must be licensed peace officers. Under current law, candidates are obligated only to complete basic police training courses before serving or running.

The bill now goes to the governor.

Caucuses: lowering the age

Many laws directly affect the lives of minors, but only people 18 and older have a say in their making.

HF703/SF1170*, sponsored by Rep. Andy Dawkins, (DFL-St. Paul) would open part of the elections process to 17-year-olds. The bill passed the House May 14 on a 68-64 vote.

Under the proposal, anyone who is 17 years old at the time of precinct caucuses could participate as a delegate or voter. The bill stipulates that the young people must be enrolled in school at the time of the caucus and live within the precinct. "This is a baby step toward voting," Dawkins said. "We're not going to open the general elections to 17-year-olds."

The change would be at the option of the local political party organizing the caucus. "The bill doesn't make it mandatory, but permits each local unit of government to choose whether it wants to open the caucus" to certain minors, he said. "The best reason I can give for the bill is that we really need to have a cross-generational dialogue about the democratic process."

Dawkins said the measure is a way to encourage and nurture the interest of young people in the political process.

The bill now returns to the Senate.

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Public Information Office at
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Campaign limits

The House passed a bill May 13 that would add to and clarify limits on campaign contributions. The vote was 128-3.

In addition to existing law which prohibits candidates from collecting more than \$300 in contributions from any one source during an election year, the new language adds that a candidate's committee is under the same prohibition. (For candidates whose territory has more than 100,000 people, the limit is \$500.) Previous law did not specify that committees were subject to the limits. The change is intended to control the influence of special interests on elected public officials.

In floor action, the bill was amended to add that legislators who are running for other offices, whether local or federal, may not solicit or accept contributions from lobbyists during a regular session of the Legislature.

HF1463/SF1255*, sponsored in the House by Rep. Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington), is now headed for conference committee debate.

Keeping track of voters

Under a bill passed by the House May 14, the U.S. Postal Service will provide the Office of the Secretary of State with the names of people who file permanent change of address orders. The secretary of state's office and county auditors will use the data to keep their records current and to accurately direct voters to polling places.

About once a month the postal service would provide the secretary of state's office with the lists. The office would provide the information to county auditors, who would send registered voters the location of their new polling places.

The intent of the bill is to improve record-keeping as well as to encourage voting.

About 25,000 Minnesotans change residences each year. At present, the secretary of state's office has no way of tracking them.

HF294/SF73*, sponsored by Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins), now heads back to the Senate.



ENERGY

Biomass and wind power

A bill passed by the House May 14 would remove a hurdle that energy-producing facilities normally face before they can start doing business. The vote was 111-20.

The facilities in this case are wind and biomass plants. **HF1508/SF1328***, sponsored by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls), would remove the requirement that the plant owners obtain costly and time-consuming certificates of need — proof that the state needs the facility — before they can be built. The certificate process usually takes 18 months to three years.

According to Rep. Loren Jennings, (DFL-Harris), not only does the state want to encourage the wind and biomass energy industry, it has mandated that a major en-

ergy buyer in the state, Northern States Power Co. (NSP), purchase a specified amount of energy from those sources. That means without the new provision, the state would be requiring a certificate of need from the same business the state already has mandated that NSP buy from.

The bill also gives the Public Utilities Commission regulatory authority over the biomass and wind energy purchases made by a utility company.

Lastly, the bill requires the Department of Agriculture to study funding mechanisms to make biomass energy projects more viable. The study would look at tax exempt bonds, public and private financing, the development of an authority to facilitate investment, and credit payments, according to the bill.

As initially introduced by Kubly, the bill would have gone much further. The state would have helped fund the Minnesota Agri-Power project, a public/private partnership which Kubly said would have been the largest biomass energy project in the world. The project would have created a 75-megawatt energy-generating plant in Granite Falls, Minn. The energy would have been produced by burning alfalfa stems and other biomass products to create a gas for fuel. Those provisions failed in committee.

The bill now awaits the governor's signature.



ENVIRONMENT

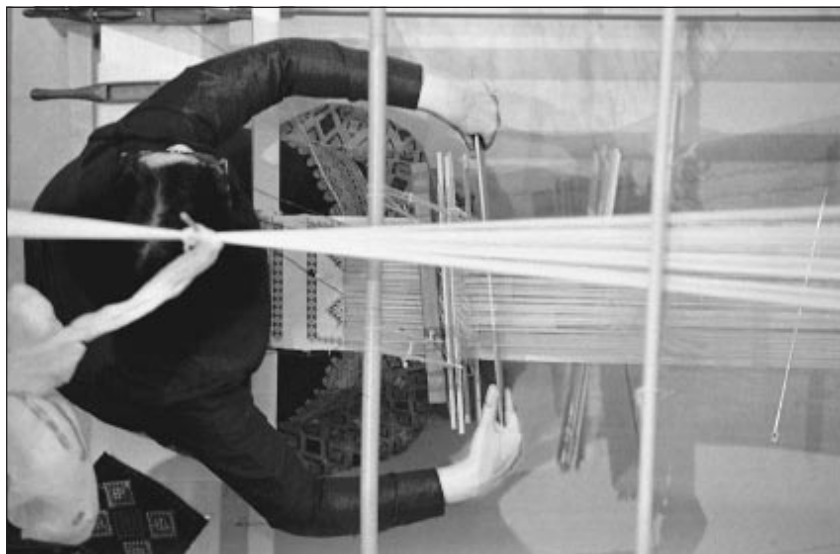
Lottery environment funding

The bill extending the state lottery's revenue dedication to the Environmental Trust Fund now moves to the House floor following its May 15 approval by the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

HF113, sponsored by Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), would extend the dedication of 40 percent of net lottery proceeds to the trust fund for environmental projects until the year 2020. Under the Minnesota Constitution, that dedication is set to expire in 2000. The bill also would allow up to 25 percent of the annual revenues deposited in the fund to be used for land acquisition and development until 2020.

According to a report from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), the lottery has contributed \$149 million to the Environmental Trust Fund since it began in 1991. The fund is currently worth about \$140 million. The LCMR projects it will reach \$1 billion in assets by

Weaving master



Looking down from the second floor of the Capitol rotunda, master weaver Bounxou Chanthraphone, of Minneapolis, talked with visitors as she worked at her loom May 9 during Asian Heritage Month Day on the Hill.

2016. To date, the trust fund has contributed approximately \$60.5 million to 87 environmental projects. Forty more projects are proposed for 1998-99, which would increase total trust fund expenditures to about \$81 million.

HF113 has had a long and torturous road through the legislative process this year. Changes made to the original bill led Munger to withdraw the proposal on two occasions, stalling its progress for weeks. When the bill reached the House Ways and Means Committee last week, House Minority Leader Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) introduced an amendment guaranteeing citizens “the privilege to take game and fish.”

Like the Munger bill, the Sviggum proposal would be a constitutional amendment requiring voter approval.

Questioned about what problem his amendment would solve, Sviggum indicated that while hunting and fishing, some sports enthusiasts have been accosted by animal rights activists seeking to interfere with these activities. Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) added that trapping rights had been restricted by law in recent years.

The Sviggum amendment was approved by the Ways and Means Committee May 14 but was removed by the House rules committee the next day.

Sviggum said he introduced his amendment because he had been unable to get a hearing on the issue in the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee, which Munger chairs. Munger promised May 15 to give the hunting and fishing rights proposal a hearing in his committee next year.

HF113 now goes to the house floor.



FAMILY

Early childhood funding

New laws requiring welfare parents to work are expected to move another 12,500 Minnesota children into day care over the next few years. To prepare for that onslaught, a bill awaiting the governor’s signature sets aside a record \$200.4 million.

The measure also would pay some parents to stay at home with their newborns for the first year of life.

In all, the omnibus early childhood and family education bill (**HF2147*/SF1858**) would spend \$393.6 million over the state’s 1998-1999 two-year budgeting period.

In addition to child care, the bill appropriates money for programs such as early child-

hood education, community education, after school programs, adult basic education, Head Start, food shelves, and homeless shelters.

Sponsored by Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) and Sen. Pat Piper (DFL-Austin), a compromise version of the bill passed the House May 12 by a vote of 123-10, and the Senate May 13 by a vote of 65-0.

Providing the dollars for child care is in the state’s best interest, lawmakers say. Under a new federal welfare law, states are punished for not moving their welfare parents to work. Specifically, Minnesota could lose millions in federal aid. Logically, if Minnesota expects its welfare parents to work, child care assistance is essential.

Part of the \$200.4 million for child care — \$99 million — would pay for the child care needs of welfare parents now required to work under federal law.

About \$92.5 million would be placed into an existing program that helps low- and moderate-income working families pay for child care using an income-based, sliding-fee scale. There are currently about 5,600 Minnesota families on a waiting list for the Basic Sliding Fee program. The money in the bill is expected to eliminate most, if not all, of the waiting list.

The Basic Sliding Fee program has become a vital part of the state’s effort to trim its welfare rolls. Without the program, the cost of child care can often push a working-poor family onto welfare.

A portion of the money set aside for the Basic Sliding Fee program would pay for a provision that encourages stay-at-home parenting for some working-poor families. In effect, it would pay parents on the Basic Sliding Fee child care program to stay at home with their child for the first year of life.

Eligible families already would have had to qualify for the Basic Sliding Fee program. They’d receive 75 percent of the average cost of licensed family home day care for an infant in their county. The bill instructs the Department of Children, Families and Learning to begin the program by July 1, 1998.

Another \$7.7 million in the bill would go toward child care development grants and would be spent to encourage more people to enter the child care profession by offering forgivable loans for course work and training. A portion of the money also would be used to expand child care facilities.

And finally, the remaining \$1 million would be used to administer the programs.

Below is a listing of some of the bill’s highlights.

- A mandatory \$5 monthly co-payment for

families using state-subsidized child care. Families with incomes between 75 and 100 percent of the federal poverty level would be required to make a \$5 co-payment each month, regardless of how many children they have. For a family of two, 75 percent of the poverty level equals \$7,957 and 100 percent equals \$10,610. The co-payments would increase based on income for families earning more than 100 percent of the poverty level.

- \$29.7 million over the two-year budgeting period would pay for a program that bring babies and toddlers together with their parents to learn about a child’s emotional, physical, mental, and educational development. The Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program is a 23-year-old program designed for children from birth to kindergarten and their parents.
- \$2 million for a newly created early childhood infant grant development program. It would provide money to local ECFE programs that come up with creative ways to focus on infant development and a parent’s role in stimulating and nurturing their infant’s intellectual and emotional development.
- \$9.8 million would pay for after-school enrichment programs. Grants are provided to select neighborhoods so they may offer after-school programs for 9- to 13-year-olds. The program’s purpose is to reduce juvenile crime, school suspensions, and increase student achievement.
- \$37.5 million would pay for Head Start. Head Start is a federal/state program that provides low-income preschool children with emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological services.
- \$25 million would pay for adult basic education over the biennium. The program provides educational opportunities for adults with low educational levels. Services include literacy training, work force education, and General Educational Development (GED) preparation.
- \$2.5 million would pay for Minnesota food shelves. The increase is in anticipation of an even greater demand on food shelves this spring when many of Minnesota’s poor will see a cut in their federal food stamps.

Send e-mail comments regarding *Session Weekly* to: session@house.leg.state.mn.us

We thank you for your input.

The editors



GAMBLING

All in good fun

The House passed a bill May 12 that would let social organizations continue to host card games and distribute prizes without being subject to gambling restrictions. The vote was 119-12.

HF613/SF566*, sponsored by Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul), would allow tournaments or contests involving social skill games — including cribbage, skat, sheephead, bridge, euchre, pinochle, gin, 500, smear, and whist — as long as the events do not provide direct financial benefit to the host organization, and the sum of all prizes does not exceed \$200. The games in question are generally held at VFW posts, American Legion halls, Moose and Elk lodges, Knights of Columbus halls, and senior citizen centers. Often, a fee is charged for participation in the games, and the winner or winners in the games may win part of the door fee.

“As we’ve developed statutes and laws to prohibit illegal gambling, we’ve inadvertently wiped out social card games,” said Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington), who chaired the Subcommittee on Gambling of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee. He said the committee’s task was to formulate a bill that would allow the games to continue without expanding gambling law.

Another provision would increase by 5 percent the amount that organizations that host legal gambling, such as bingo, can claim as expenses. Current law says that 60 percent of the gross profits from bingo and 50 percent from other legal gambling can be claimed for expenses. The bill would raise the amounts to 65 percent and 55 percent, respectively.

Lastly, the bill would ease up on owners of premises where illegal gambling has taken place. Before the owner’s permit could be revoked, the Gambling Control Board would have to prove that the owner knew the unlawful activity was going on.

The bill now awaits the governor’s signature.



GOVERNMENT

Flood aid

A new state law, effective May 7, provides \$21 million in relief for victims of the flooding throughout Minnesota, but most lawmakers agree the state eventually will have to do more.

The law will draw funds from the state’s \$522 million budget reserve for flood relief

Peace Officer Day



Ann Woods, of Minnesota Pipes and Drums May 15 played a bagpipe processional with members of the Minnesota Law Enforcement Honor Guard to open the House floor session and honor peace officers killed or wounded in the line of duty.

and will temporarily lift some bureaucratic regulations to ease relief efforts. Gov. Arne Carlson signed the measure May 6.

Under the law, \$20 million goes to the Department of Public Safety for distribution to counties, cities, and towns affected by the flood. The money can be used for costs associated with flooding, including their use as matching funds to receive federal emergency relief aid.

Another \$1 million is earmarked to help state agencies deal with expenses related to flood relief efforts.

A variety of state agency rules and fees will be waived to speed flood relief efforts. The bill also will provide an adjustment in state aid to help school districts affected by the flood.

It’s still unclear what the total price tag will be to clean up and repair the many homes, businesses, and schools damaged by the disastrous flooding this spring along the Minnesota and Red rivers.

Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison) and Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) sponsored the \$21 million flood

relief measure in the Legislature. (See May 2, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 11)

HF2129/SF1894*/CH105



HEALTH

MinnesotaCare money cut

Although a bill moving through the House would expand the number of people eligible for MinnesotaCare, a state-subsidized health insurance program for the poor, it may be an increase in theory only.

The House May 2 cut MinnesotaCare’s funding in half. The vote was 125-6.

Under the bill (**HF1441/SF1208***), the 2 percent tax on hospitals, doctors, and other health care providers used to pay for MinnesotaCare would be cut to 1 percent.

That cut, according to bill sponsor Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), would cause MinnesotaCare to be “deeply in the red” in four years. His proposal would have cut the tax to 1.5 percent.

At 1.5 percent, Greenfield said, doctors and hospitals see a tax break, and there is still enough money left over to welcome more people into the program. There’s even enough to create new prescription drug coverage for low-income seniors who need help with medication costs and earn less than \$9,468 per year (or 120 percent of the federal poverty level).

As the bill now stands, he said, there’s not enough money — not enough to welcome more poor people, not enough for senior drug coverage, and possibly not enough for those currently on MinnesotaCare. It is estimated that MinnesotaCare would have an \$89 million deficit by 2001 if current enrollment is not cut.

Greenfield said he hopes to restore some of the cut when the bill goes to a conference committee to work out differences between the House and Senate versions. The Senate bill would cut the tax to 1.75 percent.

Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth) sponsored the amendment to cut the tax to 1 percent and said that talk of impending drastic cuts to the program was simply untrue.

A separate amendment by Rep. Kevin Knight (R-Bloomington) eliminated dentists from the list of health care providers required to pay the MinnesotaCare tax. Based on a 1 percent tax, that would slash about \$30 million by 2001 from the program.

MinnesotaCare is a state-subsidized insurance plan created in 1992 to extend health insurance coverage to the uninsured. The program serves about 97,000 people who pay premiums based on income and co-

payments for some services. Currently, (depending on their income), single people, couples without children, and families with children younger than 21 are covered.

Specifically, **HF1441/SF1208*** would affect single people and couples without children. It would increase the annual income limits of those two groups to 175 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$13,807 for single people and \$18,567 for couples without children. The current income limit is 135 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$10,651 and \$14,323, respectively. An additional 12,000 people are expected to join MinnesotaCare as a result of the expanded eligibility.

But at the same time MinnesotaCare would welcome more poor people, it also would set an asset limit on new applicants. The program would be limited to families with less than \$30,000 in assets and individuals with less than \$15,000 in assets. The asset test would exclude a home and personal items and is expected to eliminate some 4,000 to 5,000 people from the program.



LABOR

Minimum wage hike

By a vote of 90-43, the House passed legislation May 14 that would raise the pay of Minnesota's minimum-wage workers.

Under **HF892**, the minimum wage for employees of large businesses (those with annual gross sales in excess of \$500,000) would rise to \$5.15 per hour. Workers at smaller companies would have to be paid at least \$4.90 per hour. The bill would take effect Sept. 1.

Currently in Minnesota, there are three separate minimum wage levels. Businesses with more than \$362,500 in annual sales must pay their workers at least \$4.25 an hour, while companies with lesser sales must pay a minimum of \$4 per hour. A federally mandated \$5-per-hour minimum wage affects only those businesses with annual gross sales in excess of \$500,000. The federal level will increase to \$5.15 on Sept. 1.

"The fact of the matter is," Rukavina said of **HF892**, "this will bring an increase in wages to a number of Minnesotans."

Several members who argued against **HF892** pointed out that Gov. Arne Carlson will most likely veto the bill because it does not contain a tip credit that would allow employers to count a portion of an employee's gratuities toward the minimum wage. Moreover, said Rep. Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), **HF892** lacks a so-called "opportunity wage."

Intellectual athletes



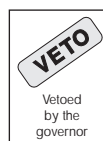
House members acknowledged the accomplishments of the Bloomington Jefferson High School State Academic Decathlon Champions after they were introduced by Rep. Alice Seagren May 14. Team members include seniors (left to right) Christine Chamberlain, Nick Stukas, Melitta George, David Prestwood, Joshua Dorothy and Coach Adviser Keith Levinsk. Team members not present include Mike Mondelli, Dan Buechler and Nathan Morales. The team placed 17th in the nation in an academic competition in St. George, Utah.

With an "opportunity wage," employers could pay a worker under 20 years of age \$4.25 an hour for the first 90 days on the job.

HF892 heads now to the governor's desk.

The governor vetoed a minimum wage increase in 1994 and in 1996. The bill never made it to the governor's desk in 1995.

Government worker protection



A bill detailing the rights of employees when local governments consolidate and must issue layoffs was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson May 9.

The bill would have allowed displaced local government employees to remain with their original employer if the employees had seniority rights under a union contract. It also would have required that new service providers hire — in order of seniority — from those being laid off by the local government unit.

"This bill is nothing more than a state mandate dictating how local governments should handle labor relations," Carlson wrote in his veto message. "It mandates a series of personnel policies which should be left to the local management process or collective bargaining."

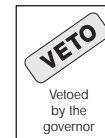
Carlson said the bill might have prevented the hiring of employees based on qualifications and forced local governments to hire more employees than needed. State micromanagement of public employee relations could threaten innovation and con-

solidation of services, Carlson said.

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids) and Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls).

HF1078/SF854*/CH116

Union sign-up recognition



A bill that would have allowed public sector employees to unionize without holding elections was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson May 9.

The bill would have required public sector employers to recognize and the commissioner of the state Department of Labor and Industry to certify an employees' union once the union had signed up 60 percent of the work force.

Current state law requires that workers select a union through a secret ballot election process.

In his veto message Carlson wrote that the bill would "irreparably harm the relationship between public employees and management."

He added that "the certification election process now in place ensures that public employees are guaranteed a fair procedure free of intimidation and coercion when deciding upon their right to organize. This bill would upset these existing safeguards."

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato).

HF1106/SF1693*/CH115



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Minneapolis construction



Gov. Arne Carlson struck down legislation May 13 that would have allowed Minneapolis to maintain its own licensing program for building contractors and remodelers through 2005.

The Legislature enacted a statewide licensing procedure for contractors in 1991 that supersedes the local requirements. The Minneapolis program is set to expire in 2000.

“Any advantages of a distinct licensure program by Minneapolis are greatly outweighed by the needless duplication inherent within such a parallel arrangement,” Carlson wrote in a letter announcing his veto decision. “Moreover, a unique licensure program could give unfair advantage to a certain group of building contractors and remodelers.”

Minneapolis officials, including Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, had testified before the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee that the state’s licensing procedure did not provide adequate protection for residents, given the advanced age of much of the city’s housing stock.

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls).

HF970/SF868*/CH146



RETIREMENT

Pension veto



A largely technical bill addressing the pensions of public employees from firefighters to pipefitters was vetoed May 13 by Gov. Arne Carlson.

Carlson agreed that most of the bill, which exceeds 100 pages, addressed “genuine needs and resolve[d] serious problems in the pension and retirement policy area.” But he cited four specific trouble spots with the measure:

- First, the bill creates a problem by extending state pension coverage to seasonal employees of the Department of Revenue. Carlson said the move would cost the state \$91,000 annually, and the bill provides no funding;
- Second, it allows employees of the Minnesota Zoological Garden, the Lola and Rudy Perpich Center for Arts Education, and the state academies for the blind and deaf to

develop individual retirement account plans, rather than have their pensions controlled by the Minnesota State Retirement System. Carlson said the move would “destabilize the funding of defined benefit plans”;

- Third, the bill moves certain control of appropriations relating to state police and fire aid from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Finance. Since the revenue department administers both programs, the appropriation authority should remain there, Carlson said.
- And finally, it allows a part-time teacher in Minneapolis to make a lump sum back payment to cover a period of time when no retirement contributions were made. While admitting the provision held no cost for the state, Carlson objected, saying it “could apply to many members and should be thoroughly examined before this policy is created.”

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Steve Morse (DFL-Dakota).

HF1129/SF995*/CH139



TECHNOLOGY

Electronic signatures

The House brought Minnesota businesses one step closer to the digital age May 14, approving a bill that would give electronic signatures the full force of legal protection. The vote was 95-38.

“This is something that our banks and our insurance companies . . . and anybody who is going to compete worldwide . . . is going to need,” Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) said of **HF56/SF173***, known as the Minnesota electronic authentication act.

HF56/SF173*, sponsored in the House by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) and modeled after a law set to take effect in Washington state in January 1998, allows for the full authentication of documents transmitted between computers. The process relies on a set of two cryptographic key codes built around one-of-a-kind mathematical formulas known as algorithms. One key, held privately by the user, encodes documents with a digital signature; the other is held in trust by a public certification authority and used by recipients to verify an encoded document’s integrity.

The bill defines the rules of the digital authentication system and mandates that the secretary of state set up a transitional public certification authority until private

sector firms, which would be licensed and regulated by the secretary’s office, can step in and take over the verification process. **HF56/SF173*** also spells out the range of liability assumed by the system’s subscribers and provides penalties for acts of fraud.

Perhaps most importantly, Kahn said, the entire electronic signature system would remain voluntary. Businesses would not be required to participate. Moreover, the state would not assume any financial burden because the cost of doing business would be assumed by the private sector firms — who could set whatever price the market could bear — when they take over as certification authorities.

Kahn estimated that July 1998 would be the earliest the system could go on-line.

House members, though, did not approve the bill without questioning the degree of security provided by the encryption codes.

“With all the hackers we have out there, I’m a little concerned” about the increased potential for fraud, said Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland).

It seems, she continued, that every time a bold, new technological innovation comes along, some ne’er-do-well rises to the challenge and finds a way to beat the system.

Other representatives felt the bill linked the process to technology that may be state-of-the-art today, but obsolete a couple of years from now.

“Couldn’t we just wait and not jump too quickly?” asked Rep. Jim Rostberg (R-Isanti), adding that perhaps a study of the issue might be more prudent.

Both concerns, Kahn said, would be addressed by the private sector firms as they keep abreast of the developing technology.

HF56/SF173* awaits Gov. Arne Carlson’s signature.



TRANSPORTATION

Transportation bill passes

The omnibus transportation finance bill was given final approval by the House May 13. The vote was 100-30.

The bill (**SF1881**), which appropriates \$3 billion in state dollars for roads, bridges, transit, aviation, and public safety over the next two years, now goes to the governor.

Funding for 29 additional state troopers was taken out in conference and is missing from the final bill. Gov. Arne Carlson had requested additional troopers in his transportation budget proposal. (Carlson refused to enact a proposed speed limit increase last

year because funding for new troopers was missing.)

Also gone is a repeal of state authority to build toll roads. The Legislature created the toll road authority only four years ago as a possible means to pay for the ever-rising cost of highway construction, but has yet to use it. Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), had wanted to remove the state's toll road authority out of concern that Highway 212 in his district would be converted to a pay-to-drive road.

A provision requiring that freeway motorists use the left lane only for passing was also removed in conference.

(See April 18, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 15 and April 25, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 15.)

Transit

The Metropolitan Council, which runs the metropolitan area's public transportation system, would receive \$100.7 million. Of that money, \$2 million would go to help people leaving welfare obtain work-related transportation, and \$34.6 million would go to Metro Mobility, which provides rides to approximately 25,000 metropolitan-area people with disabilities. The bill also requires a study of coordinating public transit and school transportation in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

A total of \$27 million would go to assist transit programs in Greater Minnesota. An additional \$925,000 is appropriated to help economically disadvantaged people outside the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area with work-related transportation.

Road and bridge construction

State road construction projects would receive \$1.6 billion for the next two years. Local roads would get \$841.6 million in state aid.

Public safety

The bill calls for \$102.9 million in spending for the Minnesota State Patrol. (The governor refused to enact a speed limit increase called for by lawmakers in 1996 because funding for new troopers was missing.)

Also included is \$2.1 million for computer-aided dispatching and records management, and \$1.7 million to install video cameras in state patrol vehicles. Another \$69.5 million would go to the department's Driver and Vehicle Services Division over the next biennium. Also, \$2.6 million would go to the Department of Public Safety and the Minnesota Safety Council for various public safety programs.

Aviation

The bill appropriates \$36.3 million for air transportation programs, including \$26 million for airport development and assistance. Other funds support the Civil Air Patrol and provide general support for aviation in the state.

Railroads and waterways

A total of \$3.9 million would go to fund rail and water transportation. This includes a \$1 million study to look at using existing freight railroad corridors for a commuter rail service in the metropolitan area.

New Laws

Statewide testing



Gov. Arne Carlson signed legislation into law May 12 that will require uniform, statewide testing of virtually all Minnesota public school students.

The new law, effective May 13, will require uniform statewide testing of third-, fifth-, and eighth-graders beginning in the 1997-1998 school year and a new brand of assessment of students at the high school level beginning no later than the 1999-2000 school year.

Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), who sponsored the measure in the House, said the tests will be an integral part of the state's move toward an education system that demands schools and students be more accountable for taxpayer funds invested in education.

Statewide testing had been a controversial issue at the Capitol in years past, but this year it drew bipartisan support. Proponents claim such testing would provide a reliable means for comparing the performance of schools and districts.

The first law passed during the 1997 session (**HF1*/SF3/CH1**) mandated that statewide testing would begin during the 1997-1998 school year. The latest statewide testing law prescribes how that testing system will work.

Under the law, the basic skills tests in reading and math — already required under the state's graduation rule and first given to students in the eighth grade — will count as the statewide tests for that age group.

Third- and fifth graders will be given tests selected by the Department of Children, Families and Learning. The department can

use a test it has developed or a nationally recognized test such as the California Achievement Test or the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. Any test used in the statewide testing system will have to be aligned with the state's graduation standards.

The new law also asks districts to assess the performance of students at the secondary level according to the standards within the Profile of Learning, a state-developed system of measurements of overall student performance, and a part of the newly developed graduation standards.

The law calls for the assessment of secondary students to begin during the 1999-2000 school year, but it leaves the choice of testing instruments and processes to the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

The commissioner is required to report to the Legislature in 1998 on plans for assessment at the high school level.

The law allows only narrow exceptions to the statewide testing requirements. For example, students who are new to this country and are not proficient in English will be exempt.

Another provision in the law requires that the 1997-1998 test results from each school and each district be used to establish a baseline against which their future performance could be measured.

Test results will be reported to the public in three forms: a raw number representing the mean score for each school and district, a mean score of all students except those who are new to a school or district, and a mean score of all students except those receiving limited English proficiency instruction.

The results released to the public also will include the number of students on free and reduced-price lunch programs, the number of special education students, and the number of students with limited English proficiency at each site.

Sen. Larry Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2179*/SF1934/CH138

Helping dairy farmers



Gov. Arne Carlson signed a resolution April 21 asking the federal government to provide relief for Minnesota dairy farmers who are currently feeling a financial squeeze.

The resolution — to be sent to Congress, the president, and the Department of Agriculture — asks for changes in the federal milk pricing system.

Minnesota dairy farmers have seen a significant drop in the prices they get for their products, while the state's consumers continue to pay exceptionally high retail prices for milk.

Low prices paid to farmers are driving them out of the dairy business, according to supporters of the resolution. The state is losing an average of three dairy operations a day.

Currently, the Minnesota dairy industry generates \$3.5 billion in annual gross revenue and employs about 39,000 people.

The resolution calls for an end to a pricing system that is "profoundly unfair and discriminatory against Minnesota and Upper Midwest dairy producers."

It also requests that Minnesota and neighboring states be allowed to form a compact to guarantee dairy farmers a fair minimum price if a similar compact already formed by northeastern states is allowed to stand.

The resolution was sponsored by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples).

HF1067*/SF1283/Res. 2

Stop luring businesses



Gov. Arne Carlson signed a resolution April 26 asking the federal government to put a stop to practices that allow states to lure businesses, including professional sports franchises, away from other

states.

The resolution states that business incentive programs have resulted in counterproductive economic competition between states that saps the nation's readiness to compete in a global economy.

Ranking high among the list of concerns included in the resolution is the practice of using public resources to lure professional sports teams away from other states. Major League Baseball's exemption from federal anti-trust laws is another.

"States in aggregate would be better off providing a less burdensome tax climate for all businesses and a quality education system" rather than frittering away money to attract individual companies, the resolution states.

The resolution calls for Congress to repeal the anti-trust exemption for professional baseball and to take other steps to mitigate economic competition between states.

The resolution will be sent to members of Minnesota's congressional delegation and other officials in Congress. Also, it will go to governors and legislative leaders in each state.

Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud) and Sen. Arlene Lesewski (R-Marshall) sponsored the resolution.

HF538*/SF1239/Res. 1

Earth Day



Gov. Arne Carlson signed a resolution April 29 asking the U.S. Congress to recognize Earth Day as a national day of service and education.

The resolution, which also establishes Earth Day as a state day of service and education, requires the secretary of state to transmit the state's wishes to the president and leaders in Congress.

Earth Day, which falls on April 22, has been celebrated informally by environmentally concerned citizens since the spring of 1970, when environmental leaders staged a nationwide "teach-in."

The day is often marked with volunteer environmental cleanup efforts and public education programs. Earth Day has now gone international with programs planned in several countries.

Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) sponsored the resolution in the House and Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township) was the Senate sponsor.

HF1692*/SF1342*/Res. 4

Strawberry fields



A resolution calling for better treatment of California strawberry workers has been signed by the governor.

Strawberry workers, represented by the United Farm Workers Union, are conducting a national campaign to call attention to their plight. The typical strawberry worker earns about \$8,500 per season for working as many as 12 hours a day, stooped over the low berry plants.

Despite record production levels and sales revenue of \$650 million per year in the strawberry industry, most workers have not had a significant raise in 10 years.

According to the resolution, workers also claim a variety of workplace abuses including: demand for sexual favors in exchange for employment; hiring and firing on whim; lack of fresh water and clean toilet facilities; and lack of health care in an occupation that exposes them to hazardous pesticides and chronic back injuries.

Strawberry workers who have struggled to

change these practices and organize a union have faced firing and blacklisting. Workers who have voted for union representation have seen the fields they work plowed under.

The resolution, which will be transmitted to President Bill Clinton and to the governor of California, puts the state on record along with a number of other states, consumer groups, environmental organizations, churches, labor organizations, and others in support of the strawberry workers cause.

Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-New Brighton) sponsored the resolution.

HF1877*/SF1675*/Res. 3

Selling abandoned vehicles



Minneapolis and St. Paul police will be required to hold impounded vehicles for only 15 days before putting them on the auction block under a new state law.

Signed May 6 by Gov. Arne Carlson, the law will address a problem that leaves Minneapolis and St. Paul impound lots overflowing with cars abandoned by their owners.

Current state law requires a 45-day wait before an impounded vehicle can be sold. The new law will exempt Minneapolis and St. Paul from that law and set a 15-day limit for those cities.

The law requires local approval by the city councils in Minneapolis and St. Paul before it takes effect.

Supporters of the new measure said current law causes real problems in the cities, especially during winter months. A winter that brings heavy snowfall leads to a lot of parking violations and a lot of cars being towed from city streets to the impound lot.

In St. Paul, where the city impound lot holds 750 vehicles, space in the lot can run out quickly, according to St. Paul Police Deputy Chief Ted Brown.

Most people pay the fine and pick up their cars from the impound lot within a few days, but others would rather lose their vehicles than pay up, according to Brown. As a result, vehicles that — in effect — are abandoned must be allowed to take up valuable lot space for 45 days before they can be sold off.

Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the measure.

HF342*/SF166*/CH108

Inside the courtroom . . .

Is the jury selection process fundamentally flawed?

By Celeste Riley

While the judicial process in the United States is patterned after that of England, when it comes to selecting juries for criminal trials the two systems are an ocean apart.

High-profile cases such as the O.J. Simpson and Oklahoma City bombing trials have heightened awareness of the sometimes exhaustive and time-consuming jury selection process. At the local level, tales of being dismissed for personal details — such as having friends who are police officers or having been the victim of a purse snatcher — are common. The selection process can take hours, days, or weeks.

In England, by contrast, once the first 12 jurors called from the jury pool are seated, the trial is likely to get under way “with little more fanfare than a bow by the lawyers and court officials to the judge as he takes his place on the bench,” according to E.C. Friesen and I.R. Scott in *English Criminal Justice*. Importantly, lawyers may not question the jurors. “The jury box is filled with twelve jurors drawn from the voters lists . . . The first juror is called, and before he is sworn, the counsel for the defence must object or be forever foreclosed,” the authors write. “The first twelve called without objection constitute the jury. The contrast with the analogous procedure in American courts is striking.”

Despite the differences, the court systems of both countries are known for high stan-



Picking a jury in American can take hours, days, or weeks. In England, by contrast, once the first 12 jurors called from the jury pool are seated, the trial is likely to get under way “with little more fanfare than a bow by the lawyers. . .”

tive merits of both systems. Their verdict? The American system of jury selection is superior and should stay the way it is.

“The American system is much more concerned with protecting the rights of the defendant and does a better job of making sure the jury members are free of prejudice. The emphasis in England is on speedy trials,” said Entenza, who was trained in England and worked in the legal system there. “When someone’s life and liberty are at stake, it’s

said. That scenario is more likely to happen in “celebrity” cases as a result of the intense scrutiny and the likelihood that jurors have prior knowledge of the case. He said in most courtrooms, the jury selection process is more expeditious.

“In 90 percent of my cases, jury selection is over within three hours. I don’t think that’s unreasonable to ensure fairness,” Weaver said. He said that once the preliminary winnowing process is complete, most of those remaining will wind up on the jury.

Still, does the more careful American process result in better juries? “In most cases, you probably could simply take the next 12 [in the jury pool — like in England] and get a fair and impartial verdict,” Weaver said. “But neither side wants people who are predisposed one way or the other. In America, dismissal because of bias is the exception, not the norm. At least the American system lets you weed out the neo-Nazis and other obviously prejudiced people.”

Yet Weaver agreed that some attorneys can take the process too far. Either side may overstate the importance of little things, like the last magazine a juror read or the messages on the bumper stickers on their cars. “I don’t think jurors should be eliminated because of [pre-trial] publicity. The question is whether or not they can be objective.”

“If you take the American system to the

“The key is to let the system work — not to manipulate it. It’s a dynamic system. It’s an amazing thing for me to watch when justice occurs. It works when everyone tells the truth and you can tell the jury, ‘Here it is. You decide.’”

—Rep. Jim Farrell

dards of fairness and impartiality. Both are also known, however, for sometimes rendering highly controversial verdicts. In the U.S., the outcome of the Simpson trial stands out. England has raised eyebrows for wrongly convicting and imprisoning Irish nationals for terrorism.

Reps. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka), Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), and Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul), each with extensive courtroom experience, recently discussed the rela-

worth it to go the extra mile. The courts here have a high standard for convictions beyond a reasonable doubt.”


“In England, you’re guilty until proven innocent. The burden is on the defense,” said Farrell, a former public defender who now works as a prosecutor.

But the public perception of a painstaking, time-consuming, yet arbitrary selection process that weeds out qualified jurors is skewed due to the high-profile cases, Weaver

extreme you could wind up with a bunch of imbeciles on the jury,” Entenza said. “If you avoid people who know anything about the case, you’re eliminating everyone who reads the newspapers.”

All agreed that it’s up to judges to control excesses. After the prosecution and defense have exercised their options to dismiss a certain number of jurors (five for the defense, three for the prosecution), the judge has final say on those who remain. “When [either side] starts asking jurors stupid questions—like, ‘What’s your favorite TV show?’—the judge should say, ‘Knock it off,’” Farrell said. “I’ve watched too many judges exercise either too much control or too little.”

No movement is afoot at the Legislature to reform the jury selection process, nor, according to the representatives, should there be. Any such effort would immediately raise issues regarding the constitutional separation of powers, Entenza pointed out. Yet, if the Legislature were to act, there are areas in which it could promote improvements. Weaver noted that the educational level of jurors is diminished when either side insists on jurors who know nothing about the case. The Legislature could enact measures to assure the inclusion of a wide variety of jurors, for instance.

“The key is to let the system work—not to manipulate it,” Farrell said. “It’s a dynamic system. It’s an amazing thing for me to watch when justice occurs. It works when everyone tells the truth and you can tell the jury, ‘Here it is. You decide.’” 

Would you prefer . . .

Hot water, cold water, hot iron, or loaded morsel?

Whether you prefer the expeditious English way of selecting jurors, or the ponderous American method, be glad you were not among those accused in parts of medieval Europe, where offenders were tried by *ordeal*, a forerunner of the jury system. According to Frederick G. Kempin, Jr., in his *Historical Introduction to Anglo-American Law*, there were four forms of ordeal: hot water (often called the “cauldron”), cold water, hot iron, and morsel.

“In the ordeal of cold water, the accused crouched, placed his arms beneath his knees, was bound around his knees and body by a rope, and let down into a pool. If the water received him and he sank he was innocent and was, it is to be hoped, immediately pulled out of the water.

“In the ordeal of the hot iron, the accused held a red-hot iron in his hand, its weight increasing with the severity of the crime, and carried it nine feet. The hand was then bandaged. If after three days the wound was clean, the accused was innocent.

“In the ordeal of the hot water, the water was heated to a high heat and the accused was required to plunge his arm into the cauldron and retrieve a stone suspended by a cord. The more severe the crime the deeper the stone was placed, from wrist to elbow depth.

“In the ordeal of the morsel the accused was required to try to swallow a morsel of bread or cheese, perhaps with a feather imbedded in it. If he could swallow, he was innocent, but if he gagged on it he was guilty. Evidence from early cases is said to indicate a preponderance of acquittals.”

Whether the defendant was subjected to burning, drowning, or choking depended on whether he was poor and unfree, a lay freeman, or clergy member.

Unfortunately, things got worse for the accused before they got better. In 1275, according to Kempin, authorities managed to turn a seemingly good idea—jury trials—into another burden for the defendant. If he refused to submit to a jury—typically made up of his accusers—he would undergo “a legal torture in which the accused was laid on the ground and his chest was loaded with successively heavier weights until he either submitted to trial by jury or expired.” — **C.R.**

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Mandatory insurance, increased education passes

By Nick Healy

After a winter during which 32 people died in snowmobile accidents and many others were injured, the House approved a bill May 13 that would prescribe a variety of new measures to improve snowmobile safety. The vote was 76-54.

The bill (**HF551/SF94***) would require snowmobilers to carry liability insurance, expand safety training requirements, and provide new revenue for trail maintenance and law enforcement.

"I think it is a good step in the right direction," said Jan Schlosser, whose 15-year-old daughter, Stacy, was killed by a speeding snowmobiler in December 1996. "People are going to think twice before they get on a snowmobile and head off down the trail."

Stacy Schlosser, her twin sister, and some friends were walking on a road near East Bethel, Minn., when Stacy was struck by a snowmobiler traveling at a speed estimated to be near 80 mph.

Jan Schlosser said stepped up enforcement of snowmobile laws could help to prevent such tragedies, and that requiring snowmobilers to carry liability insurance could prevent other families from experiencing unnecessary hardships in the aftermath of snowmobile accidents.

The man responsible for the death of Stacy Schlosser did not have insurance, and the family has had to absorb financial losses from medical and funeral expenses.

"I don't understand the opposition to [the insurance requirement]," Schlosser said. "It's not only to protect the people who are killed or injured by snowmobilers, it's to protect the snowmobilers."

Under the bill, snowmobile owners would be required to carry a minimum of \$60,000 in liability insurance, which proponents of the bill estimate would cost about \$70 a year. Proof of insurance would be required to register a snowmobile with the state.

"I think it is reasonable if you're going to be driving a snowmobile that you have liability insurance," said Rep. Kathleen Sekhon (DFL-Burns Township), who is sponsoring the bill. "If someone is injured, there's going to be help for that person . . . I was surprised to learn liability insurance isn't required of snowmobilers. That just seems like common sense."

Criticism of the bill focused on the new



Jan Schlosser, of East Bethel, listened to the House floor debate on a bill that would impose a 40 MPH night time speed limit for snowmobilers and make snowmobilers carry liability insurance. She held a picture of her daughter, Stacy, who was killed Dec. 22, 1996 by a drunk snowmobile driver.

expenses it would require of snowmobilers. In addition to insurance costs, the fee for state registration would jump from \$30 to \$45 for three years and a new \$10 annual permit fee would be required to ride on state trails and grant-in-aid trails maintained by local snowmobile clubs.

"An awful lot of people who don't have the resources are simply not going to register their snowmobiles," said Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), who argued that the additional costs would be especially burdensome for people with moderate incomes who own older machines and use them only occasionally.

"It's a tragedy that this year 32 people lost their lives," Bakk said, "[but] the provisions in this bill related to insurance and lower speed limits are not going to save lives."

The bill would reduce the nighttime speed

limit for snowmobiles from 50 mph to 40 mph. Sekhon said the change would improve safety by providing snowmobilers more time to react and avoid accidents when out after dark.

Current law requires people under 18 to take a safety training course before they can operate a snowmobile. The bill would expand the training requirements to include snowmobilers aged 29 and under.

The increased registration fees and the new charge to ride on state trails would pump new revenue into improving trails across the state. Under the bill, 50 percent of the money in the state's snowmobile trails and safety account would be earmarked for grant-in-aid trails and 30 percent would go to state trails. (The remaining 20 percent would be designated for law enforcement and safety education efforts.)

"We have a 1970s trail system for 1990s technology," said Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton), a supporter of the bill. "We need this influx of money."


The death toll in snowmobile accidents during the past winter was the highest in Minnesota since 1972. While many this year have called for legislation aimed at improving snowmobile safety, concerns have been raised about the effects such legislation could have on what has grown into a multimillion-dollar industry in the state.

During debate on the House floor, Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison), who has worked on the snowmobile safety issue since early in the legislative session, tried to allay concerns that resorts and other businesses would suffer as a result of the bill.

"We're not going to kill this sport," Peterson said. "We're going to improve the sport."

Schlosser, who has been a visible leader in efforts to pass new snowmobile safety measures, said the bill would be something positive to come out of the tragedies experienced by her family and others.

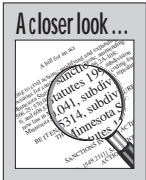
"Stacy's gone, and it hurts every day," Schlosser said. "I figure if I can help to prevent someone else from having to go through this — just one person — then it is worth the effort."

The bill now goes to the Senate. 

On a vote of 16-9 . . .

Stadium bill rejected; enters realm of living dead

By Steve Compton



Like the goalie-masked psycho-killer in a grade-B slasher movie, the Twins stadium proposal just refuses to die. No matter how many times it's killed, it gets back up and keeps moving.

After stalling and bouncing back in a pair of committees, the bill (**HF1367**) sponsored by Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) was dealt a seemingly fatal blow following three-and-one-half-hours of mayhem in a May 12 House Taxes Committee meeting. House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) characterized the debate as "crazy." The Senate companion bill (**SF1140**) also was bludgeoned to death that same day in the Senate Tax and Tax Laws Committee.

By the time the House Taxes Committee vote was taken on **HF1367**, the much amended bill bore little resemblance to its original form. Rest herself introduced several amendments to change the deal with the owners and redefine funding sources for the estimated \$506 million stadium proposal.

One such amendment — approved by the panel — limited the sports memorabilia tax to items related to baseball.

But Rest failed to convince the panel that a 5-cent-per-pack cigarette tax would be a good way to help pay for the ballpark. Rest, who cast the lone vote for the amendment, said that taxing cigarettes is better than expanding gambling in the state. "I don't see any connection between smoking and the stadium," said Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), speaking against the amendment. The measure failed 21-1.

Another funding proposal to place state-owned slot machines at Canterbury Park racetrack was introduced and then withdrawn by Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth), only to be reintroduced by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), chair of the committee. The gambling amendment contained no reference to a baseball stadium, but earmarked

gambling revenue for flood relief and a new hockey arena to be built in St. Paul. Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) also wanted to add an increase the working family tax credit. In the end, the gambling amendment failed on a 21-4 vote.

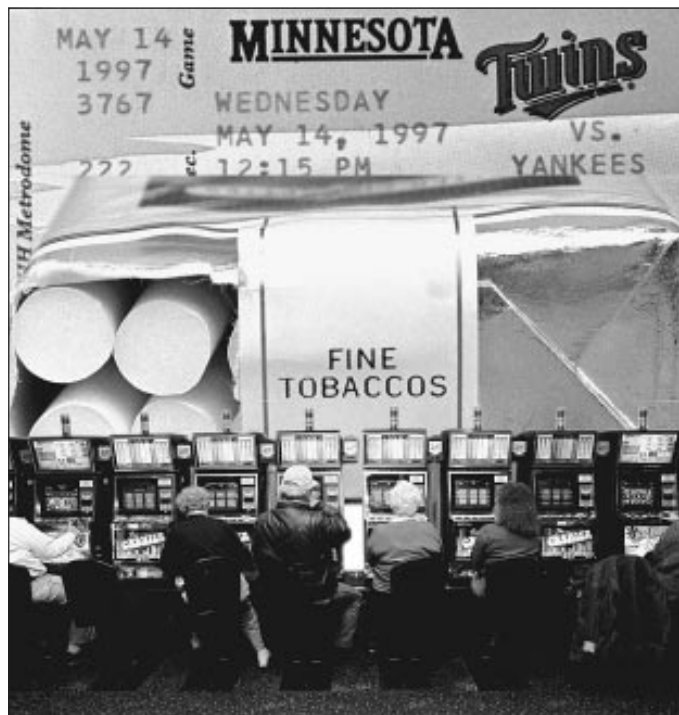
Another Van Dellen amendment did pass. It deleted all of the stadium bill's language and called for a state-sponsored plan to buy enough Twins tickets to make the team profitable this season. Van Dellen argued that this would void a provision in the Twins contract with the Metrodome which allows

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) has enlisted Rest to help him breathe new life into a stadium proposal. The two lawmakers are discussing a bill authorizing Gov. Arne Carlson to negotiate a stadium deal on his own for the state. Carlson would be required to reduce the cost of the \$506 million project enough to pay for it with user fees and, failing that, authorize a state-operated casino.

Rest has been opposed to gambling as a source of revenue, but her previous attempts to pay for the stadium only with user fees have always come up short.

Even if the Milbert-Rest stadium proposal fails in the final days of the session, there is still a glimmer of life remaining for a new ballpark. Winter, chair of the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, introduced a resolution (**HF2207**) which passed that committee May 15, directing the Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy to study and make recommendations, "on ways and means to secure and provide for a long-term commitment of professional major league sports teams, specifically major league baseball." The commission recommendations would be due in the Legislature by Sept. 1, 1997.

Any stadium-related proposal has until May 19, the last day of session, to pass. The Twins ballpark issue could also be revisited during a special session, which Carlson has said he may call for in September when final damage estimates have been calculated concerning the record



Efforts to find a way to pay for a new outdoor baseball stadium for the Minnesota Twins are still in limbo. Proposals to raise the money by hiking the cigarette tax or installing state-owned slot machines at Canterbury Park racetrack have failed. One proposal calling for a state-sponsored buy out of Twins tickets this season to make the team profitable has also failed.

the team to get out of their lease if they have three consecutive money-losing, low-attendance seasons. The Twins have threatened to exercise that option and leave the state if the Legislature doesn't help build a new stadium.

"This [ticket buyout] takes the gun away from our head and gives us an equal negotiating posture with the owner," Van Dellen said.

The amendment passed 13-12, effectively becoming the main bill, but then was rejected on the final 16-9 vote.

But don't get up for more popcorn yet.

flooding in northwestern Minnesota.

HF2207 next goes to the House floor.



If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at:
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

More bill listings . . .

1997 House Files incorporated into omnibus bills

If you've lost track of some of the bills you have been following during the session, you may find them on one of these pages. The section includes unofficial listings, each as of a certain date, of the House Files that are contained in the various omnibus bills and other larger bills.

Ongoing floor and conference committee action may well alter the makeup of these bills before they reach the end of the legislative process. In many cases, the language found in the major bills may not be exactly as it appears in the original House Files due to amendments that happen along the way. And, in many cases, only parts of bills are included in the larger bills.

The list was compiled by the House Public Information Office from a variety of sources, including committee administrators, fiscal analysts, and legislative analysts. In some cases, the location of each of the smaller bills is indicated by article and section numbers in the larger bill. In other cases, the Senate companion file and author is listed along with the House File number and author. For the most part, House Files are listed in numerical order and are accompanied by brief descriptions of their content.

An asterisk after a House or Senate file number indicates the version of the bill that is under consideration.

Agriculture

As of May 5, 1997

Omnibus Agriculture Bill HF1421(Wenzel)

- HF903 (Peterson) Providing for the identification of certain diseased cattle herds; requiring a report; appropriating money.
- HF1204 (Stang) Changing well water testing requirements for certain grade A milk producers.
- HF1030 (Peterson) Exempting vehicles carrying milk from seasonal weight restrictions on local roads under certain circumstances (amendment).
- HF733 (Swenson) Establishing the dairy development program; appropriating money (amendment).

Note: HF1421 was recently incorporated into HF2150 Omnibus Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Bill (see page 17).



So far 2,200 bills have been introduced in the House during the 1997 Legislative Session. Some of those bills will make it into law, some won't, and still others will join forces and become incorporated into larger bills.

Commerce

As of May 5, 1997

Omnibus Liquor Regulation Bill HF524/SF277* (Tunheim)

- HF180 (Goodno) Authorizes two on-sale licenses for Moorhead.
- HF193 (Murphy) Allowing city of Proctor to modify off-sale hours.
- HF524 (Tunheim) Importing malt liquor to central warehouse.
- HF525 (Tunheim) Liability insurance requirements for retailers.
- HF721 (Paulsen) Authorize on-sale 3.2 beer at 10 a.m. Sundays.
- HF982 (Dawkins) Combines Liquor Control and Gambling Enforcement units in Department of Public Safety.
- HF1277 (Tomassoni) Prohibiting solicitation of alcoholic beverages to location other than warehouse i.e., mail order.
- HF1307 (Dehler) Allows multiple on-sale license holders to have uniform licensing periods.
- HF1514 (Tomassoni) Allows intoxicating liquor to be dispensed at community festivals.
- HF1665 (Farrell) Allows intoxicating liquor licenses for St. Paul Park and Recreation division.
- HF1703 (Entenza) Allows intoxicating liquor sales at professional athletic events in the St. Paul Civic Center.

Development

As of May 12, 1997

Omnibus Economic Development/Housing Finance Bill HF2158*/SF1909 (Jaros)

Economic Development Finance

- HF248 (Trimble) Refugee citizenship and employment training provided in Ramsey County and St. Paul; money appropriated.
- HF422 (McCollum) Contaminated land industrial development and cleanup provided, money appropriated.
- HF430 (Hasskamp) Tourism money expenditure requirements modified.
- HF479 (Farrell) Crime prevention program grants awarded to certain first-class cities, money appropriated.
- HF599 (Skare) Bemidji railroad depot purchase and conversion to historical museum provided, money appropriated.
- HF811 (Entenza) Minnesota Futures Fund appropriated money to provide technical assistance to nonprofit organizations.
- HF834 (Clark) Youthbuild grant funding limit eliminated, money appropriated.

HF836 (Evans) Microenterprise technical assistance and loan program established, money appropriated.

HF901 (Wejcman) Minnesota employment center for deaf and hard-of-hearing people funded, money appropriated.

HF1092 (Mullery) Learn to earn summer youth employment program grants provided, money appropriated.

HF1133 (Kielkucki) Hubert H. Humphrey museum planning provided, money appropriated.

HF1166 (Clark) Minnesota 1997 employment and economic development program established, money appropriated.

HF1169 (Carlson) Brooklyn Center Brookdale center development tax increment financing statutory exemption extended.

HF1203 (Peterson) Upper Minnesota valley river regional visitors center development provided, money appropriated.

HF1271 (Juhnke) New London Little Theater project grant provided, money appropriated.

HF1458 (Marko) Newport improvement project economic impact study provided, money appropriated.

HF1550 (Haas) Metropolitan municipality curfew enforcement funding provided, money appropriated.

HF1589 (Evans)/SF1333 (Novak) Torture victim center appropriated money.

HF1638 (Trimble) Foreign trade zones promoted, money appropriated.

HF1642 (Dawkins) Enterprise zone inclusion qualification requirements modified.

HF1659 (Evans) New Brighton north metro I-35W corridor economic development project appropriated money.

HF1662 (McGuire) Historical society appropriated money for grants to the Minnesota Center for Legal Education Civic Awareness programs.

HF1700 (Kubly) Olivia commercial building redevelopment provided, money appropriated.

HF1767 (Juhnke) County and local historical society grant-in-aid program established, money appropriated.

HF1824 (Mariani) Minnesota Project Innovation appropriated money.

HF1845 (Trimble) State services for the blind study provided, money appropriated.

HF1850 (Ness) Fishing artifact museum feasibility study, money appropriated.

HF1862 (Wenzel) Minnesota Investment Fund loan guaranteed by trade and economic development commissioner.

HF1981 (Huntley) Employment support services for persons with mental illness funding authorized, money appropriated.

HF2017 (Mariani) Opportunities Industrialization Centers funded, money appropriated.

Housing and Housing Finance

HF245 (Dawkins) Nonprofits allowed to apply for Community Rehabilitation Fund.

HF517 (Clark) MHFA bill - program changes.

HF592 (McElroy) Affordable design and development; appropriation.

HF791 (Carruthers) Appropriation for concentrated multi-unit housing.

HF834 (Clark) Youthbuild appropriation.

HF843 (Clark) Lead hazard reduction task force; swab team funding.

HF927 (Evans) Bridges program appropriation increase.

HF1091 (Mullery) Reverse mortgage counseling; appropriation.

HF1276 (Trimble) Community Rehabilitation Fund program and Affordable Rental Investment Fund program; appropriation.

HF1360 (Dawkins) Great Northern Corridor Community Development Act adopted, St. Paul Livable Communities Demonstration Project funded, money appropriated.

HF1479 (Clark) Housing for people with HIV/AIDS; appropriation.

HF1487 (Peterson) Greater Minnesota Housing - Affordable Rental and Community Rehabilitation.

HF1611 (Slawik) Landfall manufactured home park.

HF1632 (Mariani) Land Trust capacity building.

HF962 (Schumacher) Manufactured home park zoning inclusion.

HF1917 (Clark) Affordable rental housing.

Environment

As of May 14, 1997

Omnibus Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Bill HF2150*/SF1907 (Osthoff)

HF162 (Tunheim) Seed potato inspection.

HF325 (Johnson, A.) Locke Lake Dam loan repayment forgiven.

HF408 (Solberg) Grant for direct reduction iron processing facility.

HF412 (Kubly) Minnesota River bank restoration/Granite Falls.

HF449 (Skare) Wind damage mitigation.

HF501 (Evans) Laurentian Environmental Learning Center renovation.

HF503 (Olson, E.) Beaver damage control grants.

HF650 (Hasskamp) Cuyuna/Glendalough state parks.

HF711 (Munger) Soil and water conservation district grants.

HF714 (Bakk) Transfer station grant program.

HF779 (Lieder) Hybrid tree management research.

HF913 (Kubly) Livestock odor research.

HF950 (McCollum) Ecological services.

HF1017 (Dawkins) Youth community service.

HF1040 (Mariani) Mississippi River vegetation.

HF1102 (Leighton) Used motor oil recycling.

HF1173 (Lieder) Rydell National Wildlife Refuge.

HF1178 (Davids) State trail operations.

HF1195 (Jaros) Duluth forests protection.

HF1208 (Rostberg) Community forest improvement grants.

HF1209 (Sviggum) Stagecoach Trail.

HF1315 (Kalis) Minnesota River Joint Powers Board.

HF1354 (Peterson) Survey of trails in state parks.

HF1398 (Munger) Taconite Harbor.

HF1421 (Wenzel) Dairy diagnostics.

HF1558 (McCollum) Gateway Trail connections.

HF1559 (McCollum) Southeast Asian conservation officer recruitment.

HF1560 (Munger) Research on amphibians.

HF1581 (Davids) Blufflands Trail.

HF1619 (Jennings) Ditch abandonment.

HF1625 (Mariani) Harriet Island redevelopment.

HF1651 (Holsten) Critical habitat match.

HF1705 (Finseth) River bank stabilization-East Grand Forks.

HF1719 (Kubly) Chippewa County Trail.

HF1806 (Hilty) Rock Center at Mooselake State Park.

HF1823 (Westfall) Maplewood Trail.

HF1833 (Schumacher) Closed landfill payment.

HF1851 (Sekhon) Preserving prairies on railroad right of ways.

HF1901 (Finseth) Thief River Falls dredging project.

HF1940 (Bishop) Cooperative wastewater.

SF94 (Sekhon) State lands.

Environment

As of May 13, 1997

Omnibus Game and Fish Bill HF313/SF254* (Milbert)

HF378 (Finseth) Two deer.
HF1122 (Finseth) Crossbow.
HF1082 (Osthoff) Fishing license fee increases.
HF171 (Bakk) Youth deer hunt.

As of May 13, 1997

DNR Real Estate Management Bill (Snowmobile provisions) HF551/SF94* (Sekhon)

HF406 (Peterson) Snowmobile liability insurance.
HF407 (Bakk) Snowmobile registration fees.
HF410 (Skoglund) fleeing a peace officer.
HF580 (Tunheim) On snowmobiles.
HF715 (Bakk) Snowmobile permit.
HF770 (Hasskamp) Snowmobile regulations.

As of May 13, 1997

Tax-forfeited Land Sales Authorized HF1983/SF309* (Hausman)

HF115 (Kinkel) Cass County.
HF190 (Hasskamp) Crow Wing County.
HF424 (Koppendrayer) Mille Lacs County.
HF975 (Hilty) Aitkin County.
HF1037 (Daggett) Becker County.
HF1050 (Dorn) Mankato.
HF1098 (Swenson, D.) Washington County.
HF1486 (Olson, E.) Wild rice lessee purchase of state lands authorized.
HF1507 (Bakk) Cook County.
HF1603 (Slawik) Washington County.
HF1621 (Murphy) Carlton County.
HF1622 (Rifenberg) Houston County.

Health

As of May 6, 1997

Omnibus Health and Human Services Finance Bill SF1908 (Greenfield)

Bills incorporated into SF1908 by both House and Senate

HF185 (Sykora)/SF136 (Kiscaden) Child Welfare.
HF346 (Greenfield)/SF279 (Lourey) COLA for various programs (rider).
HF386 (Winter)/SF596 (Lourey) Dog training grants (rider).
HF455 (Huntley)/SF376 (Samuelson) Nursing home moratorium exception threshold.
HF513 (Koskinen)/SF103 (Lourey) DHS financial operations.
HF514 (Wejcman)/SF130 (Berglin) Epilepsy Program COLA (rider).
HF521 (Wejcman)/SF169 (Berglin) GRH rates.
HF600 (Dempsey)/SF402 (Murphy) County joint purchaser demo project (rider).
HF672 (Bradley)/SF760 (Kiscaden) DHS health care programs.
HF673 (Vickerman)/SF589 (Frederickson) Nursing home rate exception.
HF813 (Huntley)/SF715 (Lourey) Lottery Revenue for Compulsive Gambling Programs (rider).

HF851 (Folliard)/SF258 (Berglin) New Chance (rider).
HF910 (Greenfield)/SF636 (Berglin) Indian child welfare grants (rider).
HF917 (Vickerman)/SF767 (Dille) Mental health grants (rider).
HF930 (Juhnke)/SF799 (Johnson, D.E.) Nursing home rate exception.
HF976 (Winter)/SF341 (Sarns) EMS CALS program (rider).
HF1026 (Clark)/SF927 (Berglin) Assisted Living Pilot (rider).
HF1090 (Clark)/SF915 (Berglin) Nursing home rate exception.
HF1131 (Bradley)/SF921 (Morse) Region 10 Quality Assurance.
HF1160 (Greenfield)/SF991 (Piper) HIV prevention (rider).
HF1167 (Goodno)/SF1016 (Kiscaden) MDH budget bill.
HF1211 (Huntley)/SF979 (Lourey) Deaf and blind services (rider).
HF1248 (Wejcman)/SF1091 (Lourey) Aging Ombudsman (rider).
HF1269 (Koskinen)/SF1174 (Berglin) Nursing home moratorium exception.
HF1293 (Bradley)/SF1158 (Kiscaden) DHS health care.
HF1303 (Bradley)/SF1230 (Samuelson) County-operated PMAP.
HF1331 (McCollum)/SF888 (Moe) American Indian diabetes (rider).
HF1430 (Greenfield)/SF151 (Samuelson) Deaf Grants (rider).
HF1528 (Murphy)/SF1153 (Anderson) Home visiting.
HF1738 (Huntley)/SF1525 (Solon) Health insurance counseling (rider).
HF1740 (Goodno)/SF1539 (Samuelson) Deaf/Blind grants (rider).
HF1781 (Greenfield)/SF1617 (Lourey) Augmentative communication devices (rider).
HF1843 (Greenfield)/SF1528 (Berglin) Women's MH crisis pilot project (rider).
HF1930 (Trimble)/SF1009 (Berglin) RTC burial markers (rider).
HF2059 (McCollum)/SF235 (Foley) MDH sales of materials.

Bills incorporated into SF1908 by House only

HF16 (Sviggum)/SF11 (Neuville) Defense of marriage act.
HF47 (Daggett)/SF241 (Kiscaden) Domestic abuse; best interest determination.
HF496 (Slawik)/SF396 (Price) Ambulance services financial data collection.
HF555 (Goodno)/SF97 (Betzold) Active TB isolation and detention.
HF587 (Bradley)/SF654 (Kiscaden) MA asset tests required.
HF862 (Delmont)/SF480 (Solon) PT, OT, speech-language rates increased.
HF925 (Entenza)/SF830 (Cohen) DHS child support bill.
HF1021 (Mariani)/SF948 (Wiger) Ramsey County Jobs-plus welfare pilot.
HF1157 (Huntley)/SF1002 (Sams) PMAP & PGAMC cap. rate change.
HF1484 (Hausman)/SF1606 (Anderson, E.) Block nurse program expanded.
HF1698 (Greenfield)/SF1482 (Berglin) NF rates for relocated facility.
HF1710 (Koskinen)/SF1291 (Lourey) After accident RR counseling.
HF1810 (Koskinen)/SF1641 (Marty) \$ added to WIC base.
UES 1908 (Greenfield)/SF1908 (Samuelson) Omnibus HHS appropriations bill.
HF1910 (Greenfield)/SF1690 (Samuelson) Minority health initiative.
HF1913 (Greenfield)/SF1434 (Kiscaden) Maltreatment of minors advisory committee.
HF1999 (Mulder)/SFnone Radiography for osteoporosis.
HF2044 (McCollum)/SFnone MA prior authorization; case management provider.
HF2059 (McCollum)/SFnone Expand non-smoking market value.

Bills incorporated into SF1908 by Senate only

SF27 (Samuelson)/HF399 (Wejcman) DT & H rates (rider).
SF28 (Samuelson)/HF649 (Jennings) ICF/MR rates.
SF126 (Berglin)/HF259 (Slawik) Immunization Registry.

SF224 (Berglin)/HF394 (Greenfield) Nursing home contract system/therapy services.
 SF228 (Kiscaden)/HF403 (Huntley) Hearing aid dispensers (fees and study only).
 SF430 (Berglin)/HF844 (Rest) Birth Defects Registry.
 SF446 (Berglin)/HF540 (Delmont) COLA for various programs (rider).
 SF523 (Berglin)/HF396 (Wejcman) Naturopathic medicine study (rider).
 SF629 (Solon)/HF867 (Delmont) Nursing home Medicare beds.
 SF642 (Krentz)/HF1706 (Entenza) Down's Syndrome (rider).
 SF790 (Samuelson)/HF1457 (Jennings) PCA shared hours.
 SF894 (Metzen)/HF1416 (Pugh) ICF/MR closure.
 SF1078 (Krentz)/HF1242 (Rest) ENABL (rider).
 SF1161 (Berglin)/HF1431 (Greenfield) Combining AC and EW.
 SF1189 (Ranum)/HF1761 (McGuire) Juvenile assessment centers.
 SF1235 (Solon)/HF1417 (Johnson, R.) Newborn hearing screening (rider).
 SF1245 (Lourey)/HF1279 (Johnson, R.) RTC MI staffing (rider).
 SF1250 (Hottinger)/HF1412 (Sykora) Union involvement in RTC pilot project development (rider).
 SF1565 (Sams)/HF1859 (Otremba) Newborn hearing screening (rider).

As of April 30, 1997

**Welfare Reform Bill
 HF159/SF1* (Jennings)**

HF161 (Jennings) Welfare reform; Minnesota Family Investment Program implemented.
 HF347 (Greenfield) (parts) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program definitions provided, county public assistance incentives provided, business tax incentives provided, higher education accessibility provided to low-income persons, and money appropriated.

Law

As of May 12, 1997

**Omnibus DWI Bill
 HF1004/SF985* (Entenza)**

HF62 (Swenson, D.) Maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered for operation of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and motorboats.
 HF101 (Swenson, D.) Driver's license revocation and reinstatement provisions modified.
 HF201 (Swenson, D.) Criminal penalty provided for operators of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and motorboats who refuse an alcohol test.
 HF229 (Weaver) Repeat DWI offender violations provided enhanced gross misdemeanor penalty.
 HF250 (Entenza) Maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered to 0.08 for adults and 0.04 for minors for operation of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and while hunting.
 HF355 (Bishop) DWI related offense forfeiture action filing fee exemption provided for local units of government.
 HF506 (Swenson, D.) (one section only) School bus safety regulated, student school bus conduct requirements developed, accident reporting provided, and penalties provided.

HF918 (Skoglund) Electronic alcohol monitor use mandated during pretrial release and following conviction for certain driving while intoxicated violations.
 HF1094 (Boudreau) (Section 4 only) Driver's license revocation period doubled for persons who violate driving while intoxicated laws with a blood alcohol level of 0.20 or greater, and penalty assessment provided.
 HF1061 (Chaudhary) Criminal penalties, minimum sentences, and administrative sanctions increased for driving while intoxicated offenders with an alcohol concentration of 0.20 or more.
 HF1318 (Skoglund) DWI offender maximum stay of sentence provided.
 HF1482 (Skoglund) Preliminary breath test result permissible use broadened, and DWI forfeiture law scope expanded.
 HF1591 (Weaver) Preliminary screening test result use authorized in court proceedings.

As of May 15, 1997

**Omnibus Data Practices Bill
 HF1460*/SF1277 (McGuire)**

HF116 (Skoglund) Public assistance and housing agency data made available to law enforcement agencies.
 HF260 (Delmont) School immunization and health record provisions modified.
 HF270 (Macklin) Taxation; providing for disclosure or inspection of certain data or return information; limiting disclosure of certain data under subpoena; providing criminal penalties.
 HF1165 (Skoglund) Criminal justice and juvenile history records; modifying juvenile court records to be forwarded to the BCA; specifying retention periods for juvenile history records; providing for release of juvenile history records.
 HF1196 (Weaver) Voter registration list peace officer and judge address information omission provided.
 HF1460 (McGuire) Privacy; providing for the classification of and access to government data; eliminating the requirement that government agencies pay a fee for commissioner's opinions.
 HF1790 (McGuire) Privacy; authorizing the board of nursing to withhold access to residence addresses and telephone numbers.
 HF1933 (Bishop) Patient health record release consent provisions modified.
 HF1958 (Pugh) Health record destruction provided after death of patient.

Taxes

As of May 2, 1997

**Omnibus Tax Bill
 HF2163*/SF493 (Long)**

Bills and amendments included in list.

1. GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Revenues: New Legislation

The following are some of the line items found in either HF716 (Sviggum) - Governor I items or HF 808 (Long) - DOR Policy Bill items.

Individual and Corporate Federal Update, w/partial conformity re. banks: (banks are taxed as C-Corps and dividends paid to individuals are exempt).

Corporate - Estimated tax payment date conformity.

Corporate.- Environmental tax addback to FTI.

Corporate - Job training tax credit (RISE!) (amended).

Sales - Eliminate tax on replacement capital equipment.

Sales - Exempt state hospitals & vets home (prospectively).
Sales - Exempt fuel for fire trucks, emergency vehicles.
Sales - Uniform treatment of prepared food.
Sales - Nurseries and greenhouses are farm equipment.
Sales - Indoor plant care is taxable.
Sales - Exempt gas tax for Power Take Offs. Includes HF 1803 (Bakk) Well-drilling machines exempt from gas tax for off-road use.

B. Governor's Spending: PTR, School Funding, State Aids

The following are line items from part of HF716 (Sviggum).

Property Tax Refunds: Repeal PTR on tax statement.
Cambridge Bank judgment: appropriation for cash payment of pending claims.

2. PROPERTY TAX BILLS

HF137 (Rest) Expands eligibility for Class 1b (disabled homestead).
HF165 (Rest) Changes definition of Limited Market Value.
HF230 (Erhardt) Establishes the "Senior Citizen Tax Deferral Program" for low-moderate income senior citizens.
HF339 (Rest) Eliminates the one-year lag in fiscal disparities calculations and payments, effective payable 1999.
HF419 (Tunheim) Authorizes property tax/bonds/notes for watersheds.
HF456 (Milbert) Service of real estate redemption notices.
HF497 (Rest) Notice, advertisement and PT notice modifications.
HF660 (Kelso) T-in-T notice, hearing, PT statement changes.
HF532 (Rest) Town board or city may transfer board of review powers to county board.
HF627 (Rest) Rental housing: low income housing standards, including Sec. 8. MHFA Appropriation: \$500,000 FY 1998.
HF709 (Rest) Reduces the class rate for the high-value tier of cabins, for taxes payable in 1998 and 1999, with HACA payment. (Variation of original bill.)
HF722 (Dawkins) This old house in a new location (within the taxing jurisdiction).
HF744 (Garcia) "This old apartment" for improvements; 3 years, report to Legislature, in Richfield, Brooklyn Center, and St. Louis Park only.
HF755 (Otremba) Sauk River Watershed levy.
HF758 (Long) Development, imposition, and management of state mandates on local government.
HF809 (Winter) Regional development commissions: revised powers and levy limits.
HF812 (Dawkins) Local Performance Aid modified, new funding with equivalent levy reduction.
HF887 (Anderson, I.) Gives certain golf course property 2.3% class rate.
HF987 (Kubly) PT exemption for machinery and transmission lines — biomass electric generation. Also, by amendments, provides like exemptions for waste wood electric generation and for an electric generating facility adjacent to a new industrial park in St. Louis County. All provisions require approval of all affected local governments, reverse referendum, 5-year limit.
HF995 (McElroy) Allows optional joint city, county, school district T-in-T hearings.
HF1086 (Ness) Allows costs to prevailing party and against losing party in state Tax Court (codifies civil rules).
HF1222 (Milbert) As the Abrams amendment: provides for a reverse referendum on counties' and certain cities' levy increases.
HF1232 (Lieder) Wild Rice Watershed District levies.

HF1275 (Ozment) Residential structures required to house migrant workers get ag class.
HF1390 (Solberg) Authorizes Floodwood joint recreation Board and levy.
HF1433 (Peterson) Vaule exclusion for improvements to certain C/I property.
HF1445 (Ozment) Allows split ag class in certain cases; no green acres.
HF1446 (Abrams) Removes the one-per-owner-per-county limit on 1st tier C/I property.
HF1470 (Rukavina) Authorizes Virginia-area ambulance district and levy.
HF1544 (Dawkins) T-in-T Notices: levy costs for shared services (revised version).
HF1575 (Munger) Requires St. Louis County auditor to collect Lake Superior Sanitary District charges on property tax statement; WLSSD to reimburse costs.
HF1592 (Tuma) Homestead class retained for single nursing home residents.
HF1798 (Murphy) Aid base adjustment, city of Proctor (redistributes existing aid).
HF2010 (Abrams) and HF 914 (Rostberg) Allows certain municipal C/I property abatements for economic development.
Department: Restricts Housing and Redevelopment Authority abatements to own-jurisdiction's levy only.
Amendment (Johnson, A.) Classification by use of "Elderly Assisted Living Facilities" clarified, and study required.
Property tax reform: Appropriation to Counties (\$2 million) to administer T-in-T and new classification system conversion.

3. TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

General TIF Law Changes

HF1547 (Ozment) TIF Laws: clarifications, modifications, and restrictions.
HF1964 (Olson, E.) Changes indexing of original net tax capacity.
HF2010 (Abrams) Requires state approval for certain TIF; allows PT abatements.

TIF, Local provisions

HF637 (Abrams) Housing Minnetonka.
HF816 (Finseth) East Grand Forks TIF.
HF1108 (Bettermann) Brandon, amended version.
HF1169 (Carlson) Brookdale Pond.
HF1265 (Swenson, H.) TIF extension, City of Gaylord.
HF1330 (Koskinen) Coon Rapids TIF, amended version.
HF1546 (Jefferson) Minneapolis Housing Transition TIF, amended.
HF1922 (Chaudhary) Columbia Heights TIF.
HF1927 (Kubly) Buffalo Lake TIF.

4. SALES AND USE TAX

STAC Recommendations

HF2066 (Rest) Exempt production inputs (excluding utility and fuel) of 1987-taxed services and pet boarding/grooming, 7/1/98.
Extend de minimis use tax exemption to businesses effective 1/1/98.
Make sales and use tax complimentary and clarify that tax paid by direct pay permittees is *use* tax.
HF173 (Mahon) Sales tax exemption extended to more non-aspirin analgesics. (STAC Recommendation.)
HF2066 (Rest) STAC- interest on refunds, as if filed as vendor claim.
Amendment (Johnson, A.): Sales tax prepaid long-distance telephone calling cards.

HF118 (Juhnke) Permanently exempt USED farm machinery and logging equipment. Clarify definition of "used" equipment.

Phase-out and exempt NEW farm and logging equipment (includes nursery and greenhouse in base).

Phaseout: rate is 1.5% 7/1/98; & 0% on 7/1/99.

STAC/Governor: Exemption for manufacturing replacement capital equipment (see Gov's rec's, top).

"SCORE"/Sales Tax

HF808 (Long) SCORE sales tax applies at bag/sticker price charged by hauler/government.

Compromise SCORE, taxable base for governments equals direct costs only.

Amendment (Johnson, A.) Permanent moratorium on collection of any unpaid prior-years' use tax liabilities under the SCORE tax.

Additional Sales Tax Bills

Amendment (Ozment) Exempts smoke-penetrating head gear and "authorized" purchases of firefighter equipment.

HF728 (Juhnke) Restores distributor refund for ag use gasoline in on-farm bulk storage (does not apply to undyed diesel fuel).

HF981 (Broecker) A gift of a motor vehicle to a 501(c)(3) charitable, religious or educational organization is exempt from the STMV.

HF993 (Milbert) Exempts (retro 1992) copies of court transcripts sold to parties involved in a case.

HF1336 (Long) Exempts materials for Metro emergency radio system.

HF1628 (Johnson, A.) Legislative study of taxation of Internet and on-line services.

HF1804 (Bakk) Exemption for construction materials to build jail and courthouse in Cook County.

HF1894 (Wenzel) Exempts from sales tax the gross receipts from otherwise-taxable sales of firewood, between 1/1/89 and 1/1/97.

HF2078 (Solberg) Exemption for construction materials to build jail in Itasca County.

HF2090 (Macklin) Exempts nonprofit electronic surveillance services.

HF1942 (Huntley) Exemption for hospitals, excluding construction materials, as amended.

Department and Amendment (VanDellen): "Goods for resale" does not include promotional and gambling prizes; machinery, equipment and devices for recreation and entertainment services is not 'leased.'

Legislative intent findings are not intended to affect a pending case in the Minnesota court system.

Local Sales Taxes

HF2066 (Rest/STAC) Makes local sales taxes uniform and adopt policy standards for future requests.

HF18 (Juhnke) Authorizes 0.5 cent city sales tax for Willmar library.

HF1788 (Olson, E.) Allows a 0.5 cent city sales tax in Fosston.

HF1802 (Bakk) Cook County may use proceeds of its local sales tax for improvements to the hospital and care center.

5. INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE INCOME TAX BILLS

HF238 (Leppik) Requires registration and standards of 3rd party bulk filers (of withholding and other trust taxes).

HF1976 (Dawkins) Exempts Americorps and Youthworks education grants paid to education institutions.

HF210 (Daggett) Credit/ long-term care insurance premiums.

(Long) Legislative study of alternative forms of business taxation and report.

HF716 and HF808 (See Federal Update and Governor's Recommendations, top.)

6. GAMBLING TAX BILLS

HF667 (Macklin) Eliminates required separate bank account for refunds; DOR "flares" language (amended per DOR rec.).

HF1499 (Milbert) Lawful gambling reduces combined receipts tax, increase tax thresholds by \$200,000, after 6/30/98. New form: calculate tax @ old/new (lower) rates and savings must be used exclusively for charitable/tax-exempt purposes.

7. MINERALS TAX BILLS

HF269 (Bakk) Ownership of stockpiled metallic minerals material.

HF712 (Lieder) Increases parameters for aggregates (gravel) tax.

HF773 (Murphy) Authorizes an aggregates (gravel) tax in certain Carlton County and St. Louis County townships.

Amendment (Bakk): Sets aside 5 cents per ton of the (existing amount of) taconite production taxes for distribution to the taconite environmental fund.

8. MISCELLANEOUS BILLS AND INITIATIVES

HF1263 (Rest) Extends county capital improvement bonds authority to 2003.

HF2077 (Macklin) Exempts marriage dissolution document filings.

HF387 (Wagenius) Exempts transfers of state land to other governments for trunk highway rights-of-way.

HF1392 (Kinkel) Natural resource lands market value is included in Fire Aid distribution formula.

HF1909 (Erhardt) Authorizes GO bonds for a joint Richfield, Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Edina training facility.

Governor: Cambridge Bank judgment: appropriation for cash payment of pending claims (\$16.6 million, not in Tax Target).

Budget reserve and cash flow provisions.

Appropriation for administering the PT rebate.

Appropriation for administering the bill.

Author's amendment (Long) LGA formula revised and additional funding (\$8.9 million) is provided.

Changes the basis of the renters' credit eff. 1998 claims.

Levy limits exemption for municipalities affected by spring flooding disaster.

Rest: Clarifies the application of the deed tax as applied to new residential construction.

HF 854 (Dorn) and HF 716 (Sviggum): Replaces premiums tax with MnCare tax (for MCHA)

Exempts Minnesota Health Department-licensed home health care providers from MnCare tax.

Milbert: Sets standards for "tax expenditure" revenue estimates, to include compliance factor when practicable.

Transportation

As of May 13, 1997

Omnibus Transportation Finance Bill SF1881 (Lieder)

- HF19 (Lieder) State patrol; trunk highway fund reimbursement provided for expenditures incurred by state patrol for provision of patrolling services in Minneapolis.
- HF20 (Lieder) State patrol operating appropriations to originate from state general fund, traffic violation and overweight vehicle fines deposited in general fund, and gasoline tax revenue nonhighway use studied.
- HF407 (Bakk) Snowmobile registration fees increased, snowmobile trail grants-in-aid provided, snowmobile trail use permits required, and money appropriated.
- HF708 (Juhnke) Fertilizer and agricultural chemical transporter quarterly registration allowed.
- HF738 (Wagenius) Metropolitan Council urban service area extension moratorium imposed.
- HF956 (Osthoff) Port development assistance project eligibility criteria modified, project review procedure exemption provided, and money appropriated.

- HF1164 (Juhnke) Bus definition expanded to include special transportation service vehicles.
- HF1295 (Hausman) Counties authorized to sell county state-aid highway bonds to fund maintenance building construction.
- HF1372 (Biernat) St. Paul and Minneapolis school boards directed to develop a transportation plan using public transportation.
- HF1472 (Juhnke) Air transportation service marketing program established.
- HF1578 (Mullery) Veteran service organization members provided special motor vehicle license plate stickers.
- HF1644 (Molnau) Municipal state-aid street fund apportionment city population estimate provisions modified.
- HF1689 (Johnson, A.) Motorcycle driver instruction permit provisions modified, and endorsement fees provided.
- HF1722 (Larsen) Motor vehicle drivers required to maintain vehicle control when approaching or passing an authorized emergency vehicle, and violation surcharge imposed.
- HF1941 (Mahon) Public safety inspectors authorized to stop motor vehicles under certain circumstances.

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3 A • Rep. Irv Anderson-DFL B • Rep. Loren A. Solberg-DFL Sen. Bob Lessard-DFL	17 A • Rep. LeRoy Koppendraye-R B • Rep. Leslie J. Schumacher-DFL Sen. Dan Stevens-R	31 A • Rep. William Kuisle-R B • Rep. Gregory M. Davids-R Sen. Kenric J. Scheveel-R	45 A • Rep. Ron Abrams-R B • Rep. Peggy Leppik-R Sen. Martha R. Robertson-R	59 A • Rep. Len Biernat-DFL B • Rep. Phyllis Kahn-DFL Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-DFL
4 A • Rep. Gail Skare-DFL B • Rep. Anthony G. Tony Kinkel-DFL Sen. David J. Ten Eyck-DFL	18 A • Rep. Jim Rostberg-R B • Rep. Loren Geo Jennings-DFL Sen. Janet B. Johnson-DFL	32 A • Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-DFL B • Rep. Michelle Rifenberg-R Sen. Steven Morse-DFL	46 A • Rep. Ann H. Rest-DFL B • Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson-DFL Sen. Ember R. Junge-DFL	60 A • Rep. Dee Long-DFL B • Rep. Myron Orfield-DFL Sen. Allan H. Spear-DFL
5 A • Rep. Tom Rukavina-DFL B • Rep. David J. Tomassoni-DFL Sen. Jerry R. Janeczich-DFL	19 A • Rep. Mark Olson-R B • Rep. Bruce Anderson-R Sen. Mark Ourada-R	33 A • Rep. Arlon Lindner-R B • Rep. Rich Stank-R Sen. Warren Limmer-R	47 A • Rep. Darlene Luther-DFL B • Rep. Phil Carruthers-DFL Sen. Linda Scheid-DFL	61 A • Rep. Karen Clark-DFL B • Rep. Linda Wejcmar-DFL Sen. Linda Berglin-DFL
6 A • Rep. Thomas Tom Bakk-DFL B • Rep. Thomas Huntley-DFL Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-DFL	20 A • Rep. Robert "Bob" Ness-R B • Rep. Tony Kielkucki-R Sen. Steve Dille-R	34 A • Rep. Steve Smith-R B • Rep. Todd Van Dellen-R Sen. Gen Olson-R	48 A • Rep. Bill Haas-R B • Rep. Alice M. Johnson-DFL Sen. Don Betzold-DFL	62 A • Rep. Lee Greenfield-DFL B • Rep. Wes Skoglund-DFL Sen. Carol Flynn-DFL
7 A • Rep. Willard Munger-DFL B • Rep. Mike Jaros-DFL Sen. Sam G. Solon-DFL	21 A • Rep. Marty Seifert-R B • Rep. Richard Mulder-R Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski-R	35 A • Rep. Carol L. Molnau-R B • Rep. Dan McElroy-R Sen. Claire A. Robling-R	49 A • Rep. Charlie Weaver-R B • Rep. Luanne Koskinen-DFL Sen. Leo Foley-DFL	63 A • Rep. Jean Wagenius-DFL B • Rep. Edwina Garcia-DFL Sen. Jane B. Ranum-DFL
8 A • Rep. Mary Murphy-DFL B • Rep. Bill Hilty-DFL Sen. Becky Lourey-DFL	22 A • Rep. Ted Winter-DFL B • Rep. Elaine Harder-R Sen. Jim Vickerman-DFL	36 A • Rep. Eileen Tompkins-R B • Rep. Dan McElroy-R Sen. David L. Knutson-R	50 A • Rep. Kathleen Sekhon-DFL B • Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-R Sen. Paula E. Hanson-DFL	64 A • Rep. Matt Entenza-DFL B • Rep. Michael Paymar-DFL Sen. Richard J. Cohen-DFL
9 A • Rep. Kevin Goodno-R B • Rep. Robert L. Bob Westfall-R Sen. Keith Langseth-DFL	23 A • Rep. Barb Vickerman-R B • Rep. Howard Swenson-R Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-R	37 A • Rep. Dennis Orzmet-R B • Rep. Bill Macklin-R Sen. Pat Pariseau-R	51 A • Rep. Mike Delmont-DFL B • Rep. Doug Swenson-R Sen. Jane Krentz-DFL	65 A • Rep. Andy Dawkins-DFL B • Rep. Carlos Mariani-DFL Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-DFL
10 A • Rep. Bud Nornes-R B • Rep. Hilda Bettermann-R Sen. Cal Larson-R	24 A • Rep. John Dorn-DFL B • Rep. Ruth Johnson-DFL Sen. John C. Hottinger-DFL	38 A • Rep. Tim Commers-R B • Rep. Tim Pawlenty-R Sen. Deanna L. Wiener-DFL	52 A • Rep. Satveer Chaudhary-DFL B • Rep. Geri Evans-DFL Sen. Steven G. Novak-DFL	66 A • Rep. Tom Osthoff-DFL B • Rep. Alice Hausman-DFL Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-DFL
11 A • Rep. Roxann Daggett-R B • Rep. Ken Otremba-DFL Sen. Dallas C. Sams-DFL	25 A • Rep. John Tuma-R B • Rep. Lynda Boudreau-R Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-R	39 A • Rep. Thomas W. Pugh-DFL B • Rep. Bob Milbert-DFL Sen. James P. Metzner-DFL	53 A • Rep. Phil Krinkie-R B • Rep. Sherry Broecker-R Sen. Linda Runbeck-R	67 A • Rep. Jim Farrell-DFL B • Rep. Steve Trimble-DFL Sen. Randy C. Kelly-DFL
12 A • Rep. Kris Hasskamp-DFL B • Rep. Stephen G. Wenzel-DFL Sen. Don Samuelson-DFL	26 A • Rep. Bob Gunther-R B • Rep. Henry J. Kalis-DFL Sen. Tracy L. Beckman-DFL	40 A • Rep. Mark P. Mahon-DFL B • Rep. Kevin Knight-R Sen. Dave Johnson-DFL	54 A • Rep. Mary Jo McGuire-DFL B • Rep. Mindy Greiling-DFL Sen. John Marty-DFL	
13 A • Rep. Torrey Westrom-R B • Rep. Doug Peterson-DFL Sen. Charles A. Berg-IND.	27 A • Rep. Ron Kraus-R B • Rep. Rob Leighton-DFL Sen. Pat Piper-DFL	41 A • Rep. Alice Seagren-R B • Rep. Ken Wolf-R Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-R	55 A • Rep. Harry Mares-R B • Rep. Betty McCollum-DFL Sen. Charles W. Wiger-DFL	
14 A • Rep. Steve Dehler-R B • Rep. Doug Stang-R Sen. Michelle L. Fischbach-R	28 A • Rep. Doug Reuter-R B • Rep. Steve Swiggum-R Sen. Dick Day-R	42 A • Rep. Ron Erhardt-R B • Rep. Erik Paulsen-R Sen. Roy Terwilliger-R	56 A • Rep. Mark Holsten-R B • Rep. Peg Larsen-R Sen. Gary W. Laidig-R	

Minnesota House of Representatives 1997 Members

List as of April 24, 1997

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

Governor's Desk

CH123-CH163

Bills await governor's action

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
 - veto the bill;
 - line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
 - do nothing, which results in the bill becoming law in the first year of the biennium.
- The timing of these actions is as significant as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is that the gover-

nor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each

house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Internet access to this information is available at:
<http://www.governor.state.mn.us> (select "legislative issues" folder)

Key:

CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
123	322	442*	Public right-of-way telecom services use control.	5/9/97	
124	136	244*	Prescriptions for intractable pain.	5/9/97	
125	22	91*	Police state aid amount ratified and money appropriated.	5/9/97	
126	2097	338*	Corporate farming provisions modifications.	5/9/97	
127	335	256*	Building and construction contract payments regulated.	5/9/97	
128	1870	1807*	Workers compensation insurance reporting deadline delay.	5/9/97	
129	524	277*	Liquor provisions modifications.	5/9/97	
130	212	35*	Soil and water conservation district election modification.	5/9/97	
131	569	543*	Grain bank license requirements modification.	5/9/97	
132	2042	1722*	Pharmacy technician definition and regulation.	5/9/97	
133	686*	756	Tenants' police and emergency assistance right.	5/12/97	
134	1071	1000*	Psychology practice licensure requirements modifications.	5/12/97	
135	609	1404*	Motor vehicle transfer notice time limit reduction.	5/12/97	
136	1380	1136*	Duluth family practice residency program responsibility transfer.	5/12/97	
137	156*	269	Secretary of state filing fees.	5/12/97	
138	2179*	1934	Statewide testing.	5/12/97	
139	1129	995*	Retirement provisions modifications.		5/13/97
140	1246	641*	Mental health provider peer review.	5/12/97	
141	723	1097*	Highway revolving loan account project funding.	5/12/97	
142	1863*	1630	Agricultural marketing and bargaining task force.	5/13/97	
143	458	724*	Speed limits.		

*The legislative bill marked with an asterisk denotes the file submitted to the governor.

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
144	1914	1684*	Minneapolis school board election modification.	5/15/97	
145	168	703*	Mail balloting authority expansion.	5/13/97	
146	970	868*	Minneapolis building contractor licensing requirement exemption extended.		5/13/97
147	127	72*	Election and voter registration provisions.	5/13/97	
148	512*	388	Municipal bankruptcy filing authorized.	5/13/97	
149	282*	470	Metro transit police officers.		
150	858*	920	Health care cost containment provisions.		
151	423*	175	Elected Metropolitan Council.		
152	1936*	1823	Labor disputes mandatory arbitration.		
153	658	612*	Washington County appointed auditor permitted.		
154	829	755*	Government bodies meeting on interactive television.		
155	700	566*	Lawful gambling profit expenditure provisions modified.		
163	892*	882	Minimum wage increase.		

Capitol chandelier: illuminating Minnesota politics

Observant visitors to the Capitol may notice, suspended high above their heads in the middle of the dome, an ornate crystal chandelier.

Usually, said Carolyn Kompelien, of the Capitol Historic Site Program, the chandelier remains unlit. But there are those occasions, she continued, when the massive fixture illuminates the rotunda.

The chandelier, Kompelien explained, is always lit on the anniversary of Minnesota's admittance to the Union: May 11. This year, that date fell on a Sunday, so the maintenance personnel brightened the rotunda on Friday as well, so citizens could enjoy the warm glow.

Inaugurations, too, are occasions worthy of the light, although lately, she said, the trend has been toward holding the events outside the Capitol.

"It's just sort of been forgotten," Kompelien said of the inaugural tradition.

The lamp is also lit during times of sadness. Whenever the body of a Minnesota dignitary lies in state, the chandelier provides the light. Legendary statesman Hubert H. Humphrey was

the last individual to receive that honor.

Of course, the governor always has the option of lighting the chandelier



Though the glowing crystal orb may look small from the ground, this 6-foot high chandelier is suspended by a massive chain 120 feet above the State Capitol's rotunda floor. It is made of thousands of crystal beads, weighs 2,000 pounds, has three access doors, and could accommodate two adults comfortably.

whenever he feels like it. Indeed, one Capitol docent recalls hearing some noise coming from the rotunda after hours one evening. Curious, the guide went forth to explore and there, dancing a polka under the blazing chandelier, was Gov. Rudy Perpich and his wife, Lola, along with several friends.

Kompelien said there are no official regulations regarding the lighting of the usually dormant chandelier.

The fixture itself dates from 1904, when it was purchased from a New York City manufacturer at a cost of \$1,250. In 1991 dollars, the chandelier would cost nearly \$20,000.

The original specifications called for "the very best quality French cut crystals" and required that the fixture hang "about 28 feet from the top of the dome."

The light has a diameter of six feet and a circumference of nearly 20 feet. It features 92 75-watt lamps mounted on a ribbed, metal framework and can, by means of an electric motor, be raised and lowered as needed. The chandelier and the chain together weigh nearly 2,500 pounds.

—F.J.G.

Bill Introductions

HF2201- HF2221

Friday, May 9

HF2201—Milbert (DFL)

Taxes

Major league baseball stadium construction, funding, maintenance, and governance provided, Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission powers and duties provided, taxes imposed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2202—Anderson, B. (R)

Judiciary

Children in need of protection or services outpatient treatment provided without parental consent, notices required, and penalties imposed.

Monday, May 12

HF2203—Skoglund (DFL)

Rules & Legislative Administration

Revisor's bill correcting miscellaneous oversights, inconsistencies, ambiguities, unintended results, and technical errors.

HF2204—Huntley (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Sault Ste. Marie Narrows Poe Lock state cost paid, and money appropriated.

HF2205—Commers (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Local government land use planning and zoning ordinance relation provided.

HF2206—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

International Falls city employee residency requirement notification provided.

HF2207—Winter (DFL)

Rules & Legislative Administration

Major league sports findings and recommendations submitted to Legislature by planning and fiscal policy commission.

Tuesday, May 13

HF2208—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Sandy Lake Band of Mississippi Chippewa provided state Indian tribe recognition.

HF2209—Jaros (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2210—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Mortgage group life insurance waiver requirements permitted.

HF2211—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Life insurance company foreign investments regulated.

HF2212—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Education

Higher education course common numbering convention provided, community college tuition grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF2213—Workman (R)

Education

Media center revenue provided to eligible school districts, and money appropriated.

Wednesday, May 14

HF2214—Murphy (DFL)

Education

High school pupils enrolled in post-secondary courses allowed to participate in high school activities, and post-secondary course grades excluded from pupil's grade point average.

HF2215—Dehler (R)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Dice games authorized in retail establishments licensed to sell alcoholic beverages.

HF2216—Tunheim (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Private property protection act adopted.

HF2217—Kahn (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Public body mediation meetings subject to open meeting requirements.

Thursday, May 15

HF2218—Mulder (R)

Health & Human Services

Senior citizen prescription drug program established, and money appropriated.

HF2219—Knoblach (R)

Health & Human Services

Red Wing nursing facility nursing home moratorium exception provided.

HF2220—Westrom (R)

Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance

Lawndale Farms Environmental Learning Center capital improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2221—Entenza (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Service station business operating hours regulated, and motor fuel retailer fuel purchase options provided.

Coming Up Next Week . . .

May 19, 1997

Session Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

For information updates, call

House Calls at **(612) 296-9283**.

All meetings are open to the public.

Sign language interpreter services:

(612) 282-2331 v/tty

To have the daily and weekly schedules delivered to your e-mail address, send a message to:

listserv@hsched.house.leg.state.mn.us

In the body of the message type:

subscribe h-schedules

The time for Session on Monday,
May 19 will be 9:30 a.m.

Order Form: *New Laws 1997*

A publication outlining the new laws of 1997 will provide brief, easy-to-read summaries of the bills that were passed by both the House and Senate and signed or vetoed by the governor. *New Laws 1997* will be available a few months after the session ends. Copies will be mailed without charge to those who order them.

Do you want to receive a copy of *New Laws 1997*? **Yes** **No**

Please place this form (**with the mailing label on the back**) in an envelope. Mail it by June 1, 1997, to: *Session Weekly*, House Public Information Office, 175 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.

Readership Survey: 1997 *Session Weekly*

Please take a moment to tell us what you think about the *Session Weekly*. Your opinions will help us plan for next year.

1. Where do you live? (Please check one.)

Minneapolis/St. Paul Outstate Minnesota Twin Cities Suburban Metro Area Other _____

2. What is your occupation? _____

3. How often do you read the *Session Weekly*? (Please check one.)

Once a month Twice a month Three times a month Every week

4. Which sections of the *Session Weekly* do you most often read? (Please check all that apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Update (page 2)	<input type="checkbox"/> A Closer Look	<input type="checkbox"/> Governor's Desk
<input type="checkbox"/> Opening Story (page 3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Features	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Introductions
<input type="checkbox"/> Highlights	<input type="checkbox"/> Information (i.e., lists)	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee Schedule
<input type="checkbox"/> Member Profiles	<input type="checkbox"/> It's a Fact!/Do You Know?	<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota Index

5. Do you have any comments (positive or negative) on any of the sections in Question 4? _____

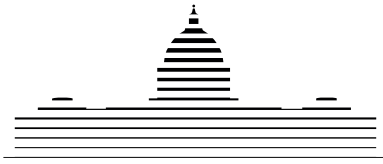
6. Please rate the following aspects of the *Session Weekly* by checking one answer in each set.

Writing	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard to understand	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat understandable	<input type="checkbox"/> Easy to understand
Story Length	<input type="checkbox"/> Too short	<input type="checkbox"/> Too long	<input type="checkbox"/> Just right
Readability (type size)	<input type="checkbox"/> Too small	<input type="checkbox"/> Too large	<input type="checkbox"/> Just right
Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent
Layout	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent

7. What do you like about the *Session Weekly*? _____

8. Do you have any suggestions for improving the *Session Weekly*? _____

9. Do you have any questions about the Minnesota House of Representatives or the legislative process that could be answered in a Q & A column? _____



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

Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota crash facts

Minnesotans with a driver's license	3,388,357
Registered vehicles	3,684,846
Nationwide, rank of car crashes as a cause of death among people	
between the ages of 1 and 24	1
Traffic crashes in Minnesota, 1995	96,022
Crashes per hour throughout Minnesota, 1995	11
People injured in crashes, 1995	47,161
in 1994	46,403
Minnesota motor vehicle fatalities, 1995	597
in 1994	644
Fatalities in 1968, highest in Minnesota history	1,060
Counties without a fatality, 1995	9
Licensed teenage drivers involved in a reported traffic crash, 1995	1 in 10
Licensed drivers age 80-84 years old involved in a crash	1 in 42
Ratio of male drivers to female drivers involved in fatal crashes	3:1
in all crashes	1.5:1
Bicyclists who died in collisions with a vehicle, 1995	5
in 1994	16
Pedestrian fatalities, 1995	46
Pedestrians injured, 1995	1,471
Percent of all fatalities that were in alcohol-related crashes	41
in 1994	35
DWI arrests, 1996	38,900
in 1995	33,355
Crashes resulting from a collision with a deer	5,266
Decline compared to previous year	- 621
Other animals involved in crashes	485
Motorcycles registered in Minnesota	113,981
Motorcycle crashes, 1995	1,126
in 1980	3,308
Motorcyclists killed, 1995	35
Drivers killed who didn't have a valid motorcycle endorsement	11

Sources: *Minnesota Motor Vehicle Crash Facts, 1995*, Office of Traffic Safety, Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ May 23, 1997 ♦ Volume 14, Number 20



SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • May 23, 1997 • Volume 14, Number 20

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Update

The empty chambers, hallways, and hearing rooms of the Capitol and State Office Building are a sharp contrast to the frenzied activity that is the norm between January and May. Lawmakers have gone home to wait for the special session while legislative leaders are conferring with the governor to reach a compromise on equitable language for three bills they have yet to agree on.

The smell of cooking bratwursts from the Ulcer Gulch snack bar has subsided, and the hordes of lobbyists who mill about to engage legislators in talk on some last-minute issue are all back in their respective home offices. Yet, the dedicated experts — the historical society tour guides — continue to inform the general public about the glorious history of the state, the magnificent architecture and artwork of the Capitol, and the rooms where issues get debated, made into law, or defeated.

One aspect not noticed very often is the Capitol building's unique "personality." When the lawmakers are in session, the building may easily embrace a thousand people on a daily basis, but its statues and pillars and gilded ceilings seem to become mere observers of the process for which the building is intended. On a day when tours are sporadic and the halls are empty, except for an occasional staffer delivering paperwork, not only are the different types of marble columns more obvious to the casual observer, the portraits of past governors even seem to take on a more prominent stance.

Another "feeling" of the building is one experienced on a quiet Saturday or Sunday afternoon. This disposition is likened to a quiet walk through a classic art museum. The great impressions of Minnesota's political and historical past are depicted in soft colors, gold inlaid inscriptions, brass, wood, and stone. Very obvious and some often subtle works of art take the concept of a museum a step further. Not only are objects on walls, the walls and ceilings themselves are works of unique art.

The most impressive "feel" of the building has not been experienced by most visitors. Its a rare occasion for those few who have found themselves alone in the building after 10 p.m. and the lights have been subdued. No eeriness prevails. What is experienced is a sense of warmth, peace, and a very comfortable feeling — even if it is not true that "*All is right with the world.*"

The State Capitol building can be a great teacher if its transient "personalities" are observed and heeded.

-LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: The end of the 1997 Legislative Session brings about different reactions in different people. While lawmakers may exchange congratulatory handshakes and reporters may clamor for quotes, overworked House pages, such as Johanna Olson, take a breath and rest against anything handy — even a garbage basket overflowing with useless bills will do.

—photo by Tom Olmscheid

Highlights

Regular session closes . . .

Stalemate on tax credits forces special session

By F.J. Gallagher

When the members of the 80th Legislature convened Jan. 7, they knew that they would have to make decisions affecting Minnesota citizens on the most fundamental levels.

During the course of the session, legislators — working with a projected budget surplus of nearly \$2.3 billion — wrestled with policy decisions of historic magnitude, redefining welfare and changing the way Minnesota educates and evaluates its students.

Yet, as the House adjourned just before midnight on May 19, the specter of a special session emerged as more than just a possibility. Indeed, when legislators found themselves hamstrung over a disagreement with Gov. Arne Carlson on \$150 million worth of education tax credits, it became an absolute certainty.

The House proposed a number of changes to Minnesota education, lengthening the school year, putting new dollars into school computers, and increasing per-pupil funding by slightly more than 2 percent. Yet members refused to include a provision that would provide low- and moderate-income parents with a tax credit to help defray the cost of tutoring, summer school or tuition at a private school.

As a result, Carlson has threatened to veto

a number of the major spending bills sent to him by the Legislature, including a tax bill that would rebate more than \$500 million of the state's budget surplus back to the taxpayers.

What's more, the governor has vowed to call members back for a special session — perhaps as early as June — so they can include his education tax credit proposal. (House and Senate leaders will re-enter negotiations with the governor's office on May 27.)

The governor has signed many of the bills sent to him by the Legislature, though — welfare reform, for example.

Beginning July 1, most families receiving cash assistance from the state will face a 60-month, lifetime limit on benefits. As of Jan. 1, 1998, local governments will use a package of sanctions, wage incentives, and child-care aid to help poor parents move into the work force.

The governor also agreed to remove caps on K-12 education spending that would have forced the state's school districts to impose drastic cutbacks on their programs.

The Legislature also has sent the governor a number of other major bills, many of which still await his signature as of this writing.

At the start of the session, nearly every lawmaker cited the need to reform the state's complex property tax system, a convoluted

code responsible for some of the highest tax rates in the country.

Although many of the serious reform provisions relating to tax increment financing and local government aid fell by the wayside, a bill finally emerged that featured — in addition to the rebates — long-term rate cuts for businesses and market-rate apartments.

Legislators also pumped more dollars into the criminal justice system, which is one of the fastest-growing areas of state spending. In addition to the extra funding, the Legislature also sent the governor a bill that would allow many of the state's prisons to begin housing prisoners two to a cell.

The state's innovative MinnesotaCare program, which provides health coverage to low-income citizens, is also in for some changes that would make more residents eligible, while saving doctors and health providers money.

The program is funded by a 2 percent tax on the revenue generated by health care providers. Over the next two years, that tax will drop to 1.5 percent, saving medical service providers nearly \$40 million.

A separate plan passed by the Legislature would put the state into the prescription drug business. The state would purchase drugs in bulk and pass the savings — estimated at around 10 percent of current retail



House Speaker Phil Carruthers and Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe, behind, encouraged Gov. Arne Carlson at a May 22 press conference to sign the omnibus K-12 Finance bill and avert a Special Session.



Gov. Arne Carlson, left, and House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum urged conferees negotiating the omnibus K-12 finance bill May 16 to include Carlson's plan for education tax credits, which would help subsidize private school tuition.

prices — on to consumers.

Never far from the front pages or lawmakers' telephones was the issue of the Minnesota Twins and owner Carl Pohlad's effort to persuade legislators to help fund a new baseball stadium.

A broad range of options were considered, from an increased cigarette tax to an expansion of gambling to an outright purchase of the team. One by one, all ideas were shot down.



AGRICULTURE

Cheap milk

Grocers would be allowed to set milk prices as low as they please during one month of the year under a bill approved May 19 by the House. The vote was 121 to 13.

Current state law prohibits retailers from selling milk for less than what they paid for it. The law is supposed to protect farmers and small grocers from being negatively affected by pricing wars.

But Minnesota dairy farmers and consumers have not fared well in recent months. The state's farmers now get some of the lowest prices in the nation for their products, and Minnesota consumers continue to pay some of the highest milk prices in the country.

Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) originally sought to lift the law prohibiting below-cost milk prices for a period of one year.

Trimble argued that the change would allow for more competition in the market and could drive up demand for dairy products.

However, the proposed one-year suspension of the pricing law did not survive in conference committee.

The final version of the bill (**HF1646/SF1834***) would suspend the dairy pricing law during the months of June, July, and August this year and in June every year thereafter.

The annual, month-long period of unconstrained pricing would be declared "Dairy Month." The bill also calls for the Department of Agriculture to report to the Legislature in 1998 on the many factors that are involved in dairy pricing and the potential effects of deregulation.

Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) argued that the bill would benefit only the large, chain-store retailers who could afford to knock milk prices down extremely low just to attract customers.

"It's going to have a very negative impact on the small grocers who have to try to compete with the big grocery stores," Kielkucki said.

But those small grocers are working at a disadvantage under the current law, Trimble said. Large grocers can afford to sell milk at cost because they have other revenue sources, such as slotting fees paid for prominent placement, that small grocers can't match, he added.

Trimble said small grocers and consumers may be better served by simply allowing the market to function freely.

The bill now goes to the governor.

Helping dairy farmers



Gov. Arne Carlson signed a resolution April 21 asking the federal government to provide relief for Minnesota dairy farmers who are currently feeling a financial squeeze.

The resolution — to be sent to Congress, the president, and the Department of Agriculture — asks for changes in the federal milk pricing system.

Minnesota dairy farmers have seen a significant drop in the prices they get for their products, while the state's consumers continue to pay exceptionally high retail prices for milk.

Low prices paid to farmers are driving them out of the dairy business, according to supporters of the resolution. The state is losing an average of three dairy operations a day.

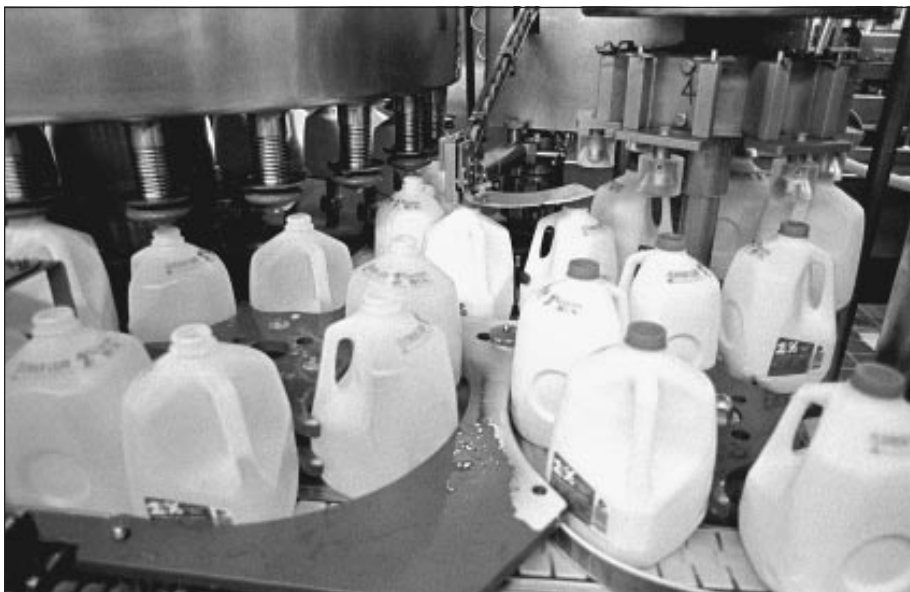
Currently, the Minnesota dairy industry generates \$3.5 billion in annual gross revenue and employs about 39,000 people.

The resolution calls for an end to a pricing system that is "profoundly unfair and discriminatory against Minnesota and Upper Midwest dairy producers."

It also requests that Minnesota and neighboring states be allowed to form a compact to guarantee dairy farmers a fair minimum price if a similar compact already formed by northeastern states is allowed to stand.

The resolution was sponsored by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples).

HF1067*/SF1283/Res. 2



Grocers would be allowed to set milk prices as low as they please during one month of the year under a bill on its way to the governor.



BONDING

New revenue building

A bill that would provide \$73 million in new bonding funds for construction of a building to house the Department of Revenue was approved May 19 by the House. The vote was 110-20.

The bill (**HF632**), sponsored by Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), would provide a total of \$111 million in bonding revenue and other expenditures for projects including the revenue building, flood damage reduction, cleanup of contaminated lands, and renovation of the Capitol cafeteria.

This year, the search for a home for the revenue department has been the focus of significant concern. The department currently occupies a building located at 10 River Park Plaza, opposite downtown St. Paul on

the Mississippi River, but the building is not owned by the state.

The department has been at its current location since 1988, when it relocated from the Centennial Office Building in the Capitol complex. At that time, the state negotiated a five-year lease — with five one-year renewal options — with St. Paul's JLT Group, which constructed the building to meet department specifications.

Last year, the department exercised its last renewal option and paid JLT \$6.3 million in rent. According to a report by consultants hired by the Legislature, the department has outgrown the current building, and the department will need even more space by 2010, when it will employ nearly 1,500 workers.

The consultant recommended that the agency be moved to a building that would be constructed on a site in Inver Grove Heights. However, the bonding bill does not prescribe precisely where a new facility would be constructed, nor does the bill mandate that a new building be constructed at all.

A total of \$74.9 million would be available for the revenue department project, under the bill. That amount includes \$1.9 million for design costs approved as part of 1996 bonding legislation, and \$73 million in new bond funds included in the current bill.

Under the bill, the Minnesota Department of Administration could opt to purchase the current building, but the amount available to purchase it would be capped at \$23 million. (Earlier this session, an official representing JLT said the state could purchase the building for \$38.9 million.)

The bill would allow construction of a new facility in Inver Grove Heights only if the Department of Administration is not able to purchase the current site for \$23 million or less and determines that it is not feasible to construct a new building within the Capitol complex. The amount available for an Inver Grove Heights facility would be capped at \$46 million.

(The consultant recommended construction of a building at the intersection of Interstate 494 and Highway 52 in Inver Grove Heights, and told lawmakers the project would carry a price tag of \$49.5 million.)

The bill would require only that the revenue department building be located within eight miles of the State Capitol, but the measure includes provisions designed to ease any effort to locate a new building within the immediate Capitol area.

Under the bill, the building would not have to conform with the comprehensive plan for the Capitol area, and the project would not have to be selected through a

design competition as is typically required within the Capitol complex.

The bill now goes to the governor. Here are some highlights of other provisions in the measure.

- A total of \$7 million would be made available for cleanup of contaminated industrial sites — so-called brownfields. Many such sites are found in urban areas. While they could be suitable locations for many uses, the sites sit unused or underused because the costs associated with cleaning industrial contamination are prohibitive. Funds for brownfield cleanup would be appropriated to the Department of Trade and Economic Development.
- Efforts to reduce the damage caused by floods in Minnesota would receive an infusion of \$4 million. The funds would go to the Department of Natural Resources for an existing grant program that provides funds to local government for planning and implementing flood mitigation measures.
- An additional \$1.04 million would be devoted to renovation of the State Capitol's cafeteria. The cafeteria — now a lackluster space most notable for what is revealed beneath the flaking paint on the walls — was once a unique place fashioned after a German rathskeller.

The cafeteria featured paintings of Americanized versions of German eagles on the ceiling, and slogans in German appeared over the archways. But anti-German sentiments of the World War I era prompted then-Gov. J.A.A. Burnquist to

consent to a request that the German slogans and symbols be painted over.

A 1996 law provided \$1.2 million for renovation of the cafeteria, but that amount proved to be well short of the estimated price tag for the project. The current proposal would increase the total bond revenue for the cafeteria project to a total of \$2.24 million.

- A total of \$3 million would be provided to local governments to rehabilitate deficient bridges. The funds could be used to repair or replace bridges, cover the local matching funds requirements for federal bridge rehabilitation grants, or to pay costs associated with abandonment of bridges.



BUSINESS

Youth and tobacco

Minnesota teenagers should smoke 'em if they've got 'em, because under legislation pending before the governor, it would be a lot harder for minors to buy cigarettes.

HF117, sponsored by Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope), would bring retailers into the regulatory fold. The bill would require communities to license tobacco sellers and conduct at least one compliance check, or "sting" operation, on each license holder every year. In a "sting," someone between the ages of 15 and 18 years old would attempt to purchase cigarettes illegally under the direct supervision of the authorities.

The bill also prohibits the sale of cigarettes



A bill targeting youth access to tobacco is on its way to the governor. The proposal would require communities to license tobacco sellers and conduct at least one compliance check, or "sting" operation, on each license holder every year. It also would — for the first time — punish store owners for tobacco sales to minors. Clerks and the buyers would face new fines as well.

from vending machines, except for those in locations — such as a bar — where people under 18 are not allowed. It also bans the open display of single packages of cigarettes or smokeless tobacco in stores, except for those that derive at least 90 percent of their revenue from tobacco sales.

Under **HF117**, cigarette manufacturers would be required to disclose whether their product contains ammonia, arsenic, cadmium, formaldehyde, or lead.

The bill also spells out a number of administrative penalties that would be imposed on licensees and store clerks convicted of selling tobacco products to a teenager, in addition to similar provisions that would apply to the minor who attempted the purchase.

Any license holder convicted of a first offense would draw a \$75 fine. A second offense within a two-year period would cost the retailer \$200 and the third offense within the same period would warrant a \$250 penalty, plus a seven-day suspension of the tobacco license.

The clerk who sold the tobacco would receive a \$50 civil fine. (Clerks already face up to a year in jail and a \$3,000 criminal penalty for selling tobacco to a minor.)

Any juvenile found to have illegally purchased tobacco — a petty misdemeanor under the law — could receive a fine of up to \$100, a community service sentence, probation, or be required to participate in substance abuse programs. If the minor used a driver's license to commit the act, the license would be suspended for 90 days.

The proposal explicitly states that local governments may pass ordinances that are more strict than **HF117**. The bill would require that tobacco retailers to be affected by such a proposal must be notified 30 days prior to any meeting on the possible changes.

Last session, a bill to limit youth access to tobacco was derailed by the same issue. After a provision that would have prohibited local units of government from enacting tobacco sales ordinances tougher than those contained in the bill, it was pulled by its author and never resurfaced. So-called "pre-emption" laws of varying strengths already are on the books in more than two dozen states.

Liquor laws



New regulations affecting the distribution and sale of alcoholic beverages went into effect retroactive to Oct. 1, 1996, under legislation signed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

Under the law, no one may deliver alco-

holic beverages anywhere in Minnesota except to a licensed wholesaler's warehouse, if the drink was manufactured outside the state. Exceptions exist for liquor just passing through during the course of interstate commerce or for legally sanctioned personal consumption.

Minnesota law allows an individual to import up to one liter of hard liquor or 2.25 gallons of beer or wine from another state without paying an excise tax. People entering the state from a foreign country can import up to four liters of hard liquor or 2.5 gallons of beer or wine for home use.

Minnesota wineries, and those in states that have a reciprocal agreement with Minnesota, may ship up to two cases of product per year to individuals.

The law also prohibits merchants from soliciting sales, other than those to licensed wholesalers, through the mail and from accepting sales orders over the Internet.

The Department of Public Safety's Division of Liquor Control and Division of Alcohol and Gambling are consolidated by the law. Department representatives had testified before the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee that they had already merged the two divisions and that the law would merely make the change official.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) and Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth).

HF524/SF277*/CH129

Unauthorized switches



The practice is known as slamming and loading. A long-distance telephone company sends a customer a check, a sweepstakes form, or a survey. What the customer often doesn't realize is that by participating or signing, they've authorized the company to remove ("slam") the customer's long-distance service and replace ("load") it with a new one.

A new law signed by the governor establishes the practice as consumer fraud and authorizes the attorney general's office to take action at a customer's request.

The law, effective April 30, 1997, says it is fraudulent to change a customer's service without the customer's verified consent, and that it is the responsibility of the telephone company to prove consent.

"If there's any question" on the customer's part about the switch being legally authorized, "the company has to have an authorization in writing," said Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington), the House bill's sponsor.

A 1996 law required that a long-distance company reinstall a customer's original service at no charge and then re-bill the customer at a lower rate if the original charges would have been lower. The new bill adds that the company could be required to absorb the long-distance costs accrued while the unauthorized service was in effect.

Sen. Janet Johnson (DFL-North Branch) sponsored the Senate proposal.

HF1123*/SF1156/CH68

Stop luring businesses



Gov. Arne Carlson signed a resolution April 26 asking the federal government to put a stop to practices that allow states to lure businesses, including professional sports franchises, away

from other states.

The resolution states that business incentive programs have resulted in counterproductive economic competition between states that saps the nation's readiness to compete in a global economy.

Ranking high among the list of concerns included in the resolution is the practice of using public resources to lure professional sports teams away from other states. Major League Baseball's exemption from federal anti-trust laws is another.

"States, in the aggregate, would be better off providing a less burdensome tax climate for all businesses and a quality education system" rather than frittering away money to attract individual companies, the resolution states.

The resolution calls for Congress to repeal the anti-trust exemption for professional baseball and to take other steps to mitigate economic competition between states.

The resolution will be sent to members of Minnesota's congressional delegation and other officials in Congress. Also, it will go to governors and legislative leaders in each state.

Rep. Jim Knobloch (R-St. Cloud) and Sen. Arlene Lesewski (R-Marshall) sponsored the resolution.

HF538*/SF1239/Res. 1



CHILDREN

Studying autism



A bill to establish a task force to study the treatment of autism has been signed into law.

Autism is a disorder that affects children and consists of a preoccupation with inner thoughts.

The individual lacks a connection with reality and the self often predominates to the total exclusion of the rest of the world.

Under the new law, the departments of human services and children, families and learning are charged with establishing the task force which will study the spectrum of autistic disorders; treatment options, including behavioral therapy, and outcome data on these treatment options; the role of schools, state agencies, and counties in providing services to children with autism; funding options for children with autism; the use of behavioral therapy day treatment programs and the use of school and Medical Assistance funds for these programs.

A final report is due to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 1999, and must make recommendations on how to improve the treatment options available to children with autism using existing dollars. Also, it must recommend ways to inform and educate families with autistic children on available resources and expertise for the treatment of autism.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) and Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester) sponsored the new law, which becomes effective Aug. 1, 1997.

HF750/SF652*/CH69



CRIME

Omnibus crime prevention bill

Crime and justice in Minnesota would cost the state almost \$1 billion over the next two years, under a conference committee report passed by the House May 19 in a 130-3 vote.

The \$997 million bill funds the state's court and correctional systems; law enforcement and public safety agencies; and departments such as the attorney general's office and the Board of Public Defense.

Late changes to **HF163/SF1880***, sponsored in the House by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) and in the Senate by Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul), include a provision to end the juvenile offender program at Sauk Centre correctional facility and reroute the juveniles to the Red Wing facility or to county custody. The Department of Corrections (DOC) will issue a proposal for future use of the Sauk Centre facility. (Art. 9, Secs. 43, 46)

Another would create a work program at Camp Ripley, near Little Falls, Minn., for adult male non-violent felony and gross misdemeanor offenders. The offenders would perform physical labor for at least eight hours a day, and serve at least two-



Crime and justice in Minnesota would cost the state almost \$1 billion over the next two years, under the omnibus crime bill awaiting the governor's signature.

thirds of their sentence at the camp. (Art. 9, Sec. 10)

Many of the bill's original provisions, including the establishment of a statewide gang-fighting strike force and arson strike force, and revisions to the juvenile justice system, remain in the bill.

Under the bill, work loads for probation officers would be reduced; women leaving prostitution would find help; and money would travel to community advocacy groups to help battered women.

The Department of Corrections (DOC) would be expected to reduce the daily (per diem) cost of housing prisoners, making layoffs possible.

Low-income families would have easier access to legal representation in court, as would low-income farmers. Courts would be given money to launch a pilot program to improve the resolution of family matters. The program would assign one judge to hear domestic abuse, probate, juvenile and delinquency matters for a single family.

County attorneys, public defenders, victim advocates, and shelter personnel would be trained in how to help victims of crimes that involve possible exposure to HIV.

The DOC would construct a new building for the wilderness endeavors program for juvenile offenders at Thistledeew Camp in northern Minnesota. Below are some other highlights of **HF163/SF1880*** in more detail.

Gang strike force

A major initiative in this year's crime-prevention bill is to establish a gang task force and oversight council. The strike force would look at gang problems throughout the state, and be overseen by the council, which would be made up of top law enforce-

ment officials from across the state. In addition to setting up the strike force, the council would develop a plan to investigate and prosecute crimes committed by gangs. The strike force would assist and train local governments and law enforcement agencies to identify gang members. (Art. 8, Sec. 8)

A second tool to fight gangs would be a gang intervention pilot grant program, in which the DOC, through local agencies, would provide services to gang members who want to leave their gang. To qualify for help, a gang member must be under 25 years old and not currently serving time. They must not have received similar services through other programs, and must comply with the program requirements and be employable. (Art. 2, Sec. 3)

The DOC would report back to the Legislature on the program's success by January 1999.

Arson strike force

The bill would set up an arson-fighting strike force that would provide expert investigative and prosecutorial assistance to local agencies in complex and serious cases of arson. The strike force would consist of representatives from the fire marshal's department, the BCA, the attorney general's office, police and fire department officials, the county attorney's association, private detectives, and other experts. The law responds to an epidemic of arson fires throughout the state, especially fires related to gang violence. (Art. 8, Sec. 20)

In addition to battling fires, the strike force would help train public safety personnel and set up educational programs for them and for prosecutors.

Related provisions in the bill would estab-

lish a statewide juvenile fire-starter intervention network, and make clear that refusing to testify or produce evidence in an arson case can be punished through district courts. Further, a person who commits arson in an effort to conceal another crime could not only be convicted of both crimes but sentenced for both. (Art. 8, Sec. 21)

Juvenile crime

Closely associated with efforts to combat gang problems are initiatives to address problems among juveniles, the focus of many committee hearings. The bill includes at least five measures to prevent juvenile crime.

Community service grant pilot project.

Children under age 16 in high-crime neighborhoods in Ramsey and Hennepin counties would be recruited to perform voluntary community service. The project would provide funding to community-based organizations to administer the project. The goal is to encourage good citizenship and discourage illegal activity among participants. The programs could offer children scholarships, gift certificates, tickets for entertainment or group outings, or other non-monetary rewards.

The bill stipulates that participating community agencies must be closely connected with the community and local governmental units, represent a diverse population, have a demonstrated ability to successfully coordinate the program and to interact with juveniles, and have a successful history working with schools and parents of juveniles. (Art. 2, Sec. 8)

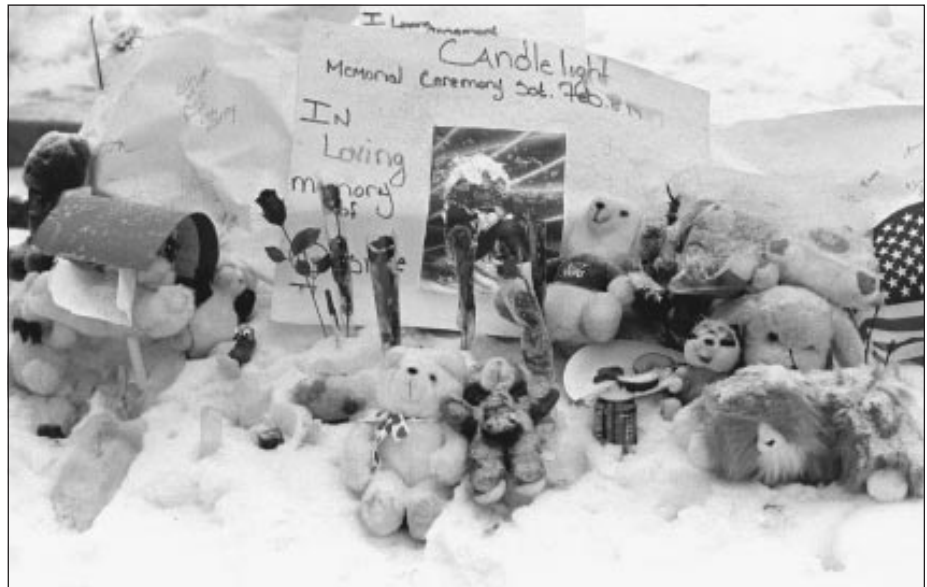
Enhanced probation pilot project; Ramsey County

This program would provide intensive monitoring and coordination between juvenile probation officers, local law enforcement personnel, and culturally specific community nonprofit agencies. The focus of the effort would be juveniles on probation who are considered at risk for committing violent crimes and are associated with gang and drug activities in Ramsey County.

The goal is to discourage young people from criminal activity by providing intensive intervention by the involved community and law enforcement groups. The county must provide a status report to the Legislature by March each year. (Art. 2, Sec. 4)

Pilot for school-based probation in Anoka and Dakota counties

Established by the DOC, the program would select one middle or junior high school and one senior high school in each county



A memorial was created in the snow outside the Richfield home of Desi Irving, 3, who was killed by her mother, Mildred, last February. The omnibus crime bill now before the governor contains a provision that would prevent children in state custody from being returned to extremely violent or dangerous homes.

for an experiment in placing probation officers within schools to help address behavioral incidents by students on probation. The officers would work with school personnel, families, and other agencies to coordinate responses to behavioral problems. A report on the project's effectiveness would be due to the Legislature by January 1999. (Art. 2, Sec. 5)

Pilot for juvenile gun offenders in Hennepin County

Juveniles in Hennepin County who are caught illegally possessing a pistol would be committed to a local county correctional facility for not less than 30 days. Twenty-three of those days could be stayed (postponed), however, if the juvenile successfully completes a 40-hour course on gun education after seven days. The county would report on the project's effectiveness by January 1999. (Art. 2, Sec. 7)

General crime provisions

The bill would make more than 30 changes to crime-fighting laws. Certain misdemeanor crimes, including prostitution, tampering with a motor vehicle, damage to property, and some weapons and controlled-substance crimes, would become gross misdemeanors and subject to increased penalties if the defendant has a history of committing those crimes. The measure is an effort to clean up neighborhoods plagued by petty crime and drug dealers. In that same interest, witnesses to the crimes would be kept apprised of the final outcomes of the cases.

Elderly and handicapped people would get more protection against con artists. The bill would make it a gross misdemeanor to commit certain types of fraud that would cause the victim to lose assets or income. (Art. 3, Sec. 12)

Criminals should stop when asked to by police. The bill would increase from a gross misdemeanor to a three-year felony the crime of fleeing a police officer while in a motor vehicle. (Art. 3, Sec. 13)

This year a loophole was discovered in the law regarding harboring a fugitive: It didn't cover the abettor if the fugitive happened to be on probation. The bill makes it clear that you can't harbor fugitives from the law — whether on probation or not. (Art. 3, Sec. 13)

Sex offenders

The bill would require the DOC and governmental agencies to develop a plan to require sex offenders leaving federal prisons to register under the Community Notification Act. The current law covers offenders leaving correctional facilities and half-way houses other than those in the federal system. Also, the bill would make it mandatory for local law enforcement agencies to disclose the information to the public. The current law only authorizes them to do so. (Art. 5, Sec. 1)

Crime victims

The Alex and Brandon Frank Child Safety Act

Alex and Brandon Frank were two Minnesota boys, aged four and five, murdered by

their father last July. The crime occurred at a time when their parents were divorcing. Many people feel the system failed to respond to warning signs that could have helped prevent the tragedy.

The bill would tighten the rules regarding visitation when a restraining order has been filed against a parent.

A petition for marriage dissolution would have to state whether a restraining order is in effect. If so, a judge would have to consider the restraining order before making a decision regarding visitation. In deciding custody issues, the judge would have to consider any finding of domestic abuse.

The act also would award grants to create or maintain a family visitation center to safely facilitate visitation decisions. (Art. 7, Secs. 8, 40)

Victims of juveniles

The bill would create an exception to the rule that all information regarding juvenile court matters are closed to the public. People who are victimized by youthful offenders would be allowed to learn the offender's name upon request. The names would not be released if doing so would interfere with the trial or if the victim's motives are suspect. (Art. 7, Sec. 4)

Confidentiality

Prosecutors, with court approval, could opt to withhold information pertaining to a victim's address or place of employment for the sake of the victim's safety. (Art. 7, Sec. 20)

Keeping victims posted

In addition to other measures that would inform victims of the status of certain cases, the bill would require prosecuting authori-

ties to keep victims apprised of investigative data collected by law enforcers, within certain guidelines. (Art. 7, Sec. 5) Victims also would be notified if an offender's sentence for a felony might be modified or appealed. (Art. 7, Sec. 22)

Restorative justice

Local units of government could provide forums where an offender could meet with the victim, the victim's family, and others related to the case to discuss the impact of the offense on the victim and community, assign an appropriate sanction, and provide methods for reintegrating the offender into the community if he or she is from the community. (Art. 2, Sec. 11)

Inmate employment, access to computers

Earlier this year, the public learned that an inmate with a history of sex offenses was keeping a list of names of Minnesota children. The list was compiled through access to the Internet. Prisoners use computers for work and educational purposes.

The bill would forbid inmates from participating in such work activities unless adequate security is provided by the facility. Access to the Internet would be prohibited except for work, educational, and vocational purposes. Regular monitoring of inmate computer use would be required.

A related provision would restrict access to the Internet by those on probation and parolees. (Art. 9, Sec. 18)

Nuisances

Finally, in a measure intended to help neighborhoods, the bill strengthens tenant and nuisance laws. Prostitution and firearms violations would be added to prohibited be-

haviors in landlord-tenant agreements. A person filing a complaint against a tenant for nuisance or other illegal behavior could request an expedited hearing. If granted, the hearing would be held five to seven days after a summons is issued. Further, a nuisance abatement action would not be brought if a property owner improves the problem or agrees to a plan to abate the problem within 30 days of receiving notice. (Art. 12, Sec. 4)

Harassing, stalking, sentencing



A new law to strengthen the state's anti-stalking law and toughen penalties for those violating orders for protection and restraining orders was signed by the governor.

The law defines harassing or stalking behavior as intentional conduct that the offender knows or has reason to know would cause the victim to feel frightened, threatened, oppressed, persecuted, or intimidated. Importantly, the bill states that prosecutors will not be required to prove that the offender intended to cause those reactions in the victim, only that the offender knew or should have known that the conduct would cause the reactions and that the victim did, in fact, experience them. In the event a dangerous weapon is used during a harassment or stalking violation, the offense will be punished by a mandatory minimum sentence. If the weapon is a firearm, a three-year penalty applies for the first offense, and a five-year penalty applies to subsequent offenses; if the dangerous weapon is not a firearm, a one-year penalty applies to the first offense, and a three-year penalty applies to subsequent offenses.

The changes were necessary given a recent Minnesota Supreme Court ruling that weakened the current stalking law.

The law also creates felony penalties for violating an order for protection or a harassment restraining order under certain circumstances. Such cases will include violations occurring within five years after sentencing from two or more previous protection or restraining order violation, or if the offender possessed a dangerous weapon during the offense.

Other violations of restraining orders will draw the felony penalty if the act is motivated by race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age or national origin; if the offender intends to interfere with a judicial proceeding or retaliate against an official involved in a case; if the victim is a minor and



A new law to strengthen the state's anti-stalking law has been signed by the governor. Changes were necessary given a recent Minnesota Supreme Court ruling that weakened the original stalking law.

the offender is at least three years older; or if the offender falsely impersonates another.

Under the law, offenders could be sentenced to a maximum of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. A minimum of 30 days in jail (and counseling) will be mandated for a felony protection order violation in cases where the court stays the sentence as a condition of probation.

Finally, the law clarifies that an offender may not waive the right to be sentenced under the state's sentencing guidelines. The provision is a result of the Minnesota Supreme Court's ruling in *State v. Givens*, and is intended to promote consistency and predictability in judicial sentencing.

In the *Givens* case, the defendant agreed to accept probation instead of incarceration for a purse-snatching offense. However, under the conditions of the agreement, if he violated probation, he would serve double the jail time recommended under the guidelines. The offender later did violate probation, but appealed the sentence.

The law makes it clear that while the guidelines are advisory to the courts, they are not rights that a defendant can waive.

The law also states that if a defendant agrees to be sentenced outside the guidelines, he or she may not appeal the sentence after 90 days or after committing another crime, whichever is first.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) and Sen. Ember Reighcote Junge (DFL-New Hope).

HF5*/SF32/CH96

Double-bunking inmates

Most inmates would share cells at an \$89 million prison to be constructed in Rush City, Minn., under a bill approved May 19 by the House. The vote was 130-0.

The bill (**HF268**), sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), would alter a state law requiring that inmates be placed in separate cells whenever possible in close-custody prisons — such as the one planned for Rush City — and maximum-security facilities.

A 1996 bonding measure provided \$89 million for construction of a prison that was originally expected to house at least 800 prisoners in six residential units.

The 1996 law also included a provision requiring the Department of Administration to investigate the feasibility of double-bunking prisoners in one of the residential units.

This session, lawmakers were told that the

funding approved last year would fall short of the amount needed to construct the prison according to the original plans.

The Department of Corrections offered revised plans calling for the construction of only four residential units with 136 cells in each. Three of the four units would be made up of double-occupancy cells, which would push the facility's capacity to 952 inmates.

Under the bill, double-bunking would be allowed only in corrections facilities at certain security levels identified within a new classification system.

The Department of Corrections would institute a six-level security system, with one being the minimum level of security and six being the maximum.

Double-bunking would be allowed only at facilities at level four or under, and Rush City would be a level four. Stillwater and St. Cloud would be level five, and Oak Park Heights (the state's only maximum-security prison) would be level six.

Contrary to current law, which calls for inmates to be in single cells whenever possible, the bill would require facilities at security levels of four or under to permit multiple occupancy "to the greatest extent possible."

The double-occupancy cells at Rush City are expected to measure 84.2 square feet. Cells at St. Cloud are only 48 square feet, and those at Stillwater are 60 square feet.

The bill now goes to the governor.



DEVELOPMENT

Economic development, housing

A \$412.9 million bill that sets aside money for job creation, tourism, trade, and a variety of housing assistance programs is on its way to the governor's desk.

A compromise version of the omnibus economic development and housing finance bill passed both the House and Senate May 16.

The measure (**HF2158*/SF1909**), sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth) and Sen. Tracy Beckman (DFL-Bricelyn), merges omnibus bills from the Economic Development Finance Division and the Housing and Housing Finance Division.

For economic development, the bill sets aside money for a diverse group of state agencies, from the Department of Trade and Economic Development to the Department of Economic Security.

For housing, the bill appropriates money to aid the homeless, disabled, and first-time

home buyers through programs administered by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

Among the economic development bill's provisions is a \$6.5 million appropriation to help Minnesota's welfare families train for jobs. Federal law now requires families to work to receive public assistance.

Minnesota's film industry also would get a \$1 million boost. The money would go to the Minnesota Film Board to establish a film production jobs program. It would pay producers of long-form and narrative films who directly create new film jobs in Minnesota. The Department of Trade and Economic Development would oversee and authorize the payments.

Below is a listing of some of the bill's other provisions:

- \$6 million would go to the Minnesota Youth Program which provides services year-round for young people between the ages of 14 and 21. That dollar figure is above the state base funding of about \$6 million. Participants receive education, skills training, and other support services on an individual basis. They receive academic enrichment designed to improve the young person's reading and math skills.
- \$2.5 million would go to Mankato State University to establish a rural policy and development center to research issues affecting rural Minnesota, encourage collaboration across higher education institutions to help with problem solving, and provide a resource center for rural communities.
- \$300,000 would go to the Minnesota Historical Society to distribute locally for Minnesota's territorial sesquicentennial and millennium celebrations.
- \$250,000 would go to Ramsey County to expand the Sister-to-Sister mentoring program which pairs up former welfare mothers with those currently on welfare to help them move off public assistance. The county would be required to match the money.
- \$25,000 would go to study the feasibility of a state museum housing fishing-related artifacts, equipment, and memorabilia. The Minnesota Historical Society must present study recommendations to the Legislature.
- \$500,000 would pay for a LeRoy Neiman Museum of Art in St. Paul. A dollar-for-dollar match from other sources, however, is required. Neiman, an artist, is a native of St. Paul.
- \$1 million would help low-income Minnesotans pay household energy bills and weatherize their homes.

Housing initiatives

The omnibus bill also authorizes spending \$58.4 million in state funds on housing programs, \$5.4 million more than the governor recommended.

Homeless assistance, prevention

The housing portion of the bill includes several programs to aid the homeless and prevent homelessness. According to Department of Economic Security figures, the number of people using emergency shelters and transitional housing in the state has tripled over the past 11 years. Of the 4,981 Minnesotans needing services in 1996, 44 percent were children. Any increase in homelessness triggered by federal and state welfare reforms going into effect this year could strain an already overburdened support system.

The largest appropriation would mark \$5.7 million for the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program, which grants funds to organizations providing case management to help low-income people with poor rental histories rehabilitate their rental records and find housing. Part of the funding would also go to innovative approaches for housing people with poor rental histories.

The bill provides \$3.1 million for rental housing assistance to individuals suffering from a mental illness and to families with a mentally ill adult member.

A \$1.2 million program will help families experiencing financial hardships who are about to lose their homes to foreclosure.

Affordable rental housing

The Affordable Rental Investment Fund would get \$14.6 million for the biennium to provide no-interest first mortgages or deferred loans for the construction of low-income rental housing. The aim of this program is to provide affordable housing for households earning up to 80 percent of the state median income.

Indian housing programs

Home ownership and rental opportunities for low- and moderate-income American Indians would be provided by two programs. The Urban Indian Housing Program would receive \$187,000 per year to assist Indians living in urban areas. The Tribal Indian Housing Program would get \$1.7 million each year to help Indians living in Greater Minnesota.

Homestead support

The Minnesota Urban and Rural Homesteading Program would get \$186,000 per year to acquire vacant, condemned, or abandoned

single-family homes for rehabilitation and sale. The properties are offered to first-time homeowners on a contract-for-deed basis.

Accessibility Loan Program

A program that provides deferred payment loans to low-income homeowners for improvements directly related to the basic housing needs of physically disabled persons would receive \$4.3 million per year. The program is operated by local agencies and is limited to households in which one or more persons have a long-term disability that substantially affects functioning in the home.

Acquisition and demolition

A \$750,000 appropriation requested by House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL Brooklyn Center) would pay for the acquisition, demolition, and removal of substandard multi-unit rental property. The measure was added to the bill even though some members questioned whether it would run counter to existing state housing policy and lead to an actual decrease in available low-income housing.



DWI

Tougher DWI sanctions

An omnibus DWI bill cleared the House floor May 19 without the controversial provision to lower drivers' legal blood alcohol limit to 0.08 percent. The vote was 85-47. That provision, passed by the House but applied only to repeat offenders by a Senate proposal, was deleted by conferees.

The 0.08 provision had been criticized by some who said it would unnecessarily criminalize people and did not accurately reflect the facts about alcohol impairment.

But Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), the bill's House sponsor, said the new standard would save lives. A House Research Department report states that based on studies of other states, the lower level could save about 14 lives every year in Minnesota and about \$6.3 million in associated social costs.

HF1004/SF985* is an effort to tighten laws that discourage and prohibit driving while under the influence of alcohol. Last year in Minnesota, police made 38,900 DWI arrests, a significant jump from the year before, when 33,355 arrests were made, according to Alan Rodgers of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

Of 576 traffic deaths in Minnesota in 1996, about 202 were alcohol-related. Nationwide,

alcohol played a role in 17,000 of 40,000 traffic deaths.

Over the next biennium the bill would appropriate \$248,000 to the public safety department; \$171,000 to the attorney general's office; and \$22,000 to the Board of Public Defense for costs associated with the bill. (Sec. 73, Subd. 1-3)

Despite the disappearance of the 0.08 percent provision, a measure to lower to 0.04 the legal limit for drivers under age 19 remains. (Sec. 28, Subd. 1)

While state law prohibits any alcohol consumption by people under 21, the 0.04 provision would make it easier to apply DWI penalties to youthful offenders.

The bill also would stiffen penalties for DWI offenses, especially for repeat offenses and for driving with a blood-alcohol level of 0.20 (twice the legal limit) or more. A new level of DWI crime, called an enhanced gross misdemeanor, would be imposed for three or more DWI violations within 10 years, or for a second or greater violation if the offense involves a blood-alcohol level of 0.20 or more. Under the new classification, an offender could receive up to two years in jail and a \$3,000 fine

A first DWI offense at a blood alcohol level of 0.20 or more would now be a gross misdemeanor, subject to a minimum sentence of 30 days incarceration (with work release); 48 hours consecutive incarceration; or 80 hours of community service. The period of driver's license revocation would double. (A first DWI offense is now a misdemeanor; the second, a gross misdemeanor.) After one motor vehicle DWI offense at 0.20, license plates would be impounded. After two DWI convictions, the vehicle could be forfeited, and a driver's license would be revoked for twice the current length of time. (Sec. 38)

Mandatory criminal penalties also would be increased. A third offense would result in a minimum 90-day jail sentence, with at least 30 days served. A fourth would mean a minimum 180-day sentence with at least 30 days served. A fifth or greater offense would mean a one-year sentence with at least 60 days served. (Sec. 32, Subd. 3)

In all three cases, the remainder of any sentence not served must be served on home detention using electronic monitoring or under an intensive probation program, during which no alcohol consumption is permitted. The bill provides for a greatly increased use of the high-tech monitoring, which enables law enforcers to obtain breath test results through the telephone. (Sec. 37, Subd. 3f)

Additionally, those awaiting trial could



A DWI bill is on its way to the governor's desk without a controversial provision to lower the legal blood alcohol limit to 0.08 percent.

agree to electronic alcohol monitoring as a means of being released from detention, and monitoring could be used as part of a sentence after a conviction. People with two or more convictions within five years (or three or more within 10 years) would participate in monitoring in addition to other probation or sentencing conditions. The bill also says that the offender may be required to pay the cost of the monitoring. (Sec. 28, Subd. 1c; Sec. 30, Subd. 1d)

Drivers of snowmobiles, motor boats, and other off-road recreational vehicles, such as all-terrain vehicles, would be subject to the same DWI laws that apply to automobile drivers. Most sanctions, including the loss of a driver's license, would apply only to repeat offenders. All offenders would continue to be subject to a misdemeanor penalty and lose operating privileges pertaining to that recreational vehicle after a first offense, in accordance with current law. (Sec. 2, Subd. 1.; Sec. 4, Subd. 1)

A "not-a-drop" standard would apply to school bus drivers. That means any alcohol detected could result in the loss of a driver's license. Currently, bus drivers are subject to a 0.04 blood-alcohol level. Drivers of commercial vehicles would be breaking the law with a level of 0.04 or more. (Sec. 42, Subd. 1)

Finally, the bill would direct the commissioner of public safety to undertake a public awareness campaign to educate the public on the license plate impoundment and vehicle forfeiture laws. (Sec. 71)

HF1004/SF985* now awaits the governor's signature.



EDUCATION

K-12 omnibus bill

Gov. Arne Carlson is expected to veto a \$6.7 billion K-12 education finance package passed by the Legislature because the bill does not include tax credits and expanded tax deductions for private school tuition and other education expenses.

The omnibus K-12 finance bill (**HF1684*/SF1925**), sponsored by Rep. Becky Kelso, was approved by the House May 19 in the waning hours of the legislative session. The vote was 115-18. The Senate passed the bill the same day by a margin of 56-10.

"The governor has stated on several occasions that he intends to veto the bill," said Brian Dietz, the governor's press secretary. "I have no indication otherwise that it will not be vetoed."

The bill would add three days to the school year for all public schools and provide healthy increases in the per-pupil funding schools receive in general education revenue. Currently, districts get \$3,505 per pupil. The bill would add \$76 per pupil in 1998 and another \$79 in 1999.

And the bill would provide \$89.5 million to improve technology in schools and a \$100-million increase in compensatory revenue to help students from low-income homes, especially those children who have failed or are likely to fail the state's basic skills test required for high school graduation.

"We managed to fund the basic operating costs of education at an inflationary level, and along with that there are some significant steps toward reform," Kelso said.

However, the bill does not include anything resembling the governor's proposal to provide funds to parents for education expenses such as tutoring, computer hardware and software purchases, and private school tuition.

The governor originally sought \$150 million in tax credits and expanded tax deductions for education expenses, but near the close of session he offered a more modest \$75 million plan as negotiations on the K-12 finance bill progressed.

Kelso said the governor's proposals would have required much-needed funding to be taken away from other portions of the education budget.

"It's not a trivial amount of money," Kelso said. "There's no way we could have subtracted that amount from other things we're funding in the K-12 bill without it having a negative impact."

The governor was not satisfied with a counter-offer from DFL leaders on education to expand the tax deduction for education expenses and to provide a lesser amount in tax credits for parents of public school students. The DFL proposal would have allowed state funds to be used for costs of tutoring, remedial efforts, computer purchases, and other expenses, but not for private school tuition.

Efforts to compromise stalled over the issue of allowing state funds to be used to pay private school tuition.

"That was a deal-breaker," Dietz said.

Kelso said any move to provide state money for private school tuition in the form of a tax credit would be "a major change ideologically" that most lawmakers do not favor.

"What the governor wanted was simply not there to give," Kelso said. "There was not support for his proposal. There was not 51 percent of the Minnesota House that would have voted for it."

The version of the K-12 funding bill that emerged from conference committee included many of the provisions earlier approved by the House. The bill would provide \$7.9 million to help students with limited proficiency in English and \$5 million to implement a system of uniform, statewide testing.

Dietz said the bill is missing some of the governor's education initiatives — such as a plan to provide funds to help get more charter schools up and running — aside from his proposed tax credits and deductions. But, Dietz said the bill is "decent" and would fare better with the governor if some agreement could have been reached on the issue of tax credits and deductions.

“If the tax credit portion would have been included, the bill probably would have been signed already,” Dietz said.

The probability of a veto means the issue of school finance will likely be the focus of a special session of the Legislature. Only the governor can call a special session, and he is expected to do so.

“Right now, it’s very hard to see where the common ground is,” Kelso said. “I can’t look down this road right now and see where the end is.”

Statewide testing



Gov. Arne Carlson signed legislation into law May 12 that will require uniform, statewide testing of virtually all Minnesota public school students.

The new law, effective May 13, will require uniform, statewide testing of third, fifth, and eighth graders beginning in the 1997-1998 school year and a new brand of assessment of students at the high school level beginning no later than the 1999-2000 school year.

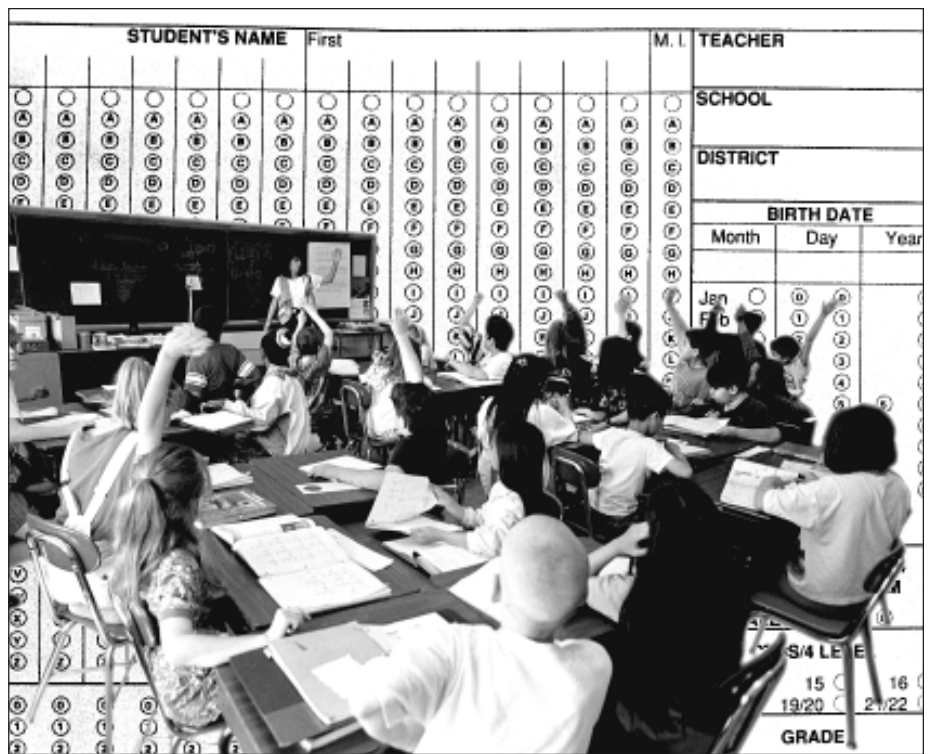
Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), who sponsored the measure in the House, said the tests will be an integral part of the state’s move toward an education system that demands schools and students be more accountable for taxpayer funds invested in education.

Statewide testing had been a controversial issue at the Capitol in years past, but this year it drew bipartisan support. Proponents claim such testing would provide a reliable means for comparing the performance of schools and districts.

The first law passed during the 1997 session (**HF1*/SF3/CH1**) mandated that statewide testing would begin during the 1997-1998 school year. The latest statewide testing law prescribes how that testing system will work.

Under the law, the basic skills tests in reading and math — already required under the state’s graduation rule and first given to students in the eighth grade — will count as the statewide tests for that age group.

Third and fifth graders will be given tests selected by the Department of Children, Families and Learning. The department can use a test it has developed or a nationally recognized test such as the California Achievement Test or the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. Any test used in the statewide testing system will have to be aligned with the state’s graduation standards.



A new law will require uniform, statewide testing of third, fifth, and eighth graders beginning in the 1997-1998 school year and a new brand of assessment of students at the high school level beginning no later than the 1999-2000 school year.

The new law also asks districts to assess the performance of students at the secondary level according to the standards within the Profile of Learning, a state-developed system of measurements of overall student performance, and a part of the newly developed graduation standards.

The law calls for the assessment of secondary students to begin during the 1999-2000 school year, but it leaves the choice of testing instruments and processes to the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

The commissioner is required to report to the Legislature in 1998 on plans for assessment at the high school level.

The law allows only narrow exceptions to the statewide testing requirements. For example, students who are new to this country and are not proficient in English will be exempt.

Another provision in the law requires that the 1997-1998 test results from each school and each district be used to establish a baseline against which their future performance could be measured.

Test results will be reported to the public in three forms: a raw number representing the mean score for each school and district, a mean score of all students except those who are new to a school or district, and a mean score of all students except those receiving limited English proficiency instruction.

The results released to the public also will include the number of students on free and reduced-price lunch programs, the number of special education students, and the number of students with limited English proficiency at each site.

Sen. Larry Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2179*/SF1934/CH138

Spending caps removed



The first new law produced during the 1997 session removed statutory caps on education spending and requires uniform statewide testing of public school students.

The law lifted a provision approved by lawmakers in 1995 that called for a \$337 million cut in state aid to school districts during the next two years.

Considered a top priority at the start of the legislative session, the proposal to remove the spending caps won broad, bipartisan support.

Statewide testing was initially linked to the spending caps proposal through an amendment approved on the Senate floor. The legislation that the House originally passed did not include any such language.

The eventual result was legislation to do

three things: repeal the caps on education funding, repeal current law prohibiting statewide testing, and establish that Minnesota will require standardized testing of all students.

Supporters of statewide testing tout it as a way to increase accountability in public schools by providing a reliable measurement of student and school performance that can be compared to results from other schools and districts.

The specifics on how statewide testing will work are not included in the new law. A special House-Senate committee was created to devise separate legislation (**HF2179**) prescribing how statewide testing is to be implemented.

The repeal of the funding caps was effective Feb. 15. Statewide testing will be required beginning in the 1997-1998 school year.

The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) and Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon).

HF1*/SF3/CH1



ELECTIONS

Pillows talk at the polls



People in some areas of Minnesota might want to carefully plan which room of the house should be the master bedroom. The decision could determine the location of their polling place.

According to a new law, if an individual's home lies in more than one precinct, the "official" one would be "the precinct in which a majority of the room in which the individual usually sleeps is located."

The provision has become necessary as more housing developments are being built on agricultural land which also serves to mark school district boundaries, according to Joe Mansky, director of the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State. No figures are available to determine the number of people the provision will affect.

In addition to many technical changes, the law requires courts to provide the secretary of state's office with the names of convicted felons (who are ineligible to vote), and of those whose voting rights have been restored after having served sentences for felony crimes. The state currently has no record-keeping capacity to keep track of such convicts.

The law also says that candidates for county sheriff must be licensed peace officers. Un-

der current law, candidates are obligated only to complete basic police training courses before serving or campaigning.

Effective Aug. 1, 1997, the law was sponsored by Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) and Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville).

HF127/SF72*/CH147

City council terms



A new state law will ensure that members of the St. Paul City Council will continue to serve a two-year term.

The Legislature passed election laws in 1994 and 1995 designed to get all municipalities on a fall balloting schedule. But one of the unintended consequences of those changes was to make all city council terms four years long, starting Jan. 1, 1998.

This was news to many declared candidates for the capital city council, who thought they were vying for a two-year stint.

Officials in St. Paul were outraged, and saw the law as a direct attack on the city charter, which calls for two-year council terms. (Voters in St. Paul rejected a change from two- to four-year terms with referendums held in 1984 and 1986.)

State officials admitted they had no evil intentions when they drafted changes to state election law. They were just trying to get rid of some spring elections in the name of uniformity.

The new law becomes effective upon approval of the St. Paul City Council.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport) and Sen. Chuck Wiger (DFL-White Bear Lake).

HF658/SF612*/CH153



Vote by mail

Under a new law effective Aug. 1, 1997, more Minnesotans will be able to vote by mail.

Under current law, rural cities and towns with 400 or fewer registered voters are able to conduct mail-in elections. The new law will allow voters in precincts with 50 or fewer voters to vote by mail.

Adding the precinct designation, even with the smaller number of voters, allows more areas to participate in mail-in voting. That's because some towns with populations of more than 400 lie in more than one county, creating very small precincts within metropolitan areas.

The law will allow those precincts to avoid the expense of operating a polling place and other election-related efforts for their limited number of voters.

House sponsor Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) has said the law will affect about 284 registered voters statewide.

Sen. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park) sponsored the proposal in the Senate.

HF168/SF703*/CH145



ENERGY

Biomass and wind power



Effective Aug. 1, 1997, a new law will remove a hurdle that energy-producing facilities normally face before they can start doing business.

The facilities in this case are wind and biomass energy-producing plants. The law will remove the requirement that the plant owners obtain costly and time-consuming certificates of need — proof that the state needs the facility — before they can



The Legislature passed several new election laws this session: one increases the number of Minnesotans able to vote by mail; another ensures that St. Paul City Council members continue to serve two-year terms; and, still another links your polling place to the bedroom.

be built. The certificate process usually takes 18 months to three years.

Not only does the state want to encourage the wind and biomass energy industry, it has mandated that a major energy buyer in the state, Northern States Power Co. (NSP), purchase a specified amount of energy from those sources. That means that without the new provision, the state would be requiring a certificate of need from the same business the state already has mandated that NSP buy from.

The law also gives the Public Utilities Commission regulatory authority over the biomass and wind energy purchases made by a utility company.

Lastly, the law requires the Department of Agriculture to study funding mechanisms to make biomass energy projects more viable. The study should look at tax-exempt bonds, public and private financing, the development of an authority to facilitate investment, and credit payments.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) and Sen. Dean Johnson (R-Willmar).

HF1508/SF1328*/176



ENVIRONMENT

Environmental spending bill

The omnibus environment, natural resources, and agriculture finance bill (**HF2150**) is now pending before the governor.

Under the revised bill, state spending for environment and agriculture programs will total almost \$647 million over the next two-year budget cycle. Included are funds for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Minnesota Zoo, the Department of Agriculture, and several other state agencies.

Just over 62 percent of the state spending in the bill — almost \$368.6 million — goes to the DNR. The MPCA, the next largest recipient will receive about \$86.7 million. The Department of Agriculture receives \$54.9 million.

The spending bill also includes \$37.2 million for environmental and recreational programs selected by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), which is funded by a 2-cent-per-pack cigarette tax and some state lottery proceeds. (Sec. 15)

The MPCA will continue existing programs to clean up Minnesota lakes and rivers with \$25.7 million in state funds. It will



A \$600,000 appropriation in the omnibus environment bill would go to the DNR for a new electronic game and fish licensing system.

receive another \$16 million for air pollution programs, and almost \$31.5 million for protection of groundwater and management of solid waste. (Sec. 2)

Highlights of the bill, sponsored by Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Steve Morse (DFL-Dakota) are below.

Fishing license fees

Both residents and nonresidents would have to pay more to wet a line in Minnesota lakes and rivers.

Annual licenses for residents would be \$15, up from the current \$13. Minnesota seniors would see a \$1 hike and would pay \$5.50 instead of \$4.50 per year.

Nonresidents would pay \$31, up from \$27.50 per year.

Fees would also be raised for temporary fishing licenses, fish houses, and trout stamps for residents and nonresidents alike. (Sec. 83)

Ethanol

The bill would appropriate \$49.6 million in subsidies over the two-year period for ethanol producers.

Ethanol is made from the fermentation of corn and other agricultural products and has been used as an additive in gasoline to make it burn more cleanly.

There are currently six major ethanol plants in Minnesota that produce a total of 92 million gallons of ethanol per year. That is still short of the 120 million-gallon state goal which would allow Minnesota to become ethanol self-sufficient. The state still imports ethanol from plants in Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska.

Since October 1995, automobiles in the 10-county metropolitan area have been re-

quired to burn “oxygenated fuel” year round. (The law was enacted in 1991 because the Twin Cities was in violation of federal Environmental Protection Agency clean air requirements. Adding one part ethanol for every 10 parts of gas is one way to oxygenate gas.)

Beginning Oct. 1, 1997, all gasoline sold in the state will have to be oxygenated, which will further increase demand for ethanol. (Sec. 7, Subd. 3)

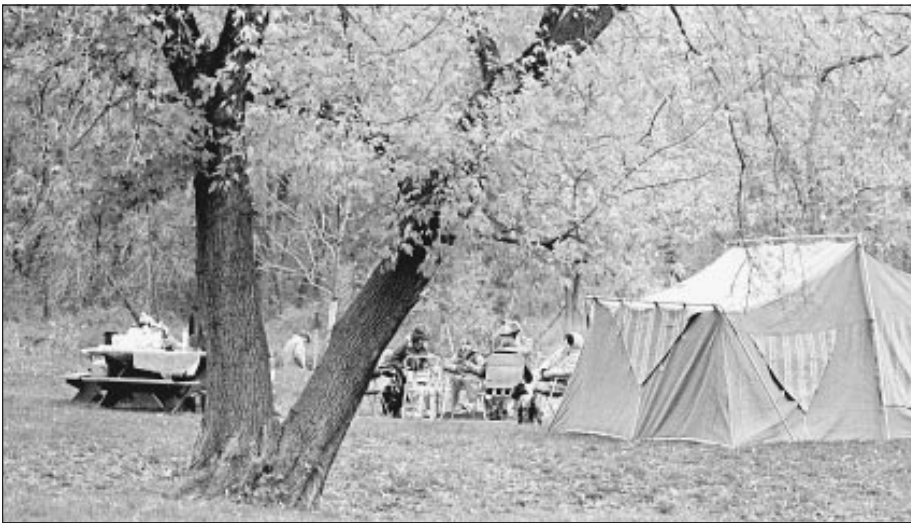
Snowmobile safety, trails

The bill increases the snowmobile registration fee by \$15, pushing the total charge to \$45 for three years. The bill also requires out-of-state snowmobilers to pay \$15 for a permit to operate their machines on state trails or grants-in-aid trails maintained by local clubs. New revenue generated by the fee increases will help pay for improvements to an overburdened and out-of-date trail system.

The bill also would expand snowmobile safety training requirements to include all snowmobile operators 25 and under by 2002. Safety training also would be required of any operator convicted of careless or reckless operation of a snowmobile and those who violate snowmobile speed limits twice within one season.

The bill also prohibits the use of snowmobiles with metal traction devices on paved state trails. (Sec. 64)

A total of \$5.2 million will be spent each year for snowmobile trail improvements. Most of the money will go to local snowmobile clubs to pay for trail grooming under the state grants-in-aid program. (Sec. 5, Subd. 6) Local law enforcement agencies will be able to apply for grants from a \$800,000 fund



Land would be added to four state parks, another would be allowed to sell beer in its lodge, and O.L. Kipp State Park in Winona County would become Great River Bluffs State Park, under a bill on its way to the governor.

to expand their snowmobile enforcement activities. The DNR also will get \$200,000 for special equipment to increase the effectiveness and safety of snowmobile law enforcement. (Sec. 5, Subd. 8)

State parks, trails, recreation

Funding for state parks and recreation areas would total more than \$53.8 million.

A total of \$6 million — \$3 million each year — would go to maintain and operate the metropolitan regional park system. Another \$500,000 more would go to expand and improve state park and recreational areas. (An additional \$7 million from the LCMR would supplement the funds for metropolitan and state parks.)

A \$75,000 appropriation is for pre-design and design for a Minnesota rock, gem, and mineral interpretative center to be located within Moose Lake state park near prime rock collecting areas. The DNR would initiate the architectural and engineering design for the center, the focal point of which would be the display of Lake Superior agates as well as rocks, gems, minerals, and geologic artifacts indigenous to Minnesota. (Sec. 5, Subd. 5)

Trail improvements include \$900,000 for the gateway segment of the Willard Munger Trail in North St. Paul and Roseville. Other trails to be improved include the Heartland Trail, Root River Trail, and Harmony Trail. (Sec. 5, Subd. 6)

Another \$142,000 would fund a survey of state trails accessible to people with disabilities. (Sec. 5, Subd. 9)

Fish and wildlife

The DNR will spend more than \$82.3 million in fiscal years 1998 and 1999 on programs for fish and wildlife management.

Non-game wildlife management programs will get \$1.9 million. Another \$2.7 million will fund game and fish critical habitat programs and wetlands protection under the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program. (Sec. 5, Subd. 7)

The LCMR recommendations add another \$3.2 million for RIM programs.

Stagecoach Trail

The bill authorizes the creation of a 40-mile historic trail through Dodge, Olmsted, and Steele counties. The Stagecoach Trail will originate at the Douglas Trail near Rochester and extend west along the Zumbro River Valley to Owatonna. Paralleling U.S. Route 14, the trail will pass through Mantorville, Wasioja, and Rice Lake State Park.

Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), sponsor of the original trail legislation, had explained that the multi-purpose paved trail will be used primarily for biking and hiking. Unpaved portions of the trail would be developed for horseback riding, mountain biking, and snowmobiling. No funding is allocated for trail development this year. (Sec. 65)

Livestock odor research

The bill requires the MPCA to monitor livestock feedlots for violations of the state's ambient air quality standards for hydrogen sulfide emissions. The agency must respond to citizen complaints about feedlot odor and use portable monitoring equipment. (Sec. 115)

The University of Minnesota would re-

ceive \$400,000 for livestock odor research. Another \$125,000 would go to the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture for research, development, and promotion of low odor alternative hog production systems.

Deer winter survival

HF2150 includes a provision authorizing the DNR, along with members of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, to form a working group and develop recommendations on feeding and other options to ensure the winter survival of deer.

Winter deer feeding has been a matter of controversy for several years. Opponents argue that the state spends too much in money and staff time on deer feeding and doesn't save enough deer to make it worthwhile. Deer feeding supporters, such as Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), argue that such criticism fails to take public support for the program into account. Millions of state dollars have been spent and thousands of volunteers have distributed food for deer over the past several years. (Sec. 144)

Electronic licensing

A \$600,000 appropriation would go to the DNR for a new electronic game and fish licensing system.

License agents would be able to run the magnetic strip on Minnesota driver's licenses through their equipment to pull up personal information to print on the buyer's fish or game license. License fees also could be electronically transferred. The DNR would contract with a private vendor to operate the system.

A pilot project is planned for the summer and fall of 1998 with full implementation planned for March 1999. (Sec. 5, Subd. 9)

Food stamp supplement

\$1 million is allocated to create and administer a "Minnesota Grown" coupon program to provide food supplements to Minnesota residents who are non-citizens who have lost their eligibility for federal food stamps. The coupons will be redeemable for Minnesota-grown produce and meat products. (Sec. 7, Subd. 3)

White pines

The oldest, tallest, and most majestic trees in Minnesota's forests are the white pine. But with only 2 percent of the state's original white pine population still standing, conservationists, the timber industry, and state officials are all concerned about the tree's future.

The bill includes \$1.5 million to regener-

ate and protect Minnesota's endangered white pine population as a part of the overall \$68.5 million budget for forest management. (Sec. 5, Subd. 4)

Other projects

Among the other programs funded by the bill:

- The Minnesota Zoo will get \$10.9 million, including \$240,000 for a new computer system (Sec. 4);
- The DNR will receive a total of \$39 million for its various enforcement activities (Sec. 5, Subd. 8);
- \$20.6 million for water resources management including \$400,000 to the Greening the Great River Park Project to restore native vegetation along the Mississippi River in St. Paul (Sec. 5, Subd. 3);
- \$10.3 million for mineral resources management, including several iron ore research matching grants (Sec. 5, Subd. 2);
- The safe harbor program on Lake Superior will receive \$906,000, including \$400,000 for the Taconite Harbor Project (Sec. 5, Subd. 6);
- \$2.7 million would be marked for the city of St. Paul for the redevelopment of Harriet Island (Sec. 5, Subd. 9); and
- \$2.3 million would go to the Science Museum of Minnesota (Sec. 10).

Changes to state parks

Land would be added to four state parks, an additional park would get a new name, and another would be allowed to sell beer in its lodge under a bill passed by the House May 19. The vote was 133-0.

HF299, sponsored by Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to add land to the following state parks.

- Bear Head Lake State Park in St. Louis County would add 160 acres of adjacent undeveloped land, wooded with mature red and white pine trees. The addition would prevent a proposed housing development near the Taconite State Trail.
- Forestville State Park in Fillmore County would get an adjacent 40-acre parcel on the south branch of the Root River. The river is a designated trout stream and the surrounding bluffs contain excellent habitat for the endangered timber rattlesnake.
- John Latsch State Park in Winona County would gain access to the Mississippi River with a 120-acre parcel that includes privately owned water access, a resort, and campground. The resort would continue to be privately operated under contract

with the state and would be allowed to sell liquor by the drink.

- Split Rock Lighthouse State Park in Lake County would acquire 80 acres of land along the Lake Superior shore northeast of the park. The land is currently owned by the Congdon family and includes Gold Rock Point, the largest of the few exposed granite cliffs on the North Shore. It also contains 3,700 feet of lake shore and access to the Madeira shipwreck, one of the most popular diving sites in the Great Lakes.

The bill also changes the name of O.L. Kipp State Park in Winona County to Great River Bluffs State Park. O.L. Kipp is the first state park encountered by travelers entering the state from the east on Interstate 90. Great River Bluffs is a more descriptive name that park officials believe will attract more tourists to the park.

Another provision of the bill would allow Itasca State Park in Clearwater County to add beer to the wine menu in its restaurant. And visitors to Tettegouche State Park would be allowed to use the Palisade Head parking lot for up to one hour without buying a state park permit.

The Senate added a provision to the bill authorizing St. Louis County to sell tax-forfeited land along Amity Creek in Duluth.

The bill now goes to the governor.

Mercury emissions regulated



New rules regulating incinerator mercury emissions will become law on Aug. 1, 1997.

Under the new law, mercury testing procedures will be relaxed for incinerators with a proven track record of low emissions. New incinerators will be required to run a smokestack mercury test every three months. The bill allows incinerator operators with emissions below 50 percent of their permitted mercury limit for three consecutive years to cut back testing to once every three years.

If any subsequent test reveals mercury emissions greater than 50 percent of the incinerator's permitted mercury limit, the facility will have to conduct yearly stack sampling until emissions once again drop below 50 percent.

The purpose of the new law is to reward superior performance, Peter Torkelson, a staff engineer for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has said.

Most mercury in the environment originates from incinerator smokestacks. Burning of municipal wastes and fossil fuels, often to generate electricity, are the primary sources

of smokestack mercury. Once airborne, mercury eventually returns to earth and contaminates the watershed. Studies of the sludge accumulated on Minnesota lake bottoms indicate that the state's mercury problems started with industrialization in the 1850s and peaked in the 1970s. Since then the rate of mercury contamination has dropped slightly.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Janet Johnson (DFL-North Branch).

HF742/SF780*/CH189

Relays added to mercury law



A bill regulating mercury-containing products was signed by Gov. Arne Carlson April 28.

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that can cause permanent nervous system damage. Since mercury is a volatile element it does not degrade in the environment, but becomes airborne and eventually returns to earth to contaminate watersheds. It also accumulates in animal tissue as it moves up the food chain. Consumption of fish from 90 percent of Minnesota's lakes is currently restricted because of mercury contamination.

The law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), adds commercial electrical relays to a list of products from which mercury must be removed for reuse or recycling prior to disposal. The new restriction takes effect July 1, 1998.

"When we originally passed the bill to regulate mercury recycling in products, we left out electrical relays," Wagenius said on the House floor March 20. "These relays are showing up in the waste stream and need to be included [in the law]."

Regulations currently in effect include such devices as thermostats, thermometers, and switches. Manufacturers are required to label all mercury-containing products and accept them back for recycling or proper disposal.

Sen. Janet Johnson (DFL-North Branch) sponsored the Senate proposal.

HF949*/SF885/CH62

Earth Day



Gov. Arne Carlson signed a resolution April 29 asking the U.S. Congress to recognize Earth Day as a national day of service and education.

The resolution, which also establishes Earth Day as a state day of service



Gov. Arne Carlson signed a resolution April 29 asking the U.S. Congress to recognize Earth Day as a national day of service and education.

and education, requires the secretary of state to transmit the state's wishes to the president and leaders in Congress.

Earth Day, which falls on April 22, has been celebrated informally by environmentally concerned citizens since the spring of 1970, when environmental leaders staged a nationwide "teach-in."

The day is often marked with volunteer environmental cleanup efforts and public education programs. Earth Day has now gone international with programs planned in several countries.

Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) sponsored the resolution in the House and Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township) was the Senate sponsor.

HF1692/SF1342*/Res. 4



FAMILY

Early childhood funding



Federal changes requiring welfare parents to work are expected to move another 12,500 Minnesota children into day care over the next few years. To prepare for that onslaught, a new state law sets aside a record \$200.4 million.

The measure also will pay some parents to stay at home with their newborns for the first year of life.

Gov. Arne Carlson signed the omnibus early childhood and family education bill into law May 16. It spends \$393.6 million over the state's 1998-1999 two-year budgeting period.

In addition to child care, the new law, much of which is effective July 1, 1997, appropriates money for programs such as early childhood education, community education, after school programs, adult basic education, Head Start, food shelves, and homeless shelters.

Providing the dollars for child care is in the state's best interest, lawmakers say. Under a new federal welfare law, states are punished for not moving their welfare parents to work. Specifically, Minnesota could lose millions in federal aid. Logically, if Minnesota expects its welfare parents to work, child care assistance is essential.

Part of the \$200.4 million for child care — \$99 million — will pay for the child care needs of welfare parents now required to work under federal law. (Art. 4, Sec. 63, Subd. 3)

About \$92.5 million will be placed into an existing program that helps low- and moderate-income working families pay for child care using an income-based, sliding-fee scale. There are currently about 5,600 Minnesota families on a waiting list for the Basic Sliding Fee program. The money in the new law is expected to eliminate most, if not all, of the waiting list. (Art. 4, Sec. 63, Subd. 2)

The Basic Sliding Fee program has become a vital part of the state's effort to trim its welfare rolls. Without the program, the cost of child care can often push a working-poor family onto welfare.

A portion of the Basic Sliding Fee dollars will pay parents on the program to stay at home with their child for the first year of life.

Eligible families (those already qualified for the Basic Sliding Fee program) will receive 75 percent of the average cost of li-

censed family home day care for an infant in their county. The measure instructs the Department of Children, Families and Learning to begin the program by July 1, 1998. (Art. 4, Sec. 22)

Another \$7.7 million will go toward child care development grants to encourage more people to enter the child care profession by offering loans for course work and training. A portion of the money also would be used to expand child care facilities.

And finally, the remaining \$1 million will be used to administer the programs.

Below is a listing of some of the new law's highlights.

- A mandatory \$5 monthly co-payment for families using state-subsidized child care will be instituted. Families with incomes between 75 and 100 percent of the federal poverty level will be required to make a \$5 co-payment each month, regardless of how many children they have. For a family of two, 75 percent of the poverty level equals



Besides a record \$200.4 million for child care subsidies, the omnibus early childhood and family education law spends \$29.7 million to pay for a program that brings babies and toddlers together with their parents to learn about a child's emotional, physical, mental, and educational development.

\$7,957 and 100 percent equals \$10,610. The co-payments will increase for families earning more than 100 percent of the poverty level. (Art. 4, Sec. 37, Subd. 2)

- \$29.7 million over the two-year budgeting period will pay for a program that brings babies and toddlers together with their parents to learn about a child's emotional, physical, mental, and educational development. The Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program is a 23-year-old program designed for children from birth to kindergarten and their parents. (Art. 1, Sec. 18, Subd. 3)
- \$2 million will fund a newly created early childhood infant grant development program. It will provide money to local ECFE programs that come up with creative ways to focus on infant development and a parent's role in stimulating and nurturing their infant's intellectual and emotional development. (Art. 1, Sec. 18, Subd. 7)
- \$9.8 million will pay for after-school enrichment programs. Grants are provided to select neighborhoods so they may offer after-school programs for 9- to 13-year-olds. The program's purpose is to reduce juvenile crime, school suspensions, and increase student achievement. (Art. 2, Sec. 31, Subd. 11)
- \$37.5 million will pay for Head Start, a federal/state program that provides low-income preschool children with emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological services. (Art. 1, Sec. 18, Subd. 8)
- \$25 million will pay for adult basic education over the biennium. The program provides educational opportunities for adults with low educational levels. Services include literacy training, work force education, and General Educational Development (GED) preparation. (Art. 2, Sec. 31, Subd. 18)
- \$2.5 million will pay for Minnesota food shelves. The increase is in anticipation of an even greater demand on food shelves this spring when many of Minnesota's poor will see a cut in their federal food stamps. (Art. 3, Sec. 8, Subd. 4)

Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) and Sen. Pat Piper (DFL-Austin) sponsored the legislation.

HF2147*/SF1858/CH162

Find out who represents you at the Capitol. Call the House Public Information Office at (612) 296-2146

Signing up for fatherhood

A bill to register the names of fathers — or potential fathers — with the state is on its way to the governor.

HF296/SF203* would require the Department of Health to establish a registry for men who want to be notified if their child is put up for adoption.

The registry would be for any male who is or may be a child's father but is not married to the mother and has not otherwise established paternity. The bill is aimed mainly at couples who have little or no relationship beyond the time of conception.

The registry would protect a birth father's rights in the event his child is put up for adoption, and protect children and adoptive parents from having their families "ripped apart," House sponsor Rep. Linda Wejzman (DFL-Mpls) has said.

A father or potential father could register from the time of conception until 30 days after a child's birth. (A man would be able to register even without certainty that a pregnancy resulted from a sexual encounter.)

A father who does not register within 30 days of a child's birth would not — under most circumstances — be allowed to contest an adoption. By failing to register, a father "is considered to have abandoned the child."

Registering also would serve as the first step in a paternity claim. Within 30 days after being notified of a pending adoption, the father could file with the court an intent to claim parental rights. That way, a father would preserve the right to maintain an interest in the child.

The bill would apply only to parental rights related to adoptions — not to custody or other parental issues. It would affect babies born on and after Jan. 1, 1998.

The omnibus health and human services finance bill (**SF1908**) carries a \$286,000 appropriation to get the registry up and running.



GAMBLING

All in good fun



A new law, effective May 16, 1997, allows social organizations to host card games and distribute prizes without being subject to gambling restrictions.

The law allows tournaments or contests involving social skill games — including cribbage, skat, sheephead, bridge, euchre, pinochle, gin, 500, smear, and whist

— as long as the events do not provide a direct financial benefit to the host organization, and the sum of all prizes does not exceed \$200. The games in question are generally held at VFW posts, American Legion halls, Moose and Elk lodges, Knights of Columbus halls, and senior citizen centers. Often, a fee is charged for participation in the games, and the winner or winners in the games may win part of the door fee.

Another provision increases by 5 percent the amount that organizations that host legal gambling, such as bingo, can claim as expenses. Previous law said that 60 percent of the gross profits from bingo and 50 percent from other legal gambling can be claimed for expenses. The law raises the amounts to 65 percent and 55 percent, respectively.

Lastly, the law eases up on the owners of premises where illegal gambling has taken place. Before the owner's permit can be revoked, the Gambling Control Board has to prove that the owner knew the unlawful activity was occurring.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington) and Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy).

HF700/SF566*/CH155



GAME & FISH

Game, fish, and snowmobiles

This year's omnibus game and fish bill would regulate snowmobiles, provide youth deer licenses, and declare opossums to be an official state nuisance.

HF313/SF254*, sponsored by Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) and Sen. Dennis Frederickson (R-New Ulm), is on its way to the governor.

Under the bill, snowmobiles would have to be registered in the legal name of the owner and registration numbers must be clearly visible on the vehicle for law enforcement purposes. In the past, owners have been allowed to register under nicknames and use fancy (and often difficult to read) lettering to display registration numbers on their snowmobiles. These practices sometimes made it difficult for enforcement personnel to identify a snowmobile's owner. Snowmobilers under 18 also would be required to wear helmets.

In addition, the bill would prohibit the operation of airboats at any time on lakes designated for wildlife management purposes.

Young deer hunters

Young people would be encouraged to take up hunting by two provisions of the bill. A \$5 youth deer license would be authorized allowing residents under age 16 to hunt deer. With the license, youth must be accompanied by a licensed hunter 18 years of age or older who possesses a valid deer tag. Any deer taken by the youth would have to be tagged by the older hunter. The commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) also would be authorized to establish special hunts for youth to take big or small game in designated areas.

Playing with opossums

Opossums would join the list of nuisance animals that could be taken without permit by the occupant of a property where the animal is causing damage. Already on the list are mink, squirrel, rabbit, hare, raccoon, lynx, bobcat, fox, muskrat and beaver. This provision also says that a DNR conservation officer must be notified when such an animal is killed. Current law requires that the animal be brought to an officer.

Gun safety

The DNR would be authorized under the bill to set up a two-year pilot program to promote the safe use and storage of firearms. The program is to be "value-neutral" concerning gun ownership. The demonstration program would be conducted in two school districts: one in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and one in Greater Minnesota. A report on the pilot program would be submitted to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 1999.

Assistant anglers allowed



Anglers who need help wetting their fishing lines due to age, blindness, or disability will get a break under a new law effective Aug. 1, 1997.

The disabled currently receive free fishing licenses but those assisting them often must pay for a separate license. The law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), will allow aged and disabled people to be assisted by an unlicensed person as long as only one line is in the water.

"One of my constituents, Mark Jacobson, of Brooklyn Park, brought the problem to my attention," Luther has said. Jacobson's mother is disabled and needs assistance to pursue her favorite sport. Since she has several different assistants, Jacobson found he

would have to pay for a separate fishing license for each assistant.

Sen. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park) sponsored the Senate proposal.
HF311/SF574*/CH95



GOVERNMENT

Financing state government

The House approved a \$654 million omnibus state government finance bill May 16. The vote was 92-39.

In addition to funding the legislative and administrative functions of state government, **SF1905** also funds a number of other projects, most notably: \$15,000 for a portrait of Gov. Arne Carlson and \$15,000 for an oil painting replica of former Gov. Rudy Perpich and his wife, Lola; \$200,000 for the Hockey Hall of Fame in Eveleth, Minn., (which has operated at a loss for years); and \$450,000 for an American Bald Eagle Center in Wabasha, Minn. **SF1905** also would allow the Legislature to increase the number of paid leadership positions. Under the bill, each legislative house could expand its leadership from three positions to five, each of whom would be paid at 140 percent of the rank-and-file members, or \$41,519, up from \$29,657. (Art. 2, Sec. 3)

The version of **SF1905** adopted by the House contains substantially fewer provisions than previous editions. As the bill proceeded through the legislative process, members deleted language pertaining to rais-

ing the minimum wage, providing pay increases for the state's top executives and judges, and purchasing the Minnesota Twins.

SF1905, sponsored in the House by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) and in the Senate by Sen. Len Price (DFL-Woodbury) now goes to the governor for his signature.

Appropriations

For the 1998-99 biennium, the bill would appropriate more than \$100 million in operating funds for the Legislature, \$53 million for the attorney general's office, and \$7 million for the offices of the governor and the lieutenant governor. **SF1905** also would fund a number of diverse state initiatives, in addition to the gubernatorial portraits and the eagle center, through the Department of Administration. The department's biennial appropriation, which totals nearly \$95 million, includes projects such as the Children's Museum and the Intergovernmental Information Systems Advisory Council. (Art. 1, Sec. 12)

The bill also would strengthen the state's debt collection agency. Under **SF1905**, debts owed to any state government entity that become more than 121 days past due would have to be collected through the Minnesota Collection Enterprise. The Legislature established the collection enterprise several years ago to collect debts in a more cost effective manner.

Monuments to posterity

SF1905 would appropriate slightly more than \$1 million to the Capitol Area Architec-



Among its many spending projects, the omnibus state government finance bill would spend \$15,000 for an oil painting replica of former Gov. Rudy Perpich and his wife, Lola, to be displayed in the Capitol. Before he died, Perpich tried to include his wife in his official Capitol portrait but was denied. The above photograph of Perpich and his wife would be replaced with the painting.

tural and Planning Board for new monuments.

The bill would allocate \$455,000 in 1998 for the two gubernatorial portraits, the predesign of a monument dedicated to Coya Knutson (the state's first female congressional representative), and the completion of the Women's Suffrage Memorial Garden.

The planning board also would be directed to develop standards regarding gubernatorial portraits, paying "particular attention to whether the governor's spouse should be included in the official portrait." (Art. 1, Sec. 14)

Another \$110,000 would fund a matching grant for a memorial to be constructed in Park Rapids, Minn., honoring veterans from "all wars involving armed forces of the United States." (Art. 1, Sec. 19)

Prescription drugs

SF1905 also allocates \$250,000 over the biennium to the Department of Administration to establish a prescription drug-buying program. (Art. 1, Sec. 12)

The program would allow the department to establish a consortium to purchase pharmaceuticals in bulk. The drugs would, in turn, be sold to pharmacists who would then pass the savings — estimated at 10 percent of current prices — on to consumers. (Art. 2, Secs. 28-31)

Technology

The bill would elevate the state's Office of Technology to the status of a state agency, with an executive director appointed by the governor. The office would be responsible for ensuring that all of the state's technological development proceeds in a logical manner. The technology office would review and coordinate intergovernmental operating systems, and direct the architecture of the state's technology infrastructure. (Art. 3, Secs. 7-10)

The technology office's director also would appoint a manager for Minnesota's North Star system, which would become the officially sanctioned on-line service for conducting government business. Government units planning or providing on-line services (such as World Wide Web pages) would be required to do so through North Star, and the office would develop outreach programs to other statewide systems, such as schools and libraries. (Art. 3, Sec 13)

SF1905 also would enhance Minnesota's 911 service, requiring cellular and wireless access providers to cooperate and implement an enhanced emergency capability that meets the standards dictated by the Federal

Communications Commission. (Currently, a number of rural Minnesota counties are without enhanced 911 service, which allows a dispatcher's computer terminal to pinpoint the exact location of a caller.)

The Minnesota Highway Patrol and other civic entities would operate 10 answering points, and the local governments would be required to ensure that any 911 call made by a cellular phone would be automatically connected to one of those points. (Art. 3, Secs. 18-31)

Community-based planning

SF1905 also contains provisions aimed at reining in urban sprawl. Under the bill, communities would be encouraged to work together and prepare comprehensive growth plans, in concert with the state's Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning and other agencies.

The legislation builds on 11 goals for growth outlined by the Metropolitan Council. Accordingly, municipalities could establish joint powers boards to oversee the development process by assembling a long-range blueprint for growth which incorporates the Met Council's ideas. Communities that chose to do so would be required to submit the outline to the state's planning office for review and comment. (Art. 4, Secs. 1-12)

Grant funds of \$375,000 for the second year of the biennium would encourage counties or joint planning districts to adopt such a plan. A grant of \$350,000 the first year of the biennium would be available to a joint powers board in the St. Cloud area to ad-

dress community planning. Three grants of \$50,000 would await additional counties or boards willing to participate in a planning pilot project. (Art. 1, Sec. 11)

The bill would establish an advisory council on community-based planning, which would be required to report back to the 1998 Legislature with ideas on how to better implement community-based ideas. The 18-member council would hold state-wide meetings, encourage citizen involvement, and develop strategies for coordinating growth plans. (Art. 4, Sec. 13)

The bill also creates an alternative dispute resolution process that would allow communities to address any conflicts that might arise out of the planning process. (Art. 6)

Year 2000 glitch

None of the accounting software programs used throughout the vast network of state offices know what to make of the digits "00" when used to signify a year — such as the year 2000. Nor can they accommodate a four-digit year code.

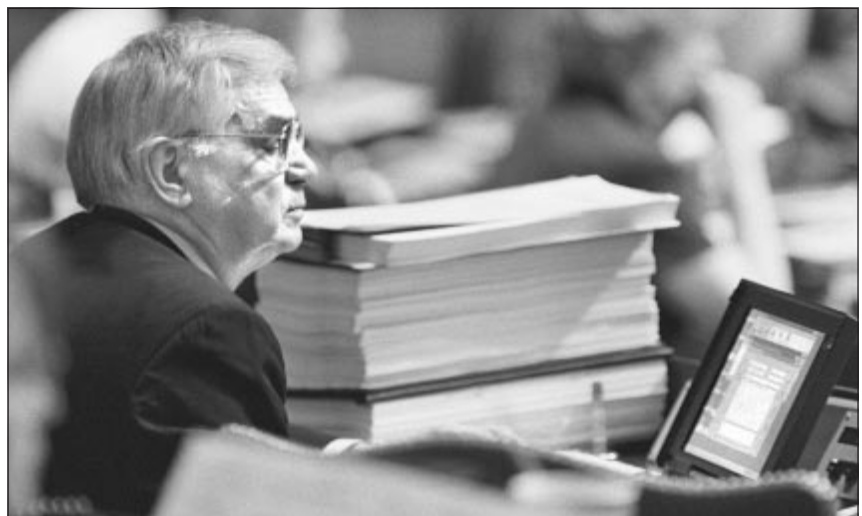
So at the turn of the millenium, millions of transactions will become impossible, such as writing paychecks, paying Medicare and Medicaid bills, or paying vendors.

The bill provides up to \$23 million over the biennium to solve the problem.

Of that amount, \$8 million will be held and spent only if the governor gives his approval, after consulting with the Legislative Advisory Commission.

The Department of Administration will report to the Legislature by Dec. 15 of this year on the progress of the project. (Art. 1,

House computers



The 1997 Legislative Session marks the first year all House members had access to laptop computers to cut down on the whirlwind of paper moving across their desks. Using the computers, members could access the text of bills as well as receive e-mail messages.

Public broadcasting HDTV

Just over \$9 million in the bill would fund public broadcasting efforts.

Minnesota's largest public television station plans to construct a digital broadcast station in anticipation of shifting industry standards and the state is going to help foot the bill.

SF1905 includes a one-time \$750,000 appropriation for Twin Cities Public Television, which runs KTCA (Channel 2) and KTCI (Channel 17), to help pay for the digital transmission facility "and develop high-definition digital television capability."

Digital television stations will be able to provide a High-Definition TV signal comparable in quality to a 35 mm Hollywood film. In place of the HDTV signal, the station could choose to broadcast four signals of lesser quality through the same digital cable, allowing for a much broader range of programming.

Twin Cities Public Television plans to build the digital station, at a total cost of \$2.25 million, and have it on line by August 1998. It would be one of the first such stations in the world. (Art. 1, Sec. 12, Subd. 8)

Ice arenas

The bill spends \$5 million to build more indoor ice arenas and renovate existing facilities across Minnesota.

One million dollars would be for grants of up to \$100,000 for rinks in need of repair. The remaining \$4 million can be doled in amounts up to \$250,000 for new facilities. The Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission administers the program, which was started by the 1995 Legislature and \$2.9 million in funds. (Art. 1, Sec. 26)

Meetings via interactive TV



A new law signed by the governor will allow official bodies, including the Legislature, to conduct meetings via interactive television.

The technology is like telephone conference calling with the addition of live video. Meeting participants at different places can talk to and hear each other through television.

Legislators have said the measure would enable them to spend more time among their constituency while continuing to conduct legislative business. The measure also applies to other units of government, such as

counties, cities, and school boards, where it can have an even bigger impact.

Under the law, each member of a body participating in the meeting via interactive TV is considered present and can participate in all proceedings, if an organization's rules allow it.

The bill states that interactive meetings are permissible provided that:

- all members of the body can hear and see each other;
- members of the public present at the regular meeting location can see and hear all discussion and testimony and all votes of members of the body;
- at least one member of the body is physically present at the regular meeting place; and
- all required public notice is provided, and includes information that the meeting will be conducted via interactive television.

The law also allows members of the Rural Finance Agency or the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to officially meet — and vote — by phone. The move will save time and money given the diverse geographic representation of those governmental bodies.

The measure, effective May 16, 1997, was sponsored by Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) and Sen. Carol Flynn (DFL-Mpls).

HF829/SF755*/CH154



HEALTH

More MinnesotaCare enrollees

Minnesota hospitals and health care providers would see a tax break and more of the state's poor would become eligible for state-subsidized health insurance under a bill awaiting the governor's signature.

The measure (**HF1441/SF1208***) would expand the state's MinnesotaCare program and at the same time cut the 2 percent tax on hospitals and health care providers (used to fund MinnesotaCare) to 1.5 percent for two years. Whether to continue the tax break would be discussed after the two years run out.

The Legislature passed a compromise version of the bill May 19. Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the bill.

Overall, it is expected to cost about \$32 million over the next two years to add more people to the insurance plan. The tax cut would save hospitals and health care providers about \$54 million over the same time period. Supporters of the measure main-

tain the MinnesotaCare account is strong now and can withstand a tax cut. Others, however, wanted a deeper tax cut, down to 1 percent. Currently, the 2 percent tax generates about \$323.6 million over two years and that doesn't include separate revenue sources such as premiums and other taxes collected.

MinnesotaCare is a state-subsidized insurance plan created in 1992 to extend health insurance coverage to the uninsured. The program serves about 97,000 people who pay premiums based on income and co-payments for some services. Currently, (depending on their income), single people, couples without children, and families with children younger than 21 are covered.

Specifically, the bill would affect single people and couples without children. It would increase the annual income limits of those two groups to 175 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$13,807 for singles and \$18,567 for couples without children. The current income limit is 135 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$10,651 and \$14,323, respectively.

At the same time MinnesotaCare would welcome more poor people, it also would set an asset limit on new applicants. The program would be limited to families with less than \$30,000 in net assets and individuals with less than \$15,000 in net assets. The asset test would exclude a home and personal items and is expected to eliminate some 4,000 to 5,000 people from the program.

HF1441/SF1208* also includes a prescription drug program for seniors over age 65 who earn less than \$9,468 per year (120 percent of the federal poverty level).

The program would provide coverage, effective Jan. 1, 1999, for prescription drugs currently covered by Medical Assistance. Participants would be expected to pay an annual \$120 premium and satisfy a \$300 annual deductible.

To qualify, a senior citizen also must be enrolled in Medicare and have no insurance coverage for prescription drugs.

Taking into account premiums paid by Minnesota seniors, the new program is expected to cost about \$3.7 million over the next two years.

Among other highlights, the bill:

- Increases the reimbursement rate for dentists who care for MinnesotaCare patients by 15 percent.
- Eliminates the \$400 annual surcharge doctors pay on their license to practice in Minnesota.
- Sets aside \$7.5 million over the next two years to provide grants and loans to rural hospitals to make building improvements.



Legislation pending before the governor would make more Minnesotans eligible for MinnesotaCare, the state's subsidized health insurance program, and would save health providers money by cutting their tax from 2 percent to 1.5 percent. The tax revenue funds the MinnesotaCare program.

The Department of Health would have the authority to award interest-free grants or loans of up to \$1.5 million per hospital.

- Sets up a maximum \$150 million emergency reserve fund just in case the federal government decides to cut back on health care dollars to the states. The reserve would help MinnesotaCare cushion the blow.
- Eliminates certain people currently on General Assistance Medical Care, a free state-run health care program, and makes them eligible for MinnesotaCare, where premiums are paid based on income.
- Expands MinnesotaCare coverage to include nonpreventative dental care — excluding orthodontic services — for certain adults whose family income is less than 175 percent of the poverty level. Currently, these services are covered for children under 21 and pregnant women, but adults are only covered for preventative dental care. A 50 percent co-pay would be required for adults, under the bill.

Health care directives



A Minnesota driver's license can tell you a lot about a person besides age, height, and weight. A new state law, effective Jan. 1, 1998, will allow for a bit more information to be included on that small plastic card.

Existing law requires a driver's license application to include space to indicate whether a driver has a living will, a document that declares a person's preferences for medical treatment to prolong life under dire circumstances.

A short message to emergency and medical personnel is included on the licenses of people who indicate that they have living wills.

Under the new law, the license application will allow people to indicate if they have a "living will/health care directive," and the change will be reflected in the message that appears on licenses.

The expanded license designation will serve people who have granted another person durable power of attorney for health care and people who have other written advance health care directives allowed under state law.

(Durable power of attorney for health care is an arrangement by which someone is designated to make decisions regarding medical treatment for you if you are unable to make those decisions yourself.)

The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) and Sen. Jane Ranum (DFL-Mpls).

HF179*/SF178/CH60

HIGHER EDUCATION

Omnibus higher education bill



Gov. Arne Carlson signed the \$2.3 billion omnibus higher education finance bill May 20, after the House approved the measure May 15 by a vote 118-14.

The governor used his line-item veto to remove a \$100,000 appropriation from the bill that would have funded a loan repayment assistance program for

lawyers who provide legal service to underprivileged clients. (See related story, page 39)

The law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona) and in the Senate by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls), funds the University of Minnesota, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU), and the Higher Education Services Office (HESO) through the 1998-99 biennium.

The bill also addresses the rising cost of higher education, primarily through tax incentives. For example, the "EdVest" provisions in the law allow individuals to set aside money, which is tax-exempt, to pay for higher education.

The legislation also imposes a number of technical changes to the state's higher educational systems.

HESO and MnSCU

The state will spend more than \$2.3 billion on higher education through the 1998-99 biennium. (Art. 1, Sec. 1)

The Higher Education Services Office, which distributes financial aid to Minnesota students, will receive \$277.6 million for the two-year period to fund a variety of initiatives, including:

- \$19 million for a state work-study program;
- \$12 million for an on-line library catalog;
- more than \$10 million for the Learning Network of Minnesota, a distance-learning program; and
- \$250,000 to provide grants to students of color enrolled in nursing programs. (Art. 1, Sec. 2)

MnSCU will receive a state appropriation for the biennium of more than \$1 billion, with each campus' share of the fund determined by a formula that maintains the 1997 allocations, adjusted for enrollment, and adds a share of the new dollars.

According to the law, the funding must be used for improvement of programs, library acquisitions and student services, while holding down tuition increases. (Art. 1, Sec. 3)

University of Minnesota

The University of Minnesota will receive a \$1.1 billion appropriation, with the vast majority of the money allocated to instructional expenditures.

The non-instructional expenditures include, along with a number of other projects, an unspecified amount for a career and education planning system, \$3 million for a multi-sheet ice and tennis facility, and more than \$100 million for agricultural and extension services. (Art. 1, Sec. 4)



The \$2.3 billion omnibus higher education finance bill holds \$1.1 billion for the University of Minnesota, including \$3 million for a multi-sheet ice and tennis facility, and more than \$100 million for agricultural and extension services.

In addition, the Legislature requires the university to report back on a variety of efforts. Specifically, the university must prepare an annual statement on its programs for female athletes and its Title IX compliance status (Art. 1, Sec. 4). Moreover, the school will have to address the problems associated with transferring credits from the state college system, and provide a detailed report on current and planned information technology expenditures. (Art. 1, Sec. 6)

College affordability

The law also contains several initiatives aimed at helping families and individuals pay for higher education.

Under the law, Minnesota will offer "Gopher State Bonds." A portion of the state bonds sold to pay for the construction of new state facilities will be marketed in small denominations, similar to U.S. Savings Bonds, and the first \$25,000 in bonds held by an individual are exempt from consideration in determining a student's financial aid eligibility. The first \$25,000 of a family's savings or other assets is also exempt from the financial aid calculations.

The "EdVest" initiative contained in the law is meant to encourage families or individuals to set aside money for higher education by providing new tax incentives.

Individuals can contribute to a state-managed account, and the interest earned is tax-exempt, until withdrawal. When the money finally is withdrawn it will then be taxed to the student, not the parent, effectively lowering the tax obligation.

The state will also make matching grants,

up to a \$300 annual maximum. Families earning under \$50,000 per year can receive a 15 percent in-kind contribution from the state, while those with annual incomes between \$50,000 and \$80,000 can get a 5 percent bonus. The law also specifies penalties for early withdrawal and for spending the money on something other than education expenses. (Art. 2, Secs. 12-16)

Keeping technologically fit

The law enacts a number of technology initiatives, including \$12 million for the Minnesota Library Information Network, or MNLink, which Pelowski has called "the mother of all on-line services for library access." It provides Internet linkage among public libraries, school and private libraries, and U of M and MnSCU libraries. The higher education institutions will provide staff and technical support. (Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 8)

The law also appropriates money to develop courses that could be delivered through the Virtual University. The program is a collaboration between the U of M, MnSCU, and private colleges that enables students to register for classes via the Internet at almost every college and university in the state.

"This would serve as a gateway leading to all higher education existing in Minnesota," Pelowski explained at an earlier meeting. "It's the first time the three entities have worked together to enhance higher education in the state."

The plan is based on the World Wide Web page currently used by the University of Minnesota. According to information from John Gunyou of the Minnesota Office of

Technology, the plan is meant to improve access to course offerings, expand choices in degree programs, allow for the transfer of credits between schools, and increase off-campus learning opportunities.

The law funds research for finding ways to add course work to the program.

Also funded is the Minnesota Career and Education Planning System, a program to allow K-12 and college students to access career information that would help them devise educational plans. (Art. 1, Sec. 3, Subd. 3)

Another \$1.5 million, matched by the U of M or private sources, will fund a U of M Internet initiative for research and development of telecommunications networks. (Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 6)

HF2136/SF1888*/CH183



HOUSING

Protecting tenants



A new law prohibits landlords from penalizing tenants for calling 911 for emergency assistance.

The law responds to a problem that developed after some cities passed anti-crime ordinances that penalize landlords whose properties are subject to frequent police visits. As a result, some landlords began warning tenants against calling police, often with the threat of eviction. Many targets of the warnings have been women who suffer domestic abuse.

Effective July 1, 1997, a landlord may not impose a penalty on a tenant for calling 911 in response to domestic abuse or any other situation, and any lease provisions that would do so could not be enforced.

The law supersedes any local regulations and authorizes the attorney general's office to investigate and prosecute violations. It would slap landlords with civil penalties for actual damages or \$250, whichever is greater, and would award them to tenants, in addition to any attorneys' fees incurred to obtain them.

The law clarifies that tenants are not exempt from any penalties resulting from lease breaches or disruptive behavior.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Dave Johnson (DFL-Bloomington).

HF686*/SF756/CH133

If you have internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>



HUMAN SERVICES

Welfare reform



It's official. Beginning January 1998, Minnesotans on welfare must work or lose a chunk of their monthly public assistance check.

After months of debate, Gov. Arne Carlson April 30 signed Minnesota's new welfare law, a response to a 1996 federal act that scrapped the long-standing welfare system and required states to move welfare recipients to work or face millions of dollars in federal penalties.

Minnesota's passage of the law meets the deadline (July 1, 1997) imposed by the federal government requiring all states to report just how they plan to move families on welfare to work.

Both bodies of the Minnesota Legislature passed a compromise version of the bill April 28. The House voted 120-14 and the Senate voted 67-0.

While much of Minnesota's new law focuses on moving welfare families to work, there is a second theme — softening some of the cuts found in the federal law aimed at immigrants. Under the federal law, legal immigrants will lose all public assistance benefits, including food stamps, effective this summer.

Minnesota's welfare law (**HF159/SF1*/CH85**) will use state dollars to replace some of the cuts, but will leave most immigrants hundreds of dollars short each month compared to previous federal benefits.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd) sponsored the bill.

Below is a summary of some of the new law's highlights.

Immigrants

Although the federal law has left legal immigrants with little, some in Minnesota will be eligible for about \$290 a month in cash assistance — \$203 per month as part of General Assistance (GA) and \$87 per month to replace lost food stamps.

GA is a state program that offers help to those in poverty who do not qualify for other

state or federal welfare programs. However, only those legal immigrants living in Minnesota by March 1, 1997, will qualify for GA. Those who become elderly or disabled while living here also could receive GA. (Art. 3, Sec. 34)

It is important to note that the \$87 a month to replace lost food stamps is temporary. It is only offered from July 1, 1997, to June 30, 1998. (Art. 3, Sec. 42) In Minnesota, an estimated 16,000 legal immigrants will lose their federal food stamps in 1997.

Another 5,400 elderly and disabled immigrants are expected to lose their federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) later this summer. SSI began in 1974 and provides about \$400 per month to the needy who are

(a joint state-federal program for those who can't afford health care) to the state's new welfare-to-work program known as the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP). (Art. 1, Sec. 7 and Art. 3, Sec. 19)

The measure, however, requires that the income of a legal immigrant's American sponsor be considered when determining eligibility for public assistance. This is in keeping with the federal law.

Work for welfare

For several years, Minnesota has experimented with a welfare pilot program in eight counties that requires poor families with children to work for public assistance.

Under the new law, that experiment will become permanent beginning Jan. 1, 1998, and cover all 87 Minnesota counties. (Art. 1, Sec. 1)

The Minnesota Family Investment Program, or MFIP as it is called, allows families to accept lower-paying jobs while receiving some public assistance such as extra monthly cash and subsidized child and health care. In theory, allowing someone to work while still receiving benefits helps a low-skilled parent gain work experience and eventually obtain a better job.

MFIP replaces the traditional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program done away with by the 1996 federal welfare law. And, in keeping with federal law, Minnesota's law sets a five-year, lifetime limit on receiving MFIP welfare checks. (Art. 1, Sec. 32)

There are some exceptions to the five-year limit, including victims of domestic abuse who need time to find safety before they can settle into a job. (Art. 1, Sec. 32, Subd. 4)

Under MFIP, a parent or guardian is required to develop a job search and employment plan and accept any suitable job once they've completed all the steps in their plan. As is the case now, the state will continue to pay for employment and job training services.

In a two-parent family, at least one parent must find work right away. Single parent families have up to six months to find work. (Art. 1, Sec. 40)



Minnesota's new welfare law will require poor families with children to work for their welfare check. It will replace the traditional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. And, in keeping with federal law, Minnesota sets a five-year, lifetime limit on receiving welfare checks.

aged, blind, or disabled. The state's offer of GA will help to replace that income.

In addition to GA, the new law keeps certain legal immigrants eligible for Minnesota's welfare programs, from Medical Assistance

Income limits

The new law does set income limits on how much a family can earn on the job and still continue to receive a monthly MFIP check.

For a family of three, a limit of \$1,311 per month is set. A family of three in the current pilot MFIP program, can earn up to \$1,554 per month before being cut off. Officials maintain the state couldn't afford the higher amount and still take the program statewide. (Art. 1, Sec. 13)

Penalties for no work

Families who refuse to work or otherwise break the rules will see their grant cut by 10 percent for a least a month and until the violation is corrected.

For subsequent occurrences, a county will directly pay a family's rent, and possibly utilities, out of a grant and cut the remainder by 30 percent before forwarding it to the family. (Art. 1, Sec. 36, Subd. 1)

Education limits

The law also limits the amount of postsecondary education a person may receive while on MFIP. Under the current AFDC program, some parents are allowed to attend college for four years while still receiving their monthly welfare check, child care, and health care services.

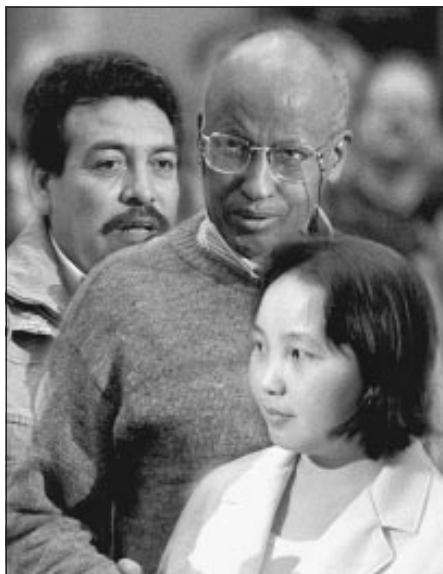
Generally, the measure limits approved postsecondary or training programs to a year or less but does allow for up to two years if the diploma or degree can be shown to help the welfare parent earn a better income. He or she must agree to pay back the cost of the second year when they earn 150 percent of the federal poverty level, which is now \$11,835 per year. (Art. 1, Sec. 44, Subd. 1 and 4)

New mom exemption

Although most welfare recipients would be required to work, the law does allow for certain exemptions, such as a parent who stays home to care for a child under the age of one. In two-parent households, only one parent could claim the exemption, and then only once in a lifetime. (Art. 1, Sec. 47)

Residency requirement

The law mandates a 30-day residency requirement to receive welfare and requires that, for the first year, families who move to Minnesota receive either the benefit amount they would have received in their previous state, or Minnesota's rate, whichever is less. (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Subd. 1a and 3; and Art. 3, Sec. 27)



Minnesota's new welfare law softens some of the cuts found in the federal law aimed at immigrants. Under the federal law, legal immigrants will lose all public assistance benefits, including food stamps, effective this summer.

Penalties split

The federal welfare law puts a great deal of pressure on states to move people off the welfare rolls or lose money. It is unclear, however, if the state plans to share that pressure with counties, which operate most welfare programs.

Beginning with fiscal year 1997, each state must show that 25 percent of its families on welfare are working at least 20 hours per week. By fiscal year 2002, that jumps to 50 percent working at least 30 hours per week. There are cash penalties for states that do not meet the percentages.

At one point a legislative proposal would have forced counties to share in the federal penalty. But the new law takes a softer approach. Instead, it requires the Department of Human Services and counties to work together to develop a plan on how to pay a federal penalty. They must report their conclusions to the Legislature by Oct. 1, 1998. (Art. 1, Sec. 63)

Drug offenses

Anyone convicted of a felony drug offense after July 1, 1997, will be barred from participating in MFIP until they complete their sentence. When and if they qualify for a monthly check, the law requires counties to pay rent and utilities first before mailing out the balance. Random drug testing also is required. (Art. 1, Sec. 16, Subd. 1)

Those convicted of a drug felony after July 1, 1997, would be barred from receiving \$203 per month under GA for five years after they completed their sentence. That is, un-

less the person is in treatment or on a waiting list for treatment. (Art. 3, Sec. 28)

Parole violators and felons on the run would face a lifetime ban for both MFIP and GA. (Art. 1, Sec. 16, Subd. 2 and 3; and Art. 3, Sec. 28, Subd. 2) Those convicted of fraudulently attempting to receive benefits in two or more states at one time will be barred from both MFIP and GA for 10 years. (Art. 1, Sec. 16, Subd. 4 and Art. 3, Sec. 28, Subd. 4)

HF159/SF1*/CH85

Governor receives omnibus bill

Same sex marriages would be prohibited, drug addicts could buy clean needles at their local pharmacy, and state hospital patients buried years ago in unmarked graves would be recognized, under the omnibus health and human services finance bill now awaiting the governor's signature.

The \$5.4 billion bill pays for state health and social service programs over the next two years and includes a hodgepodge of projects and policy changes in its 435 pages.

A large chunk of the bill's price tag — \$1.8 billion — would cover the health care needs of poor Minnesotans under two separate programs: Medical Assistance and General Assistance Medical Care.

Another \$2.7 billion would pay for certain nursing home, disability, mental health, group housing, chemical dependency, and other long-term care services.

About \$507 million would fund the state's welfare programs, which were overhauled this session after the federal government scrapped the old system, cut benefits to legal immigrants, and required welfare recipients to work.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd) sponsored **SF1908***.

The Legislature passed the bill May 16. The House voted 112-19 and the Senate voted 54-12.

Below are some of the highlights in the bill.

Same-sex marriages

The bill prohibits marriages between people of the same gender and prohibits the recognition of such marriages in Minnesota even if the union occurred in a state that sanctions such marriages.

The proposal began as an attempt to respond to the possibility that Hawaii may recognize same-sex marriages and prepare for people who might move to Minnesota from that state. Hawaii passed a law prohib-

iting same sex marriages, but a lower court ruled the law unconstitutional. The state has appealed to its state Supreme Court. (Art. 10)

Clean needles

To help prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS among drug addicts, the bill would allow pharmacies to sell, without prescription, new hypodermic needles and syringes. They could be sold only from behind the counter and could not be readily available on store shelves. (Art. 2, Sec. 17, Subd. 2)

Naming the dead

The bill would spend \$200,000 to replace the unmarked or numbered graves of thousands of mentally retarded people who died decades ago while patients in Minnesota's state hospitals. The state dollars, however, would be withheld until private money raised to replace the grave sites has been exhausted. (Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 7)

Child care licensing

With the federal welfare changes requiring parents on public assistance to work if they want a monthly helping hand, officials anticipate a huge increase in the demand for child care. The bill sets aside \$200,000 to add two more fire marshal positions to the Department of Human Services' licensing division to speed up the licensing of child care programs. A separate House bill deals with many other licensing requirements for child care programs. (Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2)

Assistance dogs

Minnesota nonprofit groups that train dogs to help people with disabilities would receive \$50,000 over the 1998-1999 two-year state budgeting period. The dogs are often rescued from animal shelters and help their owners lead independent lives at home and at work. (Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 8)

Living at home nursing

The bill spends an additional \$650,000 to expand from 15 to 27 the number of living-at-home/block nurse programs. These community-based programs, which are located throughout the state, enable seniors to live independently in their homes. To avoid nursing homes, the programs provide nurse home visits and coordinate health and personal care services on a sliding fee basis. They also provide homemaking services, counseling, and health training for both the elderly person and his or her family. (Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 8)

Teen gambling

Lottery money in the amount of \$250,000 over the biennium would fund a compulsive gambling prevention and education project for adolescents in St. Louis County. (Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 8)

Public housing seniors

To help keep folks out of nursing homes, the bill sets aside \$75,000 to help frail senior and disabled citizens living in public housing — especially those with language and cultural barriers — hook up with community support services and remain in their homes. (Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 9)

Women's mental health crisis center

Hennepin County would become home to a one-year experimental community-based crisis center for women who are experiencing a mental health crisis resulting from childhood physical or sexual abuse. The bill spends \$200,000 in fiscal year 1998 and instructs the county to contract with a four-bed adult foster care facility. (Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 9)

Women, Infants and Children

To make up for recent federal cuts to the Women, Infants and Children nutritional program, the bill spends \$650,000 in 1998 to maintain the current caseload level of about 95,500 monthly cases. Otherwise, some 1,900 women and children would have been cut off. In addition to the \$650,000, the bill appropriates another \$1.5 million to the program which provides supplemental food, nutritional counseling, and health screenings for low-income, high-risk pregnant, breast feeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children under the age of 5. (Art. 1, Sec. 3, Subd. 2)

Father adoption registry

The bill appropriates \$286,000 over the 1998-1999 budgeting period to pay for the Department of Health to register the names of fathers — or potential fathers — with the state.

A separate bill (**HF296/SF203***) carries the specifics of the registry, where men who want to be a part of their children's lives can be assured of notification if their child is put up for adoption. The registry is a way to protect a birth father's rights in the event his child is put up for adoption, and to protect children from having adoptions unduly disrupted.

Alternative medicine study

The Department of Health would receive \$20,000 to study the scope of complementary or alternative medicine in Minnesota and whether it is covered by health insurance. Also, the study is expected to recommend whether Minnesota should license or regulate alternative medicine providers. (Art. 1, Sec. 3, Subd. 2)



INDUSTRY

Underground communication



Beneath public streets run countless miles of lines and cables, all carrying services for water, electricity, sewer, natural gas, telephones, and cable television.

The underground has become even busier in recent years with the advent of new technologies and new uses for the technology, such as those for telephones. The result? Increased demand for limited space.

A new law will regulate the rights-of-way to the underground for telecommunications and related companies. Proponents have said it successfully balances public and commercial interests.

Under the law, most of which became effective May 10, 1997, towns and cities will manage underground access by requiring: registration and permits; plans for construction; construction performance bonds and insurance coverage; and project data reports. They also can establish: installation and construction standards; location requirements for equipment and facilities; coordination and timing requirements; and removal requirements for abandoned equipment.

Cities may recover "actual costs" from the companies for providing administrative services, such as processing applications, conducting inspections, and issuing permits, but may not charge more. Currently, cities can charge only \$25 in fees. The telecommunications companies remain fully responsible for returning road or other surfaces to their previous condition.

Cities must treat companies equally and may not deny underground access except when necessary for health or safety reasons, or in the event of a substantial breach of the terms and conditions of access (or several other related conditions).

In the event of a dispute, the law requires a review by the authorized unit of government, which would have to submit a report in support of its decision. A company then

could ask to have the matter settled through arbitration, paid for equally by both parties.

Finally, the law directs the Public Utilities Commission to develop a set of statewide standards to govern use of the right-of-way. The rules will apply to construction standards, maintenance, and repair. A report to the Legislature is due by November 1997.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) and Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-New Brighton).

HF322/SF442*/CH123



INSURANCE

Preventing rate hikes



A new state law effective April 29 will prevent insurance rate hikes for people who are passengers on city buses involved in traffic accidents.

Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the measure in the Legislature.

The impetus for the legislation came from an 86-year-old resident of Farrell's legislative district in St. Paul.

The woman was injured in January 1997 after she boarded a city bus. As the woman walked toward an open seat, the bus slammed to a stop to avoid a collision.

The sudden stop sent the woman toppling backwards, bouncing off the windshield, and landing at the bottom of the steps inside the bus door. She spent five days in the hospital with a variety of injuries and has since endured weeks of physical therapy.

The woman had to absorb another blow when informed that the bus company would not pay for any of her medical expenses. That, she was told, was the responsibility of her own insurance company.

The state's no-fault insurance law requires that the woman's coverage come under her own automobile insurance policy.

The new state law provides a remedy for people in such a situation without taking on the highly controversial area of no-fault law.

The law prohibits insurance companies from increasing a policyholder's premium if the person is involved in an accident while a passenger in a bus, taxi, or commuter van.

According to Farrell, his constituent did not see an increase in auto insurance rates after the incident on the city bus, but the law will prevent anyone else in similar circumstances from seeing a rate hike.

HF1045*/SF759/CH64

Direct OB/GYN access

A new state law will forbid health insurers from requiring women to receive a referral in order to see an obstetrician or a gynecologist.



The law, effective Jan. 1, 1998, will require that insurance companies and health maintenance organizations allow female enrollees direct access to obstetricians and gynecologists.

Under the law, women will be allowed to schedule an appointment with either health professional without prior approval from the insurer or a referral from a "gatekeeper" primary care physician.

The law will require direct access for annual examinations, any subsequent treatment deemed necessary by the specialist, maternity care, and treatment of acute or emergency conditions.

Health plans also will be barred from charging women extra for direct access.

The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) and Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan).

HF447*/SF398/CH26

Managing diabetes



Health plans will be required to provide coverage for training and education to assist diabetics in managing their disease, under a new state law effective Aug. 1.

The law will expand a 1994 law requiring medical insurance companies and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for syringes, blood-testing devices, and other equipment diabetics need.

The law is to ensure that diabetics are properly trained to use the medical equipment and to monitor their own condition. The law also will require medical nutrition therapy to be included in health coverage.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) and Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-New Brighton).

HF653/SF495*/CH57

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (612) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.



LABOR

Strawberry fields



A resolution calling for better treatment of California strawberry workers has been signed by the governor.

Strawberry workers, represented by the United Farm Workers Union, are conducting a national campaign to call attention to their plight. The typical strawberry worker earns about \$8,500 per season for working as many as 12 hours a day.

Despite record production levels and sales revenue of \$650 million per year in the strawberry industry, most workers have not had a significant raise in 10 years.

According to the resolution, workers also claim a variety of workplace abuses including: demand for sexual favors in exchange for employment; hiring and firing on whim; lack of fresh water and clean toilet facilities; and lack of health care in an occupation that exposes them to hazardous pesticides and chronic back injuries.

Strawberry workers who have struggled to change these practices and organize a union have faced firing and blacklisting. Workers who have voted for union representation have seen the fields they work plowed under.

The resolution, which will be transmitted to President Bill Clinton and to the governor of California, puts the state on record along with a number of other states, consumer groups, environmental organizations, churches, labor organizations, and others in support of the strawberry workers cause.

Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-New Brighton) sponsored the resolution.

HF1877/SF1675*/Res. 3

Human rights loopholes



Effective Aug. 1, 1997, a new law will add "individuals" to the list of those prohibited from engaging in acts of reprisal against someone who files a discrimination complaint.

Under current law, individuals are prohibited from engaging in reprisals only if they are employees. If they quit or are fired, they are free to perpetrate reprisals against those who complained against them.

In testimony before the House Labor-Management Relations Committee earlier

this year, Ken Nicolai of the Department of Human Services explained the problem. "A student attending one of Minnesota's colleges . . . filed a sexual harassment complaint against a professor who was subsequently fired by the college. He then took several actions against her, including filing a lawsuit. We found it constituted reprisal, but that we had no jurisdiction over such individuals."

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids) in the House and by Sen. David L. Knutson (R-Burnsville) in the Senate.

HF814/SF323*/CH171



LAW

Omnibus data practices bill

On May 19, the House passed the omnibus data practices conference committee report. The vote was 84-49.

New language added by conferees would enable juvenile justice officers to obtain information about students from schools. That information would include the student's name, address, telephone number, birth date, school schedule, attendance record, photographs, and parents' names, addresses, and telephone numbers. (Sec. 3, Subd. 8)

Under another provision added in conference committee, homeowners in Washington and Ramsey counties would have to be asked before a governmental agency could sell their names to commercial interests. Property owners could request that their names and addresses be excluded. (Sec. 29)

This year's omnibus bill (**HF1460*/SF1277**) primarily affects three areas of law: access to and dissemination of records by law enforcement agencies, the treatment of student records, and the treatment of juvenile offender records.

HF1460*/SF1277 was sponsored in the House by Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights), chair of the Judiciary Committee's Data Practices Subcommittee, and in the Senate by Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley). It now awaits the governor's approval.

Access by law enforcement

The bill would make it easier for law enforcement agencies to collect data on fugitives from the law if a fugitive happens to be collecting welfare benefits.

The bill says that certain welfare and housing data may be disclosed to law enforce-

ment officers regarding felons who are fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or confinement, or are violating a condition of probation or parole. (Sec. 5, Subd. 2)

The bill also requires that the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), in conjunction with a criminal and juvenile justice information policy group, report to the Legislature with a plan to make conviction records data available at locations beyond the BCA's central office. The report is due in January 1998. (The original House bill would have required the BCA to put certain criminal history data on the Internet, including a convicted criminal's identity and offense record, which already are considered public.) The BCA is currently required to provide that information at no charge through a computer monitor at its central office. (Sec. 52)

Student health records

Current law requires elementary and secondary schools to maintain student health records — mostly immunizations — forever. The bill would make schools keep those records until a student turns 23. (Sec. 5, Subd. 2)

The bill also would loosen provisions regarding required tetanus and diphtheria (DPT) immunizations. A student who has received three doses, with the last received between the ages of 6 and 11, is not required to have additional immunizations for another 10 years. The law currently requires that students in older grades must have had an immunization at 11 years of age or older. (Sec. 23, Subd. 10)

A third provision regarding student records would make it clear that school districts or school boards have the authority to enforce immunization requirements. Current law specifies that students must submit those records within 30 days after enrolling in a new school, but does not say who has enforcement authority. The bill also would exempt crisis nurseries from the immunization requirements for up to five consecutive days of attendance. (Sec. 21, Subd. 5)

Juvenile records

The bill would help the BCA collect some information on juveniles and authorize the agency to disclose other information.

The computerized information the bureau currently keeps on juvenile criminal histories is considered private. Some of it can, however, be disclosed to other law enforcement agencies and the court system. Under the bill, that information also could be disclosed to agencies in other states. It also would clarify that the information

released for background checks must pertain to the juvenile's adjudication — or court — history. (Sec. 47, Subd. 1)

The bill also would require the BCA to keep juvenile records "for the longest time period applicable to any item in the individual juvenile history record." That could mean permanently if the juvenile goes on to commit crimes as an adult.

Conversely, the bill would require that the records be disposed of quickly should the charges fail to stick. The bill provides that in the case of a dismissal of charges, the records would be immediately destroyed. If the juvenile is not referred to a diversion program or no petition has been filed within six months after the arrest, the files must be destroyed.

If the juvenile is referred to a diversion program — an alternative to jail, after which the record is cleared — the files are destroyed after he or she reaches age 21. If the juvenile is found guilty of a gross misdemeanor or felony, the files are maintained until the juvenile reaches age 28. The bill says that an agency that receives juvenile data from the BCA must destroy it according to the same schedule. (Sec. 47, Subd. 2)

Other juvenile data provisions would require other law enforcement agencies to provide the BCA with records on juveniles who commit gross misdemeanors or felonies. Targeted misdemeanors include DWI and order for protection violations; fifth-degree assaults; interference with privacy; harassment or restraining order violations; and indecent exposure. (Sec. 48, Subd. 1)

The bill also would require the BCA to give any other relevant information — not necessarily included in the official juvenile records — to police departments to help in investigations. (Sec. 49)

Finally, the bill would provide the public defender's office with electronic access to public criminal and juvenile justice data. (Sec. 51)

Other provisions

The bill also would allow some health care professionals to use addresses other than their home address for public purposes. Advocates for the provision say it is necessary for security reasons. (Sec. 4, Subd. 2)

Other bill provisions deal with tax law. For instance, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) could disclose to the state lottery the amount of a winner's delinquent state taxes if the individual won \$600 or more. Currently, the IRS is not notified unless someone wins at least \$1,000. (Sec. 41, Subd. 7)

Chilling public participation

The House passed a bill May 16 that would protect citizens from lawsuits intended to keep them from exercising their free speech rights. The vote was 124-7.

They're called SLAPP suits, for strategic litigation against public participation. A few years ago, it came to the attention of courts and lawmakers that some parties — usually commercial interests — were using the courts to effectively deny others — usually private citizens or citizen groups — their right to free speech.

In such a scenario, a developer proposing to build a garbage dump encounters protests from local citizens. He sues them, possibly for defamation.

The suit will very likely fail in court, but bill supporters say the threat of the lawsuit can have a chilling effect on public participation.

In 1994, the Legislature passed a law to protect against SLAPP suits, requiring developers or others filing the legal action to prove that they had been harmed by the person or people whose words or actions were at issue. If developers could not, such a lawsuit was to be dismissed.

But some have avoided the law by suing in federal rather than state court.

HF642/SF848* addresses that problem by allowing an action for damages and attorney fees in state court against someone who sues an individual in federal court in a SLAPP suit. The bill says: "If the person demonstrates that the respondent's action in federal court was brought for the purpose of harassment, to inhibit the person's public participation, to interfere with the person's exercise of protected constitutional rights . . . the court shall award damages," in addition to attorney's fees.

HF642/SF848*, sponsored in the House by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), has passed the Senate and now heads to the governor's desk.

Inmate lawsuits



A new law will clarify when a prisoner may appeal a ruling that a lawsuit was frivolous or malicious.

Some prisoners, after having a lawsuit thrown out in court, have attempted to have the case "retried" through corrections department processes, according to Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul), the bill's House sponsor. Effective Aug. 1, the new law states that inmates do not have

a right to an additional hearing within the correctional facility's disciplinary system regarding such a finding, and that the corrections department must uphold the court's ruling.

Existing law provides penalties for filing the suits. Once the court has judged that an inmate's suit lacks merit, corrections officials may determine and impose a penalty, which may mean the loss of privileges, segregation, loss of credit for good behavior, or additional confinement. The bill states that the officials must limit punishment to that specified in the law and are "limited to the nature and extent of the infraction penalty to be imposed."

The law's Senate sponsor is Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township).

HF909/SF305*/CH33



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Saving Roseville tax dollars



A new law will save the city of Roseville some of its citizens' hard-earned tax dollars. It was signed by Gov. Arne Carlson April 23.

For a variety of reasons, cities, townships, and counties must publish legal notices in local newspapers. The advertisements serve as public notice for land sales,

class action lawsuits, and other government actions.

Under current law, local governments can publish such notices only in newspapers whose primary offices are within their jurisdiction.

But that limitation can cost local governments more than necessary when nearby newspapers charge substantially less for ad space.

Sponsored in the House by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), the law will allow the city of Roseville and Independent School District No. 623 to officially designate any newspaper with at least 25 percent of its circulation within the Roseville city limits or within the boundaries of the school district.

A letter from the Roseville City Council to the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee detailed the problem that city has faced.

"The council designated the *Roseville Review* as the official newspaper for 1996, based on substantially lower cost." But the letter of the law required the city to select the *Roseville Focus*, based on the paper's office location. The restriction caused Roseville to pay approximately 75 percent more, an additional \$4,500, for legal notices in 1996.

Originally, the proposal was drafted to save all local governments in Minnesota money in publishing legal notices. It was restricted to the city of Roseville by an amendment in the Senate.

According to Greiling, the Minnesota Newspaper Association feared that the law might be used by some local officials to retaliate against newspapers that disagreed with their governmental actions.

Another Senate amendment protects local officials if errors occur in the publication of public notices.

The law takes effect upon approval of the Roseville City Council.

Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

HF356*/SF284/CH56



MILITARY

Enlist and enroll

A new law effective Aug. 1, 1997, will increase the maximum amount of a Minnesota National Guard member's educational grant.

Under the law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), up to 50 percent of tuition and textbook costs at any Minnesota public institution of higher

Officer memorial



Minnesota law-enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty were honored at a candlelight service on the State Capitol grounds May 15. Dakota County Deputy Sheriff Barak Bjorge and his son, William, 3, remember Bjorge's co-worker, Luther Klug, who was killed last July.

education will be covered. For programs outside of Minnesota, the grants would pay for the equivalent of half the cost of a comparable program at the University of Minnesota.

Currently, the tuition grant program covers the equivalent of up to 75 percent of the cost of undergraduate programs at the University of Minnesota or the same amount at another school. But because graduate programs often cost considerably more, the guard was having trouble enrolling members in programs such as medical school. Proponents have said that the change is necessary to keep the guard attractive to potential recruits.

The national guard can target specific programs and students for grant aid. The change will not cost the guard any additional funds.

Sen. Dean Johnson (R-Willmar) sponsored the Senate proposal.

HF397/SF4*/CH160



OUTSTATE

Flood aid



A new state law, effective May 7, 1997, provides \$21 million in relief for victims of the flooding throughout Minnesota, but most lawmakers agree the state eventually will have to do more.

The law will draw funds from the state's \$522 million budget reserve for flood relief and will temporarily lift some bureaucratic regulations to ease relief efforts. Gov. Arne Carlson signed the measure May 6.

Under the law, \$20 million goes to the Department of Public Safety for distribution to counties, cities, and towns affected by the flood. The money can be used for costs associated with flooding, including their use as matching funds to receive federal emergency relief aid.

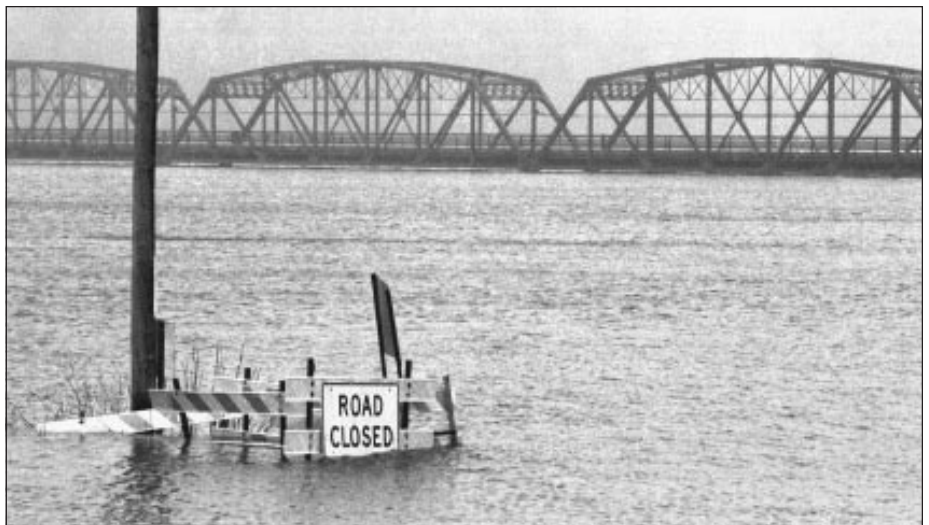
Another \$1 million is earmarked to help state agencies deal with expenses related to flood relief efforts.

A variety of state agency rules and fees will be waived to speed flood relief efforts. The bill also will provide an adjustment in state aid to help school districts affected by the flood.

It's still unclear what the total price tag will be to clean up and repair the many homes, businesses, and schools damaged by the disastrous flooding this spring along the Minnesota and Red rivers.

Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison) and Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) sponsored the \$21 million flood relief measure in the Legislature.

HF2129/SF1894*/CH105



A new state law provides \$21 million in relief for victims of Minnesota's spring floods, but the loss column is still being calculated and lawmakers agree the state eventually will have to do more.



SPORTS

Snowmobile safety

Lawmakers approved several new snowmobile safety measures after a winter season that brought a startling death toll from snowmobile accidents.

Bills awaiting Gov. Arne Carlson's signature aim to expand safety training requirements, improve enforcement of snowmobile laws, and crack down on drunken snowmobilers. Thirty-two people were killed in snowmobile accidents, the most since 1972.

Earlier this month, the House approved a bill (**HF551/SF94***) that provided a neatly packaged formula for snowmobile safety changes, but the bill was not taken up in the Senate.

However, many of the bill's provisions were included in other larger bills and were passed.

Omnibus measures related to game and fish (**HF313/SF254***), environment finance (**HF2150*/SF1907**), and DWI (**HF1004/SF985***) all include snowmobile safety provisions. All three have been sent to the governor and await his signature or veto.

Two controversial snowmobile safety proposals debated this session did not make the cut.

The snowmobile safety bill earlier approved by the House included provisions that would have required snowmobile owners to buy liability insurance and reduced the nighttime speed limit for snowmobiles. But neither of the provisions was attached to another legislative vehicle.

Under the environment finance bill, the snowmobile registration fee would be in-

creased by \$15, pushing the total charge to \$45 for three years. Increased revenue generated by the fee increases will help pay for improvements to an overburdened and out-of-date trail system.

The bill also would require out-of-state snowmobilers to pay \$15 for a permit to operate their machines on state trails or grant-in-aid trails maintained by local clubs.

A total of \$800,000 would be provided during the 1998-99 biennium for grants to assist local law enforcement agencies implement new snowmobile enforcement efforts, under the bill.

The bill also would expand snowmobile safety training requirements to include all snowmobile operators 25 and under by 2002.

Safety training also would be required of any operator convicted of careless or reckless operation of a snowmobile and those who violate snowmobile speed limits twice within one season.

The game and fish bill would require that snowmobiles be registered in the legal name of the owner and registration numbers must be clearly visible on the vehicle.

In the past, owners have been allowed to register under nicknames and use fancy lettering for their registration numbers. Such practices sometimes made it difficult for enforcement personnel to identify a snowmobile's owner.

The bill also would require snowmobilers under 18 to wear helmets. And the measure would allow for an indicator to be placed on the driver's license or state identification card of any individual who completes a snowmobile safety training program.

Under the omnibus DWI measure, snowmobilers would be subject to the same DWI laws for repeat offenders that apply to automobile drivers.



Bills awaiting Gov. Arne Carlson's signature aim to expand safety training requirements, improve enforcement of snowmobile laws, and crack down on drunken snowmobilers. Thirty-two people were killed in snowmobile accidents, the most since 1972.

Individuals convicted of a first offense for operating a snowmobile while intoxicated would be prohibited from operating a snowmobile for one year.

The penalties for repeat offenders would include driver's license suspension, mandatory alcohol assessment, extended probation and monitoring, vehicle forfeiture for certain repeat offenses, and the civil and criminal penalties for refusing to take a blood-alcohol test.

paid in 1997. The rebate, which would itself be taxable, could be taken as a credit against taxes owed for 1998 or refunded directly to the taxpayer.

Homeowners would get back 20 percent of their 1997 property tax paid, while renters would receive 18 percent of that portion of their rent that constituted property tax payments. There is no cap on the rebate amount. (Art. 1, Sec. 16)

HF2163 would cut the rates for many of the property tax categories, with commercial/industrial properties enjoying some of the largest reductions. Beginning with taxes payable in 1998, the rate at which the first tier of the commercial property classification is taxed would fall from 3 percent to 2.7 percent. The upper tier would be set at 4 percent, down from 4.6 percent. (Art. 1, Secs. 6-9)

The bill also would compress the rate structure — that is, spread the levies more evenly

across the existing classes. For example, the value of properties that qualify for the first tier of the residential homestead classification would increase to \$75,000 from \$72,000, while the first-tier value of commercial/industrial properties would expand to \$150,000 from \$100,000. (Art. 1, Secs. 6-9)

The levy charged on market-rate apartments also would fall, from 3.4 percent to 2.9 percent. (Art. 1, Sec. 8)

Low-income housing would be treated as a single classification and become subject to new guidelines. In exchange, the properties would be taxed at a rate of 1 percent. (Art. 1, Sec. 8)

To qualify for the reduced rate, the unit would have to be certified by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency as meeting minimum housing standards and occupied by individuals who meet income guidelines. Moreover, the unit would be subject to a five-year rent restriction and, in the metropolitan area, at least 20 percent of the apartments would have to be made available to families that qualify for Section 8 certificates, the federal government's rent subsidy program. (Art. 1, Sec. 4)

The bill, which would reduce the General Education Levy and increase the state's share of education funding from 60 to 65 percent of the total, also would allow taxpayers an education homestead credit. This credit, equal to roughly 32 percent of the property's general education tax, could not exceed \$225. (Art. 1, Sec. 12)

Wind energy conversion systems used to generate electrical power also would become subject to increased property tax levies. While small-scale systems (those that generate less than two megawatts of electricity) built after Jan. 1, 1991, would be exempt, all other wind

TAXES

Omnibus tax bill

For many members of the 80th Legislature, reforming the state's property tax system topped the year's political agenda. On May 19, the House passed a bill that, in the words of some members, may not contain all the elements of reform, but certainly provides a measure of relief.

"This bill doesn't achieve final reform — and given the resources allotted toward that this year, it wasn't possible," said Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), who chaired the House Taxes Committee. "It doesn't accomplish all the goals, but it puts us on the road."

HF2163, which passed May 19 on a 127-6 vote, also contains revisions to the state's sales and income tax codes and changes to the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) mechanism, along with dozens of other tax provisions.

The bill awaits Gov. Arne Carlson's signature.

Property tax reform, relief

Under **HF2163**, most Minnesota taxpayers would receive a rebate of some sort, based on the amount of property taxes they



An omnibus tax bill, awaiting the governor's signature, does little to reform the property tax system in Minnesota, but it does promise property owners a one-time, 20 percent tax rebate.

power stations would be taxed at higher levels. (Art. 2, Sec. 7)

Senior citizen deferrals

Taxpayers over the age of 65 could defer a portion of their property tax burden if they've lived in their homes for more than 15 years and their total annual household income does not exceed \$30,000.

A senior citizen could defer up to 5 percent of the total household income, not to exceed an aggregate value of 75 percent of the property's worth. In exchange, the county treasurer would issue a lien against the property, payable when the house is sold, the owner dies or discontinues the deferment, or the property no longer qualifies as a home-
stead.

The provision is aimed at preventing senior citizens who live on fixed incomes from being priced out of their homes by rising property values and taxes. (Art. 14)

The budget reserve

The state's budget surplus is estimated at \$2.3 billion and **HF2163** would use some of that money to accomplish the changes to the property tax code. The bill establishes a Property Tax Reform Account of \$46 million specifically for that purpose and appropriates another \$46 million for the account in 2000. (Art. 9, Sec. 2)

The bill also mandates a budget reserve of \$522 million, effective July 1, 1997. (Art. 9, Sec. 5)

Levy limits and tax truth

HF2163 also would impose levy limits on communities. The commissioner of the Department of Revenue would determine a levy limit base for each municipality, using 1997 figures weighted for inflation and population increases. Property taxes within a given community would then be limited to that base figure, minus the amount of general purpose aids provided by the state.

Some exceptions do exist, though. Communities could administer new levies that had been approved by referendum or to cope with floods or other natural disasters. Levies to meet fund-matching requirements associated with federal or state programs also are excepted. (Art. 3, Secs. 1-9)

The bill also defines changes to the state's Truth-in-Taxation laws. School districts would be required to certify to county auditors their proposed levies and break them down into three components: the state-determined amount, the voter-approved levies and any remaining sum. This breakdown would, in turn, be clearly itemized on the

property tax notices sent to taxpayers. (Art. 4, Sec. 1)

Communities would also have to provide more specific budget information in newspaper advertisements pertaining to public hearings of property tax matters. Currently, the ads merely state the time and place of the hearing. (Art. 4, Sec. 5)

Income tax provisions

HF2163 contains a number of changes to the state's income tax code, providing several new income tax credits to Minnesota taxpayers.

The bill would provide a tax credit for insurance premiums related to long-term care coverage, if the policy provided a minimum of \$100,000 worth of benefits and included the inflation protection specified by federal law. Taxpayers could take 25 percent of their premiums not deducted for federal tax purposes as a credit, up to \$100 per individual.

The credit would become effective for taxes payable in 1999. (Art. 5, Sec. 7)

HF2163 also would create a job-training tax credit that could be taken against the corporate franchise tax. Employers of people who have graduated from an approved training program could receive a credit — up to \$20,000 per employee — for each trainee hired. The credit would essentially reimburse the company for fees paid to the training program.

The credit is aimed at moving people into the workforce by allowing charitable organizations to train low-income, underskilled, individuals who might otherwise fall through society's safety net. (Art. 5, Sec. 8)

Programs would have to be certified by the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning, and provide education in basic skills, thinking skills, and personal qualities. The program would have to spend at least \$5,000 per student and last for at least six months. Upon graduation, the jobs in which trainees are placed would have to pay at least \$9 per hour during the first year, and \$10 per hour thereafter.

The state would provide up to \$1.2 million in job-training credits over the next five years. (Art. 5, Sec. 8)

The bill also imposes new regulations on third-party bulk income-tax filers, such as payroll services, and calls for a handful of new taxation studies; most notably on business and telecommunications taxes. (Art. 5, Secs. 10,18)

Sales tax changes

The bill includes an array of sales-tax exemptions.

Currently, the state draws a distinction between capital equipment, which is already exempt from sales tax, and replacement capital equipment, which is subject to a declining rate that is administered through a refund mechanism.

HF2163 would eliminate this distinction and the refund process, exempting all capital equipment at the time of purchase, effective June 30, 1998. The revenue department estimates this move would cost the state more than \$76 million in the coming biennium. (Art. 7, Sec. 8)

"Inputs" used for taxable services, such as laundry, dry cleaning, building maintenance, telephone and cable television, and country



The omnibus tax bill would permanently exempt the purchases of used farm machinery from the state sales tax.

club dues also would be exempted from the sales tax. Thus, the chemicals used in dry cleaning or building maintenance, for example, would become tax-free. (Art. 7, Sec. 19)

The bill would extend the sales tax to certain items that are now tax-free. For instance, unheated, ready-to-eat food, such as sandwiches and salads sold at supermarkets, would become taxable, as would pre-paid telephone cards. (Art. 7, Sec. 4)

Tax Increment Financing

Many communities have come to rely on Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts to create economic development.

Using TIF, a local government would create a specific district in which property tax values are frozen. As a developer proceeds with a project, the increase in property value over the frozen amount, known as the increment, would be diverted from the normal revenue stream (education finance, local services, etc.) to finance the economic development.

A recent report by the Office of the Legislative Auditor determined that, in many cases, communities have incorrectly applied the state's existing TIF dollars. As a result, **HF2163** contains new provisions designed to crack down on the abuses of TIF throughout the state.

Although the TIF provisions in the final version of **HF2163** aren't as strong as they were in previous incarnations, the bill would require development authorities to conduct physical, on-site inspections of properties being considered for TIF action. In addition, the bill imposes a number of restrictions on the uses to which TIF money can be put, and adopts explicit definitions aimed at tightening the use of TIF district creation. (Art. 10, Secs. 1-10)

Mandates on local governments

HF2163 also regulates the imposition of state mandates on local governments. The bill would require the Department of Finance to report to the Legislative Coordinating Commission on the financial impact of new rules on local governments.

Moreover, legislative staff would have to prepare fiscal notes detailing the impact on local governments of bills introduced in the Legislature. The notes must accompany any bill that would impose a new mandate. This provision would require detailed explanations of how and why a mandate was being imposed. (Art. 11, Secs. 1-6)

Regional development commissions

Reining in urban sprawl has become a priority for many legislators. If **HF2163** becomes law, the bill would allow local governments to establish regional development commissions aimed at fostering cooperative growth policies.

The commissions, with members chosen by the governor or his designee, would review and comment on local development plans. Each year, the commission would be required to produce a report on its activities. (Art. 12, Sec. 7, 21)

Taxing minerals

The body of tax law surrounding Minnesota's bountiful mineral resources also would change under **HF2163**.

For example, high-yield ore would be subject to an additional tax of 3 cents per ton, beginning in 1997, for each percentage point by which the ore exceeds 72 percent iron. (Art. 8, Sec. 7)

The bill also reduces the taconite development fund from 20.4 cents per ton to 15.4 cents per ton for 1998 and 1999. (Art. 8, Sec. 8)

Taxing trash

HF2163 would impose the solid waste management tax on residential generators and political subdivisions that provide solid waste management services to residential generators. Vendors would collect the 9.75 percent tax when they sell the bags or stickers used in waste collection. (Art. 13, Sec. 7)

Commercial generators would be taxed at 17 percent of the price of their waste management services. (Art. 13, Sec. 8)

Solid-waste fees imposed by local governments, though, would be exempt from the tax, as would a variety of materials, including waste generated outside Minnesota and some recycled waste. (Art. 13, Sec. 11)

Part of the tax revenue — \$22 million or 50 percent, whichever is greater — would be deposited into the state's solid waste fund. The remainder would be directed into the general fund. (Art. 13, Sec. 18)

Other provisions

The bill also contains a number of miscellaneous measures, many of which would allow specific local governments to enact particular taxes within their jurisdictions. Hennepin County, for example, would impose a deed and mortgage tax, as would Ramsey County, and cigarette retailers could pass on manufacturers' discounts as lower prices under the Unfair Cigarette Sales Tax. (Art. 16)

Local government associations also would

have to disclose the amount of money they spend hiring state government lobbyists. (Art. 16, Sec. 1)

HF2163 also updates the state's tax code with respect to changes in the federal system. (Art. 6)



TECHNOLOGY

Electronic signatures



A new law brings Minnesota businesses one step closer to the digital age, and gives electronic signatures the full force of legal protection.

The Minnesota Electronic Authentication Act allows for the full authentication of documents transmitted between computers. The process relies on a set of two cryptographic key codes built around one-of-a-kind mathematical formulas known as algorithms. One key, held privately by the user, encodes documents with a digital signature; the other is held in trust by a public certification authority and used by recipients to verify an encoded document's integrity.

The law defines the rules of the digital authentication system and mandates that the secretary of state set up a transitional public certification authority until private sector firms, which would be licensed and regulated by the secretary's office, can step in and take over the verification process. It also spells out the range of liability assumed by the system's subscribers and provides penalties for acts of fraud.

Perhaps most importantly, House sponsor Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) has said, the entire electronic signature system would remain voluntary. Businesses would not be required to participate. Moreover, the state would not assume any financial burden because the cost of doing business would be assumed by the private sector firms — who could set whatever price the market could bear — when they take over as certification authorities.

Kahn estimated that July 1998 would be the earliest the system could go on-line. The law calls for the Office of the Secretary of State to adopt rules, effective July 12, 1998, to implement the law.

Sen. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) sponsored the Senate proposal.

HF56/SF173*/CH178



TRANSPORTATION

Transportation bill signed



Gov. Arne Carlson signed the omnibus transportation finance bill into law May 16. The new law appropriates \$3 billion in state dollars for roads, bridges, transit, aviation, and public safety.

Sen. Jane Ranum (DFL-North Branch) and Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) sponsored the bill.

Transit

The Metropolitan Council, which runs the metropolitan area's public transportation system, will receive \$100.7 million. Of that money, \$2 million will go to help people leaving welfare obtain work-related transportation, and \$34.6 million will go to Metro Mobility, which provides rides to approximately 25,000 metropolitan-area people with disabilities.

The council is also prohibited from raising fares for regular bus service during the 1998-1999 biennium. (Art. 1, Sec. 3)

A total of \$27 million will go to assist transit programs in Greater Minnesota. An additional \$925,000 is appropriated to help economically disadvantaged people outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area with work-related transportation. (Art. 1, Sec. 1)

Road and bridge construction

State road construction projects will receive \$1.6 billion for the next two years. Local roads will get \$841.6 million in state aid. (Art. 1, Sec. 2)

Public safety

The new law calls for \$102.9 million in spending for the Minnesota State Patrol. (The governor refused to enact a speed limit increase called for by lawmakers in 1996 because funding for new troopers was missing.)

Also included is \$2.1 million for computer-aided dispatching and records management, and \$1.7 million to install video cameras in state patrol vehicles.

Another \$69.5 million goes to the department's Driver and Vehicle Services Division over the next biennium. Also, \$2.6 million goes to the Department of Public Safety and the Minnesota Safety Council for various public safety programs. (Art. 1, Sec. 4)

Aviation

The law appropriates \$36.3 million for air

transportation programs, including \$26 million for airport development and assistance. Other funds support the Civil Air Patrol and provide general support for aviation in the state. (Art. 1, Sec. 2)

Railroads and waterways

A total of \$3.9 million will go to fund rail and water transportation. This includes a \$1 million study to look at using existing freight railroad corridors for a commuter rail service in the metropolitan area. (Art. 1, Sec. 2)

Communications system

A total of \$9.9 million over the biennium will be used to pay for equipment and personnel to build a digital radio communications system that eventually will link all metro area public safety personnel.

In 1996, the state made a \$15 million bonding commitment to such a system using radio channels in the 800 megahertz range. (The Metropolitan Council also was given \$13 million in bonding authority for the project.) The channels can be "trunked," or connected, so that several police, ambulance, or fire personnel could talk simultaneously across a number of channels.

Currently, individual police departments, for example, communicate on separate radio bands, which sometimes creates problems when different departments need to talk to one another. (Art. 1, Sec. 2)

Traveling to work

A total of \$2.9 million in grant funds recognizes the increasing number of those moving from welfare to work as a result of new state and federal legislation.

Exactly \$2 million will go to organizations in the metro area and \$925,000 to those in Greater Minnesota who will also seek federal or private dollars to transport economically disadvantaged people to jobs and employment-related activities, including child care.

The state funds could be used to subsidize worker bus fares, enhance public transportation service, or provide transportation for workers. (Art. 1, Secs. 2-3)

City bus to school

The Metropolitan Council, in conjunction with the Minneapolis and St. Paul school boards, will develop a plan to use public buses to carry school kids to and from school (at no cost to the student). An advisory council composed of government, school and union officials, parents and students will also assist in formulating the plan, which will be submitted to the Legislature by Jan. 30, 1998. The plan should accommodate at

least 75 percent of students in the two districts who are in grades 9-12 and be ready for the 1998-1999 school year, and in subsequent years for those in grades seven and eight as well. (Art. 1, Sec. 3)

HF1881*/SF none/CH159

Title transfers



Car buyers who fail to promptly transfer the title on the vehicle will face new penalties under a new state law.

Some car buyers do not transfer the title on a vehicle for a variety of reasons, according to House sponsor Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina). For example, the buyer may not want to pay for insurance or may not have a driver's license. (State law requires proof of insurance and a valid driver's license in order to obtain a title.)

To get around the law, some illegal drivers buy cheap used cars with plenty of time left on the tabs and do not follow title transfer requirements.

When a title is not transferred, problems can arise for car sellers, who may be held liable for parking tickets or other infractions occurring after the vehicle has been sold.

Under existing law, it is a misdemeanor for a buyer to fail to apply for a title transfer within 14 days of acquiring a vehicle. The new law, effective Aug. 1, will give buyers just 10 days to apply for a title transfer and pay the necessary fees.

The Department of Public Safety will be able to suspend the registration on the vehicle if the buyer does not transfer the title within 10 days of the sale, under the law.

If the vehicle registration is suspended, the buyer will have to pay an additional \$5 reinstatement fee in addition to the normal title transfer charges. If after 14 days the buyer still has not transferred the title, an additional \$2 late fee will be applied.

Also, law enforcement officers will be able to impound a vehicle if the registration has been suspended because the buyer failed to transfer the title.

Sen. Claire Robling (R-Prior Lake) sponsored the Senate proposal.

HF609/SF1404*/CH135

Send e-mail comments
regarding Session Weekly to:
session@house.leg.state.mn.us

We thank you for your input.

The editors

Regulating brokers



Minnesota will regulate automobile brokers under legislation signed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

Under the law, carried in the House by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), brokers will be considered motor vehicle dealers who must be licensed by the state. Wholesalers, auctioneers, scrap metal processors and salvage lots, along with new- or used-car sales companies, already are considered motor vehicle dealers.

A broker, as defined by the law, is anyone who arranges the sale or lease of a motor vehicle and collects a fee for the service.

To obtain a license, brokers must maintain a commercial space, either owned outright or leased for at least one year, dedicated to operating the brokerage. The broker also must observe "conspicuously posted" business hours and have either personnel or an answering service on hand to field consumer questions.

The law also imposes a handful of new requirements on brokers, in addition to the license procedure. For example, brokers can negotiate sale or lease prices, but may not represent themselves as the seller of the vehicle, and the broker may not accept a down payment of more than \$500. Brokers also are prohibited from the actual business of motor vehicle sales, including executing contracts, describing warranties or safety features, and performing any pre-sale preparations to the vehicle that would normally be the domain of a dealer.

The law, which becomes effective Aug. 1, 1997, also outlines penalties brokers may be subject to if they violate any of its licensing or sales provisions.

Sen. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park) sponsored the Senate proposal.

HF890/SF890*/CH92

Selling abandoned vehicles



Minneapolis and St. Paul police will be required to hold impounded vehicles for only 15 days before putting them on the auction block under a new state law.

Signed May 6 by Gov. Arne Carlson, the law will address a problem that leaves Minneapolis and St. Paul impound lots overflowing with cars abandoned by their owners.

Current state law requires a 45-day wait before an impounded vehicle can be sold. The new law will exempt Minneapolis and

St. Paul from that law and set a 15-day limit for those cities.

The law requires local approval by the city councils in Minneapolis and St. Paul before it takes effect.

Supporters of the new measure said current law causes real problems in the cities, especially during winter months. A winter that brings heavy snowfall leads to a lot of parking violations and a lot of cars being towed from city streets to the impound lot.

In St. Paul, where the city impound lot holds 750 vehicles, space in the lot can run out quickly, according to St. Paul Police Deputy Chief Ted Brown.

Most people pay the fine and pick up their cars from the impound lot within a few days, but others would rather lose their vehicles than pay up, according to Brown. As a result, vehicles that — in effect — are abandoned must be allowed to take up valuable lot space for 45 days before they can be sold off.

Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the measure.

HF342/SF166*/CH108

Young drivers



A new law will ensure that 15-year-olds are allowed restricted driver's licenses to help out on the family farm.

The measure, effective April 24, 1997, provides an exception to a previous law requiring anyone under age 18 to hold a learner's permit for at least six months before becoming eligible for a driver's license.

The 1996 Legislature passed the new learner's permit requirements, which took effect Feb. 1, 1997, with hopes that the law would give teenagers more driving experience before they can hit the road on their own.

But the law had an unintended side effect, according to House sponsor Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake). It cut in half the time farm families could benefit from a state law allowing 15-year-olds to get restricted driver's licenses allowing them to help with farm business.

Restrictions placed on such licenses allow 15-year-olds whose parents are farmers to drive only during daylight hours and only within 20 miles of the family farm.

The new law exempts 15-year-olds who are otherwise eligible for a restricted farm driver's license from the new six-month learner's permit requirement.

Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy) sponsored the Senate proposal.

HF768/SF475*/CH48

Travel time slashed

Speed limits would increase on Minnesota interstates and divided highways under a bill awaiting action from Gov. Arne Carlson.

The proposal calls for speed limits to jump from 65 mph to 70 mph on rural interstates, from 55 mph to 65 mph on metropolitan area interstates, and from 55 mph to 65 mph on four-lane, divided highways throughout the state.

The proposed speed limit hikes are included in a bill (**HF458/SF724***) sponsored by Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar).

Last year, lawmakers moved to boost the speed limit to 65 mph on rural, divided highways, but Gov. Arne Carlson blocked the increase by ordering the commissioner of transportation to maintain the current 55 mph limit on such roads.

The current proposal would void that order, reinstating the speed limit increase approved by the Legislature last year. And the bill would add new increases.

Carlson has said that he will not allow an increase in speed limits unless it is accompanied by additional funding to hire more state troopers to tighten up enforcement. Juhnke's bill does not include any such funding.

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
Toll free	1-888-234-1112
Information, House	
175 State Office Building.....	296-2146
Toll free	1-800-657-3550
Committee Hotline, Senate	296-8088
Committee Hotline, House.....	296-9283
Sergeant at Arms, Senate	
G-1 Capitol/Chamber	296-1119/296-7159
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.....	296-9208
Emergency	296-2100
TTY*, Senate	296-0250
Toll free	1-888-234-1216
TTY*, House	296-9896
Toll free	1-800-657-3550

Vetoed Bills 1997

(as of May 22, 1997)



ELECTIONS

Absentee voting

A bill to make it easier to vote by absentee ballot has been vetoed.

Under current law, voters must provide one of several reasons to vote outside an official polling place: an expected absence from the precinct, illness, disability, religious discipline, observance of a religious holiday, or service as an election judge in another precinct. The bill would have eliminated those provisions.

It also would have permitted military personnel stationed overseas to vote by fax, as could hospital patients admitted within seven days of an election.

Gov. Arne Carlson supported the military vote by fax, but had "serious reservations" in allowing hospital patients to do so. He specifically cited the "potential impact of any of the proposed changes to the integrity of our election laws," and noted that only three Republicans supported the bill.

"Significant changes to election laws . . . are too important to be entirely one-sided and lacking in bipartisanship," he said.

Bill sponsors said they were only looking to increase voter turnout.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville).

HF74/SF78*/CH166

Caucuses: lowering the age

A bill to open up part of the elections process to 17-year-olds was vetoed by the governor.

Under the proposal, anyone 17 years old at the time of precinct caucuses could have participated as a delegate or voter.

"This is a responsibility best left to mature eligible voters and goes well beyond simply increasing a young person's interest and participation in the political process," Carlson said. He expressed concern that an ineligible voter would be able to influence or deny the selection of a candidate.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Andy Dawkins, (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park).

HF703/SF1170*/CH168

As of May 22, Gov. Arne Carlson has vetoed 11 bills and line-item vetoed appropriations from another bill.

Keeping track of voters

A bill calling for the U.S. Postal Service to provide the Office of the Secretary of State with the names of people who file permanent change of address orders has been vetoed.

The intent of the bill was to improve record-keeping as well as to encourage voting.

But Gov. Arne Carlson thought "the unintended outcome of this process may actually be more confusion on the part of the electorate, in which case the status quo is certainly preferable."

Under the bill, the postal service would have provided the secretary of state's office with the lists each month. The office would have provided the list to county auditors, who were to send registered voters information about their new polling places.

About 25,000 Minnesotans change residences each year. At present, the secretary of state's office has no way of tracking them.

Carlson said "efficiency and accuracy within the electoral system is best accomplished the way it always has been — letting those who exercise their right to vote to register in their new precinct."

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) and Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville).

HF294/SF73*/CH167

St. Louis Park cleanup vetoed

Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed a bill which would have authorized the cleanup of a contaminated site in St. Louis Park. The site known as NL Industries/Tara Corp./Golden Auto would have been made a high-priority site for receipt of contamination cleanup funds.

In his veto message, Carlson said that current law contains a detailed process for application and review of contamination cleanup grants and that the project had not gone through that process.

"Funding of projects outside the existing competitive process undermines the objective and comprehensive process that is currently in place," Carlson wrote.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins).

HF1755*/SF1584/CH165



LABOR

Minimum wage hike

Saying he would not accept changes to Minnesota's minimum wage law that do not conform to the federal law, Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed a bill May 16 to raise the state minimum wage. A House motion May 19 to

override the governor's veto failed on a vote of 82-52. A two-thirds majority (90 votes) is needed for a veto override.

The House first passed the bill on a 90-43 vote May 14, but several Republicans who then voted for the bill voted against the override attempt.

Carlson's veto was prompted by what the bill lacked rather than what it would do. Carlson wanted provisions for a tip credit and an opportunity wage. A tip credit would allow employers of workers receiving tips to make a deduction from hourly wages paid. The opportunity wage is often called a training wage because it allows employers to pay a worker under 20 years of age \$4.25 an hour for the first 90 days on the job.

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) distributed a letter from Carlson May 19 proposing a compromise on the tip credit issue. Sviggum urged lawmakers to take the offer seriously.

But bill sponsor Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) ignored Sviggum's suggestion and urged his Republican colleagues to override the veto.

Under **HF892**, the minimum wage for employees of large businesses (those with annual gross sales in excess of \$500,000) would have risen to \$5.15 per hour. Workers at smaller companies would have been paid at least \$4.90 per hour.

Carlson vetoed similar proposed minimum wage increases in 1994 and 1996.

Currently in Minnesota, there are three separate minimum wage levels. Businesses with more than \$362,500 in annual sales must pay their workers at least \$4.25 an hour, while companies with lesser sales must pay a minimum of \$4 per hour. A federally mandated \$5-per-hour minimum wage affects only those businesses with annual gross sales in excess of \$500,000. The federal level will increase to \$5.15 on Sept. 1.

Union sign-up recognition

A bill that would have allowed public sector employees to unionize without holding elections was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson May 9.

The bill would have required public sector employers to recognize and the commissioner of the state Department of Labor and Industry to certify an employees' union once the union had signed up 60 percent of the work force.

Current state law requires that workers select a union through a secret ballot election process.

In his veto message Carlson wrote that the

bill would "irreparably harm the relationship between public employees and management."

He added that "the certification election process now in place ensures that public employees are guaranteed a fair procedure free of intimidation and coercion when deciding upon their right to organize. This bill would upset these existing safeguards."

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato).

HF1106/SF1693*/CH115

Binding arbitration

A bill to mandate a binding arbitration process during initial contract negotiations between an employer and a union was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

"Mandating third party intervention during the initial contracting stage would upset the delicate balance of interests inherent to the employer/employee relationship," he said.

Carlson also thought the legislation would be pre-empted by the National Labor Relations Act, which stipulates that both parties to an arbitration must voluntarily submit to the process.

"I will not support legislation which will lead the state to needless litigation," he said.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) and Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul).

HF1936*/SF1823/CH152

Government worker protection

A bill detailing the rights of employees when local governments consolidate and must issue layoffs was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson May 9.

The bill would have allowed displaced local government employees to remain with their original employer if the employees had seniority rights under a union contract. It also would have required that new service providers hire — in order of seniority — from those being laid off by the local government unit.

"This bill is nothing more than a state mandate dictating how local governments should handle labor relations," Carlson wrote in his veto message. "It mandates a series of personnel policies which should be left to the local management process or collective bargaining."

Carlson said the bill might have prevented the hiring of employees based on qualifica-

tions and forced local governments to hire more employees than needed. State micromanagement of public employee relations could threaten innovation and consolidation of services, Carlson said.

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids) and Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls).

HF1078/SF854*/CH116



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Met Council elections

A bill to transform the Metropolitan Council into an elective body was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

"An elected Metropolitan Council is about as necessary as another house of the Legislature," he said.

The Metropolitan Council, created in 1967, is responsible for comprehensive regional planning for the seven-county metropolitan area. One of the largest regional governments in the nation, it also oversees the regional bus system, several wastewater treatment facilities, and Metro Mobility, a transit operation serving the disabled. It has an annual budget of about \$360 million, which is partially paid by property taxes, and manages about 3,500 employees. The council is governed by a board of 17 members appointed by the governor, each representing a different portion of the metro region.

"An elected council would, by design, force council members to be parochial to their own constituents and individual districts," Carlson said. He also opposed financing council elections with council funds and said criticism leveled at the council is unfair. Instead, fault lies with the Legislature, Carlson said, because of its "unabashed willingness . . . to place increased demands and mandates on the council."

House sponsor Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) has pushed for an elected council in each of the last four sessions.

"The Metropolitan Council is the second largest unit of local government in the state" behind Hennepin County, Orfield has said, arguing that when an official body has as much authority as the council, it should be and usually is elected. "Taxation without representation is fundamentally contrary to our constitution."

Sen. Carol Flynn (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the proposal in the Senate.

HF423*/SF175/CH151

Minneapolis construction

Gov. Arne Carlson struck down legislation May 13 that would have allowed Minneapolis to maintain its own licensing program for building contractors and remodelers through 2005.

The Legislature enacted a statewide licensing procedure for contractors in 1991 that supersedes the local requirements. The Minneapolis program is set to expire in 2000.

"Any advantages of a distinct licensure program by Minneapolis are greatly outweighed by the needless duplication inherent within such a parallel arrangement," Carlson wrote in a letter announcing his veto decision. "Moreover, a unique licensure program could give unfair advantage to a certain group of building contractor and remodelers."

Minneapolis officials, including Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, had testified before the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee that the state's licensing procedure did not provide adequate protection for residents, given the advanced age of much of the city's housing stock.

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls).

HF970/SF868*/CH146



RETIREMENT

Pension veto

A largely technical bill addressing the pensions of public employees from firefighters to pipefitters was vetoed May 13 by Gov. Arne Carlson.

Carlson agreed that most of the bill, which exceeds 100 pages, addressed "genuine needs and resolve[d] serious problems in the pension and retirement policy area." But he cited four specific trouble spots with the measure:

- First, the bill creates a problem by extending state pension coverage to seasonal employees of the Department of Revenue. Carlson said the move would cost the state \$91,000 annually, and the bill provides no funding;
- Second, it allows employees of the Minnesota Zoological Garden, the Lola and Rudy Perpich Center for Arts Education, and the state academies for the blind and deaf to develop Individual Retirement Account plans, rather than have their pensions controlled by the Minnesota State Retirement System. Carlson said the move would "destabilize the funding of defined benefit plans";
- Third, the bill moves certain control of appropriations relating to state police and fire aid from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Finance. Since the revenue department administers both programs, the appropriation authority should remain there, Carlson said.
- And finally, it allows a part-time teacher in Minneapolis to make a lump sum back payment to cover a period of time when no retirement contributions were made. While admitting the provision held no cost for the state, Carlson objected, saying it "could apply to many members and should be thoroughly examined before this policy is created."

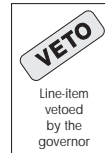
The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Steve Morse (DFL-Dakota).

HF1129/SF995*/CH139



HIGHER EDUCATION

No loan forgiveness



Gov. Arne Carlson used his line-item veto authority to strike \$100,000 from the omnibus higher education finance bill May 20.

The money would have funded the "Loan Repayment Assistance" program for graduates of Minnesota law schools working as lawyers in the state.

The vetoed language would have repaid the law school loans of barristers who met income guidelines and provide legal services for the economically disadvantaged or non-profit organizations, Native American tribal governments, or public defense offices.

Carlson, in his veto message announcing the action, pointed out that he vetoed a similar provision last year.

"My position on the use of state funding for this purpose has not changed," Carlson wrote.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona) and Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls).

HF2136/SF1888*/CH183

It's a fact!

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

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

At the time, cigarettes were not in fashion. In fact, North Dakota had barred their sale for many years. Minnesota state Sen. Charlie Halvorson was

not a fan of smokes or smokers and introduced a bill to ban the sale of cigarettes in Minnesota. On Feb. 18, 1901, the bill passed the Senate with only five negative votes.

The House held onto the bill for more than a month. Expected opposition never manifested, and the House, with an amendment, passed the bill March

22, by a 72-36 margin. Four days later, the Senate took up the matter again. The body accepted the House amendment, but then rejected the measure 25-27. The issue died that session.

Although the sale of cigarettes is still permitted in the state, periodic changes do continue to be made to the Clean Indoor Air Act. The latest, in 1994, prohibited smoking in common areas of apartment buildings, such as laundry rooms, mail rooms, and hallways.

Governor's Desk *

CH1 - CH251

Now it's up to the governor

Exactly 4,258 bills were introduced by the Legislature during the regular session — 2,255 by the House and 2,003 by the Senate. Of those, 251 bills (and four resolutions) were passed by both bodies during the 1997 session and sent to the governor.

So what happened to the other 4,003? Some were duplicates, some were folded into other bills, but most are in limbo, awaiting legislative action when the next regular session begins on Jan. 20, 1998.

And what happened to the 251 bills (and four resolutions) that have been sent to the governor? Most were signed into law, some were vetoed, and some are awaiting the governor's attention. Here's a quick review of the governor's veto authority during the first year of the biennium.

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
- do nothing, which, in the first year of the biennium, results in the bill becoming law.

The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

But the important thing to remember in the first year of the biennium is this: the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill.

If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

(For bills passed in the Special Session, however, the governor has 14 days from "presentment" to veto them — the same rules that apply in the second year of a biennium. If the governor takes no action on a bill during this time, the bill is vetoed in what is commonly referred to as a "pocket veto.")

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he/she objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. So the Legislature, either next year or when it is called into special session before then, could vote to override the governor's veto.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Art. IV, Sec. 23).

So what happens to the bills that weren't approved by the Legislature this year?

Bills that were awaiting floor action on the General Orders Calendar now return to the last committee they were acted upon, where they will stay unless acted upon by the 1998 Legislature. This rule also applies to any bill up for consideration on the Consent Calendar, Calendar, or Special Orders.

For appointed conference committees that have not submitted a report upon adjournment, the bill returns to the body it originally came from and is laid on the table. The conference committee is then disbanded.

Bills that are passed by one body and not the other remain alive for the second year of the biennium. The house that approved the bill in the first year need not repass the bill in the second.

Bills pending before the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee from either body return to the standing committee to which the bill was previously referred.

Bills vetoed by the governor are returned to the body where the bill originated and laid on the table.

Bills remaining in standing committees can be taken up in the second year of the biennium in the committee to which they were last referred.

After each session, a comprehensive summary of all bills that were signed into law or vetoed is published. You can get a copy of *New Laws 1997* by calling or writing the House Public Information Office, 175 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155-1298; (612) 296-2146, or 1-800-657-3550.

Editors' note: The following chart includes the 251 bills (and four resolutions) that passed both the House and the Senate and have been or will be sent on to the governor for consideration. Final action as of May 22 is yet incomplete on just over 40 of the bills.

Here are details concerning some of the terms used in the process.

Governor's options

• enactment

The date the governor signed the bill into law.

• line-item veto (liv)

The power or action of the governor to reject individual items within an appropriations bill while approving the rest of the bill.

• veto

The governor's decision to reject a bill.

• *

An asterisk marks the version of the bill the House and Senate approved and sent on to the governor.

Effective dates

Each act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day it becomes effective, unless the act specifies a different time. Examples:

• Aug. 1, 1997

Each act the governor signs into law, except those that make appropriations, take effect on Aug. 1 following its final enactment, unless the act specifies a different date.

• upon local approval (ula)

A special law requiring approval from the local government unit it affects becomes effective the day after the local government unit's governing body files a certificate with the secretary of state, unless the act specifies a later date.

• July 1, 1997

An appropriations act, or an act spending money, takes effect at the beginning of the first day of July following its final enactment, unless the act specifies a different date.

• day after enactment (dae)

The act becomes effective on the day after the governor signs it.

• Various

Different parts of the act have different effective dates.

• with exceptions (we)

Act includes other effective dates.

• with qualifications (wq)

Act adds conditions to the effective date.

**1997 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE
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HF—House File we—with exceptions liv—line item veto
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HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
AGRICULTURE									
1067*	Wenzel	1283	Sams	Resolution for federal milk marketing order system equitable adjustments.	Res. 2	4/21			
265*	Molnau	1371	Fischbach	Farm crisis assistance personnel employment status clarified.	27	4/11			8/1
1861*	Juhnke	1663	Johnson, D.E.	Farm animal facilities entry restriction.	55	4/23			8/1
1381	Juhnke	329*	Dille	Veterinary services lien provisions modified.	110	5/8			8/1
2097	Harder	338*	Sams	Corporate farming provisions modifications.	126	5/9			5/10
569	Juhnke	543*	Dille	Grain bank license requirements modification.	131	5/9			5/10 (Sec. 4); 8/1 (Secs. 1-3, 5-8)
1863*	Vickerman	1630	Frederickson	Agricultural marketing and bargaining task force.	142	5/13			5/14
1409*	Kubly	1134	Sams	Animal feedlot rules provided legislative review.	158	† 5/16			5/17
1924	Juhnke	526*	Pariseau	Food handlers certification.	161	5/16			8/1
535	Juhnke	164*	Wiger	Food rules federal regulations conformity.	220			x	
1646	Trimble	1834*	Lourey	Milk marketing competition, fairness provided; retail price flexibility allowed.	244			x	
CAPITAL INVESTMENT									
1380	Huntley	1136*	Solon	Duluth family practice residency program responsibility transfer.	136	5/12			5/13
COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS									
431	Mullery	315*	Knutson	Business corporations and limited liability companies technical modifications.	10	3/18			8/1
441*	Orfield	299	Kelley	Uniform Commercial Code changes.	11	3/18			8/1
794	Rest	624*	Junge	Minnesota professional firms act.	22	4/8			4/9 (Art. 2, Secs. 1-7); 1/1/99 (Art. 2, Sec. 9)
1183	Pugh	1094*	Scheid	Real estate tenant referral compensation regulated.	73	4/29			8/1
1075*	Pugh	891	Johnson, D.H.	Professional health services regulation.	76	5/1			8/1
890	Entenza	890*	Scheid	Motor vehicle broker regulation provided.	92	5/6			8/1
340	Harder	472*	Belanger	Cigarette and tobacco products sales tax provisions recodification.	106	5/6			Various
335	Jennings	256*	Metzen	Building and construction contract payments regulated.	127	5/9			8/1
524	Tunheim	277*	Solon	Liquor provisions modifications.	129	5/9			Various
156*	Slawik	269	Ten Eyck	Secretary of State filing fees.	137	5/12			8/1
970	Wejzman	868*	Higgins	Minneapolis building contractor licensing requirement exemption extended.	146		5/13		
329	Leighton	298*	Ten Eyck	Uniform Partnership Act of 1994.	174	5/19			Various
341	Daggett	378*	Murphy	Liquor tax provisions modification.	179	5/19			8/1
379*	Abrams	860	Oliver	Small corporate offering securities registration.	197	5/20			5/21
1032	Entenza	501*	Solon	Commerce department provisions modifications.	222			x	
117*	Rest	6	Junge	Tobacco retail license est., penalties for sales to minors.	227			x	
441*	Orfield	299	Kelley	Uniform Commercial Code, letters of credit.	236			x	
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE*									
538*	Knoblach	1239	Lesewski	Resolution to mitigate economic competition among states.	Res. 1	4/16			
343	Kubly	264*	Frederickson	HFA: providing temporary approval for home improvement loans.	4	2/25			2/26
631*	Folliard	508	Kelley	Hopkins Performing Arts Center modified.	5	3/5			3/6
582	Hausman	463*	Anderson	St. Paul teacher training institute building rental authority.	14				Recalled by Senate 3/26
763*	Tunheim	696	Moe	Zion Lutheran Church historic place designation.	54	4/23			8/1
889*	Evans	786	Krentz	Mobile home park owners rights modified.	61	4/28			8/1
1880*	Jennings	1519	Kiscaden	Employer re-employment compensation payment schedule.	80			5/2	7/1 (Sec. 1); 1/1/99 (Sec. 2)
745	Wejzman	399*	Lesewski	Workforce service areas designation.	118	5/8			7/1
1879	Trimble	1646*	Murphy	Nuclear waste storage escrow account.	201	5/22			7/1
EDUCATION*									
1*	Johnson, A.	3	Langseth	Education caps removal.	1	2/14			2/15; 1997-98 sch. yr. (Sec. 2)
121*	Jefferson	109	Higgins	Youth initiative grant; neighborhood addition provided.	3	2/25			8/1
1213	Goodno	1052*	Langseth	Moorhead land transfer authorized.	32	4/16			4/16
108*	Tomassoni	56	Janezich	Range technical employees retirement benefits protection.	50	4/23			8/1
211*	Svigum	201	Day	School district extended area telecommunications service.	59	4/28			4/29; 6/30/00 expires
1029	Mares	950*	Kelly	Teacher background check working group recommendations adopted.	99	5/6			5/7
75	Koskinen	38*	Sams	Medical practice board records maintenance requirements.	103	5/6			8/1
2179*	Opatz	1934	Pogemiller	Statewide testing.	138	5/12			5/13
1684*	Kelso	1925	Pogemiller	Omnibus K-12 education appropriations.	242			x	
ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES									
1692	Munger	1342*	Krentz	Earth Day recognition and establishment.	Res. 4	4/29			
266*	Munger	796	Laidig	BWSR voting membership increase.	28	4/11			8/1
436	Wagenius	127*	Stevens	Environmental advisory councils and committees provisions modifications.	45	4/21			7/1 (Sec. 1)

* See also Way & Means

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liv—line item veto

HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
718	Folliard	137*	Morse	Conservation corps youth advisory committee modifications.	46	4/21			7/1
255*	Johnson, R.	354	Belanger	Environmental Quality Board membership increase.	53	4/23			8/1
949*	Wagenius	885	Johnson, J.B.	Mercury devices disposal prohibition expansion.	62	4/28			7/1/98 (Sec. 3)
317*	Huntley	16	Johnson, D.J.	Municipal wastewater infrastructure action authorized.	82	5/2			5/3
311	Luther	574*	Scheid	Disabled residents fishing license requirements exemption.	95	5/6			8/1
1118	Sekhon	413*	Frederickson	Municipal water use permit established.	104	5/6			5/7
664*	McCollum	301	Frederickson	BWSR contributions acceptance authority expansion.	109	5/8			8/1
1908	Finseth	1165*	Price	Tree planting stock production restricted.	119	5/8			5/9 (Sec. 6)
232	Finseth	296*	Frederickson	Soil and water conservation district supervisor provided four year term.	173	5/19			Various
947	Wagenius	900*	Johnson, J.B.	Toxics in packaging regulations modified.	186	5/20			8/1
742	Kahn	780*	Johnson, J.B.	Incinerator emissions mercury testing requirements modification.	189	5/20			8/1
424	Koppendrayner	309*	Stevens	State and tax forfeited land conveyences.	207	5/22			5/23
707	Wagenius	184*	Stevens	Toxics in products requirements, enforcements modified.	221			x	
313	Milbert	254*	Frederickson	Game and fish provisions modifications.	226			x	
244*	Bishop	389	Price	Individual sewage treatment systems provisions modified.	235			x	
632*	Solberg	436	Morse	Omnibus bonding bill	246			x	
276*	Pelowski	385	Morse	Public waters boathouses restriction.	247			x	
ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE*									
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE									
447*	Murphy	398	Wiener	Direct patient access to obstetric and gynecologic services.	26	4/8			1/1/98
645*	Tomassoni	622	Scheid	Health insurance plans care definition.	49	4/23			1/1/98
1005	Tomassoni	1527*	Hottinger	Minnesota Insurance Guaranty Act modifications.	52	4/23			4/24
653	Pugh	495*	Novak	Diabetes outpatient self-mngmnt. training, ed. health ins. coverage required.	57	4/28			8/1
1045*	Farrell	759	Kelly	Automobile insurance surcharge prohibitions.	64	4/28			4/29
571	Kalis	465*	Wiener	Long-term care insurance policy sales regulated.	71	4/29			4/30 (Art. 1, Art. 2, Secs. 1-5, 7); 8/1 (Art. 2, Sec. 6)
1637*	Anderson, I.	1424	Novak	Fire insurance provisions modification.	77	5/2			8/1
630	Rukavina	683*	Janezich	Self insured employee benefit plan dissolution notification required.	117	5/8			7/1
753*	Kubly	339	Metzen	Financial institutions provisions modifications.	157	5/16			Various
1605	Davids	1715*	Oliver	Health insurance portability and accountability requirements.	175	5/19			5/20 (Secs. 1, 2); 7/1 (Sec. 3)
56	Kahn	173*	Kelley	Minnesota electronic authentication act.	178	5/19			Various
GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS									
1088*	Hasskamp	1030	Scheid	Candidate name rotation allowed on ballots.	18	4/4			8/1
1093*	Macklin	1104	Robling	Metropolitan town election date change authorized.	19	4/4			4/5 retro. to Res. adopted on or after 3/1
453*	McCollum	99	Betzold	Military provisions modifications.	24	4/8			8/1
1884	Westfall	1356*	Langseth	State House District 9A description modification.	44	4/21			4/22
212	McCollum	35*	Wiger	Soil and water conservation district election modification.	130	5/9			7/1
1914	Biernat	1684*	Spear	Minneapolis school board election modification.	144	5/15			5/16
168	Tunheim	703*	Scheid	Mail balloting authority expansion.	145	5/13			5/14
127	Folliard	72*	Marty	Election and voter registration provisions.	147	5/13			8/1
74	Osthoff	78*	Marty	Absentee ballot voting procedures modified.	166		5/19		
294	Folliard	73*	Marty	Voters address change system.	167		5/19		
703	Dawkins	1170*	Scheid	Minors as political party convention delegates.	168		5/19		
1463	Mahon	1255*	Belanger	Local office candidate campaign contribution limit provisions clarified.	224			x	
445	Pugh	117*	Betzold	Military property losses tort liability exclusion.	249			x	
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS									
566*	Solberg	434	Lessard	Itasca County government innovation and cooperation board law.	42	4/21			4/22
1162*	Koppendrayner	363	Johnson, D.H.	State employment provisions modifications.	79	5/1			8/1
756*	Hilty	691	Knutson	State demographer population estimate procedures modified.	87	5/6			8/1
694	Koppendrayner	512*	Runbeck	State employment provision modifications.	97	5/6			8/1
182	Greiling	351*	Hottinger	LCC assigned responsibility for review of legislative reviews.	98	5/6			8/1
22	Rukavina	91*	Cohen	Police state aid amount ratified and money appropriated.	125	5/9			5/10
1129	Kahn	995*	Morse	Retirement provisions modifications.	139		5/13		
829	Solberg	755*	Flynn	Government bodies meeting on interactive television.	154	5/15			5/16; 6/30/98 (Secs. 3, 4 expire)
1542	Solberg	1351*	Flynn	Public employment labor agreements ratification.	156	5/16			5/17 (Sec. 6)

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450	Rest	1383*	Belanger	Legislative audit commission membership provisions modified.	184	5/20			5/21
197	Leppik	157*	Betzold	Administrative rule procedure modification.	187	5/20			5/21; 6/30 (Sec. 36, Par. A, C)
1618	Greiling	1316*	Wiener	State agency publication dates and requirements modified.	192	5/20			6/30
none	Rukavina	1905*	Price	Omnibus state departments appropriations.	202			x	
1134	Knight	420*	Wiger	Administration department provisions modifications.	206	5/22			8/1; 4/1/98 (Sec.11)
647	Jefferson	637*	Morse	Retirement provisions modifications.	233			x	
1727	Kahn	1486*	Morse	Miscellaneous retirement provisions.	241			x	
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES									
374	Knoblach	274*	Robertson	Adoption assistance.	8	3/11			3/12
835*	Delmont	754	Betzold	County operated day training and habilitation program audit exception.	36	4/16			8/1
750	Bradley	652*	Kiscaden	Autism treatment options advisory task force.	69	4/29			8/1
159	Jennings	1*	Samuelson	Welfare reform bill.	85	4/30			1/1
209*	Vickerman	210	Knutson	Child placement provisions modifications.	86	5/6			5/7
1356	Slawik	1155*	Wiger	Mental health case management services.	93	5/6			8/1
469	Otremba	36*	Sams	Hospital dists. authorized to give services to those not in need of nursing home care.	94	5/6			8/1
861	Delmont	662*	Sams	Volunteer psychology practitioner licensure requirements established.	102	5/6			5/7 (Secs. 1-3); 8/1 (Secs. 4-6)
289	Johnson, R.	101*	Berglin	Long-term care provisions modification.	107	5/6			8/1
291	Greenfield	333*	Berglin	Home care providers establishment.	113	5/8			8/1
1702	McColum	741*	Kelley	Respiratory care practitioners registration and regulation.	120	5/8			8/1 we
136	Leppik	244*	Kiscaden	Prescriptions for intractable pain.	124	5/9			5/10
2042	Delmont	1722*	Sams	Pharmacy technician definition and regulation.	132	5/9			8/1
1071	Mulder	1000*	Kelley	Psychology practice licensure requirements modifications.	134	5/12			8/1
1246	Huntley	641*	Berglin	Mental health provider peer review.	140	5/12			8/1
858*	Huntley	920	Morse	Health care cost containment provisions.	150	5/15			8/1
397	Jennings	4*	Johnson, D.E.	National Guard reimbursement grant formula modification.	160	5/16			8/1
555	Goodno	97*	Betzold	Tuberculosis health threat act.	164	5/19			8/1
58	McElroy	122*	Robertson	Adoption provision modifications.	177	5/19			8/1
864	McGuire	457*	Betzold	Social work practice and board provisions modifications.	193	5/20			8/1 we
931	Clark	302*	Berglin	Community health clinics prepaid health services option.	194	5/20			8/1
1057	Greenfield	473*	Berglin	Medicare maximization program certification requirement repealed.	195	5/20			8/1; 5/21 (Secs. 2, 3, 6)
257*	Dorn	510	Lourey	Ambulance service licensing requirements established.	199	5/22			8/1; 5/23 (Sec. 2)
none	Greenfield	1908*	Samuelson	Omnibus health and human services appropriations.	203			x	
485	Tingelstad	95*	Lourey	Health and HMO provisions modifications.	205	5/22			8/1; 5/23 (Sec. 19)
367	Davids	199*	Foley	Omnibus mortuary science regulation bill.	215	5/22			8/1
735*	Entenza	53	Betzold	Civil commitment procedure modifications.	217	5/22			8/1
1441	Greenfield	1208*	Berglin	MinnesotaCare program provisions modified.	225			x	
556*	Greenfield	98	Betzold	Tuberculosis health threat act.	228			x	
1365	Wejcman	960*	Berglin	Patient Protection Act.	237			x	
272	Wejcman	234*	Morse	Human services licensing act provisions modifications.	248			x	
JUDICIARY									
13*	Skoglund	17	Kelly	Revisor's bill.	2	2/19			7/1/96 retro. (Sec. 6)
35*	Chaudhary	12	Betzold	Revisor's bill.	7	3/11			Various
220	Mullery	202*	Ten Eyck	Property disposition modification.	9	3/13			8/1 we
439	Leighton	368*	Junge	Alternative dispute resolution presiders liability immunity.	29	4/11			8/1
1885	Solberg	1645*	Moe	Mille Lacs treaty implementation costs.	30	4/11			4/12
908	Pugh	305*	Krentz	Prison inmate lawsuit provisions clarified.	33	4/16			4/16
5*	McGuire	32	Junge	Stalking bill.	96	5/6			5/7 (Secs. 1, 6-9, 11); 8/1 (Secs. 2-5, 10)
246	Dawkins	513*	Anderson	Nuisance acts definition expansion.	100	5/6			8/1
342	Farrell	166*	Kelly	Impounded motor vehicles sale waiting period reduction.	108	5/6			Upon local approval
1373	Wagenius	813*	Ranum	Child custody transfer provided via consent decree.	112	5/8			7/1
932	Wejcman	536*	Berglin	Public nuisance definition expanded.	122	5/8			7/1 we
227	Goodno	324*	Knutson	Human rights investigative data classification modification.	172	5/19			8/1
786	Hilty	242*	Kiscaden	Human rights alternative dispute resolution deadline suspended.	182	5/19			8/1
464	Vickerman	542*	Frederickson	Lower Sioux Indian community law enforcement authority.	185	5/20			5/21
642	Skoglund	848*	Flynn	Public participation federal court action damages relief.	209	5/22			8/1
1489	Pugh	1114*	Kelly	Municipal tort liability modified.	210	5/22 †			1/1/98 (Secs. 1, 3, 4) wq

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1076	McGuire	877*	Foley	Seat belt bill.	211			x	
832	Pugh	627*	Ranum	Professional malpractice expert certification required.	212			x	
1404	Pugh	1513*	Hottinger	Civil action sanction provisions expanded.	213	5/22			8/1 (Sec. 1) wq
606	Stanek	294*	Junge	Peace officer applicants background investigation requirement.	214	5/22			8/1; 7/1/98 (Sec. 4)
296	Wejcman	203*	Berglin	Adoption registry establishment.	218			x	
1460*	McGuire	1277	Betzold	Omnibus data classification, access, privacy bill.	229			x	
268*	Murphy	279	Kelly, R.C.	Close custody correctional facility construction conditions.	238			x	
none	Murphy	1880*	Kelly, R.C.	Omnibus criminal justice, corrections, public defense appropriations.	239			x	
1004	Entenza	985*	Foley	DWI provisions modifications.	243			x	
925	Entenza	830*	Cohen	Omnibus child support, custody, and visitation bill.	245			x	
LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS									
1877	Jefferson	1675*	Novak	Strawberry workers.	Res. 3	4/23 †			
219*	Haskamp	118	Samuelson	Civil Air Patrol members provided unpaid leaves of absence from employers	20	4/4			8/1
1382*	Dehler	1051	Langseth	Show boiler and engine inspection provisions modified.	38	4/16/96			8/1
312	Jefferson	145*	Runbeck	Re-employment insurance technical and administrative changes.	66	4/23			7/1 we
271*	Rukavina	608	Lesevski	Re-employment insurance wage reporting requirements modification.	74	5/1			1/1/98
1383*	Kinkel	1081	Ten Eyck	Occupational safety and health notice service provision modified.	81	5/2			8/1
966*	Garcia	911	Johnson, D.H.	Wages payment requirements modification.	83	5/2			8/1
810	Wolf	839*	Belanger	Employment search firm bond requirements modified.	88	5/6			8/1
1106	Leighton	1693*	Hottinger	Employees exclusive representatives recognition.	115		5/9		
1870	Leighton	1807*	Runbeck	Workers compensation insurance reporting deadline delay.	128	5/9			5/10 (Secs. 3, 4); 8/1 (Secs. 1, 2)
1936*	Murphy	1823	Anderson	Labor disputes mandatory arbitration.	152		5/15		
892*	Rukavina	882	Kelly	Minimum wage increase.	163		5/16		
814	Koskinen	323*	Knutson	Discriminatory reprisals prohibition expansion.	171	5/19			8/1
1711	Leighton	575*	Runbeck	Labor and employment provisions modifications.	180	5/19			8/1
LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS									
125*	Sviggum	160	Day	Kenyon tax levy recertification authorized.	6	3/11			3/12
100*	Wenzel	114	Vickerman	Emergency snow removal.	12	3/19			8/1/96 retro. (Sec. 1); 2/1 retro. (Secs. 2-10)
564	Olson, E.	417*	Moe	Becker County economic development authority.	15	3/26			Upon local approval
483	Olson, E.	124*	Vickerman	Towns emergency service charges.	16	3/26			8/1
941	Nornes	700*	Larson	City mayor and fire chief positions compatibility.	23	4/8			8/1
958*	Rukavina	748	Janezich	St. Louis County unorganized territory attachment authorized.	37	4/16			4/17
2009	Bakk	227*	Vickerman	Federal payments in lieu of taxes on entitlement land distributed.	39	4/21			8/1
972	Hausman	424*	Wiger	Ramsey County eligibles certification under county rules.	40	4/21			Upon local approval
1187*	Kubly	1306	Johnson, D.E.	Buffalo Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility contract bid requirements.	41	4/21			Upon local approval
1257	Winter	1071*	Vickerman	Luverne Maplewood Cemetery bodies removal and reinterment.	43	4/21			Upon local approval
429	Jefferson	458*	Higgins	Fire insurance escrow account requirements.	47	4/21			8/1
356*	Greiling	284	Marty	Local government units official newspapers designation cost consideration.	56	4/23			Upon local approval
971	Mullery	1116*	Higgins	Hennepin County radio system facility lease authorized.	58	4/28			Upon local approval
1301*	Slawik	884	Wiger	St. Paul Ramsey County Public Health Department classified service definition.	63	4/28			8/1
473*	Chaudhary	197	Wiger	Metropolitan Council employee recognition services program.	72	4/29			8/1
2169	Skare	1928*	Vickerman	Counties and cities flood assistance authority.	75	5/1			8/1
601*	Wenzel	869	Vickerman	Boundary commissions provisions modifications.	78	5/1			8/1
1144	Tunheim	951*	Junge	County boards authorized to assign duties of auditor and treasurer.	89	5/6			5/7
1148	Wolf	1037*	Belanger	Scott County auditor appointment.	90	5/6			7/1
1840	Schumacher	1669*	Stevens	Benton County offices modification.	91	5/6			Upon local approval
1379	Huntley	1146*	Solon	Duluth Miller-Dwan Medical Center non-profit corporation creation.	101	5/6			Upon local approval
713	Koskinen	525*	Pappas	Wastewater treatment facility privatization ownership restrictions modified.	111	5/8			5/9
1078	Koskinen	854*	Higgins	Displaced public employees rights.	116		5/9		
512*	Rest	388	Hottinger	Municipal bankruptcy filing authorized.	148	5/13			5/14
282*	Stanek	470	Wiger	Metro transit police officers.	149	5/15			5/16 (Secs. 1, 2, 4, 5); 1/1/98 (Sec. 3)
423*	Orfield	175	Flynn	Elected Met Council.	151		5/15		
658	Marko	612*	Wiger	Washington County appointed auditor permitted.	153	5/15			Upon local approval
1755*	Jefferson	1584	Kelley	Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority procedures modified.	165		5/19		
1313	Dehler	1266*	Vickerman	Municipal road snow and ice removal vote.	170	5/19			8/1
857	Rhodes	735*	Robling	Metropolitan Council wastewater services cost allocation modification.	181	5/19			5/20 (Sec. 1); 1/1/98 (Sec. 2, 3)

1997 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE
FINAL ACTION (as of May 22, 1997)

HF—House File
SF—Senate File
R—Resolution
CH—Chapter

we—with exceptions
wq—with qualifications
*—bill the governor signed or vetoed
†—approved without governor's signature

liv—line item veto

HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
1291	Tomassoni	1423*	Janezich	St. Louis County court bailiffs added to unclassified service.	188	5/20			5/21
1620	Kinkel	1833*	Ten Eyck	County permit issuance injury liability provisions modified.	204	5/22			8/1
REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY									
640	Solberg	504*	Lessard	Nashwauk gas utility establishment authority.	21	4/8			Upon local approval
281*	Jennings	147	Novak	Natural gas public utilities performance regulation plans.	25	4/8			8/1; 1/1/2006 expires
1123*	Delmont	1156	Johnson, J.B.	Telecommunication company slamming and loading prohibited.	68	4/29			4/30
1287	Delmont	156*	Sams	Utility deposit interest payments regulated.	121	5/8			8/1 wq
322	Jennings	442*	Novak	Public right-of-way telecom services use control.	123	5/9			Various
700	Delmont	566*	Vickerman	Lawful gambling profit expenditure provisions modified.	155	5/15			5/16
1508	Kubly	1328*	Johnson, D.E.	Wind and biomass power purchase provided.	176	5/19			8/1
1299	Jennings	1820*	Novak	Electric energy task force reorganization.	191	5/20			5/21
1370*	Anderson, I.	546	Novak	Excavation notification planning provisions.	196	5/20			8/1
704*	Ozment	1289	Johnson, D.H.	Large electric power plants certificate of need proceeding exemptions.	198	5/20			8/1
854	Clark	555*	Kelley	Telecom services purchasing cooperatives.	208	5/22 †			8/1
1172	Jennings	739*	Kelley	Telecommunications regulation goals, policies.	223			x	
1464	Juhnke	1419*	Johnson, D.E.	Municipal, cooperative utilities joint venture.	232			x	
853	Clark	740*	Kelley	Telephone assistance plan review, voice messaging pilot programs.	234			x	
RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION									
2203	Skoglund	1955*	Ranum	Revisor's bill correcting miscellaneous oversights, etc.	251			x	
TAXES*									
293*	Johnson, A.	216	Belanger	Tax provisions technical corrections and administrative changes.	31	4/15			4/16
2132*	Tunheim	1904	Stumpf	Income tax filing extension for flood disaster area residents.	34	4/15			4/16
807*	Olson, E.	456	Belanger	Tax bill.	84	5/2			Various. See Sec. 29
686*	Paymar	756	Johnson, D.H.	Tenants police and emergency assistance right.	133	5/12			7/1
2147*	Kinkel	1858	Piper	Early childhood and family education appropriations.	162	5/16			7/1
1996	Rest	1697*	Pogemiller	Bonding authority allocation provisions modifications.	169	5/19			7/1
1888	Milbert	1023*	Murphy	Motor vehicle rental fee imposition authority.	190	5/20			8/1
1995	Rest	1754*	Pogemiller	Public finance provisions modifications.	219			x	
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT									
40	Leppik	129*	Robertson	Minnesota ID cards for minors.	13	3/19			8/1
90*	Lieder	61	Johnson, J.B.	Commercial driver's license requirements exemption for snowplows.	35	4/16			4/17
768	Westrom	475*	Vickerman	Farm worker driver's license exemptions.	48	4/23			4/24
385	Swenson, H.	539*	Frederickson	Trunk Highway 19 designated memorial highway.	51	4/23			8/1
179*	Bishop	178	Ranum	Driver's license health care directives designation.	60	4/28			1/1/98
626	Luther	432*	Hanson	Designated caregiver agreement execution and consent agreements modified.	65	4/28			8/1
591*	Boudreau	578	Neuville	Faribault Trunk Highway 218 easement transfer requirement.	67	4/29			Upon local approval
1223	Rest	1025*	Junge	Impounded vehicle notice required within 10 days.	70	4/29			8/1
1243	Tingelstad	1179*	Hanson	Snow plowing vehicles seasonal over width permits.	114	5/8			5/9
609	Erhardt	1404*	Robling	Motor vehicle transfer notice time limit reduction.	135	5/12			8/1
723	Marko	1097*	Pappas	Highway revolving loan account project funding.	141	5/12			Various
458	Juhnke	724*	Johnson, J.B.	Speed limits.	143			x	
none	Lieder	1881*	Johnson, J.B.	Transportation bill.	159	5/16			Various
241*	Mullery	1096	Sams	Motor carrier audits.	230			x	
454*	Johnson, A.	397	Flynn	Collector motor vehicle single license plate issuance, display allowed.	240			x	
242	Juhnke	435*	Foley	Motor vehicle and drivers license provisions modified.	250			x	
WAYS & MEANS									
105	Olson, E.	85*	Kelly	Payment of claims against state.	17	4/3			4/4
2129	Peterson	1894*	Moe	Flood related disaster relief provided and money appropriated.	105	5/6			5/7
none	Pelowski	1888*	Stumpf	Omnibus higher ed appropriations.	183	5/20	liv		7/1; 5/21 (Secs. 21, 29, 31)
2158*	Jaros	1909	Beckman	Omnibus economic development and housing bill.	200			x	
2150*	Osthoff	1907	Morse	Omnibus environment bill.	216			x	
2163*	Long	none	Johnson, D.J.	Omnibus tax bill.	231			x	

* See also Way & Means

Bill Introductions

HF2222 - HF2255

Friday, May 16

HF2222—Juhnke (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Real property warranty deed public road access provided.

HF2223—Wolf (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Savage Fen Wetland Complex land purchase provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2224—Westrom (R)
Taxes
Tax Increment Financing zones established.

HF2225—Leppik (R)
Judiciary
Child-support obligation insurance proceed lien provided.

HF2226—Olson, M. (R)
Health & Human Services
Health care provider discriminatory charges prohibited.

HF2227—Luther (DFL)
Education
Adults-with-disabilities educational program fund surplus priority established.

HF2228—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Minnesota responsible electric competition act adopted.

HF2229—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Electric utility industry restructuring provided, and legislative oversight committee established.

Saturday, May 17

HF2230—Carlson (DFL)
Education
Metropolitan magnet school grant provisions modified, public capital improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2231—Tuma (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
BWCA; motorboat use prohibited in Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and civil penalty provided.

HF2232—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Minnesota universal health board established, regional coordinating boards membership modified, health care trust fund established, health care budgets provided, and money appropriated.

HF2233—Pugh (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Kidney transplants; post-kidney transplant maintenance drug payment provided, and money appropriated.

HF2234—Tomassoni (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Interstate Highway 94 designated as the Rudy Perpich Memorial Highway, and money appropriated.

HF2235—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Electric utility personal property tax exemption provided, and social responsibility surcharge established.

HF2236—Wolf (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Savage water supply system improvements provided, and money appropriated.

HF2237—Tingelstad (R)
Health & Human Services
Infertility diagnosis and treatment health insurance coverage required.

HF2238—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Minnesota electric system public benefits protection Act of 1997 adopted.

HF2239—Jennings (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
No-fault automobile insurance recovery by uninsured motorists limited.

HF2240—Huntley (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Sault Ste. Marie Narrows Poe Lock funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF2241—Huntley (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Snowmobile registration fees modified, liability insurance and safety education required, youth restrictions modified, night speed limit established, and money appropriated.

Monday, May 19

HF2242—Wagenius (DFL)
Rules & Legislative Administration
Environmental protection; Congress memorialized to ensure environmental protection, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2243—Jefferson (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Minneapolis Convention Center completion provided, expenditure limit repealed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2244—Kahn (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Minneapolis Convention Center completion provided, expenditure limits repealed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2245—Wejcman (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Minneapolis Convention Center completion provided, expenditure limits repealed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2246—Boudreau (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Electricity Board rule variance requirement provided.

HF2247—Olson, M. (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Election day registration and post-election reporting provisions modified.

HF2248—Rhodes (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
St. Louis Park Arts Center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2249—Rhodes (R)
Transportation & Transit
St. Louis Park Excelsior Boulevard bridge project provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2250—Boudreau (R)
Judiciary
Defendant release on bail denial allowed, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2251—Van Dellen (R)
Health & Human Services
Allergenic latex use limited in health care facilities.

HF2252—Olson, M. (R)
Education
Statewide educational testing grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF2253—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Automobile insurance discrimination prohibited based upon two or fewer minor traffic violations.

HF2254—Clark (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Legislator social security benefit provisions modified.

HF2255—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Crime and traffic offense statutory recodification and clarification provided.

Order Form: *New Laws 1997*

A publication outlining the new laws of 1997 will provide brief, easy-to-read summaries of the bills that were passed by both the House and Senate and signed or vetoed by the governor. *New Laws 1997* will be available a few months after the session ends. Copies will be mailed without charge to those who order them.

Do you want to receive a copy of *New Laws 1997*? **Yes** **No**

Please place this form (**with the mailing label on the back**) in an envelope. Mail it by June 1, 1997, to: *Session Weekly*, House Public Information Office, 175 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.

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4. Which sections of the *Session Weekly* do you most often read? (Please check all that apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Update (page 2)	<input type="checkbox"/> A Closer Look	<input type="checkbox"/> Governor's Desk
<input type="checkbox"/> Opening Story (page 3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Features	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Introductions
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5. Do you have any comments (positive or negative) on any of the sections in Question 4? _____

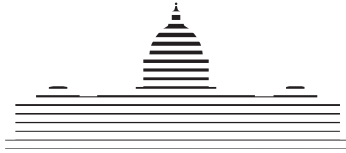
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Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
 Majority Leader: Ted Winter
 Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

1997 Legislative Session

Number of legislative days used	63
Maximum number of days the Minnesota Legislature can meet in regular session every two years	120
Number of House Files introduced	2,295
in 1995	1,999
Number of Senate Files introduced	2,003
in 1995	1,788
Bills that reached the governor's desk	251
Resolutions adopted	4
Full bills passed by the 1997 Legislature and vetoed by the governor, as of May 21	11
Additional bills with line-items vetoes, as of May 21	1
Veto override attempts since 1939	24
Successful veto override attempts since 1939	4
Number of House attempts, 1997	1
Successful House attempts, 1997	0
Number of pages in the omnibus tax bill	396
in 1996	272
House bills incorporated into the 1997 tax bill, as passed by the House	81
Date the Legislature will reconvene in 1998	Jan. 20
Special sessions called by governors since statehood	38
Number called by Gov. Arne Carlson	3
Number called by former Gov. Al Quie, most of any governor	7
Longest special session, in number of calendar days, 1971	159
Special sessions that have lasted only one day	13
Greatest time span between special sessions, in years (1881-1902)	21
Special sessions called to address taxes	10
Number called due to an Indian "outbreak"	1

Sources: House of Representatives Public Information Office; Legislative Reference Library; House Index Department.

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