

SESSION WEEKLY

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Update

An influential activity in the legislative process is the caucus. It is an integral part of the legislative process because it can control how groups respond to a given agenda. A caucus is the coming together of like factions to develop a plan of action. It may also be two or more people discussing a specific topic or participating in a like interest. Most always, a caucus is organized to insure that individuals involved be united for or against an issue.

Key caucus meetings here in a legislature setting are comprised of political party members who form a majority caucus and a minority caucus. They meet separately and in private. Both caucuses work to present a united front during floor debate and for final voting. Their goals are to demonstrate a desire for making laws they feel will be in the best interest of the people.

Another group, the open caucus visitors and their overheard conversations, are more interesting and educational to the impartial observer. All over, you will find small and large collections of individuals conferring or caucusing. For the sake of recognition, these groups are hereby identified as one-day-only types and the daily types.

Sometimes the one-day types can be identified by their body language. They are the ones who get jittery when riding in an elevator.

Another method of identity is by what they say. If you overhear someone in the House chamber gallery note that this largest room in the Capitol "could hold a whole lot of corn," it's obvious how to type them. These visitors are here only briefly to show support for or oppose some cause. Most of their caucusing involves debate on how to find a hearing room, the cafeteria, or where to find the tunnel to get to other buildings.

One-day types are not to be confused with the special interest faction who show up every day. One-day visitors run in packs of eight to 15 or more and don't walk as fast as the daily guests. The dailies form cliques of only one to four and do most of their caucusing through a mouth/earpiece device with some unknown group miles away.

The most unique group of all is the open air caucus. This caucus is unorganized and made up of individuals from both political caucuses, nonpartisans, and others who happen by. The meetings seem to provide the most in-depth forum on issues, bills, hearings, the weather, gossip, and all other daily activities. As a caucus, they do not influence laws. But maybe because they represent all caucuses and meet out in the fresh air, their profound and objective discussions probably affect more opinion than the heavy debate in heated, closed sessions.

An obvious, ongoing tactic at the Capitol is "When in doubt, *caucus*."

— LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: The warm sunshine poured into the Capitol rotunda on the first day of spring March 20.

— Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Highlights

Historic dialogue . . .

Tribal leaders, lawmakers open communication lines

"Fragile, misunderstood, and hopeful" is the way one leader described the current state of Indian affairs at a historic March 19 meeting at the State Capitol.

Representatives from the state's 11 bands were invited by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) to address a joint meeting of the House and Senate local government committees. It was believed to be the first such meeting in recent history between state and tribal officials.

House committee chair Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) said that legislators felt the exchange was overdue. No one seemed to disagree. The meeting was not meant to work on bills, but to provide the tribes with a forum for dialogue, said Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy), chair of the Senate committee.

Peter Defoe, secretary-treasurer of the Fond du Lac Reservation, said he'd like to see such meetings take place regularly. "It's an opportunity to make our presence known and help the elected people of the state get to know us better." After all, he added, "We're here, we're not going anywhere, and neither are they."

Further, Defoe said a lack of communication makes divisions between tribes and the state government look bigger than they are.

In fact, said Bobby Whitefeather, chair of the Red Lake Nation, the relationship between the state of Minnesota and the tribes is the envy of other states partly because of successful programs that provide scholarships, housing, and other aid to Indians.

Whitefeather served as spokesperson for



Bobby Whitefeather, chair of the Red Lake Nation, led a group of speakers at a historic meeting between state and tribal officials March 19 at the Capitol.

the tribes, acknowledging the controversies and changes that have transformed reservations and Indian life in recent years: casinos, welfare reform, treaty rights for fishing and hunting, and tribal sovereignty.

"Welfare reform is probably the most talked-about issue this legislative session," he said. "Indian tribes were not given enough consideration when the act was written. It should have been written with some recognition of and sensitivity to the culture of native persons."

The casinos, as important as they are, won't solve all Indian problems, he said, adding, "We've been in a continual mode of

survival." Typical casino jobs don't pay wages that support families, Whitefeather said, and reservations still have a difficult time attracting other forms of industry. In fact, reservations often suffer unemployment at rates of 40 percent and higher. "We'd be happy to bring it down to the levels of the Great Depression," when unemployment stood at about 20 percent, he said. Non-Indians, Marge Anderson, chief executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibway, said, make up 80 percent of the state's casino workforce.

Dallas Ross, chair of the state's Indian Affairs Council, said that infant mortality, joblessness, poor health, and poverty still



Representatives from the state's 11 Native American bands were invited to address a joint meeting of the House and Senate local government committees March 19. Some of the participants were, *left to right*: Bobby Whitefeather, Dallas Ross, Norman Deschampe, Marge Anderson, Derelyn Lehto, Loretta Gagnon, and Peter Defoe.

plague Indian populations. "We have a long way to go before we can catch up with the rest of society, much less get rich," he said. (While a few casinos do have highly publicized profit-sharing arrangements with individual members of the band, many don't.) He said the casinos make it possible to close the income gap with "dignity and strength."

Derelyn Lehto, vice chair of the Prairie Island Tribal Council, said, "Gaming is the one thing we can point to and say it's having an impact. The Treasure Island Casino has created a new reservation. . . . Ten years ago, we were hardly spectators in the political process. Now we're players."

Anderson said tribes are using the revenues to build or purchase health care facilities, schools, housing, banks, and retail outlets. They're also investing in business and partnerships, while increasing their effect on Minnesota's economy.

In 1993, a Minnesota Planning study showed tribal gaming had created 10,350 jobs, resulting in \$7 million in annual welfare savings and a 16-percent decline in AFDC recipients in counties with casinos. By 1997, a study by the Minnesota Indian Gaming Commission shows gaming has produced 11,465 jobs, a 58-percent decrease in Indians receiving general assistance, and a 17-percent decrease in AFDC payments in counties with casinos.

Still, Loretta Gagnon, member-at-large of the Indian Affairs Council, said that urban Indian populations are plagued by poverty, unemployment, health problems, and poor education levels. In Minneapolis, 53 percent of Indians live below poverty level; at 41 percent, St. Paul isn't much better. And, she said, "Our children are disproportionately poor."

"If you asked me to describe in three words the state of Indian affairs, I'd say 'fragile, misunderstood, and hopeful,'" Ross said. "Most tribes are still recovering from the 19th century and trying to catch up with the 20th."

The leaders made clear that they take tribal sovereignty seriously. "I'm hopeful that tribal sovereignty will no longer be regarded as a threat, but for what it is — an inherent right," Ross said.

"Why is sovereignty so important?" asked Norman Deschampe, president of the Minnesota Grand Portage Band of Chippewa. "It's the internationally recognized right of people to govern themselves. Sovereignty is who we are," and, he added, it will lead the tribes to self-sufficiency.

Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley) received applause when he spoke of pride in being the only Indian in the Minnesota Leg-

islature. Later, he said, he looks forward "to taking pride in not being the only Indian in the Legislature."

Noting that progress has been made, Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) said that much more needs to be done. "A challenge for each of us is to make sure things continue to get better."

In closing, Whitefeather said that the tribes appeared before the Legislature "with some forcefulness," frustrated at the slow pace of change. Indian tribes have had to endure a great deal, he said, including treaty violations, forced assimilation, and a loosening connection with their culture. "We endure, but we strive to survive. That's a key word because it's the best we can hope for at this point." He requested that legislative leaders consider continued meetings with tribal leaders. "Indian tribes will survive in perpetuity along with our non-Indian neighbors."

— Celeste Riley



BUSINESS

Smoke ads limited

Several times a week, Robert Wojcicki picks up his three-year-old daughter, Anna, from her downtown St. Paul day care facility. One day, as they were getting her jacket from the coatroom, Anna pointed out a window and drew her Dad's attention to the smiling face of Joe Camel peering down from a billboard across the street.

"I'd seen it every day," Wojcicki said of the cartoon tobacco image, "but I never picked up on it. Anna sure did, though. As a parent trying to raise law-abiding children, I'm asking for a level playing field. I don't want her exposed to products that she can't legally buy."

If the Legislature approves HF688, as the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee did March 19 on a 12-11 vote, Wojcicki may get his wish. The bill would "restrict tobacco advertising where the tobacco advertising is likely to be seen by minors."

The average age of beginning smokers, said HF688 sponsor Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul), is 13 years old. What's more, he said, it's well documented that tobacco companies have long had in place marketing strategies aimed at seducing kids — referred to in an R.J. Reynolds internal memo as "pre-smokers" — into the nicotine habit.

"We've added vendors to the list of those subject to penalties" for supplying smokes to kids, Paymar said. "It is time to take a bold step to make an impact on the demand side."

Paymar said he had worked hard to craft a bill that would regulate commercial speech in a manner that does not trample advertisers' First Amendment rights. Hamline University School of Law Professor David Cobin, who teaches constitutional law, testified that the bill would pass constitutional muster.

The question is one of balance, he said. To succeed, the state must demonstrate a compelling interest and prove that the law would advance that interest. Moreover, the state must prove that the law is, in fact, enforceable and that there is simply no other way to achieve the desired goal other than banning this particular form of commercial speech.

"In my opinion, this law would be constitutional," Cobin said, adding that HF688 is patterned after a Baltimore ordinance that has survived two challenges in the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

A lawyer for the American Advertising Federation, though, challenged Cobin's assessment, calling the bill "unlawful."

Federal law, said Dan Troy, routinely provides for the regulation of tobacco advertising by Congress, and Congress has already spoken on this issue. In 1965, he said, tobacco manufacturers won the right to advertise on billboards at the same time they agreed to start placing warning labels on their products. The Supreme Court has made it clear time and again, he said, that this language trumps all other state attempts at regulation.

Moreover, Troy said, the Baltimore law cited by Cobin has not yet cleared every legal hurdle and could still be declared unconstitutional. Indeed, he said, the Supreme Court will take it up in a few months.

"The general rule is that the speaker and the audience — not the government — decide the value of the information," Troy said. "The mere fact that someone one day may throw a jar of peanut butter at the presidential motorcade does not mean that we can ban peanut butter advertising."

Yet, by the narrowest of margins, the committee decided it could, sending the measure to the House floor for final approval.



CRIME

Silencers on police guns

A bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee March 19 would broaden the circumstances under which Department of Corrections (DOC) officials can carry guns, and would allow police officers to use silencers on guns in some high-risk situations.

Current law prohibits DOC officials from

carrying weapons off prison grounds. That includes on-duty time transporting prisoners between institutions or to other places, such as doctor appointments. The DOC handles between 50 and 100 of those trips every day, said DOC commissioner Fred LaFleur, and those trips are becoming increasingly dangerous.

One reason guards are prohibited from carrying guns at those times is a fear that the weapons could be used against them in a prisoner attack. But, LaFleur said, “over the years the prison population has become more sophisticated and armed. We need to give employees a certain amount of assurance that they will not be put at risk.”

“In the past year, it has become clear that there’s a problem with the law and the ability of DOC employees to perform their duties,” said Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), committee chair.

Skoglund sponsors **HF614**, which would allow DOC officials to carry firearms in the course of official duties. These could include transporting inmates or apprehending violators of parole or supervised release.

The bill also authorizes law enforcement agencies to use silencers (devices that quiet or muffle the sound of a gunshot) in the course of some duties. Current law prohibits the use of such devices.

An example, Skoglund said, would be to stop an attacking dog while police attempt to move in for a raid on a suspected drug house.

The bill now moves to the House floor.



DEVELOPMENT

Coordinated land planning

Two bills (**HF217** and **HF1000**) approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee March 17 offer different approaches to curtailing sprawl in Greater Minnesota.

Urban growth has been gobbling up open land on the edges of the Twin Cities metropolitan area for decades. Now it is taking substantial bites out of Minnesota’s rural areas as well. Statewide, urban development consumes about 68 acres per day.

Since the mid-1970s, the Metropolitan Council has planned and shaped development in the seven-county metropolitan area. The council periodically reviews its Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA) boundary. Inside the boundary, new development is provided with municipal utility services such as roads, water, and sewer. Outside the MUSA, development is more restricted and receives no such services.

HF217 provides the legal framework and funding to extend state-mandated comprehensive planning to Minnesota’s rural counties, cities, and townships.

Bill sponsor Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) explained that developers are currently avoiding the restrictions imposed on them by the Metropolitan Council by building in surrounding counties. These developments often take the form of highpriced housing on five-acre plots of former farm land.

Projections are that central Minnesota will get 100,000 new residents in the next decade, Opatz told the panel. “That is like picking up the entire city of Duluth and setting it on top of Anoka. We have no plan for all of that growth.”

Opatz explained that state-mandated planning is necessary because local government officials are often reluctant to restrict land use when a friend, family member, or neighbor has something to gain from a new development.

HF217 would require all Minnesota counties outside the Metropolitan area to submit comprehensive land-use plans to the state Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning. The plans must conform to 12 goals for sustainable development outlined in the bill.

Counties with a population density greater than 50 people per square mile and gaining population at a rate faster than the state as a whole would be considered “growth” counties. In growth counties, any land not included within a municipal plan would be zoned as permanent agricultural land, where developments would be limited to one dwelling unit per 40 acres. Seven counties — Benton, Chisago, Isanti, Olmsted, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright — would currently qualify as growth counties.

Under the bill, any municipality that does not submit a comprehensive plan to its county board would have a plan prepared for it by the county. If a county board does not submit a plan to the Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning, that agency would prepare a plan for the county. The bill also would appropriate an unspecified amount to provide grants for local planning efforts.

In previous committee hearings, the bill garnered support from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, the Builders Association of Minnesota, the Minnesota Association of Realtors, and the Metropolitan Council.

HF1000, sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), tackles the sprawl problem with different tools. The bill would provide technical assistance and financial incentives to

counties that voluntarily participate in a planning process. Counties receiving such assistance would be required to adhere to 10 goals for community-based planning and coordinate with municipalities within their jurisdiction and with neighboring counties.

Unlike Opatz’s bill, **HF1000** would include the seven-county metropolitan area. It would require the Metropolitan Council to amend its development guidelines to reflect the bill’s 10 community-based planning goals.

Long’s bill also would establish an advisory council to develop a framework for community-based planning and create the tools and incentives to implement the plans.

“Presumably, before we reach the [House] floor, we will merge the two bills,” Long said.

Opatz agreed that the two bills are not incompatible and could be merged.

Both bills now move to the House Governmental Operations Committee.

Bigger convention center

The House Economic Development and International Trade Committee approved a bill that would use state dollars to jump-start a long sought expansion of the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, along with several other city finance officials, appeared at the March 19 meeting to testify in favor of **HF1529**, calling the measure more important to the city’s economic vitality than any other project, including the proposed new baseball stadium for the Minnesota Twins.

“The convention center is one of our top priorities,” Sayles Belton said. “The success of many Minnesota businesses hinges on the success of this public/private partnership.”

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), would provide Minneapolis with an unspecified amount of money from the state’s general fund to initiate construction at the facility, with the balance of the cost financed by a future state bonding measure. Jefferson told the committee the state’s general fund contribution would be \$37.5 million. The project’s total cost is estimated at \$147.5 million.

The expansion, said Jefferson and Sayles Belton, actually represents a completion of the project. The original plans, which called for nearly 500,000 square feet of floor space, were scaled back to the existing 280,000 square feet after then-Gov. Rudy Perpich vetoed proposed state funding in 1985.

Instead, the city paid for the convention

center with \$350 million in bonds, imposing a half-cent sales tax to service the debt. Under HF1529, the city would continue to impose the sales tax until all of the bonds issued — including future bonds let by the state — had been retired.

Both Jefferson and Sayles Belton said that without the extra square footage, the convention center would no longer be a player on the national convention scene. In fact, Minneapolis has slipped in the market from the 13th largest facility in 1986 to 43rd in 1996. As a result, the state has lost millions in out-of-town dollars.

"If we let this happen, we will . . . be once again competing with ourselves rather than with the rest of the country," Jefferson said, adding that smaller facilities in Greater Minnesota support the Minneapolis expansion. "Completing the convention center puts us right back into the national market."

The committee sent the bill to its finance division, where members will scrutinize the fiscal details.

Gravel supply pits

Gravel, used extensively by the construction industry, is becoming increasingly hard to come by in Minnesota, said Roger Brice, of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in testimony before the House Governmental Operations Committee.

"We're projecting a huge shortfall of gravel," Brice said. "Some of the reasons are difficulty in locating new gravel pits because of local concerns and local extraction taxes. There are a lot of issues we think need to be considered."

HF663, sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), would create a task force to study the issue and recommend ways to ease the problem. It was approved by the committee on March 18.

"We use about eight tons of sand and gravel per person in the state of Minnesota each year," said the DNR's Ron Visness. "This is primary building material." Visness said the materials are used in paving streets and in building basements. While demand is on the increase, supply is dwindling. Not only do companies have to transport it from farther and farther away, fewer and fewer communities are willing to have gravel pits dug in their area, he said.

"Does this mean gravel policy is in the pits?" Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson) asked.

HF663 now moves to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.



DWI

Tougher on DWI offenders

On March 14, the House Judiciary Committee's DWI Subcommittee approved several bills that will become part of an omnibus bill to be acted upon later this session.

HF918 would use new technology to deal with repeat offenders and to enhance public safety. Under the bill, sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), a person arrested twice or more for a DWI offense could avoid pre-trial detention by agreeing to electronic alcohol monitoring. The option is possible because of a computerized breath tester that can be plugged into a telephone. Three times per day the monitored person would provide a breath sample into the tester, the results of which would be transferred immediately via phone to authorities.

Under the terms of the monitoring agreement, the person must abstain entirely from alcohol consumption. Any violation would generate an arrest warrant.

The monitoring procedure has been used in more than 3,000 pre- and post-trial DWI cases.

Tenth District Court Judge James Dehn told the committee that many of those who have been required to undergo the monitoring have said it helped them control their alcohol abuse.

The legislation also would reduce the burden on prison space. "We don't have enough jail space to put all the DWI offenders in jail, but we can monitor them," Skoglund said.

The committee also approved HF1061, which would increase the penalties for those convicted of driving with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.20 or higher. The crime would be a gross misdemeanor and apply to automobiles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and boats. While current law calls for increasing penalties for DWI offenders who repeat, there is no penalty distinction based on the offender's increase in blood-alcohol level.

The penalties also would include electronic monitoring during pre-trial release; one year of monitoring after conviction; and chemical-use assessment and treatment. For repeat offenders at the higher blood-alcohol level, the penalties would include the above as well as a 30-day jail term, and a longer driver's license revocation. It also would reduce the number of offenses from four within five years to three within five years before an offender's license plates would be impounded and vehicles forfeited.

The committee also added a part of HF506,

a school bus equipment and safety bill, to the omnibus DWI bill. Sponsored by Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake), the measure would impose a "not a drop" standard for school bus drivers' blood-alcohol content. The section would make it a misdemeanor for any person to drive a school bus if there is any presence of alcohol in the body. Current law calls for the penalty for an alcohol concentration of at least 0.04.



EDUCATION

Stopping cyberporn

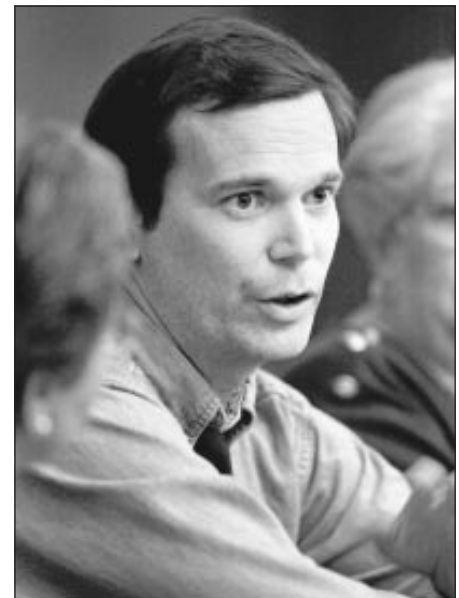
A proposal to require the use of blocking software to prevent students from visiting pornographic sites on the Internet has been stripped of its toughest provisions.

HF575, sponsored by Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka), was approved March 18 by the Quality Initiatives Subcommittee of the House Education Committee.

The proposal would require the Department of Children, Families and Learning to work with school districts to develop model policies for Internet use in schools.

A provision that would have required the department to make blocking software available at no cost to school districts and require schools to use it was deleted from the legislation.

School and district officials made up the core of the opposition to the plan to require the use of blocking software.



Jeff Holte, director of technology, Buffalo-Hanover-Montross School District, spoke against a bill that would have required mandatory pornography-blocking computer software for school computers. His testimony came before the Education Committee's Quality Initiatives Subcommittee March 18.

Marketed under catchy names such as Net Nanny and Cyber Patrol, the software is crafted to filter out pornographic and violent images. However, critics claim the technology is imperfect and denies Internet users access to useful information.

Patricia Sween, a media specialist in the Red Wing School District, said blocking software "has not proven to be effective." It blocks some useful information and misses some of the undesirable material, she said.

For example, Sween said, software designed to block sites related to sex can deny access to pornographic web sites, but it also can block sites related to sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, or other legitimate research topics.

"Our obligation is to teach responsible use of the Internet," she said. "Trying to block out sites by using various kinds of software is not going to work."

Weaver urged committee members to consider the dangers of allowing students access to obscene material and the potential liability of schools if they do not take action to prevent it.

"I look at it as a safety issue," Weaver said. "We know pornography hurts people. That's why this is a must."

And, Weaver said, blocking technology would not interfere with legitimate research because instructors would be able to lift the software whenever necessary.

"The stuff you can get on the Internet is remarkable in terms of how graphic it is," Weaver said. "You don't want your kids to see it. That's the bottom line."

School officials, however, asked that they continue to have the ability to set their own policies for Internet use.

"We care very much about wanting our kids to have safe experiences on the Internet," said Jeff Holte, director of technology in the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School District. "We are very, very cautious."

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), who offered the amendment to delete the blocking software requirement, said blocking software is just one of many approaches that can be used to protect students on the Internet.

Weaver said the amendment, which passed on a 5-4 vote, "rips the heart out of the bill."

The bill now moves to the full Education Committee.

Securing superintendents

The House Education Committee approved two bills March 18 designed to help school districts attract and retain quality superintendents.

HF897 would provide districts limited authority to exceed the current state cap on the salary of superintendents, and HF937 would double the amount of time districts are allowed to keep interim superintendents.

Current state law caps the salary of school superintendents at 95 percent of the governor's salary of \$114,506 a year. School districts have complained that the cap hurts their ability to compete with districts in other states for top superintendent candidates.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), who is sponsoring HF897, said the bill would allow local school boards to better compete for top superintendents and set the salary according to what is acceptable in the community.

Under Greiling's bill, districts would be allowed to exceed the current salary cap only if they negotiate a superintendent contract including performance requirements.

Such requirements would have to include student achievement and also could include curriculum improvement, student attendance, and other factors.

The performance provisions drew criticism from Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville), who argued the salary cap ought to be repealed outright if it is going to be tampered with at all.

Wolf said similar performance-based pay measures are not applied to teachers and others in the education system. And, he said, districts could craft superintendent contracts so that performance measures are easily

reached and the salary cap is easily evaded.

"This is just a game to me," Wolf said.

The salary cap for superintendents has been in place since 1983, and legislative attempts to repeal the cap in recent years have failed.

Greiling said linking more accountability to increased salaries should make her proposal more palatable to lawmakers. Her bill now goes to the House floor.

HF937 would double the current 90-working-day limit on the tenure of interim superintendents and lift a provision in current law allowing individuals to fill the interim role no more than three times.

Bill sponsor Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) said districts often have difficulty completing a search for a superintendent within 90 days.

The bill would provide districts the time they need to conduct a search and would ensure that the best people are allowed to serve on an interim basis, according to Carlson. His bill now goes to House Governmental Operations Committee.

Private school PSEO

At the end of her junior year in high school, Kathryn Bryant had an extremely tough decision to make, one that would not have been necessary but for a hitch in current state law.

Bryant hoped to participate in a state program that allows high school students to take college courses while still receiving credits needed for high school graduation.

But, because she attended a private school, Bryant had to leave behind her friends and classmates to become eligible for the postsecondary enrollment options program (PSEO).

"Either you have to leave your private school and not graduate with your friends or you can't participate in the program," Bryant said in March 20 testimony before the House Education Committee.

Bryant supported a bill (HF1052) that would make it possible for private school students to participate in the postsecondary program without having to transfer to a public school.

Bill sponsor Rep. LeRoy Koppendraye (R-Princeton) said the program was not intended to serve only public school students.

Current law, according to Koppendraye, does not deny private school students access to the postsecondary program, but it forces them to give up their "identity in their own school" to participate.

The bill would not give any financial ben-

Ready reader



Semaj Terrell, a fifth-grader at Ramsey International Fine Arts School in Minneapolis, sat before the Higher Education Finance Division March 14 and read his essay on how a program called Get Ready has helped him start thinking about and preparing for college.

efits to private schools, Koppendrayner added. State funds for the program go directly to the postsecondary institution where the student enrolls.

"This bill is not about private schools at all," said Bob Wedl, commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning. "This is about students."

Supporters of the bill include the department and Education Committee members from both sides of the aisle.

"What we have right now is obviously a joke," said Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee). "I think any student should be able to access postsecondary enrollment options."

The bill was approved by the committee and sent to its K-12 Finance Division for inclusion in the omnibus education bill to be compiled later in the legislative session.

As for Bryant, now a sophomore at Bethel College in Arden Hills, she ended up leaving the private school she had attended since pre-school — New Life Academy in Woodbury — to take part in the postsecondary program.

She officially enrolled at Woodbury High School and attended college courses full-time during her senior year. In the end, she graduated from a school where she never attended a single class.

"It was sad to me that I wasn't able to get a diploma from the school I had attended for 13 years," Bryant said.

No class, no car, no way

An effort to link teen driving privileges to academics has run out of gas.

HF446, which would strip high school dropouts of their driver's licenses, was rejected March 19 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

"You're tying two things together that I don't think are necessarily related," said Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet), one of 11 committee members who voted against the bill. Seven members supported the proposal.

Bill sponsors Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) and Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) argued that the bill would motivate students to stay in school.

"We're talking about a principle of responsibility, and the responsibility of a teenager is to stay in school, to get an education, and to graduate," Mares said.

The bill would affect students 16 or 17 years old who do not regularly attend classes. The state would be allowed to suspend the license of students who withdraw from school, are dismissed (suspended or ex-

pelled), or are habitually truant. Dropouts and habitual truants would lose their licenses until they turn 18.

Several committee members voiced concerns about punishing students when parents and schools face no sanctions for their roles in the failure of students.

"We've got to stop beating up on kids," said Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison).

Biernat said the bill would succeed in keeping some children in school who might otherwise drop out.

"At some point, we have to look that child in the eye and say you have a responsibility here, too," Biernat said.

The transportation panel's action ends — at least for now — the bill's perilous journey through the committee process.

As originally introduced, the bill would have connected driving to academic performance by requiring 16- and 17-year-olds to pass the state's basic skills tests in reading and math before getting a driver's license.

Earlier this month, the House Education Committee removed portions of the bill related to testing and left only the provisions that would mandate that dropouts and truants have their licenses suspended.

Charter schools



Marlon Glass, a seventh-grader at New Visions School in Minneapolis, waited his turn to testify before the K-12 Education Finance Division March 19 on his experience attending a charter school.



ELECTIONS

Caucuses: lowering the age

Many laws directly affect the lives of minors, but only people 18 and older have a say in their making. A bill sponsored by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) would open up part of the election process to people 16 and 17 years old.

On March 17, the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs, and Elections Committee approved HF703, which would allow 16- and 17-year-olds to participate in precinct caucuses as voters or delegates. The young people must be enrolled in school at the time of the caucus and live within the precinct.

The change would be at the option of the political party and the affected Senate, House, or county district.

"Current law requires an individual to be 18 years or older by election day to vote and participate in precinct caucuses," Dawkins told the committee. "This bill doesn't require, but permits, the participation [of young people]." He said it was a way to encourage and nurture their interest in the political process.

"We learn a lot more by being a part of it than by reading about it in a high school textbook," said David Stradness, a student at Mounds View High School.

HF703 now moves to the House floor.



ENVIRONMENT

Windbreakers

Two bills authorizing state funds to plant trees in rural areas won approval from the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee March 17.

HF1557 appropriates \$2 million each year in 1998 and 1999 to renovate, maintain, and establish tree windbreaks adjacent to rural communities, farm fields, and homes. Windbreaks also would help control snowdrifting, conserve energy, control soil erosion, and add to wildlife habitat, said Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus), co-author of the legislation.

Konrad Kossman, a soil and water conservation district manager from Washington County, told the panel that the typical windbreak consists of shrubs and conifers. Many rural windbreaks are quite old and in need of renovation, he said. Others need to be planted.

The money would be administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

Grants would be made to local soil and water conservation districts to implement cost-sharing contracts with landowners.

HF1561 would make an identical appropriation from the state trunk highway fund to the BWSR for what its authors call "living snow fences." Grants would be given to local soil and water conservation districts for cost-sharing contracts with landowners to establish and maintain plantings of trees, shrubs, and grass strips to control snow drifting along public roadways.

Speaking on behalf of both bills, Sally Westby, of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, said, "If these [windbreaks and snowbreaks] had been in place this winter, we wouldn't be spending \$20 million for emergency snow removal."

Both bills will now move to the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

Relays added to mercury law

A bill regulating mercury-containing products was approved by the House March 20. The vote was 110-23.

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that can cause permanent nervous system damage. Since mercury is a volatile element, it does not degrade in the environment, but becomes airborne and eventually returns to earth to contaminate watersheds. It also accumulates in animal tissue as it moves up the food chain. Consumption of fish from 90 percent of Minnesota's lakes is currently restricted because of mercury contamination.

The bill, (HF949) sponsored by Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), adds commercial electrical relays to a list of products from which mercury must be removed for reuse or recycling prior to disposal. "When we originally passed the bill to regulate mercury recycling in products, we left out electrical relays," said Wagenius. "These relays are showing up in the waste stream and need to be included [in the law]."

Regulations currently in effect include such devices as thermostats, thermometers, and switches. Manufacturers are required to label all mercury-containing products and accept them back for recycling or proper disposal. Wagenius cited a program operated by Minneapolis-based Honeywell, Inc. as a model for mercury recycling.

The bill now moves to the Senate.



FAMILY

Food, education dollars

Anticipating an even greater demand on food shelves this spring when many of Minnesota's poor will see a cut in their food stamps, a bill before the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division would more than double the dollars the state spends on food shelf programs.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul), would set aside \$3 million during the 1998-1999 state budgeting period for 203 Minnesota food shelves. They currently receive \$700,000 a year.

The committee did not vote on the bill (HF817) March 17, but it is being considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus budget bill that is expected later this session.

"I know of no public policy justification for taking away food from people," Mariani said regarding the new federal welfare cuts, most of which are scheduled to hit later this spring and summer.

Jo-Anne Rowan of the Francis Basket food shelf in the Highland Park area of St. Paul serves a large legal immigrant population, half of whom are expected to lose all their food stamps.

Rowan said the food shelf's donors would have to donate seven times as much to make up for the federal welfare cuts.

Rev. Chris Morton, of MinnesotaShare, told lawmakers that the local religious, business, and civic communities "are already doing as much as they can."

"We need the government to remain a major player," he said.

In other matters, the panel heard a bill that would increase funding for a program that brings babies and toddlers together with their parents to learn about a child's emotional, physical, mental, and educational development.

The bill (HF1346), also sponsored by Mariani, would increase the funding for Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), a 23-year-old program designed for children from birth to kindergarten and their parents. The bill would increase the program's funding by about \$8.5 million over current spending in fiscal year 1998 and by about \$6.1 million in fiscal year 1999. That would bring the program's total state aid to about \$40.2 million over the 1998-1999 budgeting period.

Mariani's bill is more generous than Gov. Arne Carlson's proposal for the ECFE program. The governor recommended about

\$2.2 million more in 1998 and about \$2 million more in 1999.

Specifically, the bill's increased funding would come from an increase in the dollar amount allocated per child from \$101.25 to \$130.

Since local school districts are allowed to levy local taxes for this program, the formula change also will increase money raised from local taxes without raising the tax rate.

The finance division did not vote on HF1346 but is expected to consider the bill for inclusion in its omnibus budget bill.



HIGHER EDUCATION

Virtual university

Anyone who has stood in long lines at a college or university to register for classes may be interested in HF273, approved by the House Education Committee's Higher Education Finance Division March 17.

The bill would appropriate \$2 million to help pay for "Virtual U Minnesota," which would enable students to register via the Internet for classes at almost every college and university in the state. The program would be a cooperative venture involving the University of Minnesota (U of M), Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU), and Minnesota's private colleges.

"This would serve as a gateway leading to all higher education existing in Minnesota," said Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), committee chair and the bill's sponsor. "It's the first time the three entities have worked together to enhance higher education in the state."

The U of M and MnSCU each would contribute \$250,000 during fiscal years 1998 and 1999 to help in the eventual development of on-line courses. An advisory council would provide the Legislature with a plan for Virtual U Minnesota by January 1998.

The plan is based on the web page currently used by the U of M. According to John Gunyou, executive director of the Minnesota Office of Technology, Virtual U Minnesota is meant to improve access to course offerings, expand choices in degree programs, allow for transfer of credits between schools, and increase off-campus learning opportunities.

"This is about how you support access to education for users throughout the system," said Don Riley, associate vice president of academic affairs at the U of M. "It will let more people find out more easily what we have available already in the state."

Pelowski added that the effort does not duplicate existing services, but builds upon them. "If we proceed as planned, we'll set the standard for virtual U's around the country." He also noted that the services would be especially useful to high school guidance counselors.

HF273 was later approved by the Education Committee and now moves to the Ways and Means Committee.

Gopher college bonds

A bill that aims to help parents save for their children's college education was approved March 18 by the House Capital Investment Committee.

HF130 would make affordable, tax-free bonds available from the state. Bill sponsor Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) said the aim of his proposal is to provide "one more investment vehicle" to families planning for a child's future.

"We really have to do more to encourage people to save for a college education," Carlson said.

Under the bill, the Department of Finance would be required to make the general obligation bonds sold to finance state construction projects available at a lower cost.

Currently, the bonds are sold at a minimum \$5,000 denomination, but the bill calls for bonds to be made available in denominations as small as \$500. (The denomination is the value upon maturity. The amount of investment varies according to interest rates.)

The smaller bonds would be available to anyone, but the bill includes provisions designed to encourage their purchase for college savings.

First, the bill stipulates that up to \$25,000 in bonds would not count against a student when determining eligibility for state grants. Second, the bill would allow employees to use a payroll deduction plan to purchase bonds, thus decreasing the employee's taxable income. (See Feb. 14, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 7, and Feb. 28, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 11.)

Carlson said his bill would set up a program, dubbed Gopher State Bonds, similar to ones already in place in 24 other states.

The bill now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.



HOUSING

Maintaining 68 degrees

Go anywhere outdoors during a Minnesota winter and it is cold. But some Minnesota rental property is cold on the inside, too.

A proposed bill (HF1378) would require that property owners maintain a temperature of at least 68 degrees in all rental units where the tenant does not control the heat, and that all rental heating equipment be capable of maintaining 68 degrees when the outside temperature is -20 degrees or below. The bill was approved by the House Economic Development and International Trade's Housing and Housing Finance Division March 18.

Sponsored by Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin), the bill also would allow tenants to make repairs to heating equipment that doesn't meet the above standards within 48 hours after making a reasonable attempt to notify the owner. Tenant expenses for heat-

ing repairs could then be deducted from monthly rent payments.

Penalties, including a \$100 fine for each violation, also could face landlords who fail to comply with the bill.

Sherry Coates, of the Community Action for Suburban Hennepin, said that her group's housing hotline receives 75 to 100 heat-related calls each season. "Tenants can withhold their rent and place money in escrow to pay for heating repairs," Coates said. "But rent escrow actions take approximately 21 days."

Jack Horner, of the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association, told the panel that 75 to 100 calls in an area with hundreds of thousands of rental units is a pretty good record. "If a building does not have adequate heat, there are numerous actions a tenant can take under existing law," Horner said. "We strongly object to this bill. It leaves it wide open for the tenants to do whatever they want to a landlord's property."

Horner pointed out that many older buildings were not designed to maintain a constant 68-degree temperature under the most extreme conditions. He also said that building excessive capacity into a heating system to guarantee a constant 68 degrees would violate existing federal energy conservation codes.

The bill now moves to the House Judiciary Committee.

Rental walk-throughs

One of the most frequent areas of dispute between landlords and tenants concerns a rental unit's condition before the tenant moved in and what damages the tenant caused. Conflicts over apartment conditions often result in withheld damage deposits or legal action.

A bill (HF1304) approved March 18 by the House Economic and International Trade's Housing and Housing Finance Division would mandate better business practices in these rental transactions. "HF1304 would protect both tenants and landlords," said the bill's sponsor Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls).

Clark cited cases where tenants lose their damage deposits over disputed damages and others where tenants purposefully inflict damage in retribution for an eviction notice and claim the damage was pre-existing.

The bill would require a landlord and tenant to walk through a residential rental unit to identify all existing conditions before entering into a lease agreement. The landlord and tenant would then sign the list of

Adult learning



Keith Norling, Alexandria, Minn., testified March 18 before the Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division in support of a bill that would spend more money on adult basic education. Norling who graduated from high school with a third-grade reading level and who has benefited from tutoring, now volunteers as a reading tutor for adults.

conditions and all parties would receive a copy of the signed list. A similar walk-through would be required after the tenant moves out to determine what damages had taken place during the tenancy.

Landlords who fail to comply with the law would be liable to the tenant for a \$100 civil penalty. The bill also provides for restitution to the landlord when the tenant or the tenant's guest is convicted of damaging rental property.

"Pre- and post-tenancy walk-throughs are good practices and we encourage them," said Jack Horner of the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association. "But we question whether it is practical for the state to mandate such practices."

Larger rental complexes may have 20 or more tenants moving out at the end of the month, Horner said. The most common reason for walk-throughs not working is that tenants fail to show up, he said. Present law gives the landlord 21 days to inspect the apartment and return the damage deposit. "I don't see how this law (HF1304) could work," he said.

The bill goes to the House Judiciary Committee.



INSURANCE

Insurance protection

When 86-year-old Stella Kroll boarded a city bus to return from a downtown St. Paul doctor's office to her East Side neighborhood, she began a journey that would provide an unwanted introduction to the world of insurance law.

On that January day, Kroll paid her fare and began walking to a seat when the bus slammed to a halt to avoid an accident. The sudden stop sent Kroll toppling backwards, bouncing off of the windshield, and landing at the bottom of the steps inside the bus door.

She spent five days in the hospital with a variety of injuries and has since gone through weeks of physical therapy.

"I was just stiff," Kroll said, during March 19 testimony before the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee. "I just couldn't move."

Unfortunately, Kroll had to absorb another blow when she returned from the hospital and called the bus company to discuss the accident. She was told (rather curtly, she said) that the bus company would not pay for any medical expenses she incurred. That, she was told, was the responsibility of her own insurance company.

Indeed, the state's no-fault insurance law

requires that Kroll's coverage come under her own automobile insurance policy.

"Why should my car insurance have to pay for it?" Kroll asked. "It didn't happen in my car. It happened in their bus. I think this stupid law should be changed."

Kroll testified in support of a bill that would provide financial protection for those in Kroll's situation without taking on the highly controversial area of no-fault law.

The bill (HF1045) would prohibit insurance companies from increasing a policyholder's premium as the result of expenses incurred if the person is involved in an accident while a passenger in a bus, taxi, or commuter van.

Bill sponsor Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul) said Kroll did not see an increase in auto insurance rates after the incident on the city bus, but he hopes to prevent anyone else in similar circumstances from seeing a rate hike.

The bill was approved by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee and now goes to the House floor.



LAW

Police diversity

The Northwest Community Law Enforcement Project has helped diversify police departments in several Twin Cities suburbs and deserves continued funding from the state, supporters told the House Judiciary Committee March 17.

Lawmakers agreed, and approved HF996, sponsored by Rep. Phil Carruthers, (DFL-Brooklyn Center), which would appropriate \$625,000 to administer the organization through June 1999.

The program began in 1993 and first received state funding in 1995. Its goal is to help cities diversify their police forces by providing access to training and education for minorities and women. Participants enroll at North Hennepin Community College to study law enforcement and work part-time in police departments as cadets. The students also receive tuition assistance, monthly stipends, and wages for their police department work.

Jon Thomas Cross, a recent graduate of the program, currently is a community services officer in Golden Valley. Recently, he scored the highest among applicants taking the test to join Golden Valley's police department. He is now slated to become that city's first minority police officer. "Several [former] participants are the first to represent people of color in their law enforcement

agencies," Cross told the committee. "Without the program, those opportunities would not develop."

Marty Williams, also a recent graduate, said he was a former high school dropout. The program, he said, has made him a role model to young people in his community. It also helped him become the first black officer in New Hope's police department.

Participating cities include Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Crystal, Golden Valley, Maple Grove, New Hope, Plymouth, and Robbinsdale. Of those, only Maple Grove was bypassed in a 1996 lawsuit in which bias was discovered in the police department application process. According to news reports, no black recruits had joined the police departments of 36 cities that employed the Minnesota Police Recruitment System to screen applicants. In addition to damages, the cities were ordered to develop programs to add minority members to their police forces.

Today, the program enrolls nine students. Fifteen former participants have earned law enforcement degrees, nine of whom went on to become police officers. Three others have jobs in other areas of law enforcement, and two are still looking for employment.

HF996 will be added to the omnibus crime legislation to be voted on later this session.



Jon Thomas Cross, who received a high score on testing requirements for becoming a police officer, testified before the House Judiciary Committee March 17 in support of a bill that would provide funding for the Northwest Community Law Enforcement Project. The project helps minorities and women get the training and education necessary to become law enforcement officers. It also assists participating cities to diversify their police departments.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

No Met Council?

Two bills, one to abolish the Metropolitan Council and another to have its members stand for election, won approval from the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee March 18.

The Metropolitan Council, created in the 1967, is responsible for comprehensive regional planning for the seven-county metropolitan area. One of the largest regional governments in the nation, it also oversees the regional bus system, several wastewater treatment facilities, and Metro Mobility (a transit operation serving the disabled). It oversees an annual budget of about \$360 million, which is partially paid by property taxes, and manages about 3,500 employees. The council is governed by a board of 17 members appointed by the governor; each represents a different portion of the metro region.

HF783, sponsored by Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland), would effectively abolish the Metropolitan Council. The 260-page bill transfers all of the council's operations to other agencies and reduces the organization to an advisory council of local government officials.

"The Met Council has become a super-government agency that has veto power over local governments," Larsen told the committee. "[It] is very removed [from local concerns]," she said.

"We have in the Met Council a non-elected body with tax levy authority," said Dennis Hannah of the Grey Cloud Island Township Board. "As I recall, that's what started the Boston Tea Party."

Other members agreed.

"The Met Council has a very important role to play as facilitator and coordinator of local units of government. But, in adding other operations to the council, the Legislature has created a monster. We need to refocus this organization," said bill co-sponsor Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport).

Lyle Wray, executive director of the Citizen's League, cautioned the panel against abolishing the council. "Many areas of the country are struggling to create regional approaches," he said. "The economic future of our state depends on a regional approach."

Wray said that the Metropolitan Council has more work to do in planning and coordinating across the region, but admitted there is room for improvement.

Jim Solum, regional administrator of the Metropolitan Council defended his organi-

zation. "Much of what you have heard tonight is simply wrong or are facts taken out of context," he said. "You might spend some time getting the facts about the kind of change that has taken place and the kind of cost savings that have been obtained since the merger took place."

HF783 now moves to House Transportation and Transit Committee.

Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) said that his bill (HF423) responds to many of the issues raised in Larsen's bill by simply making the council an elected body.

"This bill moves to the intent of the original framers of the Metropolitan Council in 1967," Orfield said. "They believed that the council should be elected. That prevailed in the House but failed on a tie vote in the Senate in 1967."

Council elections would be nonpartisan and public funding provided for qualified candidates. Salaries of council members would not change.

The bill was supported by former Minneapolis Mayor Don Fraser, who testified on behalf of the Minnesota Citizen's League and by representatives of Metropolitan Council employees unions.

HF783 now moves to the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.

More mobile home parks

Manufactured or "mobile" home communities have come a long way from the trailer parks of the 1950s, industry representatives told the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee, and now should be treated as a viable form of multi-family housing.

A bill (HF962) to allow manufactured home parks in local zoning districts that allow multi-family housing was approved March 18 by the committee. No fewer than eight mobile homes could be sited within a one-acre area.

The proposal would give mobile home park developers more places to build their communities and ease building codes they say don't apply to them anyway.

Most cities and towns currently allow manufactured homes in areas zoned for single-family housing, where they must adhere to the same housing codes that apply to permanent construction. Many local governments, however, require special zoning for manufactured home parks, where build-ings are set on slabs or pilings and greater density is allowed.

Manufactured home industry representa-

tives see this as a form of discrimination. "The simple reason for this legislation is that we want to be on an equal footing with other developers of multi-family housing," said Mark Brunner, executive vice president of the Minnesota Manufactured Housing Association.

Brunner said that manufactured housing in a park setting is one of the most affordable home ownership opportunities available. "People can own a home for less than \$500 per month," he said.

Joel Jamnik, of the League of Minnesota Cities, and Roger Peterson, of the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities, spoke against the bill. "Right now, under state law, anyone who wants to develop housing in a community can have a discussion with local officials," Jamnik said. "That a single-family manufactured home could be sited in a city's multi-family zoned area doesn't make sense."

Bill sponsor Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton), who once lived in a mobile home park, said such housing has been discriminated against in certain areas. "I see this bill as an opportunity for affordable housing and as an alternative to trailer parks."

The bill now moves to the Economic Development and International Trade Committee's Housing and Housing Finance Division.



SPORTS

High school league changes

After previous failed attempts, the House Governmental Operations Committee approved a bill that would significantly alter the way the Minnesota State High School League functions. The league, which opposes the bill, is a nonprofit organization that regulates sports for private and public high schools throughout Minnesota.

Largely at issue is the league's continued autonomy. Many committee members feel that because the league acts with the authority of a state agency and receives funding through school districts, it should be subject to some of the standards that apply to government agencies.

HF747, approved March 17, would reduce some of the league's power by bringing it under the purview of the executive branch. Under the bill, the governor would appoint the league's president and its board, which would consist of parents and school representatives. The league's budget would be submitted to the Legislature for approval, as are other executive branch agencies.



Linnea Mason, a senior at St. Paul Central High School, told the House Governmental Operations Committee March 18 how she was led to believe that she could not participate in her school's cross country program if she ran in the Twin Cities Marathon. The committee was hearing a bill that would modify Minnesota State High School League rules to make it easier for participants in non-team sports to also participate in amateur events outside of school.

"The bill says that the league is not a state agency, but derives its authority from school districts, which are government entities," said Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), committee chair and the bill's sponsor. "The league uses public money so it should be subject to certain laws like a government entity."

Further, the committee adopted HF1376, sponsored by Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul), which would prohibit the league from adopting or enforcing rules regarding nonschool competition in individual sports, such as tennis, golf, and track. The league has raised the ire of some students and parents by disqualifying students from school participation in those sports after they've participated in them outside of school.

Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake) took issue with what he saw as arbitrary and unfair rulings by the league in controlling students' eligibility for sports participation and pointedly asked league consultant Roger Aronson why he should have such authority. Aronson said that some of the league's operations may need updating, and that a compromise could be worked out.

Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) concurred, but said that further work on HF747 could take place when it's dealt with in the House Education Committee later this session.

Trimble and Aronson will work together to refine HF1376, which now goes to the floor.



TAXES

Business tax break

Minnesota businesses replacing their capital equipment could do so tax-free under a pair of bills heard by the House Taxes Committee's Sales and Income Tax Division March 18.

"I think the argument has been advanced, with some success, that the sales tax on capital equipment does injure businesses' ability to create jobs," said Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul), who sponsored HF684. Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina), who sponsored HF629 and testified along with Milbert, agreed, saying the move would "make Minnesota businesses more competitive with the rest of the world."

Providing the exemption, Milbert said, would encourage businesses, particularly those that have a presence in other states, to increase their investments in Minnesota. The effect, he continued, would be more jobs.

The two bills would achieve the same end through different means. Both bills expand the definition of capital equipment, which is already exempted from the sales and use tax, to include replacement purchases. Milbert's bill would apply the exemption to goods used by businesses that provide a taxable service. Erhardt's bill, HF629, would not, although he said another bill he has sponsored would accomplish the same thing.

Under existing statute, replacement purchases already receive preferential sales tax treatment administered through a refund process. A business pays the full 6.5 percent tax up front and applies to the Department of Revenue for a refund. The department returns a certain amount, which increases annually, to the purchaser. That refund percentage, currently 2.7 percent, will stand at 4.5 percent in 1999.

Both bills would abolish the refund mechanism, exempting replacement capital equipment at the time of purchase and costing the state tens of millions of dollars in sales and use tax revenue.

HF684 would reduce state revenues by more than \$170 million in the coming biennium and \$145 million in the next. HF629,

as written, would cost only \$800,000 in the 1998-99 period, but more than \$87 million through 2001.

Lobbyists representing a variety of businesses testified that granting the exemption — up front, not through a refund process — would encourage investment in the state and bring Minnesota in line with the rest of the country.

"The current system detracts . . . from the opportunity to continue growth," said Daryl Frietag, of Precise Products. "The money could be better spent on growing jobs."

The division, which did not act on the bills, will hear further testimony later.



TRANSPORTATION

Pay up or walk

Car owners who fail to pay fines for traffic or parking violations would be denied new license tabs, under a bill approved March 17 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

HF1353, sponsored by Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), also would provide new ways to avoid driver's license suspensions for people who violate mandatory automobile insurance laws for the first time.

Rhodes said the provisions of the bill related to unpaid fines are an effort to create a "more fail-safe collection system." Currently, unpaid fines are not reported by the courts and, as a result, are not on drivers' records.

The bill would require a \$1 surcharge to be added to the fine for each traffic violation to finance the new system of ensuring that tickets are paid.

The Department of Public Safety would be required to set up a computerized database listing motorists with unpaid fines. The courts would have to report unpaid fines to the department for addition to the database, and courts would have to similarly report when fines are paid.

Deputy registrars, who handle registration renewals around the state, would have access to the database to run a check on each vehicle owner seeking new tabs for his or her car.

The bill would prohibit deputy registrars from registering a vehicle if records show an unpaid fine. Vehicle owners with unpaid fines could get new tabs by paying the amount due in fines to the deputy registrar or the court.

The bill's provisions related to insurance would provide first-time violators of the state's mandatory vehicle insurance laws a way to avoid losing their driver's licenses.

Rhodes said he aims to provide incentive

for violators to come into compliance with the law.

Under current law, a person caught without automobile insurance faces misdemeanor charges, revocation of vehicle registration, and a possible driver's license suspension. A second offense within 10 years brings gross misdemeanor charges.

The bill would allow first-time offenders to avoid a driver's license suspension as long as the violation is not discovered as the result of a traffic accident. First-time offenders would have 14 days to provide proof of insurance to avoid driver's license suspension.

HF1353 now moves to the House Transportation and Transit Finance Division.

Yellow lights flashing

Last November, a person driving a pickup truck approached a school bus from behind, and although the yellow warning lights on the bus were flashing, the pickup driver slipped onto the road shoulder and passed the bus.

At the time, the bus was slowing to a halt near the home of Hampton-area resident Linda Homan, who was seeing her 5-year-old daughter off to kindergarten. Homan said she and her daughter were fortunate to escape without being hit when the pickup passed "right on our toes."

Homan did not have such good luck when she tried to get police to do something about the incident.

"We are very concerned that these school bus violations are being taken far too lightly by our legal system," Homan said during March 17 testimony before the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

Homan noticed the license plate number of the passing pickup and figured she had the driver dead to rights. She was disappointed when she tried to report the incident to police.

Passing a school bus — or any vehicle, for that matter — by driving on the road shoulder is illegal, Homan was told. But the offense is only a petty misdemeanor, and it must be witnessed by police for a citation to be issued.

Subsequently, Homan became the driving force behind a bill that would provide tougher penalties for a violation like the one she and her daughter witnessed.

The bill (HF1266), sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), was approved by the transportation committee.

The bill would make it a misdemeanor to pass a bus on the right side, or door side, when the bus has its yellow pre-warning lights flashing.

School bus drivers or other witnesses could report a violation to police, who would then have four hours to issue a citation to the offending driver.

Violations would carry a minimum \$300 fine, matching the penalty for violating existing laws that require drivers to stop for school buses with red lights flashing and stop arm extended.

The bill now moves to the House Judiciary Committee.

Commuters on freight rails

Mass transit is a subject that seemingly has been studied from every conceivable angle. Now, as the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is preparing to study several new highway alternatives, another commuter transit proposal has emerged in the House.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring HF738, directing MnDOT to study the feasibility of using existing metropolitan area freight railroad tracks for a commuter rail service. This study would be one among many to address the region's commuter transportation needs between 2001 and 2020. The bill was approved by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee March 18. No appropriation was attached to the proposal.

Al Vogel of MnDOT told the panel that such commuter rail systems typically do not run all day but rather as peak-period commuter trips. "This is not light rail transit," he said. "In other cities commuter rail most often uses existing tracks and operates in a way that is compatible

with freight rail. We want to look at whether there is excess capacity in any or all of the metro area rail corridors."

The study will take 18 months, Vogel said. "We intend to report back to the Legislature by January 1999."

The bill now moves to the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

A single license plate

The House approved a bill March 17 that would allow certain collector cars to display only one license plate. The vote was 131-2.

HF454, sponsored by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), would allow collector car owners to preserve the "lines and design" of their vehicles, most of which were manufactured without a front license plate bracket.

Under the bill, certain vehicles from model years 1968 and earlier would be allowed to display only a rear license plate. The bill would cover automobiles registered as pioneer, classic, or collector cars and street rods.

All such registrations require that the vehicle be used as a collector's item and not for general transportation.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), who is a Minneapolis police officer, was one of the two House members to vote against the bill. Allowing such vehicles to travel with only one license plate could hinder police investigations of hit-and-run accidents and other incidents.

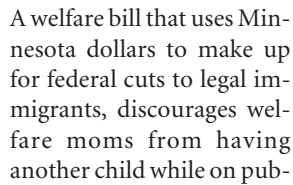
"You've just cut your chances of identifying that vehicle by 50 percent," Stanek said.

The bill now moves the Senate.

Baby talk



Jamie White, infant teacher at Capitol Child Care in St. Paul, looked after a few of the infants while the Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division listened to testimony March 19 in support of a bill that would improve the quality of child care and other early childhood programs.



While the federal law prescribes some of what states are required to do, it leaves each state to decide how to design its own welfare system. For instance, states are free to restore some of the cuts if they choose, but they must use their own money to do it.

Despite being cut off from most welfare

Under statewide MFIP, a parent or guardian would be required to develop a job search and employment plan and accept any suitable job once they've completed all the steps in their plan. As is the case now, the state would continue to pay for employment and

- **Work for welfare** — For several years, Minnesota has experimented with a welfare pilot program in eight counties that requires

- **Job training money** — The bill sets aside \$11.5 million for such training, which translates into roughly \$1,400 per person. That is about \$400 more per person than Gov. Arne Carlson recommends in his budget proposal and about \$600 less than the state currently spends in the MFIP pilot counties. Most officials agree, however, that the state cannot afford to spend that much if it takes the program statewide. Other money for employment and training programs is expected in a separate bill. Money to expand child care aid for families now required to work also is expected in a separate bill.

March 21, 1997 / SESSION WEEKLY 15

Tobin warns education and business need a better fit



Without drastic changes in our education system, a corporate trainer told Minnesota lawmakers March 18, America's role as "hare" will be overtaken by the tortoise of emerging Third World countries in the global marketplace.

"Our kids aren't just competing with the kid down the street," said John Tobin, the director of applied technology training at Siemens Corp., the world's sixth-largest manufacturer of electronic components. "They're competing against kids from Mexico, China, Japan, and Germany . . . and there's a whole group of have-nots who want to be haves. Hunger is a great motivator. . . . Education, not location, is the key in a global economy."

Tobin, the fifth and final speaker in the Capitol Forum Series, addressed legislators in the Minnesota History Center's 3M Auditorium. The series' sponsors, Minnesota Technology and the McKnight Foundation, assembled the program to provide legislators with a more expansive view of the circumstances in which they make decisions and perhaps reassess some of their closely held views. Past speakers included former United States Vice President and Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale, who spoke of Japan's social and business climate; and cultural anthropologist Jennifer James, who urged the lawmakers to open their eyes to America's rapidly evolving social mythology.

For his part, Tobin, in a no-nonsense vernacular he attributed to his New York City 1950s childhood, expounded upon themes central to corporate interests, and to Siemens in particular. He was, he said, a messenger sent from Wall Street to preach the gospel of workforce development to a group of lawmakers who desperately need to change their thinking on education policy.

To maintain its position of global economic dominance, Tobin said, America needs to remain competitive. Success in that endeavor can be attributed to two distinct factors: cost and quality. Corporations can't effectively control labor costs because Americans have refused to reduce their standard of living. Therefore, he continued, economically underdeveloped nations can beat us because their citizens will work for pennies an hour. Thus, American business must create a product of superior quality.



John P. Tobin, director of Siemens Corp., spoke to an audience at the Minnesota History Center March 18 and urged lawmakers to consider education as a tool for economic development.

A quality product can't be made without quality workers, Tobin said, and that is where our country's education system fails miserably. The American education system simply does not produce the attributes in workers

business as the client — and business has some very specific needs. Indeed, he continued, those needs have become so pressing that Siemens now spends more than \$2 million per day on its own worker training programs.

American students, he added, would be much better served if educators would embrace a curriculum that caters to the needs of the corporate sector.

"We need to start linking schools to careers. We believe public institutions can train for us, as vendors . . . kids as products that we can use," Tobin said. "Art and music are fine, but kids will enjoy them more if they're employed."

The curriculum, he said, should emphasize the sophisticated skills — teaming, flexibility, process awareness, and most importantly, close adherence to high standards. In today's high-tech world, with its increasing reliance on microscopic measurements, 90 percent is not good enough. Teachers and administrators cannot be afraid to hold back kids who fail, Tobin said.

"It's a guts and a courage issue on the part of the system, to enforce standards," Tobin said, adding that the people who make the tough calls can't possibly survive without the backing of those in leadership positions.

Legislators from both sides of the aisle agreed with much, if not all, of what Tobin had to say, and many said they were struck by the realization that education is, in fact, a tool for economic development.

"There needs to be a reason for people to go to school," said House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda). "We need to reinforce the value of going to school . . . and bring businesses into schools and take the teachers out to businesses."

"Hunger is a great motivator . . . education, not location, is the key in a global economy."

—John Tobin

that are valued by corporations.

"Think about the systems you have set up and ask yourselves how many kids coming out of Minnesota schools know how to work in teams," Tobin said. "It's all lecture, lecture, lecture . . . and then we expect them to work in teams in the real world."

Educators and lawmakers need to start thinking of students as "the product," and

Other policymakers, though, didn't buy everything Tobin was selling.

"It was interesting to hear how business looks at education," House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said. "I wouldn't tell you it [shaping kids for work] was the only goal, but it is a goal. It's more than just preparing kids for a job. There's more to life than just a job."

—F.J. Gallagher

New members . . .

Koskinen calls for early help for healthy children

Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids) was a political veteran long before she made her first run for office.



Rep.
Luanne Koskinen

For 25 years, she had been pounding in yard signs, handing out brochures, and doing other forms of campaign legwork for a variety of political figures, including former state Sen. Gene Merriam, former U.S. Rep. Gerry Sikorski, and U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone.

After helping to get Wellstone elected in 1990, Koskinen figured she would spend the summer and fall of 1996 working to help the senator win a second term.

However, a series of events in ensuing years prompted Koskinen to become a candidate herself.

Koskinen and her family were touched by tragedy in 1994. In the summer of that year, Koskinen's 33-year-old daughter, Kari, was taken from her New Brighton apartment and murdered. The suspected killer was the building caretaker, a man with a history of violence who later committed suicide.

Koskinen went to work at the Capitol the following year in an effort to prevent what happened to her daughter from happening again. The result of Koskinen's efforts was a law requiring background checks on caretakers.

Working to pass that legislation was a learning experience for Koskinen.

"[The law] is the best resolution that everybody can live with," she said. "I think that helped me realize that no matter what you do, you've got to hear what other people are saying and then attempt to make a decision."

"That's what I want to do — to help make the process such that people's lives are going to be improved one way or another."

While working to pass what became known as "Kari's bill" shed light on the legislative

process, Koskinen links her decision to seek office to another event during the 1995 session.

That year, Rep. Joel Jacobs (DFL-Coon Rapids), a longtime legislator from Koskinen's home district, resigned from the House to accept an appointment to the Public Utilities Commission.

Koskinen decided to seek the open seat in an April 1995 special election.

"I had very serious conversations with my family and with my friends and I thought, why not?" she said. "I have been a political worker for many years, and it was just an opportunity that came up."

"The other candidates were candidates with whom I wasn't really that comfortable, and the support of my family and friends convinced me that I should run myself."

Koskinen was defeated in the three-way special election vote won by Republican Eldon Warkentin of Coon Rapids. But in 1996, Koskinen emerged as the winner of a rematch race against Warkentin.

As she settles into her new role, Koskinen said she is aware that she will be recognized by many because of what happened to her daughter. But, she said it is not the basis for her entire political agenda.

"It was a major factor in my life. There's no doubt about that," she said. "But I think I bring capabilities that I could have brought to the Legislature even if my daughter hadn't been murdered. Maybe I would have been here now anyway, had that all not happened."

Aside from her many years of political activism, Koskinen has worked for the past 11 years as a business representative for American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 14. Earlier she spent a decade on staff for Anoka County as a financial worker and a child support officer.

She and her husband, Lauri, a retired school teacher, have four children and four grandchildren.

Koskinen built her successful House campaign around issues she considers essential to the growing, changing communities she represents. As a lawmaker, she aims to improve public education, foster safety within communities, and help to guide careful implementation of welfare reform.

She views early childhood programs and education to be keys to helping to alleviate some of the major problems facing society today.

"We should start with the families when the children are infants, give them the kind of experiences that will lead them to become productive citizens, and reserve our prison space for violent criminals," Koskinen said. "Each child should have an opportunity to grow up to be a productive citizen."

Koskinen is optimistic that the promise of bipartisan cooperation can help deliver legislation this session that will provide for positive changes to be made.

"We're going to work very hard to resolve the issues that come before us, and, hopefully, we can work together in a bipartisan way to do the best we can for the people of Minnesota."

— Nick Healy

District 49B

1996 population: 37,380

Largest city: Coon Rapids

County: Anoka

Location: northern metropolitan area

Top concern: "I think we need to be very careful about how we as a state implement welfare reform. We need to make sure that we exercise care, caution and compassion in how we frame our own welfare system now that the federal government seems to be relegating the states to provide the services that the federal government did at one point."

—Rep. Luanne Koskinen

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

This office provides copies of bills at no charge, all agendas for House sessions, and the Journal of the House.

House Index Department

211 State Capitol (612) 296-6646

The House Index Department, a part of the Chief Clerk's Office, has a computerized

index available for public use. House Index lists bills by committee, topic, author, file number, and other categories. The office can also give you the current status of legislation.

New members . . .

Rooted in education, Folliard focuses on kids

Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) spent part of her childhood kicking around the campus of a prestigious university, and her experiences there helped to shape her political perspective.



Rep. Betty Folliard

"I come from an education family," Folliard said. "Both of my parents were teachers, and my father went on to become dean of education at Stanford University. So education was the subject around our dinner table at home."

Folliard arrived at the Capitol determined to focus on education, and her appointments to the House Education Committee and its Higher Education Finance Division provide a springboard for her legislative agenda.

"I came here number one to work on education. That is the principal impetus for me being here," Folliard said. "I believe that education is essential for the maintenance of our democratic society. I grew up with that value, and the fact that I have three kids in school right now really brings that value home."

Folliard spent much of her childhood in the San Francisco bay area and went on to attend Stanford, where she received a bachelor's degree in drama. She later earned a master's degree in theater at Wayne State University in Michigan.

"I look at my theater background as excellent communications training for life," Folliard said. "You have to be able to handle rejection and that's not bad in the political sphere, too."

She pursued a career in theater in Michigan,

Minnesota, and New York before moving to Dublin, where her three children were born and the elder two began their schooling.

In Ireland, Folliard was exposed to an education system different from Minnesota's in many ways.

Schools there struggled to get by on "extremely scarce" resources, but students received rigorous instruction on core academic subjects. Irish students also spend more time in the classroom, with an academic year some 40 days longer, and each school day is longer, too.

With that experience in mind, Folliard now questions some of the assumptions of the status quo in American public education. She supports efforts to offer new scheduling options in public schools, such as year-round programs and extended school day models.

"We have to explode our paradigm on the issue of time in school," Folliard said. "One way I think the Legislature can do that is through providing more incentives to allow new choices in school districts."

After more than seven years, Folliard and her family left Ireland in 1987, and, she said, came to the Twin Cities for simple reasons.

"I've lived a lot of places, but we determined to settle back in Minnesota because it was the best place to raise a family," Folliard said. "What drew us here was having some of my own family here and having a family-friendly place to raise the kids."

Folliard has lived in Hopkins for the past decade. During that time, she has been active in the community, serving as a member of the city's strategic planning committee and was vice chair of the local PTA. She served on the Hopkins School Board for the past five

years and was its vice chair for two years. She works as a market researcher for Vaughn Communications in Minneapolis.

When current state Sen. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) decided to leave the House and seek a seat in the upper chamber in 1996, Folliard was encouraged by friends and associates to seek the open House seat.

"I came to the conclusion that I had something to offer, a lot of energy to put forth, and deep caring for our community and our quality of life here," she said. "I decided I could do it, that I could win it, and that I was the best person for the job."

As Folliard settles into her new position, she is immersing herself in the work of her education committees and others, including the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.

"I come here with my naiveté intact," she said. "I'm an optimist. I believe that if people of goodwill come together for the common good, you're going to come out with decisions that are best for your society."

— Nick Healy

District 44A

1996 population: 32,777

Largest city: Hopkins

County: Hennepin

Location: western metropolitan area

Top concern: "My primary goal in education is that we provide a quality education for all kids. We must shore up the cracks and address the biggest barrier to education, which is poverty. We also must consider it on a systemic level, looking at the problems of housing, jobs, transportation, and education as part of a whole."

—Rep Betty Folliard

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Bill Introductions

HF1545-HF1888

Thursday, March 13

HF1545—Weaver (R)
Governmental Operations
Public employee violence and harassment free workplace policy adopted.

HF1546—Jefferson (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Minneapolis housing transition tax increment financing district established.

HF1547—Ozment (R)
Taxes
Tax increment financing restrictions imposed, terms defined, and provisions clarified.

HF1548—Paulsen (R)
Labor-Management Relations
Re-employment insurance account provisions modified, and claimant waiting period provided.

HF1549—Peterson (DFL)
Taxes
Border city economic development district retail facility use allowed.

HF1550—Haas (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Metropolitan municipality curfew enforcement funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1551—Delmont (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Enhanced 911 service fee proceeds transferred.

HF1552—Tunheim (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Private detective and protective agent licensure required, and penalties provided.

HF1553—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
Commercial industrial property located in enterprise zones provided property tax exemption.

HF1554—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Certification of questions of law uniform act adopted.

HF1555—Rifenberg (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Business regulation legislative bill economic impact statement required.

HF1556—Murphy (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal water sale maximum rate provided.

HF1557—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Tree windbreak cost-share grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1558—McCollum (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Trunk Highway No. 36 in North St. Paul pedestrian-bicycle overpass construction required.

HF1559—McCollum (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Southeast Asian conservation officer recruitment and training program established, and money appropriated.

HF1560—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Frog reproductive problem research funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1561—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Natural snow fencing funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1562—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Education
Statewide university system student evaluation of instructors information deemed public data.

HF1563—Garcia (DFL)
Governmental Operations
STAR; System of Training to Achieve Results program for persons with disabilities established, and money appropriated.

HF1564—Wagenius (DFL)
Education
School facility charge provisions modified, and school district disbursement provided for school facility capital costs.

HF1565—Entenza (DFL)
Education
Educational savings plan account contributions and interest tax exemption provided.

HF1566—Winter (DFL)
Judiciary
Firefighter training program planning provided, and money appropriated.

HF1567—Mariani (DFL)
Education
Strategic investment program for families established, and money appropriated.

HF1568—Tompkins (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Metropolitan regional parks maintenance and operation funded, and money appropriated.

HF1569—Mullery (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Metropolitan regional parks maintenance and operation funded, and money appropriated.

HF1570—Clark (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Landlords required to prevent residential unit tobacco smoke from entering common areas.

Monday, March 17

HF1571—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Employer discrimination complaint inquiries prohibited, and sexual harassment case evidence discovery and admission limited.

HF1572—Molnau (R)
Transportation & Transit
Gasoline, liquefied petroleum gas, and compressed natural gas excise tax rates increased, and transportation and transit appropriations provided.

HF1573—Folliard (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 283, St. Louis Park, Aquila community together project grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1574—Sykora (R)
Judiciary
Joint child custody procedures and presumptions modified.

HF1575—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Western Lake Superior sanitary district granted authority to collect solid waste management service charges.

HF1576—Leppik (R)
Governmental Operations
Administrative Procedures Act exempt rule legal status extended.

HF1577—Paulsen (R)
Health & Human Services
Residential hospice food preparation rule exemption provided.

HF1578—Mullery (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Veteran service organization members provided special motor vehicle license plate stickers.

HF1579—Hausman (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Game and fish license subagent sale commission retention allowed.

HF1580—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Witness tampering criminal penalties increased.

HF1581—Davids (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Blufflands Trail System expanded, and money appropriated.

HF1582—Davids (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Fillmore County soil survey provided, and money appropriated.

HF1583—Mullery (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Nellie Stone Johnson bust placed in State Capitol.

HF1584—Nornes (R)
Health & Human Services
Electronic Minnesota community services directory established, and money appropriated.

HF1585—Holsten (R)**Environment
& Natural Resources Finance**

Natural resources department account interest disposition specified, and unrefunded gasoline tax computation provisions modified.

HF1586—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Arson training provided for law enforcement and fire service personnel, arson strike force established, and money appropriated.

HF1587—Erhardt (R)**Economic Development
& International Trade**

Commerce department securities and real estate fees reduced.

HF1588—Trimble (DFL)**Economic Development
& International Trade**

Minnesota music museum advisory task force established, and money appropriated.

HF1589—Evans (DFL)**Economic Development
& International Trade**

Torture victim center appropriated money.

HF1590—Anderson, B. (R)**Judiciary**

Children in need of protection or services provided treatment, and penalties imposed.

HF1591—Swenson, D. (R)**Judiciary**

DWI; preliminary screening test result use authorized in court proceedings.

HF1592—Tuma (R)**Taxes**

Homestead property tax status maintained for certain property owners residing in nursing homes.

HF1593—Dempsey (R)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Homeowner's insurance water or steam damage coverage required.

HF1594—Farrell (DFL)**Judiciary**

Metropolitan State University law enforcement library developed, and money appropriated.

HF1595—Farrell (DFL)**Judiciary**

POST; part-time peace officer citizenship requirement provided, and peace officer standards and training board excellence in peace officer training award established.

HF1596—Broecker (R)**Transportation & Transit**

Trunk Highway No. 49 in North Oaks Chippewa Middle School pedestrian safety measures required.

HF1597—Pugh (DFL)**Judiciary**

Supreme Court appropriated money for civil legal services.

HF1598—Koppendrayner (R)**Health & Human Services**

County agencies reimbursed for services provided to American Indians living on reservations, and money appropriated.

HF1599—Dehler (R)**Education**

Child care grant program eligible institutions expanded.

HF1600—Erhardt (R)**Taxes**

Senior citizen additional property tax refund provided.

HF1601—Abrams (R)**Judiciary**

Toxic substance sales to minors misdemeanor eliminated.

HF1602—Stang (R)**Transportation & Transit**

School buses operating on certain routes authorized to be equipped with studded tires.

HF1603—Slawik (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Oakdale tax-forfeited land transfer authorized.

HF1604—Tomassoni (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

No-fault automobile insurance nonowned vehicle residual liability insurance regulated.

HF1605—Davids (R)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Minnesota Comprehensive Health Insurance Association coverage eligibility provisions modified.

HF1606—Seagren (R)**Taxes**

Military pay income tax subtraction allowed.

HF1607—Carlson (DFL)**Education**

Lifework learning center established, and money appropriated.

HF1608—Bishop (R)**Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs**

Home Rule Charter city officer recall and removal authorized.

HF1609—Knoblach (R)**Judiciary**

Correctional facility site selection committee established.

HF1610—Knoblach (R)**Judiciary**

Legislative committee testimony under oath requirement provided.

HF1611—Slawik (DFL)**Economic Development
& International Trade**

Landfall appropriated money for housing and redevelopment.

HF1612—Kalis (DFL)**Capital Investment**

State Capitol building renovation appropriation provisions modified.

HF1613—Rifenberg (R)**Environment****& Natural Resources Finance**

Winona County Pickwick Mill appropriation provisions modified.

HF1614—Tompkins (R)**Ways & Means**

Balanced budget; Congress memorialized to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to balance the budget.

HF1615—Olson, E. (DFL)**Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs**

Small cities granted exemption from certain tax increment financing rules.

HF1616—Hausman (DFL)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Wind energy system and solar photovoltaic device sales and use tax exemptions reinstated.

HF1617—Macklin (R)**Taxes**

Omnibus property tax and education financing reform provided, and money appropriated.

HF1618—Greiling (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

State agency publication dates and requirements modified, and multimember agency expiration date changed.

HF1619—Jennings (DFL)**Environment****& Natural Resources Finance**

Chisago and Washington counties joint ditch No. 1 abandonment authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1620—Kinkel (DFL)**Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs**

County permit issuance injury liability provisions modified.

HF1621—Murphy (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Carlton County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF1622—Rifenberg (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Houston County surplus state land sale authorized.

HF1623—Westrom (R)**Governmental Operations**

Public official promotional activities limited.

HF1624—Bishop (R)**Judiciary**

Occupational therapists added to civil action limitation period for health care professionals.

HF1625—Mariani (DFL)**Economic Development
& International Trade**

Harriet Island redevelopment provided, and money appropriated.

HF1626—McGuire (DFL)**Judiciary**

Government data classification and access provided.

HF1627—Knoblach (R)**Governmental Operations**

Public Employees Police and Fire Fund disability benefit incorrect tax documentation hearing provided, and money appropriated.

HF1628—Johnson, A. (DFL)**Taxes**

Internet access and computer online services deemed taxable services.

HF1629—Jefferson (DFL)**Judiciary**

Safety inspection warrants established, and penalties provided.

HF1630—Krinkie (R)**Taxes**

Sales and use tax rate lowered.

HF1631—Van Dellen (R)**Judiciary**

Gang related felony crime penalties increased.

HF1632—Mariani (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Neighborhood land trust program appropriated money.

HF1633—Haas (R)

Environment & Natural Resources
Snowmobile liability insurance required, civil citation issuance authorized, lottery game with snowmobile safety theme provided, penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

HF1634—Haas (R)**Health & Human Services**

Senior citizens prescription drug insurance program developed, and money appropriated.

HF1635—Haas (R)**Taxes**

Personal and dependent income tax refund provided.

HF1636—Mulder (R)

Environment & Natural Resources
Natural Resources commissioner required to provide a listing of snowmobile safety programs.

HF1637—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance
Arson task force insurance related recommendations adopted.

HF1638—Trimble (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Foreign trade zones promoted, and money appropriated.

HF1639—Harder (R)**Agriculture**

University of Minnesota farm safety outreach program funded, and money appropriated.

HF1640—Harder (R)**Governmental Operations**

Jackson Medical Center and Tracy Municipal Hospital employees provided retirement contribution refunds.

HF1641—Schumacher (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Toll-free legislative telephone access established, and money appropriated.

HF1642—Dawkins (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Enterprise zone inclusion qualification requirements modified.

HF1643—Bishop (R)**Taxes**

Property tax levy increases levied against market value, residential and farm homestead targeted refunds provided, local government aid provided, and limited market value abolished.

HF1644—Molnau (R)**Transportation & Transit**

Municipal state-aid street fund apportionment provisions modified.

HF1645—Trimble (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Municipal development right purchase and transfer provisions modified.

HF1646—Trimble (DFL)**Agriculture**

Milk marketing competition and economic fairness provided, and milk and milk product retail price flexibility allowed.

HF1647—Trimble (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Job Skills Partnership funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1648—Wejcman (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Counties reimbursed for transporting persons to detoxification centers or shelters.

HF1649—Wejcman (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Mental illness case management service reimbursement provided at the same rate as case management services for mental retardation.

HF1650—Wejcman (DFL)**Judiciary**

Adults who approach, contact, or speak to a minor with the intent to commit sexual conduct provided criminal penalties.

HF1651—Holsten (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Critical habitat private sector matching account funded, and money appropriated.

HF1652—Ness (R)**Education**

Secondary vocational education aid guarantee provisions modified.

HF1653—Workman (R)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

New motorcycle warranties regulated, and manufacturer duties imposed.

HF1654—Workman (R)**Health & Human Services**

Partial-birth abortions prohibited and criminal penalties provided.

HF1655—Workman (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Chanhasen housing tax increment district establishment authorized.

HF1656—Entenza (DFL)**Judiciary**

DWI; suspected drug-impaired drivers required to submit to drug recognition evaluation, implied consent law expanded, peace officer training provided, and money appropriated.

HF1657—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Children in need of protection or services uniform process provided, and money appropriated.

HF1658—Holsten (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit delegation authorized.

HF1659—Evans (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

New Brighton north metro I-35W corridor economic development project appropriated money.

HF1660—Evans (DFL)**Education**

School districts provided anti-discrimination law compliance assistance, and money appropriated.

HF1661—Pugh (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Psychology limited practice provided.

HF1662—McGuire (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Historical Society appropriated money for grants to the Minnesota Center for Legal Education programs.

HF1663—Bakk (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Lake County redevelopment project area and tax increment financing district established.

HF1664—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Voyageur Recreation Area Board appropriated money.

HF1665—Farrell (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

St. Paul Parks and Recreation Division liquor license issuance authorized.

HF1666—Biernat (DFL)**Judiciary**

Housing inspection error or omission civil action limitation provided.

HF1667—Luther (DFL)**Education**

Adults with disabilities basic education program established, and money appropriated.

HF1668—Macklin (R)**Judiciary**

Minnesota free flow of information act disclosure conditions provided.

HF1669—Wenzel (DFL)**Education**

Mid-state Education District No. 6979, job shadowing and internship program funded, and money appropriated.

HF1670—Goodno (R)**Labor-Management Relations**

Public employee bargaining unit arbitration provisions modified.

HF1671—Paymar (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Pedestrian-control traffic signal display time period prescribed.

HF1672—Paymar (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Trunk Highway No. 5 in St. Paul beautification and enhancement provided, and money appropriated.

HF1673—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Medical assistance for needy persons provisions modified.

HF1674—Dawkins (DFL)**Judiciary**

Community-based crime prevention grant eligibility provisions modified.

HF1675—Dawkins (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Great Northern Corridor Community Development Act adopted, armory lease project developed, and money appropriated.

HF1676—Pawlenty (R)
Education
Infant development pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF1677—Anderson, B. (R)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk Highway No. 169 in Elk River fencing provided, and money appropriated.

HF1678—Biernat (DFL)
Education
Pre-K-12 governance structure task force established.

HF1679—Garcia (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Richfield airport land conveyance required.

HF1680—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Education
North central Minnesota technology consortium gateway to the world grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1681—Peterson (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Alternative fuel motor vehicle registration tax reduction provided, alternative fuel vehicle development fee imposed, and technical corrections provided.

HF1682—Peterson (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
School buses authorized to be equipped with studded tires pending local school board approval.

HF1683—Seifert (R)
Health & Human Services
Lyon County intermediate care facility size reduction pilot project established.

HF1684—Kelso (DFL)
Education
Minnesota International Center international classroom connection program funded, and money appropriated.

HF1685—Delmont (DFL)
Education
School district equalized debt service levy provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF1686—Kubly (DFL)
Agriculture
Rural dispute resolution act adopted.

HF1687—Tunheim (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Senior meal vendor optional bidding procedure allowed.

HF1688—Tunheim (DFL)
Taxes
Apartment property tax rate reduced in certain towns.

HF1689—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Motorcycle driver instruction permit provisions modified, and endorsement fees provided.

HF1690—Hasskamp (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Personal watercraft operation requirements modified.

HF1691—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Judicial Standards Board court cost and attorney fee payment allowed in certain cases, and money appropriated.

HF1692—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Earth Day; Congress memorialized to recognize Earth Day as a national day of service and education.

HF1693—Pugh (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Public safety dispatchers deemed essential employees.

HF1694—Garcia (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Gambling tax combined receipt tax schedule provisions modified.

HF1695—Pugh (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Gambling tax combined tax receipt tax schedule provisions modified.

HF1696—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Migratory game bird shooting hours established.

HF1697—Paulsen (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Campaign contribution limitations and restrictions imposed.

HF1698—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing facility reimbursement rates established.

HF1699—Rukavina (DFL)
Education
State colleges and universities system administrative costs limited.

HF1700—Kubly (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Olivia commercial building redevelopment provided, and money appropriated.

HF1701—Murphy (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
State warrant cashing fees and charges limited.

HF1702—McCollum (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Respiratory care practitioner registration and regulation provided, respiratory care practitioner advisory council established, continuing education fees provided, and penalties provided.

HF1703—Entenza (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
St. Paul Civic Center intoxicating liquor sales authorized at professional athletic events.

HF1704—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare eligibility asset requirement established, and penalties provided.

HF1705—Finseth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
East Grand Forks Red River bank stabilization project funded, and money appropriated.

HF1706—Entenza (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Down syndrome information distribution provided, and money appropriated.

HF1707—Bishop (R)
Health & Human Services
Living will and durable power of attorney for health care advance health care directive provisions modified.

HF1708—Koskinen (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Senior citizen prescription drug benefit provided under the MinnesotaCare program, and money appropriated.

HF1709—Koskinen (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Landlords required to ensure reasonably safe conditions for tenants.

HF1710—Koskinen (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Railroad employees provided counseling and leaves of absence following railroad accidents.

HF1711—Leighton (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Employee drug and alcohol testing requirements modified, personnel record review provisions clarified, entertainment agency violation private right of action established, and OSHA inspector assault penalties provided.

HF1712—Bishop (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Firefighter probationary period provisions modified.

HF1713—Dorn (DFL)
Education
Distinguished professor employment continuation provided.

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HF1714—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare eligibility asset requirement established, medical assistance and general assistance medical care eligibility requirements modified, and penalties provided.

HF1715—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Education
Campus student referendum on statewide affiliation delayed.

HF1716—Olson, M. (R)
Education
Locally controlled graduation rule aid and district assistance provided, locally controlled graduation rule offered, and money appropriated.

HF1717—McCollum (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Human services alternative care program and elderly waiver case management service provider requirements modified.

HF1718—Erhardt (R)
Health & Human Services
Physician surcharge waiver request extension provided.

HF1719—Kubly (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Chippewa County recreational facility design provided, and money appropriated.

HF1720—Rhodes (R)
Education
School closings by governor provisions clarified.

HF1721—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Chippewa County land conveyance provided.

HF1722—Larsen (R)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle drivers required to maintain vehicle control when approaching or passing an authorized emergency vehicle, and violation surcharge imposed.

HF1723—Greiling (DFL)
Education
Gifted and talented education program grants provided, school district eligibility criteria established, and money appropriated.

HF1724—Kahn (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Internet or computer system voting feasibility studied by secretary of state, and money appropriated.

HF1725—Olson, M. (R)
Judiciary
Same-sex marriages not recognized or allowed.

HF1726—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
MSRS; Minnesota State Retirement System coverage provided to revenue department seasonal employees.

HF1727—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Pension plan asset actuarial value definition and reporting requirements modified.

HF1728—Skare (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Beltrami County and Hubbard County personal care attendant services reimbursement rate increased.

HF1729—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services
Breast-feeding encouraged, and well-baby designation established.

HF1730—Peterson (DFL)
Agriculture
Livestock and dairy processing and marketing grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1731—McCollum (DFL)
Taxes
Undervalued property county property tax recapture provided, and penalty imposed.

HF1732—Evans (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
New Brighton tax increment financing district establishment authorized.

HF1733—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services
Rural hospitals; Congress memorialized to establish a national limited service hospital program for rural primary service hospitals.

HF1734—Kraus (R)
Health & Human Services
First responder registration program establishment authorized.

HF1735—Mulder (R)
Education
Southwest State University center for agricultural studies established, and money appropriated.

HF1736—Macklin (R)
Judiciary
Jail credit legislative intent clarified, consecutive jail sentence presumption established, and specific findings required to authorize concurrent jail sentences or jail credit.

HF1737—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Licensing agency classified or private data release authorized for law enforcement purposes.

HF1738—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health care consumer assistance grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1739—Schumacher (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Foley tax increment financing district revenue expenditure authorized outside of tax increment financing district.

HF1740—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services
Deaf and hard-of-hearing and deaf-blind children services grant established, and money appropriated.

HF1741—Biernat (DFL)
Education
Violence, abuse, and harassment prevention provided through theatrical plays, workshops, and peer education, grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1742—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health care purchasing alliances established, direct health care provider contracting provided, and hospital and supervised living facility licensing standard waivers permitted.

HF1743—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Education
Independent school district nos. 622, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale, 833, South Washington County, and 834, Stillwater, additional levy authorized for extended year, extended day, and all day kindergarten program operation.

HF1744—Mares (R)
Education
Northeast Metropolitan Intermediate School District No. 916, school board organization provisions modified.

HF1745—Folliard (DFL)
Education
State college and university public employee exception provisions modified.

HF1746—Ness (R)
Education
Cooperative educational unit direct aid payment authorized.

HF1747—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Day training and habilitation services payment rates modified.

HF1748—Rukavina (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Governor's state budget information inclusion mandate provided.

HF1749—Knight (R)
Taxes
Personal and dependent income tax credit allowed.

HF1750—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Timber sale permit extension provided.

HF1751—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Omnibus packaging regulation bill providing mandatory recycled content requirements, regulating transport packaging, requiring reusable packaging for beverages, providing beverage packaging recycling deposits, and providing penalties.

HF1752—Kalis (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Teachers Retirement Association retirement coverage provided for part-time Blue Earth School District teacher.

HF1753—Kalis (DFL)
Capital Investment
State municipal aid bond issuance authorizations modified.

HF1754—Kelso (DFL)
Education
University of Minnesota Board of Regents at-large positions appointed by the governor, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1755—Jefferson (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Hennepin County housing and redevelopment authority procedures modified.

HF1756—Chaudhary (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Columbia Heights Volunteer Fire Department Relief Association defined contribution plan established.

HF1757—Hasskamp (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Abortion data reporting provisions modified, and criminal penalties provided.

HF1758—Pelowski (DFL)
Education
Higher education library information network developed, and money appropriated.

HF1759—Tomassoni (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Licensed professional engineer Pollution Control Agency sewage treatment system design and inspection licensure provisions modified.

HF1760—Delmont (DFL)
Education
Child care resource and referral start-up project established, and money appropriated.

HF1761—McGuire (DFL)**Education**

Juvenile assessment center pilot project grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1762—Solberg (DFL)**Education**

Nashwauk public and school libraries operated jointly, and library board established.

HF1763—Larsen (R)**Judiciary**

Dodge, Fillmore, Olmsted, St. Louis, Stearns, and Washington counties sex offender community notification equipment grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1764—Entenza (DFL)**Education**

Children attending schools with concentrated levels of poverty provided enhanced educational experience, general education formula allowance increased, and money appropriated.

HF1765—Jefferson (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Internal revenue code annuity provider selection requirements modified, and technical modifications provided.

HF1766—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Koochiching County designated as an enterprise zone.

HF1767—Juhnke (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

County and local historical society grant-in-aid program established, and money appropriated.

HF1768—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Accident and health insurance disability policy provisions modified and recodified.

HF1769—Hasskamp (DFL)**Education**

Central Lakes Community and Technical College American Indian studies center established, and money appropriated.

HF1770—Tunheim (DFL)**Education**

School district community education rule amendment provisions modified.

HF1771—Paymar (DFL)**Judiciary**

First-degree murder definition expanded related to domestic abuse, malicious punishment of a child enhanced penalties provided, and crimes of violence definition expanded to include fifth degree and domestic assault.

HF1772—Kuisle (R)**Transportation & Transit**

Highway user tax distribution fund provided funding from state budget surplus.

HF1773—Finseth (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Tree planting stock production restricted, and planting stock production information disclosure required.

HF1774—Dawkins (DFL)**Judiciary**

Wildlife control hunting or trapping loss municipal liability provisions modified.

HF1775—Juhnke (DFL)**Agriculture**

Agricultural chemical application liability limited.

HF1776—Hilty (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Statewide public ice arena facilities program appropriated money.

HF1777—McGuire (DFL)**Education**

Health community program established and revenue levy authorized.

HF1778—Rifenberg (R)**Taxes**

Charitable contribution income tax credit provided.

HF1779—Kahn (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

St. Paul and Minneapolis tax increment financing district establishment authorized.

HF1780—Pugh (DFL)**Judiciary**

Corrections department appropriated money for sexual assault program grants.

HF1781—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Medical Assistance wheelchair repair payment procedures clarified, and augmentative and alternative communication system medical assistance reimbursement provisions modified.

HF1782—Rukavina (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Youth sports programs developed, criteria established, and money appropriated.

HF1783—Sviggum (R)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Former legislators prohibited from lobbying the legislature for one year after leaving office, and fair campaign practices advisory board established.

HF1784—Sviggum (R)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Legislative employee campaign activity limited, lobbying activities limited, campaign contributions restricted, and money appropriated.

HF1785—Jaros (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Economic security department required to administer housing and food assistance programs.

HF1786—Tunheim (DFL)**Agriculture**

University of Minnesota appropriated money for spring wheat research.

HF1787—Koppendrayner (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Soil and water conservation district state auditor fees limited.

HF1788—Olson, E. (DFL)**Taxes**

Fosston sales and use tax imposition authorized.

HF1789—Mullery (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Railroad train or locomotive crew requirements established, and penalty provided.

HF1790—McGuire (DFL)**Judiciary**

Nursing board applicant or licensee address and telephone number privacy provided.

HF1791—Kalis (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

State Capitol cafeteria renovation provided, and money appropriated.

HF1792—Tunheim (DFL)**Agriculture**

Rural small business loan program established, and money appropriated.

HF1793—Kinkel (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Park Rapids veterans memorial provided, and money appropriated.

HF1794—Johnson, A. (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Attorney general required to investigate unfair drug price discrimination, prescription drug price negotiation authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1795—Jennings (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Plumber licensure requirements modified.

HF1796—McElroy (R)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Housing and redevelopment authority levy use limitation removed.

HF1797—Erhardt (R)**Taxes**

City property tax levies limited.

HF1798—Murphy (DFL)**Taxes**

City aid base definition modified.

HF1799—Trimble (DFL)**Agriculture**

Licensed family day care meal and nutrition program and reimbursement provided, and money appropriated.

HF1800—Tunheim (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

County road cost reimbursement provided, and money appropriated.

HF1801—Paulsen (R)**Rules & Legislative Administration**

Legislator per diem payments limited.

HF1802—Bakk (DFL)**Taxes**

Cook County sales tax revenue use authorized for hospital improvements.

HF1803—Bakk (DFL)**Taxes**

Well drilling machine gasoline and fuel sales tax exemption provided.

HF1804—Bakk (DFL)**Taxes**

Cook County jail and courthouse construction material sales tax exemption provided.

HF1805—Swenson, D. (R)
Transportation & Transit
Washington County highway shoulder reconstruction provided, and money appropriated.

HF1806—Hilty (DFL)
Environment
& **Natural Resources Finance**
Rock, gem, and mineral interpretative center established, and money appropriated.

HF1807—Westfall (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Deer hunting licenses provided to farmers for reduced fees.

HF1808—Sykora (R)
Commerce, Tourism
& **Consumer Affairs**
Civil Commitment Act chemically dependent person definition modified to include pregnant women who have engaged in alcohol abuse, reporting requirements modified, and report required.

HF1809—Winter (DFL)
Agriculture
Minnesota agriculture education leadership council established, grant program provided, and money appropriated.

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HF1810—Koskinen (DFL)
Health & Human Services
WIC nutrition program for women and children funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1811—Rhodes (R)
Economic Development
& **International Trade**
St. Louis Park Meadowbrook collaborative housing project appropriated money.

HF1812—Rhodes (R)
Economic Development
& **International Trade**
St. Louis Park Meadowbrook collaborative housing project appropriated money.

HF1813—Paulsen (R)
Health & Human Services
Grant Hussey Foundation Project Protect implementation provided, and money appropriated.

HF1814—Dawkins (DFL)
Education
Community crime prevention program grant application provisions modified.

HF1815—Rostberg (R)
Environment
& **Natural Resources Finance**
Cambridge wastewater treatment project loan repayment provided, and money appropriated.

HF1816—Greenfield (DFL)
Judiciary
Bias crime penalty enhancements provided.

HF1817—Rostberg (R)
Education
Year-round school/extended week or day pilot program expanded, and money appropriated.

HF1818—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
St. Louis County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF1819—Chaudhary (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs
& **Elections**
Veterans' bonus program established, and money appropriated.

HF1820—Chaudhary (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs
& **Elections**
Armed Forces reserve member tuition and textbook reimbursement grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1821—Chaudhary (DFL)
Judiciary
Corrections department juvenile detention provisions modified, fund use provisions modified, sexual assault and crime victim advisory councils duration extended, and religious instruction and extraordinary discharge laws repealed.

HF1822—Westfall (R)
Environment
& **Natural Resources Finance**
Clay County riparian buffer restoration project developed, and money appropriated.

HF1823—Westfall (R)
Environment
& **Natural Resources Finance**
Pelican Rapids to Maplewood state park trail developed, and money appropriated.

HF1824—Mariani (DFL)
Economic Development
& **International Trade**
Minnesota Project Innovation appropriated money.

HF1825—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary
Predatory offender registration law provisions modified.

HF1826—Clark (DFL)
Education
Interpreting and translating pilot program established, and money appropriated.

HF1827—Skare (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Chemical dependency treatment case management definition provisions modified, and community support plan review requirements modified.

HF1828—Swenson, H. (R)
Education
McLeod County Stevens seminary trustee appointment authority transferred.

HF1829—Orfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Attorney general required to investigate unfair drug price discrimination, prescription drug price negotiation authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1830—Mahon (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
General-use collector license plate issuance authorized, and emissions test requirement exemption provided.

HF1831—Trimble (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Metropolitan East Health Program appropriated money.

HF1832—Schumacher (DFL)
Taxes
Property tax levy certification requirements modified.

HF1833—Schumacher (DFL)
Environment
& **Natural Resources Finance**
Landfill cleanup cost appropriation provisions modified.

HF1834—Entenza (DFL)
Environment
& **Natural Resources Finance**
Metropolitan regional parks maintenance and operation funded, and money appropriated.

HF1835—Schumacher (DFL)
Education
Advanced placement and international baccalaureate programs funded, and money appropriated.

HF1836—Westrom (R)
Commerce, Tourism
& **Consumer Affairs**
Equal consumer credit provided for spouses.

HF1837—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services
Senior citizen prescription drug program established, wholesale drug distributor reporting required, and money appropriated.

HF1838—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Emergency deer feeding pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF1839—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Firearms tracking system established, weapon transfers regulated, pistol and semiautomatic weapon possession by convicted felons prohibited, penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

HF1840—Schumacher (DFL)
Local Government
& **Metropolitan Affairs**
Benton County auditor and treasurer office combination permitted.

HF1841—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development
& **International Trade**
Economic development zone credits regulated, and money appropriated.

HF1842—Kinkel (DFL)
Judiciary
Hubbard County sheriff addition part-time peace officer positions authorized.

HF1843—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Community-based women's mental health crisis center pilot project provided, and money appropriated.

HF1844—Schumacher (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Highway and transit infrastructure payment provided with tax certificates.

HF1845—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development
& **International Trade**
State services for the blind study provided, and money appropriated.

HF1846—Swenson, D. (R)
Judiciary
Crime victim services provided in underserved communities, and money appropriated.

HF1847—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Tax-forfeited and land bordering public waters sale provisions modified.

HF1848—Swenson, D. (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
University of Minnesota individual sewage treatment program funded, and money appropriated.

HF1849—Davids (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Southeast Minnesota water resources board appropriated money for administrative expenses.

HF1850—Ness (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Fishing artifact museum feasibility studied, and money appropriated.

HF1851—Sekhon (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Prairie inventory conducted along railroad rights-of-way, pesticide application limited, and money appropriated.

HF1852—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Omnibus property tax and education finance reform bill, levy constraints provided, and money appropriated.

HF1853—Tomassoni (DFL)
Governmental Operations
MSRS; correctional employee contribution differential payment provisions clarified.

HF1854—Wenzel (DFL)
Taxes
Firewood sales for certain business purposes sales tax exemption provided.

HF1855—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Education
General education formula allowance increased, equalized discretionary levy provided, special education program funding increased, and money appropriated.

HF1856—Davids (R)
Agriculture
Ethanol, anhydrous alcohol, and wet alcohol producer payments provided.

HF1857—Knoblach (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Water quality standards review procedures established.

HF1858—Luther (DFL)
Education
Learning readiness program revenue funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1859—Otremba (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Greater Staples Hospital infant hearing screening program appropriated money.

HF1860—Otremba (DFL)
Agriculture
Potato blight research grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1861—Juhnke (DFL)
Agriculture
Confined farm animal facility entry restricted.

HF1862—Wenzel (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Minnesota Investment Fund loan guaranteed by trade and economic development commissioner.

HF1863—Vickerman (R)
Agriculture
Agricultural marketing and bargaining mediation and arbitration required.

HF1864—Solberg (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Polymer bridge wrap research program established, and money appropriated.

HF1865—Entenza (DFL)
Education
General education revenue increased, pupil transportation formulas modified, limited English proficiency program funding increased, special education funding increased, and money appropriated.

HF1866—Mulder (R)
Judiciary
Private corrections facilities providing long-term residential secure programming maximum bed limit exception provided.

HF1867—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
St. Louis County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF1868—Trimble (DFL)
Governmental Operations
State Board of Investment tobacco stock sale required.

HF1869—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Governmental Operations
We the People project citizenship program funded, and money appropriated.

HF1870—Leighton (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Workers' compensation procedures and reporting deadlines modified, and corrections officers added to the presumption of occupational disease.

HF1871—Long (DFL)
Taxes
Omnibus property tax and education finance reform bill, and money appropriated.

HF1872—Dorn (DFL)
Education
Early childhood teacher development center established, grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1873—Ness (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Open dump remediation, identification, and prioritization expenditures authorized.

HF1874—Jefferson (DFL)
Education
Head Start program funded, compensatory revenue caps removed, and money appropriated.

HF1875—Carruthers (DFL)
Judiciary
DWI; preliminary breath test evidence use authorized, vehicle forfeiture provided for third-time DWI offenders, and drug test refusal provided criminal penalties.

HF1876—Wenzel (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Little Falls telecommunication services development provided, and money appropriated.

HF1877—Jefferson (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Strawberry workers rights recognized and respected by the strawberry industry.

HF1878—Davids (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Health insurance portability and accountability act provisions modified.

HF1879—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Nuclear waste; public service commissioner required to hold in escrow funds for high-level radioactive waste disposal.

HF1880—Jennings (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Employer re-employment compensation payment schedule provisions modified.

HF1881—Koppendrayner (R)
Taxes
Counties with Indian casinos provided payments under tribal tax agreements, and money appropriated.

HF1882—Murphy (DFL)
Judiciary
Real estate document filing and recording fees modified.

HF1883—Kahn (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Natural resources trust fund distribution provisions modified, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1884—Westfall (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Legislative district boundaries modified.

HF1885—Solberg (DFL)
Judiciary
Mille Lacs Fishing Treaty implementation public safety funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1886—Hausman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Hmong/Laotian veterans; President and Congress memorialized to waive English language and residency requirements for American citizenship for Hmong and other Laotian veterans.

HF1887—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Judiciary
Juvenile court jurisdiction extended, and money appropriated.

HF1888—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
Rental motor vehicle tax provisions modified, and money appropriated.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
For information updates, call
House Calls at (612) 296-9283.
All meetings are open to the public.
Sign language interpreter services:
(612) 282-2331 v/tty
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MONDAY, March 24

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Budget hearings: Minnesota Arts Board;
and Workers' Compensation Reinsurance,
Department of Commerce.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: HF1132 (Ness) Technical college diploma
and certificate provisions modified.
University of Minnesota budget, Marvin Marshak,
senior vice president for academic affairs and
Richard Pfitzenreuter, associate vice president for
budget and finance.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Safe schools working group
recommendations.
HF303 (Johnson, A.) School disciplinary policy
evaluation and implementation grant program
established, and money appropriated.
Transportation working group recommendations.
HF724 (Molnau) Minnesota River Valley special
education cooperative computerized
transportation routing system established, and
money appropriated.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF461 (Osskopp) Wabasha appropriated
money for development of the American bald
eagle center.
HF1046 (Tingelstad) Raptor Center at the
University of Minnesota appropriated money for
electronic environmental education network.

HF412 (Kubly) Granite Falls appropriated money
for river bank restoration.
HF913 (Kubly) Livestock odor research program
developed at the University of Minnesota, and
money appropriated.
HF113 (Munger) State lottery proceeds dedication
to Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
duration extended, and constitutional amendment
proposed.

Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF443 (Luther) Brooklyn Park economic
development authority property tax certification
authorized.
HF1089 (Garcia) Metropolitan areawide tax base
homestead property inclusion provided.
HF1427 (Erhardt) Homeowner additional
property tax refund provided.
Bills may be added.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: HF1799 (Trimble) Licensed family day
care meal and nutrition program and
reimbursement provided, and money
appropriated.
HF1285 (Westrom) Agricultural cooperative
investment tax credit provided.
HF1494 (Wenzel) Soil and water conservation
district technical support grants provided, and
money appropriated.
HF1646 (Trimble) Milk marketing competition
and economic fairness provided, and milk and
milk product retail price flexibility allowed.
HF1686 (Kubly) Rural dispute resolution act
adopted.
HF1730 (Peterson) Livestock and dairy processing
and marketing grant program established, and
money appropriated.
HF806 (Dehler) Agricultural product definition
expanded to include fish for property tax purposes.
HF689 (Kubly) Alfalfa processing facility
construction material sales and use tax exemption
provided.
HF1186 (Tunheim) Bakeries in retail food stores
provided equipment and ventilation requirements.
HFXXXX (Juhnke) Limiting entry by Department
of Revenue conservation officers into farm facilities
unless biosecurity measures are followed.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF1209 (Sviggum) Stagecoach trail
established in Steele, Dodge, and Olmsted counties.
HF1195 (Jaros) Duluth area old growth forest
protection provided.
HF714 (Bakk) Solid waste transfer station grant
program repealed.
HF1575 (Munger) Western Lake Superior sanitary
district granted authority to collect solid waste
management service charges.
HF418 (Peterson) Red River Watershed
Management Board authority provisions modified.
HF764 (Winter) Lewis and Clark rural water system
developed, and money appropriated.

HF1314 (Hausman) Scrap motor vehicle facility
regulations modified.
HF1534 (Tunheim) Vertical heat exchanger
contractor licensure requirement established.
HF435 (Long) Environmental Response and
Liability Act provisions modified, and money
appropriated.
HF1393 (Long) Brownfields coordination office
established.
HF422 (McCollum) Contaminated land industrial
development provided, and money appropriated.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: HF642 (Skoglund) State court action
created for relief for damages caused by federal
court action affecting public participation by the
plaintiff.

HF135 (Skoglund) Community crime cost study
by Legislative Audit Commission requested.
HF635 (Entenza) North Star government on-line
service and information initiative provided,
information and telecommunications technology
community resource development initiative
established, MNcard projects implemented, and
money appropriated.

HF527 (McCollum) Veterans employment
preference act provisions modified.

HF387 (Wagenius) Transportation department
claim payment provided and liability provisions
modified, and eminent domain provisions
modified.

HF1373 (Wagenius) MinnesotaCare program
family definition modified, child custody
provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF209 (Vickerman) Human services child
placement heritage or background provisions
modified.

HF1036 (Macklin) Government data practices
program integrity initiatives established, and child
support enforcement registry access provided.

HF617 (Weaver) Juvenile crime victim data
disclosure provisions modified.

HF272 (Wejcman) Human services program
licensure requirements modified, and civil penalties
imposed and modified.

HF1455 (Wejcman) Female genital mutilation
crime exception added for certified nurse midwives.

HF1175 (Clark) Restorative justice programs
authorized, increased penalties provided for repeat
misdemeanor violations, grants provided, and
money appropriated.

HF1501 (Skoglund) Indecent exposure while
confining or restraining another person deemed a
felony, and sex offender registration required.

HF1504 (Skoglund) Sex offender probation term
extension authorized.

HF1109 (Farrell) Criminal trial final argument
prosecution rebuttal provided.

HF1586 (Skoglund) Arson training provided for
law enforcement and fire service personnel, arson
strike force established, and money appropriated.

HF1197 (Weaver) County attorney administrative
subpoena powers expanded to include subpoena
of computer network records.

HF338 (Chaudhary) Inmates barred from
computer on-line service use, and the Department
of Corrections rules required.

HF1566 (Winter) Firefighter training program
planning provided, and money appropriated.

HF1467 (Stanek) Drugfire; Hennepin County

sheriff and Minneapolis police provided grants for operation of the FBI Drugfire bullet analysis computer program.

HF225 (Broecker) Peace officers authorized to arrest persons within four hours of a violation for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle.

HF1423 (Weaver) Sentencing guidelines proposed modifications regarding increases in durations at severity levels I through VI shall not take effect.

HF226 (Macklin) Vehicle theft notification responsibility transferred.

HF370 (Macklin) Peace officers required to notify parents of juveniles accused of committing adult court traffic offenses.

HF1462 (Pawlenty) Fourth-degree assault scope expanded to include harm inflicted upon corrections facilities employees.

Bills may be added.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Budget hearing; Minnesota Planning Office. Bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: HF725 (Wagenius) Early childhood technology grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1676 (Pawlenty) Infant development pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF99 (Clark) Emergency human services grant program established, and money appropriated.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

Agenda: HF1793 (Kinkel) Park Rapids veterans memorial provided, and money appropriated.

HF1463 (Mahon) Local office candidate campaign contribution limit provisions clarified.

HF423 (Orfield) Metropolitan Council made an elective body and provided public campaign financing, and penalties imposed.

HF104 (Sviggum) Legislative ethics committees and procedures established, former legislators prohibited from lobbying for one year after leaving office, and fair campaign practices advisory board established.

Referrals from other policy committees. Bills may be added.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: HF1383 (Kinkel) Occupational safety and health notice service provisions modified.

HF1710 (Koskinen) Railroad employees provided counseling and leaves of absence following railroad accidents.

HF1512 (Bakk) Educational building construction, improvement, or remodeling designated a project.

HF216 (Mariani) Employment contract provisions modified.

HF1711 (Leighton) Employee drug and alcohol testing requirements modified, personnel record review provisions clarified, entertainment agency violation private right of action established, and OSHA inspector assault penalties provided.

HF1870 (Leighton) Workers' Compensation Advisory Council.

HF1877 (Jefferson) Resolution regarding strawberry workers in California.

HF1343 (Knoblach) Reemployment insurance definitions modified related to taxi cab drivers.

HF1382 (Dehler) Show boiler and engine inspection provisions modified.

HF1670 (Goodno) Public employee bargaining unit arbitration provisions modified.

Bills may be added.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: HF783 (Larsen) Metropolitan Council, Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, Metropolitan Radio Board, and Metropolitan Mosquito Control District abolished, duties transferred, and money appropriated.

HF1111 (Weaver) Recreational vehicle combination definition expanded to include vehicles drawing trailers carrying off-highway motorcycles, off-road vehicles, snowmobiles, or all-terrain vehicles.

HF1164 (Juhnke) Bus definition expanded to include special transportation service vehicles.

HF1224 (Kinkel) Liquefied petroleum gas delivery vehicles exempted from seasonal weight restrictions.

HF1789 (Mullery) Railroad train or locomotive crew requirements established, and penalty provided.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: Continuation of 10 a.m. meeting agenda.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Continuation of 10 a.m. meeting agenda.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: HF1290 (Tomassoni) County tax nonpayment redemption period expiration provided.

HF1291 (Tomassoni) St. Louis County court bailiffs added to the unclassified service.

HF1301 (Slawik) St. Paul and Ramsey County joint public health department personnel provisions defined.

HF1338 (Molnau) Municipal consolidation authorized.

HF1372 (Biernat) St. Paul and Minneapolis school boards directed to develop a transportation plan using public transportation.

HF1379 (Huntley) Duluth Miller-Dwan Medical Center assets and liabilities transferred.

HF1390 (Solberg) Floodwood Joint Recreation Board tax levies regulated.

HF1470 (Rukavina) Virginia area ambulance district establishment authorized, levy authorized, and local approval required.

HF1679 (Garcia) Richfield airport land conveyance required.

HF1755 (Jefferson) Hennepin County housing and redevelopment authority procedures modified.

4 p.m.

Subcommittee on the Office of the Revisor/ Legislative Coordinating Commission

500N State Office Building

Chr. To be announced

Agenda: Review proposed budget for Office of Revisor.

6 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: HF769 (Schumacher) Omnibus K-12 education policy bill.

HF991 (Clark) Child care facility improvement grants provided, and money appropriated.

Child care:

HF1121 (Delmont) Child development education and training loan program established, child care provider training initiatives funded, and money appropriated.

HF1760 (Delmont) Child care resource and referral start-up project established, and money appropriated.

7 p.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: Continuation of 10 a.m. meeting agenda.

TUESDAY, March 25

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: HF1213 (Goodno) Moorhead land transfer authorized (division report).

HF747 (Kahn) State high school league governing board appointing authority provisions modified.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Agency budget presentations: Department of Corrections - Employee Concerns, Rep. Thomas Pugh. County Issues, Reps. Sherry Broecker, Thomas Pugh.

Criminal justice education funding issues: Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU); POST Board; and Department of Finance.

Review of technology requests for criminal justice information system: Supreme Court; and Department of Public Safety.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HF324 (Bishop) Dependent care tax credit requirements modified.

HF462 (Erhardt) Three-fifths legislative majority vote required for sales or income tax increases, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1141 (Orfield) Dependent care income tax credit expanded, and money appropriated.

HF489 (Murphy) Capital gains tax exclusion provided for the sale of property used as a principal residence.

HF773 (Murphy) Aggregate material removal taxes authorized in Carlton and St. Louis counties.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF1559 (McCollum) Southeast Asian conservation officer recruitment and training program established, and money appropriated. HF950 (McCollum) Native ecological habitat information collected and disseminated, and money appropriated.

HF449 (Skare) Becker, Clearwater, and Hubbard counties provided wind damage mitigation grants, and money appropriated.

HF478 (Wagenius) SCORE; Office of Environmental Assistance authorized to carry forward waste management block grants.

HF650 (Hasskamp) Glendalough State Park and Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area appropriated money for development and operation.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: HF1038 (Goodno) Employee wage protection act adopted, wage protection account established, and money appropriated.

HF929 (Orfield) Patient protection act adopted, health care consumer assistance program established, and money appropriated.

HF1000 (Long) Community-based planning act adopted providing sustainable metropolitan development, Metropolitan Council requirements specified, advisory council established, and money appropriated.

HF707 (Wagenius) Toxics in products requirements and enforcement provisions modified.

HF458 (Juhnke) Highway service sign placement provisions clarified, transportation department exempt rules preserved, highway related definitions modified, and obsolete references corrected.

HF242 (Juhnke) Recreational equipment registration and taxation provisions modified related to slip in pickup truck campers, and vehicle registration information access restricted, vehicle dealer purchase receipt requirements modified.

HF197 (Leppik) Administrative Procedures Act rulemaking procedures modified.

HF1221 (Kahn) Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement and Minnesota Resources Commission membership provisions modified.

HF1326 (Kahn) Public pension plan fiduciary economic interest statement filing failure penalty provided.

HF843 (Clark) Lead hazard reduction advisory task force established, and money appropriated.

HF864 (McGuire) Social work board provisions modified, and civil penalties provided.

HF1392 (Kinkel) Exempt real property and fire state aid property tax provisions modified.

HF1618 (Greiling) State agency publication dates and requirements modified, and multimember agency expiration date changed.

HF578 (Kubly) Animal feedlot and manure management advisory committee expiration date designated, and food safety advisory committee membership provisions modified.

HF257 (Dorn) Ambulance service licensing requirements established, emergency medical services statutory provisions relocated, and money appropriated.

HF1162 (Koppendrayner) Employee relations department technical corrections bill.

HF1461 (Entenza) Uniform business identifier system established, and money appropriated.

HF1545 (Weaver) Public employee violence and harassment-free workplace policy adopted.

HF1386 (Knoblach) Public land and building acquisition and improvements provided, and money appropriated.

HF634 (Larsen) Electricity board membership provisions modified.

HF1327 (Delmont) State agency service contracts reviewed by employee relations commissioner.

HF1563 (Garcia) STAR; system of training to achieve results program for persons with disabilities established, and money appropriated.

HFXXXX (Mullery) Railroad rules.

HF937 (Paulsen) School district interim superintendent retirement provisions modified.

All pension bills recommended by the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: To be announced.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: HF1547 (Ozment) Tax increment financing restrictions imposed, terms defined, and provisions clarified.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Funding match for Federal Drinking Water Project, Terry Kuhlman, Public Facilities Authority (PFA). Minneapolis Veterans Home Emergency Water Project, Richard Zierdt, Minnesota Veterans Home Board.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HF524 (Tunheim) Malt liquor importation permit required.

HF1307 (Dehler) Holders of multiple on-sale liquor licenses allowed to have uniform licensing periods. HF1179 (Winter) Petroleum tank upgrade assistance program established.

HF1503 (Luther) Pawn broker charges limited, and pledges or sales of property to pawnbrokers by persons under age 21 prohibited.

Bills may be added.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: HF698 (Rukavina) St. Louis County division vote provided.

HF758 (Long) State mandates on local units of government regulated.

HF1143 (Tunheim) County financial statement publication requirements modified.

HF1144 (Tunheim) County boards authorized to assign duties of auditor and treasurer.

HF1148 (Wolf) Scott County auditor, recorder, and treasurer appointment permitted.

HF1187 (Kubly) Buffalo Lake wastewater treatment facility construction contract bid requirements modified.

HF1391 (Long) Political subdivisions permitted to define dependent for employee benefit purposes.

HF1556 (Murphy) Municipal water sale maximum rate provided.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: HF1525 (Jennings) Electric utility service contract customer-specific terms provided.

HF1123 (Delmont) Telecommunication company slamming and loading prohibited, and penalties provided.

HF1374 (Stanek) Cellular 911 emergency call response provisions modified.

HF1551 (Delmont) Enhanced 911 service fee proceeds transferred.

Bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

4 p.m.

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: HF159 (Jennings) Welfare reform; human services and public assistance programs and eligibility requirements modified, and money appropriated.

5 p.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: To be announced.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: HF816 (Finseth) East Grand Forks tax increment financing district duration extended.

HF914 (Rostberg) Commercial property improvement property tax abatement allowed.

HF934 (Wejman) Neighborhood revitalization program provisions modified.

HF1108 (Bettermann) Douglas County tourism facility tax increment financing exemption provided.

HF1169 (Carlson) Brooklyn Center; Brookdale regional center redevelopment provided, and money appropriated.

HF1265 (Swenson, H.) Gaylord tax increment financing district enlargement and duration extension authorized.

HF1330 (Koskinen) Coon Rapids economic development authority tax increment financing district duration extension provided.

HF1469 (Rukavina) White tax increment financing district duration extension and expansion provided.

HF1480 (Anderson, B.) Buffalo tax increment financing district duration extended.

HF1546 (Jefferson) Minneapolis housing transition tax increment financing district established.

HF1655 (Workman) Chanhassen housing tax increment district establishment authorized.

HF1663 (Bakk) Lake County redevelopment project area and tax increment financing district established.

HF1732 (Evans) New Brighton tax increment financing district establishment authorized.

HF1739 (Schumacher) Foley tax increment financing district revenue expenditure authorized outside of tax increment financing district.

HF1779 (Kahn) St. Paul and Minneapolis tax increment financing district establishment authorized.

6 p.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Continuation of 10 a.m. meeting agenda.

Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/ EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza
Agenda: HF820 (Dehler) Public school guidance and counseling services provided at nonpublic schools.
HF1231 (Ness) Students dismissed from school provided attendance options, and teacher liability provisions modified.
HF60 (Greiling) Hazing; civil cause of action provided against student organizations for damages relating to hazing.
HF1259 (Entenza) School districts restricted from beginning the school day prior to 8 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, March 26

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: To be announced.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Continuation of March 24 agenda.

**K-12 Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: To be announced.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF)
Division/TAXES**
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson
Agenda: HF339 (Rest) Property tax fiscal disparities determination provisions modified.
HF320 (Paymar) Property tax increase disclosure and vote required.
Bills may be added.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: HF1017 (Dawkins) Youth Community Service Program participant eligibility requirements modified, and money appropriated.
HF1137 (Lieder) Red River Basin Board water management planning grant provided, and money appropriated.
HF1173 (Lieder) Rydell National Wildlife Refuge access provided, and money appropriated.
HF1178 (Davids) Border-to-border state trail study provided, and money appropriated.
HF1524 (Seifert) Marshall flood control project funded, and money appropriated.
HF1619 (Jennings) Chisago and Washington

counties joint ditch No. 1 abandonment authorized, and money appropriated.
HF325 (Johnson, A.) Fridley; Locke Lake Dam construction loan canceled and forgiven.
HF1142 (Tunheim) Thief Lake wildlife management area interpretive display construction provided, and money appropriated.
HF1040 (Mariani) Mississippi River vegetation restoration provided, and money appropriated.
HF718 (Folliard) Conservation corps youth corps advisory committee provisions modified.
HF1354 (Peterson) State park trail accessibility survey provided, and money appropriated.
HF1418 (Peterson) State trail accessibility survey provided, and money appropriated.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: HF544 (Kahn) University of Minnesota steam plant relocation away from the Mississippi river funding provided, and money appropriated.
HFXXXX (Hausman) Omnibus land sales bill.
HFXXXX (Munger) Land sale provisions.
HFXXXX (Hausman) Environmental compatibility for utility power plants.
HF1692 (Munger) Earth Day; Congress memorialized to recognize Earth Day as a national day of service and education.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson
Agenda: HF630 (Rukavina) Self-insured employee benefit plan dissolution notification required.
HF1060 (Smith) Homeowner insurance policy nonrenewal provisions modified.
HF406 (Peterson) Snowmobile registration fees modified, liability insurance and safety education required, and criminal penalty provided.
HF959 (Anderson, I.) Health care policy rates regulated.
HF1005 (Tomassoni) Minnesota insurance guaranty act state law conformance provided with the post-assessment property and liability insurance guaranty association model act of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.
HF1605 (Davids) Minnesota Comprehensive Health Insurance Association coverage eligibility provisions modified.
HF1637 (Anderson, I.) Arson task force insurance-related recommendations adopted.
HF666 (Anderson, I.) Insurance company fraud, misrepresentation, or deceptive practice relief provided.
HF405 (Rhodes) Insurance; Congress memorialized to pass legislation requiring insurance sales state law compliance.
HF109 (Haas) Minnesota employees insurance program terminated, transition provisions specified, and money appropriated.
Continuation of March 20 agenda.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: HF1460 (McGuire) Government data classification and access provided.
HF1038 (Goodno) Employee wage protection act adopted, wage protection account established, and money appropriated.
HF1004 (Entenza) DWI; alcohol presence determination test requirements modified, implied consent hearing process modified, accident injury reports required, and penalties provided.
HF509 (Murphy) Deadly force use against a peace officer provided mandatory minimum sentence.

HF98 (Stanek) Public safety department aircraft use authorized for general law enforcement purposes.
HF147 (Weaver) Juvenile crime data release authorized to crime victims, terroristic threat, crime offender, child custody or visitation right provisions modified, and crime victim notification required when sentence modification occurs.
HF196 (Bishop) Crime victim reparation provisions expanded, and peace officer records of children release authorized.
HF954 (Swenson, D.) Corrections ombudsman jurisdiction clarified and extended.
HF619 (Weaver) Court ordered restitution payment required prior to fine payment upon conviction.
HF674 (Kraus) Government entities included as victims for the purpose of restitution orders, and criminal penalties provided.
HF28 (Skoglund) Interference with privacy in the presence of a minor under age 16 crime penalties increased.
HF163 (Skoglund) Criminal gang council and strike force established, grants authorized, and money appropriated.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Budget hearing; Amateur Sports Commission. Bills may be added.

12 Noon

The House meets in session.

After Session

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Continuation of 10 a.m. meeting agenda.

12:30 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins
Agenda: To be announced.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros
Agenda: HF1523 (Jaros) International affairs office established, and money appropriated.
HF1785 (Jaros) Economic security department required to administer housing and food assistance programs.
HF827 (Tomassoni) University of Minnesota grape and wine research center established, and money appropriated.
HF1642 (Dawkins) Enterprise zone inclusion qualification requirements modified.
HFXXXX (Anderson, I.) Designating Koochiching County as an enterprise zone.
Bills may be added.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: HF1406 (Seagren) Adults with disabilities program aid provided, and money appropriated.
HF1667 (Luther) Adults with disabilities basic education program established, and money appropriated.
HF1485 (Solberg) Itasca County Greenway

Readiness program for early childhood family education and early childhood special education appropriated money.
HF1492 (Jefferson) Adolescent parenting and prevention pilot program established, and money appropriated.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson
Agenda: Continuation of March 24 agenda.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: HF700 (Delmont) Lawful gambling gross profit expenditure provisions modified, Gambling Control Board rules modified, and paddleticket and bingo limits and restrictions modified.
HF613 (Pugh) Cribbage; card game tournaments permitted and maximum prize amount designated.
HF1310 (Carlson) Fire relief association gambling license renewal authorized.
HF1499 (Milbert) Lawful gambling gross receipt tax schedule modified.
Bills may be added.

6 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: To be announced.

THURSDAY, March 27

**The House will not meet in Session.
Committees will not meet.**

FRIDAY, March 28

**Holiday.
House offices will be closed.**

Continued from page 15

- **Penalties for no work** — For the first offense, the state would use a family's grant to directly pay off rent and utility bills. The state would then give the balance — minus a 25 percent penalty — to the family. On the second offense, the grant remaining after rent and utility bills are paid would be cut by 35 percent. No penalty would be assessed if a parent is not working because of a lack of available child care for a child under age 6.

- **Education limits** — In terms of schooling, the bill limits the amount of postsecondary education a person may receive while on MFIP. Under the current AFDC welfare program, some parents are allowed to attend college for four years while still receiving their monthly welfare check, child care, and health care services.

Generally, HF159 limits approved postsecondary or training programs to a year or less but does allow for up to two years if the diploma or degree can be shown to help the welfare parent earn a better income and he or she agrees to pay a portion of the money back.

- **Income limits** — The bill does set income limits on how much a family can earn on the job and still continue to receive a monthly MFIP check.

For a family of three, the bill sets a limit of \$1,253 a month. A family of three in the current pilot MFIP program, can earn up to \$1,554 a month before being cut off. Officials maintain the state couldn't afford the higher amount if the program goes statewide.

- **Penalties for counties** — Due to the new federal welfare law, states are under a great deal of pressure to move people off the welfare rolls and HF159 plans to share that

pressure with counties.

Beginning with fiscal year 1997, each state must show that 25 percent of families on welfare are working at least 20 hours per week. By fiscal year 2002, that jumps to 50 percent working at least 30 hours per week. There are cash penalties for states that do not meet the percentages.

Mirroring the federal law, the bill would penalize counties. Specifically, the bill would force counties to share in the federal penalty.

- **Extra babies** — To discourage women from giving birth to another child while on MFIP, the state would use the family's monthly grant to directly pay off rent and utilities first before giving the balance to the family.

- **New mom exemption** — Although most welfare recipients would be required to work, the bill does allow for certain exemptions such as mothers of babies under 12-weeks-old who choose to stay home to care for their child. The bill goes on to require those mothers to enroll in a parenting or early childhood development class while exempt from working.

- **Residency requirement** — The bill mandates a 30-day residency requirement to receive welfare and requires that, for the first year, families who move to Minnesota receive either the benefit amount they would have received in their previous state, or Minnesota's rate, whichever is less.

- **Welfare bans** — Anyone convicted of felony drug possession would be barred for five years from receiving welfare, under the bill. Parole violators and felons on the run would face a lifetime ban. Those convicted of fraudulently attempting to receive benefits in two or more states at one time would be barred for 10 years.

- **Kids with behavioral disorders** — The bill would make children with behavioral disorders who are cut off from the federal SSI program eligible for Minnesota's GA welfare program. GA, however, will not make up for the entire federal cut. These children averaged \$406 a month while on SSI and GA pays out about \$203 a month.

- **Drug addicts** — Likewise, the bill would make drug and alcohol addicts who are cut off from SSI eligible for GA as long as they are in treatment or on a waiting list. They averaged about \$470 a month while on SSI.

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

Where to find information

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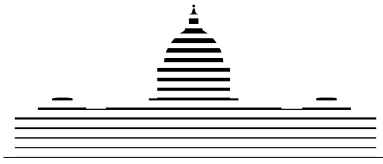
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MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota's children

Median income of Minnesota families with children, 1993	\$39,200
National average	\$35,800
Minnesota kids living in working poor families	7 in 10
Food shelves in Minnesota	305
Percent of clients served who are children	51
Minnesota kids who are skipping meals	1 in 4
Families with young children using food shelves	2 in 3
Families served by Minnesota's basic sliding fee	
child care program, per quarter, on average, FY1996	9,705
Children served	16,169
Percent of kids served by the program who are between 6 and 12 years old	45
Percent of kids served under age 1	10
Families on the waiting list for child care, 9/30/96	5,574
Percent of families receiving basic sliding fee child care drawing benefits	
for more than four years	7
Families drawing benefits for less than a year	1 in 3
Minnesota kids receiving Aid to Families	
with Dependent Children, 1993	125,267
Percent of those kids who are children of color	40
Percent of all Minnesota kids who are of color	8.5
Births to Minnesota teens, 1993	1,958
Percent of Minnesota kindergartners (1992-1993 school year) who	
had not received all appropriate immunizations by age 2	39.3
Percent of 7-12 grade students who dropped out of school,	
1993-1994 school year	3.4

Sources: *Kids Count Data Book 1996*; *State Profiles of Child Well-Being*, Children's Defense Fund; *Minnesota Kids: A Closer Look 1996*, Children's Defense Fund; Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning.

For more information

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