

SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ March 14, 1997 ♦ Volume 14, Number 10



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Minnesota House of Representatives • March 14, 1997 • Volume 14, Number 10

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 (ISSN 1049-8176) is published weekly during the legislative session by the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298. Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **Session Weekly**, Public Information Office, Minnesota House of Representatives, 175 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.

Printed on recycled paper which is 50% recycled, 20% post-consumer content.

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.

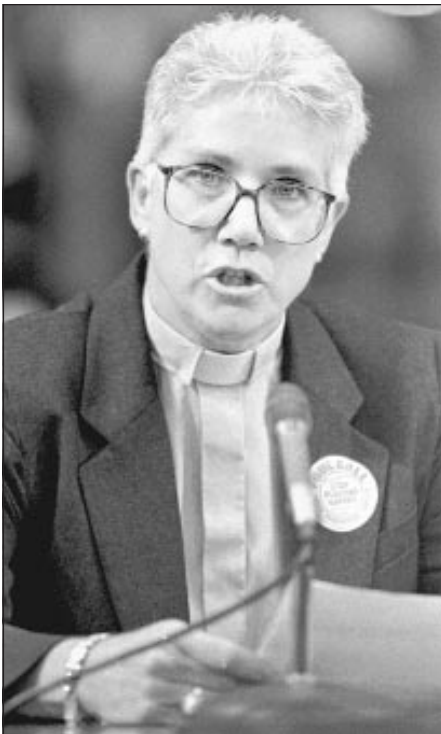
The Pohlads family, owners of the Twins, would make a gift of \$15 million to help finance the stadium and assume all liability for any operating losses of the team. The Twins also would dedicate \$25 million from the sale of naming rights and concessionaire payments to help pay for the building.

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.

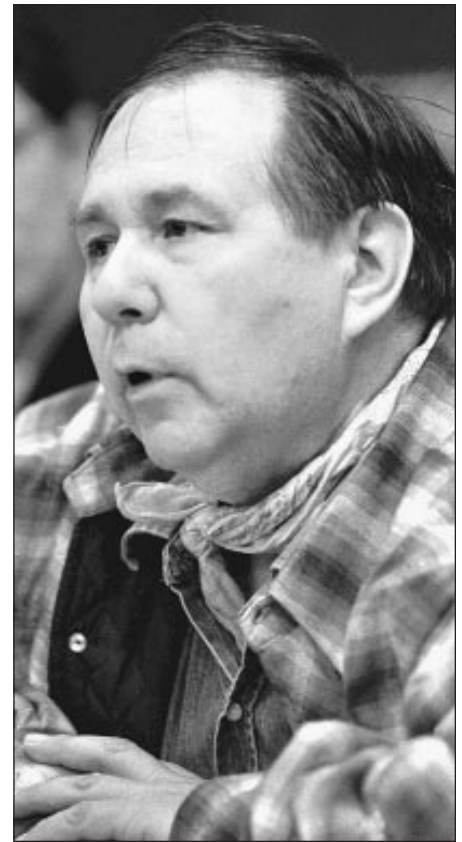
Minnesota has two nuclear power plants — at Prairie Island and Monticello — that produce high-level radioactive waste. Both are owned and operated by NSP.

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
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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

Do you know?

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

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

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		
MN Racing Commission	341-7555	State Patrol	297-3935	House Information	296-2146
Health	623-5000	Pollution Control	296-6300	Senate Information	296-0504

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
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 (Koppendrayer) 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 (McCullum) 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.

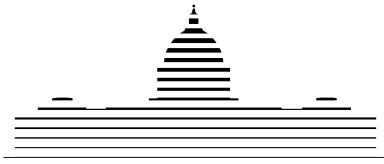
Along with a plan to overhaul Minnesota’s convoluted tax code, the governor also wrote in a one-time rebate to individual income taxpayers based on their 1996 returns. Anyone who paid any Minnesota income tax at all in 1996 would get a check for 22 percent of the total, said Department of Revenue Commissioner 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.



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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

Minnesota population, 1994	4,570,355
Midwestern states that grew faster than Minnesota, 1980-1994	0
Median age in Minnesota, 1994	33.9
States with more married couples, as a percentage of state households	0
Percent of Minnesotans living in Minneapolis and St. Paul	14.2
Increase in the state's minority population, 1990-1995	42
Minorities as a percentage of the state's total population, 1995	8.4
Per capita income, all Minnesotans, 1995	\$23,118
Nationwide	\$22,788
Minnesota counties that lost population during the 1980s	48
Counties experiencing a net-immigration, 1990-1995	56
Counties in which more people died than were born, 1990-1994	13
International immigrants settling in Minnesota, 1994	7,093
National rank	18
Townships in Minnesota	1,803
Other states with townships as a form of government	19
Total number of governmental units in Minnesota	3,580
National rank	6
Number of Minnesota cities	854
Percent of state residents living within a city	78
Population of Tenney, Minnesota's smallest city	4
Average age of a Minnesota farmer, 1974	49.8
in 1994	49.6
Percent of Minnesota farms owned by individuals	88
Percent owned by corporations	3
Percent of Minnesota farms earning under \$25,000 annually	44

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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