

SESSION WEEKLY

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Update

A traditional rite of spring is the annual convergence on the State Capitol by thousands of sixth-graders who come to visit Minnesota's seat of government. At a time long forgotten, some teacher thought the trek to see government in action was a worthy activity; the plan soon spread to schools across the state. Now, during the closing days of the legislative session, the descent upon the Capitol can be overwhelming for those who work in the building, but it's satisfying to know that a unique learning experience is in progress.

Some visiting sixth-graders were students from Plainview Elementary near Rochester, and schools in the towns of Amboy, Brainerd, Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Menahga, Osakis, and as far away as Blackduck. In April 1997, 16,183 lively grade schoolers arrived by the yellow busloads, while another 22,000 eager youth will visit by the end of May.

Upon arrival, the grade schoolers bound up the 40 majestic granite steps of the statehouse where they are greeted on the first level by one of the 21 spirited tour guides. These dedicated souls work for the Minnesota Historical Society and greatly enjoy showing off the state's crown jewel of all its buildings.

The rotunda in the center of the 434-foot long edifice is their first stop on the whirlwind 45-minute tour. Here visitors are shown the brass and glass *L' Etoile du Nord* (Star of the North) state symbol in the floor. Around the periphery are favorite relics for sixth-graders. These are the battle flags of past wars, including one carried by the Minnesota 1st Regiment at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. Looking up, the school children can see the magnificent six-foot tall crystal chandelier with 92 light bulbs hanging from the inner dome, over 110 feet above their heads. (See page 25.)

The guides then take the exuberant visitors to the bust of Cass Gilbert, the visionary architect who designed the building. The guides note that Gilbert's use of 22 types of marble and other stone, and his strong sense of perspective, symmetry, and decor produced an elaborate design of visual harmony surpassed by only a few buildings in the country.

Grade schoolers are led to and up a unique free-standing marble staircase designed by Gilbert. On the second level, or "grand floor," they view the House and Senate chambers and move on to the Supreme Court ceremonial chamber on the east wing where, in past years, the ghostly likeness of a long since deceased Supreme Court justice was often sighted!

Another quick side trip takes the group to the third level (see cover) past the painting of a man with six toes; they climb a long flight of hidden stairs; then walk outside to get a close-up view of the highlight of their trip — the Golden Horses — some 104 feet above street level.

Many sixth-graders may not return to this priceless piece of history but they will remember how the guides, the lawmakers, and staff they met talked about Cass Gilbert and the Minnesota State Capitol with praise and wonderment.

—LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: As the end of session approaches, it is difficult to tell whether people are coming or going. The Capitol becomes a blur of activity.

—photo by Laura Phillips

Highlights

Youth and tobacco . . .

Penalties target sales to minors, punish retailers

By F.J. Gallagher

Minnesota teenagers should smoke 'em if they've got 'em, because under legislation passed by the House May 15, it will be a lot harder for youth to buy cigarettes.

"The one missing element in our law so far has been the responsibility of the retailer," **HF117** sponsor Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) said of the bill, which passed 86-46. "The retailers have been noticeably absent."

HF117, Rest said, would bring the retailers into the regulatory fold. The bill would require communities to license tobacco sellers and conduct at least one compliance check, or "sting" operation, on each license holder every year. In a "sting," someone between the ages of 15 and 18 years old would attempt to purchase cigarettes illegally under the direct supervision of the authorities.

The bill also prohibits the sale of cigarettes from vending machines, except for those in locations — such as a bar — where people under 18 are not allowed. It also bans the open display of single packages of cigarettes or smokeless tobacco in stores, except for those that derive at least 90 percent of their revenue from tobacco sales.

Under **HF117**, cigarette manufacturers would be required to disclose whether their product contains ammonia, arsenic, cadmium, formaldehyde, or lead.

The bill also spells out a number of administrative penalties that would be imposed on licensees and store clerks convicted of selling tobacco products to a teenager, in addition to similar provisions that would apply to the minor who attempted the purchase.

Any license holder convicted of a first offense would draw a \$75 fine. A second offense within a two-year period would cost the retailer \$200 and the third offense within the same period would warrant a \$250 penalty, plus a seven-day suspension of the tobacco license.

The clerk who sold the tobacco would receive a \$50 civil fine. (Clerks already face up to a year in jail and a \$3,000 criminal penalty for selling tobacco to a minor.)



A bill targeting youth access to tobacco passed the House May 15. The proposal would require communities to license tobacco sellers and conduct at least one compliance check, or "sting" operation, on each license holder every year. It also would — for the first time — punish store owners for tobacco sales to minors. Clerks and the buyers would face new fines as well.

Any juvenile found to have illegally purchased tobacco — a petty misdemeanor under the law — could receive a fine of up to \$100, a community service sentence, probation, or be required to participate in substance abuse programs. If the minor used a driver's license to commit the act, the license would be suspended for 90 days.

The proposal explicitly states that local governments may pass ordinances that are more strict than **HF117**. The bill would require tobacco retailers affected by such a proposal to be notified 30 days prior to any meeting on the possible changes.

Last session, a bill to limit youth access to tobacco was derailed by the same issue. After the House rejected a provision that would have prohibited local units of government from enacting tobacco sales ordinances tougher than those contained in the bill, it was pulled by its author and never resurfaced. So-called "pre-emption" laws of varying strengths already are on the books in more than two dozen states.

Although the **HF117** ultimately passed, its

approval was by no means a certainty. Many members rose to speak against the bill.

"How many people are we going to turn into criminals over a lousy cigarette?" asked Rep. Mike Osskopp (R- Lake City).

Indeed, **HF117** narrowly avoided being sent back to the conference committee that generated the version accepted by the House. A motion to reject the committee's report knotted the House on a 66-66 vote, and the measure failed.

The Senate must now adopt the conference committee's report, before the bill can be sent to Gov. Arne Carlson to be signed into law or vetoed.

Gubernatorial spokesman Brian Dietz said Carlson has not yet taken a position on the bill.

Look for a preliminary wrap up of the 1997 session in next week's issue of Session Weekly.



DWI

DWI bill clears House

House members voted May 12 in favor of a bill intended to save lives by getting tougher on alcohol-impaired drivers. The bill passed 98-35.

Sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), the most contested provision in **HF1004/SF985*** would lower the legal alcohol limit from the current 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent.

"We know we'll reduce the number of people in Minnesota who will die from drunk drivers," said Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake), adding that states that have lowered the limit have reduced alcohol-related traffic fatalities by 16 percent. He said that medical evidence shows many driving-related skills are affected at 0.08 percent, including steering, braking, and speed control.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (R-Virginia) said the bill will render otherwise lawabiding people criminals and cost the state large sums to arrest and prosecute drivers. "Quit doing bad things to good people," he said.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) said that the bill was "overkill" and offered an amendment to apply the 0.08 percent limit to repeat offenders only.

Entenza said that drivers who cause alcohol-related fatalities are overwhelmingly first-time offenders. Bishop's amendment failed on a 68-65 vote.

The bill's other major provisions would increase penalties for drunken driving, increase restrictions on teen drinking and driving, apply drunken driving restrictions to boats, increase the use of electronic alcohol monitoring for violators, and increase fines and penalties for driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.20 percent or higher.

As presented on the floor, the bill would have applied a 0.04 percent blood alcohol level to drivers under 21 years old. Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) successfully offered an amendment that would apply the 0.04 provision to 16-18 year olds only. While state law prohibits alcohol consumption by people under 21, the provision will lower the threshold at which DWI penalties will apply to young drivers.

The House also removed a provision that would have limited a suspect's right to request additional testing to determine blood alcohol content.

Last year in Minnesota police made 38,900 DWI arrests, a significant jump from the year before, when 33,355 arrests were made,

according to Alan Rodgers of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

A House Research Department report states that based on studies of other states, the lower level could save about 14 lives every year in Minnesota and about \$6.3 million in associated social costs.

If the bill becomes law, Minnesota will join 10 other states and nine countries with 0.08 limits. Seven countries set the limit at below 0.08.

The House research report states that the new limit would mean that a 175-pound man could drink three drinks per hour within the legal limit; the fourth would exceed it. A 130-pound woman could drink two drinks, but would reach a blood alcohol level of 0.077, bringing her closer to the limit than a man would be at three drinks.

Other factors will make a difference, such as the amount of food people eat and how quickly they drink.

Other provisions would apply a "not a drop" standard to school bus drivers, who would risk permanent job disqualification if found to have any alcohol in the blood stream while driving a bus. Current law sets the limit at 0.04 percent.

Further, the cost to have a driver's license reinstated after a suspension or revocation for any traffic offense would be increased from \$20 to \$25.25. For people convicted of DWI, the current \$260 fee would remain the same.

The bill will be heard next in a conference committee.



ELECTIONS

Pillows talk at the polls

People in some areas of Minnesota might want to carefully plan which room of the house should be the master bedroom. The decision could determine the location of their polling place.

According to a bill passed by the House May 6, if an individual's home lies in more than one precinct, the "official" one would be "the precinct in which a majority of the room in which the individual usually sleeps is located."

The provision has become necessary as more housing developments are being built on agricultural land which also serves to mark school district boundaries, according to Joe Mansky, director of the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State. No figures are available to determine the

number of people the provision would affect.

The bill (**HF127/SF72***), sponsored in the House by Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins), passed on a 123-8 vote.

In addition to many technical changes, the bill would require courts to provide the secretary of state's office with the names of convicted felons (who are ineligible to vote), and of those whose voting rights have been restored after having served sentences for felony crimes. The state currently has no record-keeping capacity to keep track of such convicts.

The bill also provides that all candidates for county sheriff must be licensed peace officers. Under current law, candidates are obligated only to complete basic police training courses before serving or running.

The bill now goes to the governor.

Caucuses: lowering the age

Many laws directly affect the lives of minors, but only people 18 and older have a say in their making.

HF703/SF1170*, sponsored by Rep. Andy Dawkins, (DFL-St. Paul) would open part of the elections process to 17-year-olds. The bill passed the House May 14 on a 68-64 vote.

Under the proposal, anyone who is 17 years old at the time of precinct caucuses could participate as a delegate or voter. The bill stipulates that the young people must be enrolled in school at the time of the caucus and live within the precinct. "This is a baby step toward voting," Dawkins said. "We're not going to open the general elections to 17-year-olds."

The change would be at the option of the local political party organizing the caucus. "The bill doesn't make it mandatory, but permits each local unit of government to choose whether it wants to open the caucus" to certain minors, he said. "The best reason I can give for the bill is that we really need to have a cross-generational dialogue about the democratic process."

Dawkins said the measure is a way to encourage and nurture the interest of young people in the political process.

The bill now returns to the Senate.

Need to find out who represents you at the Capitol?

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Public Information Office at
(612) 296-2146

Campaign limits

The House passed a bill May 13 that would add to and clarify limits on campaign contributions. The vote was 128-3.

In addition to existing law which prohibits candidates from collecting more than \$300 in contributions from any one source during an election year, the new language adds that a candidate's committee is under the same prohibition. (For candidates whose territory has more than 100,000 people, the limit is \$500.) Previous law did not specify that committees were subject to the limits. The change is intended to control the influence of special interests on elected public officials.

In floor action, the bill was amended to add that legislators who are running for other offices, whether local or federal, may not solicit or accept contributions from lobbyists during a regular session of the Legislature.

HF1463/SF1255*, sponsored in the House by Rep. Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington), is now headed for conference committee debate.

Keeping track of voters

Under a bill passed by the House May 14, the U.S. Postal Service will provide the Office of the Secretary of State with the names of people who file permanent change of address orders. The secretary of state's office and county auditors will use the data to keep their records current and to accurately direct voters to polling places.

About once a month the postal service would provide the secretary of state's office with the lists. The office would provide the information to county auditors, who would send registered voters the location of their new polling places.

The intent of the bill is to improve record-keeping as well as to encourage voting.

About 25,000 Minnesotans change residences each year. At present, the secretary of state's office has no way of tracking them.

HF294/SF73*, sponsored by Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins), now heads back to the Senate.



ENERGY

Biomass and wind power

A bill passed by the House May 14 would remove a hurdle that energy-producing facilities normally face before they can start doing business. The vote was 111-20.

The facilities in this case are wind and biomass plants. **HF1508/SF1328***, sponsored by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls), would remove the requirement that the plant owners obtain costly and time-consuming certificates of need — proof that the state needs the facility — before they can be built. The certificate process usually takes 18 months to three years.

According to Rep. Loren Jennings, (DFL-Harris), not only does the state want to encourage the wind and biomass energy industry, it has mandated that a major en-

ergy buyer in the state, Northern States Power Co. (NSP), purchase a specified amount of energy from those sources. That means without the new provision, the state would be requiring a certificate of need from the same business the state already has mandated that NSP buy from.

The bill also gives the Public Utilities Commission regulatory authority over the biomass and wind energy purchases made by a utility company.

Lastly, the bill requires the Department of Agriculture to study funding mechanisms to make biomass energy projects more viable. The study would look at tax exempt bonds, public and private financing, the development of an authority to facilitate investment, and credit payments, according to the bill.

As initially introduced by Kubly, the bill would have gone much further. The state would have helped fund the Minnesota Agri-Power project, a public/private partnership which Kubly said would have been the largest biomass energy project in the world. The project would have created a 75-megawatt energy-generating plant in Granite Falls, Minn. The energy would have been produced by burning alfalfa stems and other biomass products to create a gas for fuel. Those provisions failed in committee.

The bill now awaits the governor's signature.



ENVIRONMENT

Lottery environment funding

The bill extending the state lottery's revenue dedication to the Environmental Trust Fund now moves to the House floor following its May 15 approval by the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

HF113, sponsored by Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), would extend the dedication of 40 percent of net lottery proceeds to the trust fund for environmental projects until the year 2020. Under the Minnesota Constitution, that dedication is set to expire in 2000. The bill also would allow up to 25 percent of the annual revenues deposited in the fund to be used for land acquisition and development until 2020.

According to a report from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), the lottery has contributed \$149 million to the Environmental Trust Fund since it began in 1991. The fund is currently worth about \$140 million. The LCMR projects it will reach \$1 billion in assets by

Weaving master



Looking down from the second floor of the Capitol rotunda, master weaver Bounxou Chanthraphone, of Minneapolis, talked with visitors as she worked at her loom May 9 during Asian Heritage Month Day on the Hill.

2016. To date, the trust fund has contributed approximately \$60.5 million to 87 environmental projects. Forty more projects are proposed for 1998-99, which would increase total trust fund expenditures to about \$81 million.

HF113 has had a long and torturous road through the legislative process this year. Changes made to the original bill led Munger to withdraw the proposal on two occasions, stalling its progress for weeks. When the bill reached the House Ways and Means Committee last week, House Minority Leader Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) introduced an amendment guaranteeing citizens "the privilege to take game and fish."

Like the Munger bill, the Sviggum proposal would be a constitutional amendment requiring voter approval.

Questioned about what problem his amendment would solve, Sviggum indicated that while hunting and fishing, some sports enthusiasts have been accosted by animal rights activists seeking to interfere with these activities. Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) added that trapping rights had been restricted by law in recent years.

The Sviggum amendment was approved by the Ways and Means Committee May 14 but was removed by the House rules committee the next day.

Sviggum said he introduced his amendment because he had been unable to get a hearing on the issue in the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee, which Munger chairs. Munger promised May 15 to give the hunting and fishing rights proposal a hearing in his committee next year.

HF113 now goes to the house floor.



FAMILY

Early childhood funding

New laws requiring welfare parents to work are expected to move another 12,500 Minnesota children into day care over the next few years. To prepare for that onslaught, a bill awaiting the governor's signature sets aside a record \$200.4 million.

The measure also would pay some parents to stay at home with their newborns for the first year of life.

In all, the omnibus early childhood and family education bill (**HF2147*/SF1858**) would spend \$393.6 million over the state's 1998-1999 two-year budgeting period.

In addition to child care, the bill appropriates money for programs such as early child-

hood education, community education, after school programs, adult basic education, Head Start, food shelves, and homeless shelters.

Sponsored by Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) and Sen. Pat Piper (DFL-Austin), a compromise version of the bill passed the House May 12 by a vote of 123-10, and the Senate May 13 by a vote of 65-0.

Providing the dollars for child care is in the state's best interest, lawmakers say. Under a new federal welfare law, states are punished for not moving their welfare parents to work. Specifically, Minnesota could lose millions in federal aid. Logically, if Minnesota expects its welfare parents to work, child care assistance is essential.

Part of the \$200.4 million for child care — \$99 million — would pay for the child care needs of welfare parents now required to work under federal law.

About \$92.5 million would be placed into an existing program that helps low- and moderate-income working families pay for child care using an income-based, sliding-fee scale. There are currently about 5,600 Minnesota families on a waiting list for the Basic Sliding Fee program. The money in the bill is expected to eliminate most, if not all, of the waiting list.

The Basic Sliding Fee program has become a vital part of the state's effort to trim its welfare rolls. Without the program, the cost of child care can often push a working-poor family onto welfare.

A portion of the money set aside for the Basic Sliding Fee program would pay for a provision that encourages stay-at-home parenting for some working-poor families. In effect, it would pay parents on the Basic Sliding Fee child care program to stay at home with their child for the first year of life.

Eligible families already would have had to qualify for the Basic Sliding Fee program. They'd receive 75 percent of the average cost of licensed family home day care for an infant in their county. The bill instructs the Department of Children, Families and Learning to begin the program by July 1, 1998.

Another \$7.7 million in the bill would go toward child care development grants and would be spent to encourage more people to enter the child care profession by offering forgivable loans for course work and training. A portion of the money also would be used to expand child care facilities.

And finally, the remaining \$1 million would be used to administer the programs.

Below is a listing of some of the bill's highlights.

- A mandatory \$5 monthly co-payment for

families using state-subsidized child care. Families with incomes between 75 and 100 percent of the federal poverty level would be required to make a \$5 co-payment each month, regardless of how many children they have. For a family of two, 75 percent of the poverty level equals \$7,957 and 100 percent equals \$10,610. The co-payments would increase based on income for families earning more than 100 percent of the poverty level.

- \$29.7 million over the two-year budgeting period would pay for a program that bring babies and toddlers together with their parents to learn about a child's emotional, physical, mental, and educational development. The Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program is a 23-year-old program designed for children from birth to kindergarten and their parents.
- \$2 million for a newly created early childhood infant grant development program. It would provide money to local ECFE programs that come up with creative ways to focus on infant development and a parent's role in stimulating and nurturing their infant's intellectual and emotional development.
- \$9.8 million would pay for after-school enrichment programs. Grants are provided to select neighborhoods so they may offer after-school programs for 9- to 13-year-olds. The program's purpose is to reduce juvenile crime, school suspensions, and increase student achievement.
- \$37.5 million would pay for Head Start. Head Start is a federal/state program that provides low-income preschool children with emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological services.
- \$25 million would pay for adult basic education over the biennium. The program provides educational opportunities for adults with low educational levels. Services include literacy training, work force education, and General Educational Development (GED) preparation.
- \$2.5 million would pay for Minnesota food shelves. The increase is in anticipation of an even greater demand on food shelves this spring when many of Minnesota's poor will see a cut in their federal food stamps.

Send e-mail comments
regarding *Session Weekly* to:
session@house.leg.state.mn.us

We thank you for your input.

The editors



GAMBLING

All in good fun

The House passed a bill May 12 that would let social organizations continue to host card games and distribute prizes without being subject to gambling restrictions. The vote was 119-12.

HF613/SF566*, sponsored by Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul), would allow tournaments or contests involving social skill games — including cribbage, skat, sheephead, bridge, euchre, pinochle, gin, 500, smear, and whist — as long as the events do not provide direct financial benefit to the host organization, and the sum of all prizes does not exceed \$200. The games in question are generally held at VFW posts, American Legion halls, Moose and Elk lodges, Knights of Columbus halls, and senior citizen centers. Often, a fee is charged for participation in the games, and the winner or winners in the games may win part of the door fee.

“As we’ve developed statutes and laws to prohibit illegal gambling, we’ve inadvertently wiped out social card games,” said Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington), who chaired the Subcommittee on Gambling of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee. He said the committee’s task was to formulate a bill that would allow the games to continue without expanding gambling law.

Another provision would increase by 5 percent the amount that organizations that host legal gambling, such as bingo, can claim as expenses. Current law says that 60 percent of the gross profits from bingo and 50 percent from other legal gambling can be claimed for expenses. The bill would raise the amounts to 65 percent and 55 percent, respectively.

Lastly, the bill would ease up on owners of premises where illegal gambling has taken place. Before the owner’s permit could be revoked, the Gambling Control Board would have to prove that the owner knew the unlawful activity was going on.

The bill now awaits the governor’s signature.



GOVERNMENT

Flood aid

A new state law, effective May 7, provides \$21 million in relief for victims of the flooding throughout Minnesota, but most lawmakers agree the state eventually will have to do more.

The law will draw funds from the state’s \$522 million budget reserve for flood relief

Peace Officer Day



Ann Woods, of Minnesota Pipes and Drums May 15 played a bagpipe procession with members of the Minnesota Law Enforcement Honor Guard to open the House floor session and honor peace officers killed or wounded in the line of duty.

and will temporarily lift some bureaucratic regulations to ease relief efforts. Gov. Arne Carlson signed the measure May 6.

Under the law, \$20 million goes to the Department of Public Safety for distribution to counties, cities, and towns affected by the flood. The money can be used for costs associated with flooding, including their use as matching funds to receive federal emergency relief aid.

Another \$1 million is earmarked to help state agencies deal with expenses related to flood relief efforts.

A variety of state agency rules and fees will be waived to speed flood relief efforts. The bill also will provide an adjustment in state aid to help school districts affected by the flood.

It’s still unclear what the total price tag will be to clean up and repair the many homes, businesses, and schools damaged by the disastrous flooding this spring along the Minnesota and Red rivers.

Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison) and Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) sponsored the \$21 million flood

relief measure in the Legislature. (See May 2, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 11)

HF2129/SF1894*/CH105



HEALTH

MinnesotaCare money cut

Although a bill moving through the House would expand the number of people eligible for MinnesotaCare, a state-subsidized health insurance program for the poor, it may be an increase in theory only.

The House May 2 cut MinnesotaCare’s funding in half. The vote was 125-6.

Under the bill (**HF1441/SF1208***), the 2 percent tax on hospitals, doctors, and other health care providers used to pay for MinnesotaCare would be cut to 1 percent.

That cut, according to bill sponsor Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), would cause MinnesotaCare to be “deeply in the red” in four years. His proposal would have cut the tax to 1.5 percent.

At 1.5 percent, Greenfield said, doctors and hospitals see a tax break, and there is still enough money left over to welcome more people into the program. There’s even enough to create new prescription drug coverage for low-income seniors who need help with medication costs and earn less than \$9,468 per year (or 120 percent of the federal poverty level).

As the bill now stands, he said, there’s not enough money — not enough to welcome more poor people, not enough for senior drug coverage, and possibly not enough for those currently on MinnesotaCare. It is estimated that MinnesotaCare would have an \$89 million deficit by 2001 if current enrollment is not cut.

Greenfield said he hopes to restore some of the cut when the bill goes to a conference committee to work out differences between the House and Senate versions. The Senate bill would cut the tax to 1.75 percent.

Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth) sponsored the amendment to cut the tax to 1 percent and said that talk of impending drastic cuts to the program was simply untrue.

A separate amendment by Rep. Kevin Knight (R-Bloomington) eliminated dentists from the list of health care providers required to pay the MinnesotaCare tax. Based on a 1 percent tax, that would slash about \$30 million by 2001 from the program.

MinnesotaCare is a state-subsidized insurance plan created in 1992 to extend health insurance coverage to the uninsured. The program serves about 97,000 people who pay premiums based on income and co-

payments for some services. Currently, (depending on their income), single people, couples without children, and families with children younger than 21 are covered.

Specifically, **HF1441/SF1208*** would affect single people and couples without children. It would increase the annual income limits of those two groups to 175 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$13,807 for single people and \$18,567 for couples without children. The current income limit is 135 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$10,651 and \$14,323, respectively. An additional 12,000 people are expected to join MinnesotaCare as a result of the expanded eligibility.

But at the same time MinnesotaCare would welcome more poor people, it also would set an asset limit on new applicants. The program would be limited to families with less than \$30,000 in assets and individuals with less than \$15,000 in assets. The asset test would exclude a home and personal items and is expected to eliminate some 4,000 to 5,000 people from the program.



LABOR

Minimum wage hike

By a vote of 90-43, the House passed legislation May 14 that would raise the pay of Minnesota's minimum-wage workers.

Under **HF892**, the minimum wage for employees of large businesses (those with annual gross sales in excess of \$500,000) would rise to \$5.15 per hour. Workers at smaller companies would have to be paid at least \$4.90 per hour. The bill would take effect Sept. 1.

Currently in Minnesota, there are three separate minimum wage levels. Businesses with more than \$362,500 in annual sales must pay their workers at least \$4.25 an hour, while companies with lesser sales must pay a minimum of \$4 per hour. A federally mandated \$5-per-hour minimum wage affects only those businesses with annual gross sales in excess of \$500,000. The federal level will increase to \$5.15 on Sept. 1.

"The fact of the matter is," Rukavina said of **HF892**, "this will bring an increase in wages to a number of Minnesotans."

Several members who argued against **HF892** pointed out that Gov. Arne Carlson will most likely veto the bill because it does not contain a tip credit that would allow employers to count a portion of an employee's gratuities toward the minimum wage. Moreover, said Rep. Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), **HF892** lacks a so-called "opportunity wage."

Intellectual athletes



House members acknowledged the accomplishments of the Bloomington Jefferson High School State Academic Decathlon Champions after they were introduced by Rep. Alice Seagren May 14. Team members include seniors (left to right) Christine Chamberlain, Nick Stukas, Melitta George, Carrie Alme, David Prestwood, Joshua Dorothy and Coach Adviser Keith Levinsk. Team members not present include Mike Mondelli, Dan Buechler and Nathan Morales. The team placed 17th in the nation in an academic competition in St. George, Utah.

With an "opportunity wage," employers could pay a worker under 20 years of age \$4.25 an hour for the first 90 days on the job.

HF892 heads now to the governor's desk.

The governor vetoed a minimum wage increase in 1994 and in 1996. The bill never made it to the governor's desk in 1995.

Government worker protection



A bill detailing the rights of employees when local governments consolidate and must issue layoffs was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson May 9.

The bill would have allowed displaced local government employees to remain with their original employer if the employees had seniority rights under a union contract. It also would have required that new service providers hire — in order of seniority — from those being laid off by the local government unit.

"This bill is nothing more than a state mandate dictating how local governments should handle labor relations," Carlson wrote in his veto message. "It mandates a series of personnel policies which should be left to the local management process or collective bargaining."

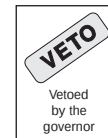
Carlson said the bill might have prevented the hiring of employees based on qualifications and forced local governments to hire more employees than needed. State micromanagement of public employee relations could threaten innovation and con-

solidation of services, Carlson said.

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids) and Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls).

HF1078/SF854*/CH116

Union sign-up recognition



A bill that would have allowed public sector employees to unionize without holding elections was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson May 9.

The bill would have required public sector employers to recognize and the commissioner of the state Department of Labor and Industry to certify an employees' union once the union had signed up 60 percent of the work force.

Current state law requires that workers select a union through a secret ballot election process.

In his veto message Carlson wrote that the bill would "irreparably harm the relationship between public employees and management."

He added that "the certification election process now in place ensures that public employees are guaranteed a fair procedure free of intimidation and coercion when deciding upon their right to organize. This bill would upset these existing safeguards."

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato).

HF1106/SF1693*/CH115



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Minneapolis construction



Gov. Arne Carlson struck down legislation May 13 that would have allowed Minneapolis to maintain its own licensing program for building contractors and remodelers through 2005.

The Legislature enacted a statewide licensing procedure for contractors in 1991 that supersedes the local requirements. The Minneapolis program is set to expire in 2000.

"Any advantages of a distinct licensure program by Minneapolis are greatly outweighed by the needless duplication inherent within such a parallel arrangement," Carlson wrote in a letter announcing his veto decision. "Moreover, a unique licensure program could give unfair advantage to a certain group of building contractors and remodelers."

Minneapolis officials, including Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, had testified before the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee that the state's licensing procedure did not provide adequate protection for residents, given the advanced age of much of the city's housing stock.

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls).

HF970/SF868*/CH146



RETIREMENT

Pension veto



A largely technical bill addressing the pensions of public employees from firefighters to pipefitters was vetoed May 13 by Gov. Arne Carlson.

Carlson agreed that most of the bill, which exceeds 100 pages, addressed "genuine needs and resolve[d] serious problems in the pension and retirement policy area." But he cited four specific trouble spots with the measure:

- First, the bill creates a problem by extending state pension coverage to seasonal employees of the Department of Revenue. Carlson said the move would cost the state \$91,000 annually, and the bill provides no funding;
- Second, it allows employees of the Minnesota Zoological Garden, the Lola and Rudy Perpich Center for Arts Education, and the state academies for the blind and deaf to

develop individual retirement account plans, rather than have their pensions controlled by the Minnesota State Retirement System. Carlson said the move would "destabilize the funding of defined benefit plans";

- Third, the bill moves certain control of appropriations relating to state police and fire aid from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Finance. Since the revenue department administers both programs, the appropriation authority should remain there, Carlson said.
- And finally, it allows a part-time teacher in Minneapolis to make a lump sum back payment to cover a period of time when no retirement contributions were made. While admitting the provision held no cost for the state, Carlson objected, saying it "could apply to many members and should be thoroughly examined before this policy is created."

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Steve Morse (DFL-Dakota).

HF1129/SF995*/CH139



TECHNOLOGY

Electronic signatures

The House brought Minnesota businesses one step closer to the digital age May 14, approving a bill that would give electronic signatures the full force of legal protection. The vote was 95-38.

"This is something that our banks and our insurance companies . . . and anybody who is going to compete worldwide . . . is going to need," Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) said of **HF56/SF173***, known as the Minnesota electronic authentication act.

HF56/SF173*, sponsored in the House by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) and modeled after a law set to take effect in Washington state in January 1998, allows for the full authentication of documents transmitted between computers. The process relies on a set of two cryptographic key codes built around one-of-a-kind mathematical formulas known as algorithms. One key, held privately by the user, encodes documents with a digital signature; the other is held in trust by a public certification authority and used by recipients to verify an encoded document's integrity.

The bill defines the rules of the digital authentication system and mandates that the secretary of state set up a transitional public certification authority until private

sector firms, which would be licensed and regulated by the secretary's office, can step in and take over the verification process. **HF56/SF173*** also spells out the range of liability assumed by the system's subscribers and provides penalties for acts of fraud.

Perhaps most importantly, Kahn said, the entire electronic signature system would remain voluntary. Businesses would not be required to participate. Moreover, the state would not assume any financial burden because the cost of doing business would be assumed by the private sector firms — who could set whatever price the market could bear — when they take over as certification authorities.

Kahn estimated that July 1998 would be the earliest the system could go on-line.

House members, though, did not approve the bill without questioning the degree of security provided by the encryption codes.

"With all the hackers we have out there, I'm a little concerned" about the increased potential for fraud, said Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland).

It seems, she continued, that every time a bold, new technological innovation comes along, some ne'er-do-well rises to the challenge and finds a way to beat the system.

Other representatives felt the bill linked the process to technology that may be state-of-the-art today, but obsolete a couple of years from now.

"Couldn't we just wait and not jump too quickly?" asked Rep. Jim Rostberg (R-Isanti), adding that perhaps a study of the issue might be more prudent.

Both concerns, Kahn said, would be addressed by the private sector firms as they keep abreast of the developing technology.

HF56/SF173* awaits Gov. Arne Carlson's signature.



TRANSPORTATION

Transportation bill passes

The omnibus transportation finance bill was given final approval by the House May 13. The vote was 100-30.

The bill (**SF1881**), which appropriates \$3 billion in state dollars for roads, bridges, transit, aviation, and public safety over the next two years, now goes to the governor.

Funding for 29 additional state troopers was taken out in conference and is missing from the final bill. Gov. Arne Carlson had requested additional troopers in his transportation budget proposal. (Carlson refused to enact a proposed speed limit increase last

year because funding for new troopers was missing.)

Also gone is a repeal of state authority to build toll roads. The Legislature created the toll road authority only four years ago as a possible means to pay for the ever-rising cost of highway construction, but has yet to use it. Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), had wanted to remove the state's toll road authority out of concern that Highway 212 in his district would be converted to a pay-to-drive road.

A provision requiring that freeway motorists use the left lane only for passing was also removed in conference.

(See April 18, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 15 and April 25, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 15.)

Transit

The Metropolitan Council, which runs the metropolitan area's public transportation system, would receive \$100.7 million. Of that money, \$2 million would go to help people leaving welfare obtain work-related transportation, and \$34.6 million would go to Metro Mobility, which provides rides to approximately 25,000 metropolitan-area people with disabilities. The bill also requires a study of coordinating public transit and school transportation in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

A total of \$27 million would go to assist transit programs in Greater Minnesota. An additional \$925,000 is appropriated to help economically disadvantaged people outside the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area with work-related transportation.

Road and bridge construction

State road construction projects would receive \$1.6 billion for the next two years. Local roads would get \$841.6 million in state aid.

Public safety

The bill calls for \$102.9 million in spending for the Minnesota State Patrol. (The governor refused to enact a speed limit increase called for by lawmakers in 1996 because funding for new troopers was missing.)

Also included is \$2.1 million for computer-aided dispatching and records management, and \$1.7 million to install video cameras in state patrol vehicles. Another \$69.5 million would go to the department's Driver and Vehicle Services Division over the next biennium. Also, \$2.6 million would go to the Department of Public Safety and the Minnesota Safety Council for various public safety programs.

Aviation

The bill appropriates \$36.3 million for air transportation programs, including \$26 million for airport development and assistance. Other funds support the Civil Air Patrol and provide general support for aviation in the state.

Railroads and waterways

A total of \$3.9 million would go to fund rail and water transportation. This includes a \$1 million study to look at using existing freight railroad corridors for a commuter rail service in the metropolitan area.

New Laws

Statewide testing



Gov. Arne Carlson signed legislation into law May 12 that will require uniform, statewide testing of virtually all Minnesota public school students.

The new law, effective May 13, will require uniform statewide testing of third-, fifth-, and eighth-graders beginning in the 1997-1998 school year and a new brand of assessment of students at the high school level beginning no later than the 1999-2000 school year.

Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), who sponsored the measure in the House, said the tests will be an integral part of the state's move toward an education system that demands schools and students be more accountable for taxpayer funds invested in education.

Statewide testing had been a controversial issue at the Capitol in years past, but this year it drew bipartisan support. Proponents claim such testing would provide a reliable means for comparing the performance of schools and districts.

The first law passed during the 1997 session (**HF1*/SF3/CH1**) mandated that statewide testing would begin during the 1997-1998 school year. The latest statewide testing law prescribes how that testing system will work.

Under the law, the basic skills tests in reading and math — already required under the state's graduation rule and first given to students in the eighth grade — will count as the statewide tests for that age group.

Third- and fifth graders will be given tests selected by the Department of Children, Families and Learning. The department can

use a test it has developed or a nationally recognized test such as the California Achievement Test or the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. Any test used in the statewide testing system will have to be aligned with the state's graduation standards.

The new law also asks districts to assess the performance of students at the secondary level according to the standards within the Profile of Learning, a state-developed system of measurements of overall student performance, and a part of the newly developed graduation standards.

The law calls for the assessment of secondary students to begin during the 1999-2000 school year, but it leaves the choice of testing instruments and processes to the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

The commissioner is required to report to the Legislature in 1998 on plans for assessment at the high school level.

The law allows only narrow exceptions to the statewide testing requirements. For example, students who are new to this country and are not proficient in English will be exempt.

Another provision in the law requires that the 1997-1998 test results from each school and each district be used to establish a baseline against which their future performance could be measured.

Test results will be reported to the public in three forms: a raw number representing the mean score for each school and district, a mean score of all students except those who are new to a school or district, and a mean score of all students except those receiving limited English proficiency instruction.

The results released to the public also will include the number of students on free and reduced-price lunch programs, the number of special education students, and the number of students with limited English proficiency at each site.

Sen. Larry Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2179*/SF1934/CH138

Helping dairy farmers



Gov. Arne Carlson signed a resolution April 21 asking the federal government to provide relief for Minnesota dairy farmers who are currently feeling a financial squeeze.

The resolution — to be sent to Congress, the president, and the Department of Agriculture — asks for changes in the federal milk pricing system.

Minnesota dairy farmers have seen a significant drop in the prices they get for their products, while the state's consumers continue to pay exceptionally high retail prices for milk.

Low prices paid to farmers are driving them out of the dairy business, according to supporters of the resolution. The state is losing an average of three dairy operations a day.

Currently, the Minnesota dairy industry generates \$3.5 billion in annual gross revenue and employs about 39,000 people.

The resolution calls for an end to a pricing system that is "profoundly unfair and discriminatory against Minnesota and Upper Midwest dairy producers."

It also requests that Minnesota and neighboring states be allowed to form a compact to guarantee dairy farmers a fair minimum price if a similar compact already formed by northeastern states is allowed to stand.

The resolution was sponsored by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples).

HF1067*/SF1283/Res. 2

Stop luring businesses



Gov. Arne Carlson signed a resolution April 26 asking the federal government to put a stop to practices that allow states to lure businesses, including professional sports franchises, away from other

states.

The resolution states that business incentive programs have resulted in counterproductive economic competition between states that saps the nation's readiness to compete in a global economy.

Ranking high among the list of concerns included in the resolution is the practice of using public resources to lure professional sports teams away from other states. Major League Baseball's exemption from federal anti-trust laws is another.

"States in aggregate would be better off providing a less burdensome tax climate for all businesses and a quality education system" rather than frittering away money to attract individual companies, the resolution states.

The resolution calls for Congress to repeal the anti-trust exemption for professional baseball and to take other steps to mitigate economic competition between states.

The resolution will be sent to members of Minnesota's congressional delegation and other officials in Congress. Also, it will go to governors and legislative leaders in each state.

Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud) and Sen. Arlene Lesewski (R-Marshall) sponsored the resolution.

HF538*/SF1239/Res. 1

Earth Day



Gov. Arne Carlson signed a resolution April 29 asking the U.S. Congress to recognize Earth Day as a national day of service and education.

The resolution, which also establishes Earth Day as a state day of service and education, requires the secretary of state to transmit the state's wishes to the president and leaders in Congress.

Earth Day, which falls on April 22, has been celebrated informally by environmentally concerned citizens since the spring of 1970, when environmental leaders staged a nationwide "teach-in."

The day is often marked with volunteer environmental cleanup efforts and public education programs. Earth Day has now gone international with programs planned in several countries.

Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) sponsored the resolution in the House and Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township) was the Senate sponsor.

HF1692/SF1342*/Res. 4

Strawberry fields



A resolution calling for better treatment of California strawberry workers has been signed by the governor.

Strawberry workers, represented by the United Farm Workers Union, are conducting a national campaign to call attention to their plight. The typical strawberry worker earns about \$8,500 per season for working as many as 12 hours a day, stooped over the low berry plants.

Despite record production levels and sales revenue of \$650 million per year in the strawberry industry, most workers have not had a significant raise in 10 years.

According to the resolution, workers also claim a variety of workplace abuses including: demand for sexual favors in exchange for employment; hiring and firing on whim; lack of fresh water and clean toilet facilities; and lack of health care in an occupation that exposes them to hazardous pesticides and chronic back injuries.

Strawberry workers who have struggled to

change these practices and organize a union have faced firing and blacklisting. Workers who have voted for union representation have seen the fields they work plowed under.

The resolution, which will be transmitted to President Bill Clinton and to the governor of California, puts the state on record along with a number of other states, consumer groups, environmental organizations, churches, labor organizations, and others in support of the strawberry workers cause.

Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-New Brighton) sponsored the resolution.

HF1877/SF1675*/Res. 3

Selling abandoned vehicles



Minneapolis and St. Paul police will be required to hold impounded vehicles for only 15 days before putting them on the auction block under a new state law.

Signed May 6 by Gov. Arne Carlson, the law will address a problem that leaves Minneapolis and St. Paul impound lots overflowing with cars abandoned by their owners.

Current state law requires a 45-day wait before an impounded vehicle can be sold. The new law will exempt Minneapolis and St. Paul from that law and set a 15-day limit for those cities.

The law requires local approval by the city councils in Minneapolis and St. Paul before it takes effect.

Supporters of the new measure said current law causes real problems in the cities, especially during winter months. A winter that brings heavy snowfall leads to a lot of parking violations and a lot of cars being towed from city streets to the impound lot.

In St. Paul, where the city impound lot holds 750 vehicles, space in the lot can run out quickly, according to St. Paul Police Deputy Chief Ted Brown.

Most people pay the fine and pick up their cars from the impound lot within a few days, but others would rather lose their vehicles than pay up, according to Brown. As a result, vehicles that — in effect — are abandoned must be allowed to take up valuable lot space for 45 days before they can be sold off.

Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the measure.

HF342/SF166*/CH108

Inside the courtroom . . .

Is the jury selection process fundamentally flawed?

By Celeste Riley

While the judicial process in the United States is patterned after that of England, when it comes to selecting juries for criminal trials the two systems are an ocean apart.

High-profile cases such as the O.J. Simpson and Oklahoma City bombing trials have heightened awareness of the sometimes exhaustive and time-consuming jury selection process. At the local level, tales of being dismissed for personal details — such as having friends who are police officers or having been the victim of a purse snatcher — are common. The selection process can take hours, days, or weeks.

In England, by contrast, once the first 12 jurors called from the jury pool are seated, the trial is likely to get under way “with little more fanfare than a bow by the lawyers and court officials to the judge as he takes his place on the bench,” according to E.C. Friesen and I.R. Scott in *English Criminal Justice*. Importantly, lawyers may not question the jurors. “The jury box is filled with twelve jurors drawn from the voters lists . . . The first juror is called, and before he is sworn, the counsel for the defence must object or be forever foreclosed,” the authors write. “The first twelve called without objection constitute the jury. The contrast with the analogous procedure in American courts is striking.”

Despite the differences, the court systems of both countries are known for high stan-



Picking a jury in American can take hours, days, or weeks. In England, by contrast, once the first 12 jurors called from the jury pool are seated, the trial is likely to get under way “with little more fanfare than a bow by the lawyers. . .”

tive merits of both systems. Their verdict? The American system of jury selection is superior and should stay the way it is.

“The American system is much more concerned with protecting the rights of the defendant and does a better job of making sure the jury members are free of prejudice. The emphasis in England is on speedy trials,” said Entenza, who was trained in England and worked in the legal system there. “When someone’s life and liberty are at stake, it’s

said. That scenario is more likely to happen in “celebrity” cases as a result of the intense scrutiny and the likelihood that jurors have prior knowledge of the case. He said in most courtrooms, the jury selection process is more expeditious.

“In 90 percent of my cases, jury selection is over within three hours. I don’t think that’s unreasonable to ensure fairness,” Weaver said. He said that once the preliminary winnowing process is complete, most of those remaining will wind up on the jury.

Still, does the more careful American process result in better juries? “In most cases, you probably could simply take the next 12 [in the jury pool — like in England] and get a fair and impartial verdict,” Weaver said. “But neither side wants people who are predisposed one way or the other. In America, dismissal because of bias is the exception, not the norm. At least the American system lets you weed out the neo-Nazis and other obviously prejudiced people.”

Yet Weaver agreed that some attorneys can take the process too far. Either side may overstate the importance of little things, like the last magazine a juror read or the messages on the bumper stickers on their cars. “I don’t think jurors should be eliminated because of [pre-trial] publicity. The question is whether or not they can be objective.”

“If you take the American system to the

“The key is to let the system work — not to manipulate it. It’s a dynamic system. It’s an amazing thing for me to watch when justice occurs. It works when everyone tells the truth and you can tell the jury, ‘Here it is. You decide.’”

—Rep. Jim Farrell

dards of fairness and impartiality. Both are also known, however, for sometimes rendering highly controversial verdicts. In the U.S., the outcome of the Simpson trial stands out. England has raised eyebrows for wrongly convicting and imprisoning Irish nationals for terrorism.

Reps. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka), Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), and Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul), each with extensive courtroom experience, recently discussed the rela-

worth it to go the extra mile. The courts here have a high standard for convictions beyond a reasonable doubt.”

“In England, you’re guilty until proven innocent. The burden is on the defense,” said Farrell, a former public defender who now works as a prosecutor.

But the public perception of a painstaking, time-consuming, yet arbitrary selection process that weeds out qualified jurors is skewed due to the high-profile cases, Weaver

extreme you could wind up with a bunch of imbeciles on the jury,” Entenza said. “If you avoid people who know anything about the case, you’re eliminating everyone who reads the newspapers.”

All agreed that it’s up to judges to control excesses. After the prosecution and defense have exercised their options to dismiss a certain number of jurors (five for the defense, three for the prosecution), the judge has final say on those who remain. “When [either side] starts asking jurors stupid questions—like, ‘What’s your favorite TV show?’—the judge should say, ‘Knock it off,’” Farrell said. “I’ve watched too many judges exercise either too much control or too little.”

No movement is afoot at the Legislature to reform the jury selection process, nor, according to the representatives, should there be. Any such effort would immediately raise issues regarding the constitutional separation of powers, Entenza pointed out. Yet, if the Legislature were to act, there are areas in which it could promote improvements. Weaver noted that the educational level of jurors is diminished when either side insists on jurors who know nothing about the case. The Legislature could enact measures to assure the inclusion of a wide variety of jurors, for instance.

“The key is to let the system work—not to manipulate it,” Farrell said. “It’s a dynamic system. It’s an amazing thing for me to watch when justice occurs. It works when everyone tells the truth and you can tell the jury, ‘Here it is. You decide.’” 

Would you prefer . . .

Hot water, cold water, hot iron, or loaded morsel?

Whether you prefer the expeditious English way of selecting jurors, or the ponderous American method, be glad you were not among those accused in parts of medieval Europe, where offenders were tried by *ordeal*, a forerunner of the jury system. According to Frederick G. Kempin, Jr., in his *Historical Introduction to Anglo-American Law*, there were four forms of ordeal: hot water (often called the “cauldron”), cold water, hot iron, and morsel.

“In the ordeal of cold water, the accused crouched, placed his arms beneath his knees, was bound around his knees and body by a rope, and let down into a pool. If the water received him and he sank he was innocent and was, it is to be hoped, immediately pulled out of the water.

“In the ordeal of the hot iron, the accused held a red-hot iron in his hand, its weight increasing with the severity of the crime, and carried it nine feet. The hand was then bandaged. If after three days the wound was clean, the accused was innocent.

“In the ordeal of the hot water, the water was heated to a high heat and the accused was required to plunge his arm into the cauldron and retrieve a stone suspended by a cord. The more severe the crime the deeper the stone was placed, from wrist to elbow depth.

“In the ordeal of the morsel the accused was required to try to swallow a morsel of bread or cheese, perhaps with a feather imbedded in it. If he could swallow, he was innocent, but if he gagged on it he was guilty. Evidence from early cases is said to indicate a preponderance of acquittals.”

Whether the defendant was subjected to burning, drowning, or choking depended on whether he was poor and unfree, a lay freeman, or clergy member.

Unfortunately, things got worse for the accused before they got better. In 1275, according to Kempin, authorities managed to turn a seemingly good idea—jury trials—into another burden for the defendant. If he refused to submit to a jury—typically made up of his accusers—he would undergo “a legal torture in which the accused was laid on the ground and his chest was loaded with successively heavier weights until he either submitted to trial by jury or expired.” — C.R.

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Mandatory insurance, increased education passes

By Nick Healy

After a winter during which 32 people died in snowmobile accidents and many others were injured, the House approved a bill May 13 that would prescribe a variety of new measures to improve snowmobile safety. The vote was 76-54.

The bill (HF551/SF94*) would require snowmobilers to carry liability insurance, expand safety training requirements, and provide new revenue for trail maintenance and law enforcement.

"I think it is a good step in the right direction," said Jan Schlosser, whose 15-year-old daughter, Stacy, was killed by a speeding snowmobiler in December 1996. "People are going to think twice before they get on a snowmobile and head off down the trail."

Stacy Schlosser, her twin sister, and some friends were walking on a road near East Bethel, Minn., when Stacy was struck by a snowmobiler traveling at a speed estimated to be near 80 mph.

Jan Schlosser said stepped up enforcement of snowmobile laws could help to prevent such tragedies, and that requiring snowmobilers to carry liability insurance could prevent other families from experiencing unnecessary hardships in the aftermath of snowmobile accidents.

The man responsible for the death of Stacy Schlosser did not have insurance, and the family has had to absorb financial losses from medical and funeral expenses.

"I don't understand the opposition to [the insurance requirement]," Schlosser said. "It's not only to protect the people who are killed or injured by snowmobilers, it's to protect the snowmobilers."

Under the bill, snowmobile owners would be required to carry a minimum of \$60,000 in liability insurance, which proponents of the bill estimate would cost about \$70 a year. Proof of insurance would be required to register a snowmobile with the state.

"I think it is reasonable if you're going to be driving a snowmobile that you have liability insurance," said Rep. Kathleen Sekhon (DFL-Burns Township), who is sponsoring the bill. "If someone is injured, there's going to be help for that person . . . I was surprised to learn liability insurance isn't required of snowmobilers. That just seems like common sense."

Criticism of the bill focused on the new



Jan Schlosser, of East Bethel, listened to the House floor debate on a bill that would impose a 40 MPH night time speed limit for snowmobilers and make snowmobilers carry liability insurance. She held a picture of her daughter, Stacy, who was killed Dec. 22, 1996 by a drunk snowmobile driver.

expenses it would require of snowmobilers. In addition to insurance costs, the fee for state registration would jump from \$30 to \$45 for three years and a new \$10 annual permit fee would be required to ride on state trails and grant-in-aid trails maintained by local snowmobile clubs.

"An awful lot of people who don't have the resources are simply not going to register their snowmobiles," said Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), who argued that the additional costs would be especially burdensome for people with moderate incomes who own older machines and use them only occasionally.

"It's a tragedy that this year 32 people lost their lives," Bakk said, "[but] the provisions in this bill related to insurance and lower speed limits are not going to save lives."

The bill would reduce the nighttime speed

limit for snowmobiles from 50 mph to 40 mph. Sekhon said the change would improve safety by providing snowmobilers more time to react and avoid accidents when out after dark.

Current law requires people under 18 to take a safety training course before they can operate a snowmobile. The bill would expand the training requirements to include snowmobilers aged 29 and under.

The increased registration fees and the new charge to ride on state trails would pump new revenue into improving trails across the state. Under the bill, 50 percent of the money in the state's snowmobile trails and safety account would be earmarked for grant-in-aid trails and 30 percent would go to state trails. (The remaining 20 percent would be designated for law enforcement and safety education efforts.)

"We have a 1970s trail system for 1990s technology," said Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton), a supporter of the bill. "We need this influx of money."

The death toll in snowmobile accidents during the past winter was the highest in Minnesota since 1972. While many this year have called for legislation aimed at improving snowmobile safety, concerns have been raised about the effects such legislation could have on what has grown into a multimillion-dollar industry in the state.

During debate on the House floor, Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison), who has worked on the snowmobile safety issue since early in the legislative session, tried to allay concerns that resorts and other businesses would suffer as a result of the bill.

"We're not going to kill this sport," Peterson said. "We're going to improve the sport."

Schlosser, who has been a visible leader in efforts to pass new snowmobile safety measures, said the bill would be something positive to come out of the tragedies experienced by her family and others.

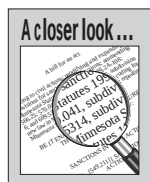
"Stacy's gone, and it hurts every day," Schlosser said. "I figure if I can help to prevent someone else from having to go through this — just one person — then it is worth the effort."

The bill now goes to the Senate. 

On a vote of 16-9 . . .

Stadium bill rejected; enters realm of living dead

By Steve Compton



Like the goalie-masked psycho-killer in a grade-B slasher movie, the Twins stadium proposal just refuses to die. No matter how many times it's killed, it gets back up and keeps moving.

After stalling and bouncing back in a pair of committees, the bill (HF1367) sponsored by Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) was dealt a seemingly fatal blow following three-and-one-half-hours of mayhem in a May 12 House Taxes Committee meeting. House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) characterized the debate as "crazy." The Senate companion bill (SF1140) also was bludgeoned to death that same day in the Senate Tax and Tax Laws Committee.

By the time the House Taxes Committee vote was taken on HF1367, the much amended bill bore little resemblance to its original form. Rest herself introduced several amendments to change the deal with the owners and redefine funding sources for the estimated \$506 million stadium proposal.

One such amendment — approved by the panel — limited the sports memorabilia tax to items related to baseball.

But Rest failed to convince the panel that a 5-cent-per-pack cigarette tax would be a good way to help pay for the ballpark. Rest, who cast the lone vote for the amendment, said that taxing cigarettes is better than expanding gambling in the state. "I don't see any connection between smoking and the stadium," said Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), speaking against the amendment. The measure failed 21-1.

Another funding proposal to place state-owned slot machines at Canterbury Park racetrack was introduced and then withdrawn by Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth), only to be reintroduced by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), chair of the committee. The gambling amendment contained no reference to a baseball stadium, but earmarked

gambling revenue for flood relief and a new hockey arena to be built in St. Paul. Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) also wanted to add an increase the working family tax credit. In the end, the gambling amendment failed on a 21-4 vote.

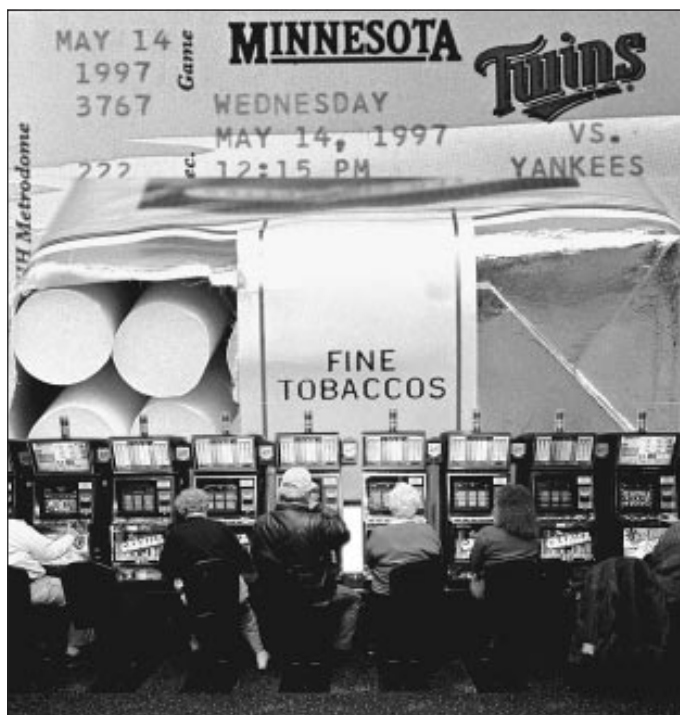
Another Van Dellen amendment did pass. It deleted all of the stadium bill's language and called for a state-sponsored plan to buy enough Twins tickets to make the team profitable this season. Van Dellen argued that this would void a provision in the Twins contract with the Metrodome which allows

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) has enlisted Rest to help him breathe new life into a stadium proposal. The two lawmakers are discussing a bill authorizing Gov. Arne Carlson to negotiate a stadium deal on his own for the state. Carlson would be required to reduce the cost of the \$506 million project enough to pay for it with user fees and, failing that, authorize a state-operated casino.

Rest has been opposed to gambling as a source of revenue, but her previous attempts to pay for the stadium only with user fees have always come up short.

Even if the Milbert-Rest stadium proposal fails in the final days of the session, there is still a glimmer of life remaining for a new ballpark. Winter, chair of the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, introduced a resolution (HF2207) which passed that committee May 15, directing the Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy to study and make recommendations, "on ways and means to secure and provide for a long-term commitment of professional major league sports teams, specifically major league baseball." The commission recommendations would be due in the Legislature by Sept. 1, 1997.

Any stadium-related proposal has until May 19, the last day of session, to pass. The Twins ballpark issue could also be revisited during a special session, which Carlson has said he may call for in September when final damage estimates have been calculated concerning the record



Efforts to find a way to pay for a new outdoor baseball stadium for the Minnesota Twins are still in limbo. Proposals to raise the money by hiking the cigarette tax or installing state-owned slot machines at Canterbury Park racetrack have failed. One proposal calling for a state-sponsored buy out of Twins tickets this season to make the team profitable has also failed.

the team to get out of their lease if they have three consecutive money-losing, low-attendance seasons. The Twins have threatened to exercise that option and leave the state if the Legislature doesn't help build a new stadium.

"This [ticket buyout] takes the gun away from our head and gives us an equal negotiating posture with the owner," Van Dellen said.

The amendment passed 13-12, effectively becoming the main bill, but then was rejected on the final 16-9 vote.

But don't get up for more popcorn yet.

flooding in northwestern Minnesota.

HF2207 next goes to the House floor.



If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at:
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

More bill listings . . .

1997 House Files incorporated into omnibus bills

If you've lost track of some of the bills you have been following during the session, you may find them on one of these pages. The section includes unofficial listings, each as of a certain date, of the House Files that are contained in the various omnibus bills and other larger bills.

Ongoing floor and conference committee action may well alter the makeup of these bills before they reach the end of the legislative process. In many cases, the language found in the major bills may not be exactly as it appears in the original House Files due to amendments that happen along the way. And, in many cases, only parts of bills are included in the larger bills.

The list was compiled by the House Public Information Office from a variety of sources, including committee administrators, fiscal analysts, and legislative analysts. In some cases, the location of each of the smaller bills is indicated by article and section numbers in the larger bill. In other cases, the Senate companion file and author is listed along with the House File number and author. For the most part, House Files are listed in numerical order and are accompanied by brief descriptions of their content.

An asterisk after a House or Senate file number indicates the version of the bill that is under consideration.



So far 2,200 bills have been introduced in the House during the 1997 Legislative Session. Some of those bills will make it into law, some won't, and still others will join forces and become incorporated into larger bills.

Agriculture

As of May 5, 1997

Omnibus Agriculture Bill HF1421(Wenzel)

- HF903 (Peterson) Providing for the identification of certain diseased cattle herds; requiring a report; appropriating money.
- HF1204 (Stang) Changing well water testing requirements for certain grade A milk producers.
- HF1030 (Peterson) Exempting vehicles carrying milk from seasonal weight restrictions on local roads under certain circumstances (amendment).
- HF733 (Swenson) Establishing the dairy development program; appropriating money (amendment).

Note: HF1421 was recently incorporated into HF2150 Omnibus Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Bill (see page 17).

Commerce

As of May 5, 1997

Omnibus Liquor Regulation Bill HF524/SF277* (Tunheim)

- HF180 (Goodno) Authorizes two on-sale licenses for Moorhead.
- HF193 (Murphy) Allowing city of Proctor to modify off-sale hours.
- HF524 (Tunheim) Importing malt liquor to central warehouse.
- HF525 (Tunheim) Liability insurance requirements for retailers.
- HF721 (Paulsen) Authorize on-sale 3.2 beer at 10 a.m. Sundays.
- HF982 (Dawkins) Combines Liquor Control and Gambling Enforcement units in Department of Public Safety.
- HF1277 (Tomassoni) Prohibiting solicitation of alcoholic beverages to location other than warehouse i.e., mail order.
- HF1307 (Dehler) Allows multiple on-sale license holders to have uniform licensing periods.
- HF1514 (Tomassoni) Allows intoxicating liquor to be dispensed at community festivals.
- HF1665 (Farrell) Allows intoxicating liquor licenses for St. Paul Park and Recreation division.
- HF1703 (Entenza) Allows intoxicating liquor sales at professional athletic events in the St. Paul Civic Center.

Development

As of May 12, 1997

Omnibus Economic Development/Housing Finance Bill HF2158*/SF1909 (Jaros)

Economic Development Finance

- HF248 (Trimble) Refugee citizenship and employment training provided in Ramsey County and St. Paul; money appropriated.
- HF422 (McCollum) Contaminated land industrial development and cleanup provided, money appropriated.
- HF430 (Hasskamp) Tourism money expenditure requirements modified.
- HF479 (Farrell) Crime prevention program grants awarded to certain first-class cities, money appropriated.
- HF599 (Skare) Bemidji railroad depot purchase and conversion to historical museum provided, money appropriated.
- HF811 (Entenza) Minnesota Futures Fund appropriated money to provide technical assistance to nonprofit organizations.
- HF834 (Clark) Youthbuild grant funding limit eliminated, money appropriated.

HF836 (Evans) Microenterprise technical assistance and loan program established, money appropriated.

HF901 (Wejcman) Minnesota employment center for deaf and hard-of-hearing people funded, money appropriated.

HF1092 (Mullery) Learn to earn summer youth employment program grants provided, money appropriated.

HF1133 (Kielkucki) Hubert H. Humphrey museum planning provided, money appropriated.

HF1166 (Clark) Minnesota 1997 employment and economic development program established, money appropriated.

HF1169 (Carlson) Brooklyn Center Brookdale center development tax increment financing statutory exemption extended.

HF1203 (Peterson) Upper Minnesota valley river regional visitors center development provided, money appropriated.

HF1271 (Juhnke) New London Little Theater project grant provided, money appropriated.

HF1458 (Marko) Newport improvement project economic impact study provided, money appropriated.

HF1550 (Haas) Metropolitan municipality curfew enforcement funding provided, money appropriated.

HF1589 (Evans)/SF1333 (Novak) Torture victim center appropriated money.

HF1638 (Trimble) Foreign trade zones promoted, money appropriated.

HF1642 (Dawkins) Enterprise zone inclusion qualification requirements modified.

HF1659 (Evans) New Brighton north metro I-35W corridor economic development project appropriated money.

HF1662 (McGuire) Historical society appropriated money for grants to the Minnesota Center for Legal Education Civic Awareness programs.

HF1700 (Kubly) Olivia commercial building redevelopment provided, money appropriated.

HF1767 (Juhnke) County and local historical society grant-in-aid program established, money appropriated.

HF1824 (Mariani) Minnesota Project Innovation appropriated money.

HF1845 (Trimble) State services for the blind study provided, money appropriated.

HF1850 (Ness) Fishing artifact museum feasibility study, money appropriated.

HF1862 (Wenzel) Minnesota Investment Fund loan guaranteed by trade and economic development commissioner.

HF1981 (Huntley) Employment support services for persons with mental illness funding authorized, money appropriated.

HF2017 (Mariani) Opportunities Industrialization Centers funded, money appropriated.

Housing and Housing Finance

HF245 (Dawkins) Nonprofits allowed to apply for Community Rehabilitation Fund.

HF517 (Clark) MHFA bill - program changes.

HF592 (McElroy) Affordable design and development; appropriation.

HF791 (Carruthers) Appropriation for concentrated multi-unit housing.

HF834 (Clark) Youthbuild appropriation.

HF843 (Clark) Lead hazard reduction task force; swab team funding.

HF927 (Evans) Bridges program appropriation increase.

HF1091 (Mullery) Reverse mortgage counseling; appropriation.

HF1276 (Trimble) Community Rehabilitation Fund program and Affordable Rental Investment Fund program; appropriation.

HF1360 (Dawkins) Great Northern Corridor Community Development Act adopted, St. Paul Livable Communities Demonstration Project funded, money appropriated.

HF1479 (Clark) Housing for people with HIV/AIDS; appropriation.

HF1487 (Peterson) Greater Minnesota Housing - Affordable Rental and Community Rehabilitation.

HF1611 (Slawik) Landfall manufactured home park.

HF1632 (Mariani) Land Trust capacity building.

HF962 (Schumacher) Manufactured home park zoning inclusion.

HF1917 (Clark) Affordable rental housing.

Environment

As of May 14, 1997

Omnibus Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Bill HF2150*/SF1907 (Osthoff)

HF162 (Tunheim) Seed potato inspection.

HF325 (Johnson, A.) Locke Lake Dam loan repayment forgiven.

HF408 (Solberg) Grant for direct reduction iron processing facility.

HF412 (Kubly) Minnesota River bank restoration/Granite Falls.

HF449 (Skare) Wind damage mitigation.

HF501 (Evans) Laurentian Environmental Learning Center renovation.

HF503 (Olson, E.) Beaver damage control grants.

HF650 (Hasskamp) Cuyuna/Glendalough state parks.

HF711 (Munger) Soil and water conservation district grants.

HF714 (Bakk) Transfer station grant program.

HF779 (Lieder) Hybrid tree management research.

HF913 (Kubly) Livestock odor research.

HF950 (McCollum) Ecological services.

HF1017 (Dawkins) Youth community service.

HF1040 (Mariani) Mississippi River vegetation.

HF1102 (Leighton) Used motor oil recycling.

HF1173 (Lieder) Rydell National Wildlife Refuge.

HF1178 (Davids) State trail operations.

HF1195 (Jaros) Duluth forests protection.

HF1208 (Rostberg) Community forest improvement grants.

HF1209 (Sviggum) Stagecoach Trail.

HF1315 (Kalis) Minnesota River Joint Powers Board.

HF1354 (Peterson) Survey of trails in state parks.

HF1398 (Munger) Taconite Harbor.

HF1421 (Wenzel) Dairy diagnostics.

HF1558 (McCollum) Gateway Trail connections.

HF1559 (McCollum) Southeast Asian conservation officer recruitment.

HF1560 (Munger) Research on amphibians.

HF1581 (Davids) Blufflands Trail.

HF1619 (Jennings) Ditch abandonment.

HF1625 (Mariani) Harriet Island redevelopment.

HF1651 (Holsten) Critical habitat match.

HF1705 (Finseth) River bank stabilization-East Grand Forks.

HF1719 (Kubly) Chippewa County Trail.

HF1806 (Hilty) Rock Center at Mooselake State Park.

HF1823 (Westfall) Maplewood Trail.

HF1833 (Schumacher) Closed landfill payment.

HF1851 (Sekhon) Preserving prairies on railroad right of ways.

HF1901 (Finseth) Thief River Falls dredging project.

HF1940 (Bishop) Cooperative wastewater.

SF94 (Sekhon) State lands.

Environment

As of May 13, 1997

Omnibus Game and Fish Bill HF313/SF254* (Milbert)

HF378 (Finseth) Two deer.
HF1122 (Finseth) Crossbow.
HF1082 (Osthoff) Fishing license fee increases.
HF171 (Bakk) Youth deer hunt.

As of May 13, 1997

DNR Real Estate Management Bill (Snowmobile provisions) HF551/SF94* (Sekhon)

HF406 (Peterson) Snowmobile liability insurance.
HF407 (Bakk) Snowmobile registration fees.
HF410 (Skoglund) fleeing a peace officer.
HF580 (Tunheim) On snowmobiles.
HF715 (Bakk) Snowmobile permit.
HF770 (Hasskamp) Snowmobile regulations.

As of May 13, 1997

Tax-forfeited Land Sales Authorized HF1983/SF309* (Hausman)

HF115 (Kinkel) Cass County.
HF190 (Hasskamp) Crow Wing County.
HF424 (Koppendrayner) Mille Lacs County.
HF975 (Hilty) Aitkin County.
HF1037 (Daggett) Becker County.
HF1050 (Dorn) Mankato.
HF1098 (Swenson, D.) Washington County.
HF1486 (Olson, E.) Wild rice lessee purchase of state lands authorized.
HF1507 (Bakk) Cook County.
HF1603 (Slawik) Washington County.
HF1621 (Murphy) Carlton County.
HF1622 (Rifenberg) Houston County.

Health

As of May 6, 1997

Omnibus Health and Human Services Finance Bill SF1908 (Greenfield)

Bills incorporated into SF1908 by both House and Senate

HF185 (Sykora)/SF136 (Kiscaden) Child Welfare.
HF346 (Greenfield)/SF279 (Lourey) COLA for various programs (rider).
HF386 (Winter)/SF596 (Lourey) Dog training grants (rider).
HF455 (Huntley)/SF376 (Samuelson) Nursing home moratorium exception threshold.
HF513 (Koskinen)/SF103 (Lourey) DHS financial operations.
HF514 (Wejcman)/SF130 (Berglin) Epilepsy Program COLA (rider).
HF521 (Wejcman)/SF169 (Berglin) GRH rates.
HF600 (Dempsey)/SF402 (Murphy) County joint purchaser demo project (rider).
HF672 (Bradley)/SF760 (Kiscaden) DHS health care programs.
HF673 (Vickerman)/SF589 (Frederickson) Nursing home rate exception.
HF813 (Huntley)/SF715 (Lourey) Lottery Revenue for Compulsive Gambling Programs (rider).

HF851 (Folliard)/SF258 (Berglin) New Chance (rider).
HF910 (Greenfield)/SF636 (Berglin) Indian child welfare grants (rider).
HF917 (Vickerman)/SF767 (Dille) Mental health grants (rider).
HF930 (Juhnke)/SF799 (Johnson, D.E.) Nursing home rate exception.
HF976 (Winter)/SF341 (Sarns) EMS CALS program (rider).
HF1026 (Clark)/SF927 (Berglin) Assisted Living Pilot (rider).
HF1090 (Clark)/SF915 (Berglin) Nursing home rate exception.
HF1131 (Bradley)/SF921 (Morse) Region 10 Quality Assurance.
HF1160 (Greenfield)/SF991 (Piper) HIV prevention (rider).
HF1167 (Goodno)/SF1016 (Kiscaden) MDH budget bill.
HF1211 (Huntley)/SF979 (Lourey) Deaf and blind services (rider).
HF1248 (Wejcman)/SF1091 (Lourey) Aging Ombudsman (rider).
HF1269 (Koskinen)/SF1174 (Berglin) Nursing home moratorium exception.
HF1293 (Bradley)/SF1158 (Kiscaden) DHS health care.
HF1303 (Bradley)/SF1230 (Samuelson) County-operated PMAP.
HF1331 (McCollum)/SF888 (Moe) American Indian diabetes (rider).
HF1430 (Greenfield)/SF151 (Samuelson) Deaf Grants (rider).
HF1528 (Murphy)/SF1153 (Anderson) Home visiting.
HF1738 (Huntley)/SF1525 (Solon) Health insurance counseling (rider).
HF1740 (Goodno)/SF1539 (Samuelson) Deaf/Blind grants (rider).
HF1781 (Greenfield)/SF1617 (Lourey) Augmentative communication devices (rider).
HF1843 (Greenfield)/SF1528 (Berglin) Women's MH crisis pilot project (rider).
HF1930 (Trimble)/SF1009 (Berglin) RTC burial markers (rider).
HF2059 (McCollum)/SF235 (Foley) MDH sales of materials.

Bills incorporated into SF1908 by House only

HF16 (Sviggum)/SF11 (Neuville) Defense of marriage act.
HF47 (Daggett)/SF241 (Kiscaden) Domestic abuse; best interest determination.
HF496 (Slawik)/SF396 (Price) Ambulance services financial data collection.
HF555 (Goodno)/SF97 (Betzold) Active TB isolation and detention.
HF587 (Bradley)/SF654 (Kiscaden) MA asset tests required.
HF862 (Delmont)/SF480 (Solon) PT, OT, speech-language rates increased.
HF925 (Entenza)/SF830 (Cohen) DHS child support bill.
HF1021 (Mariani)/SF948 (Wiger) Ramsey County Jobs-plus welfare pilot.
HF1157 (Huntley)/SF1002 (Sams) PMAP & PGAMC cap. rate change.
HF1484 (Hausman)/SF1606 (Anderson, E.) Block nurse program expanded.
HF1698 (Greenfield)/SF1482 (Berglin) NF rates for relocated facility.
HF1710 (Koskinen)/SF1291 (Lourey) After accident RR counseling.
HF1810 (Koskinen)/SF1641 (Marty) \$ added to WIC base.
UES 1908 (Greenfield)/SF1908 (Samuelson) Omnibus HHS appropriations bill.
HF1910 (Greenfield)/SF1690 (Samuelson) Minority health initiative.
HF1913 (Greenfield)/SF1434 (Kiscaden) Maltreatment of minors advisory committee.
HF1999 (Mulder)/SFnone Radiography for osteoporosis.
HF2044 (McCollum)/SFnone MA prior authorization; case management provider.
HF2059 (McCollum)/SFnone Expand non-smoking market value.

Bills incorporated into SF1908 by Senate only

SF27 (Samuelson)/HF399 (Wejcman) DT & H rates (rider).
SF28 (Samuelson)/HF649 (Jennings) ICF/MR rates.
SF126 (Berglin)/HF259 (Slawik) Immunization Registry.

SF224 (Berglin)/HF394 (Greenfield) Nursing home contract system/therapy services.
 SF228 (Kiscaden)/HF403 (Huntley) Hearing aid dispensers (fees and study only).
 SF430 (Berglin)/HF844 (Rest) Birth Defects Registry.
 SF446 (Berglin)/HF540 (Delmont) COLA for various programs (rider).
 SF523 (Berglin)/HF396 (Wejcman) Naturopathic medicine study (rider).
 SF629 (Solon)/HF867 (Delmont) Nursing home Medicare beds.
 SF642 (Krentz)/HF1706 (Entenza) Down's Syndrome (rider).
 SF790 (Samuelson)/HF1457 (Jennings) PCA shared hours.
 SF894 (Metzen)/HF1416 (Pugh) ICF/MR closure.
 SF1078 (Krentz)/HF1242 (Rest) ENABL (rider).
 SF1161 (Berglin)/HF1431 (Greenfield) Combining AC and EW.
 SF1189 (Ranum)/HF1761 (McGuire) Juvenile assessment centers.
 SF1235 (Solon)/HF1417 (Johnson, R.) Newborn hearing screening (rider).
 SF1245 (Lourey)/HF1279 (Johnson, R.) RTC MI staffing (rider).
 SF1250 (Hottinger)/HF1412 (Sykora) Union involvement in RTC pilot project development (rider).
 SF1565 (Sams)/HF1859 (Otremba) Newborn hearing screening (rider).

As of April 30, 1997

Welfare Reform Bill
HF159/SF1* (Jennings)

HF161 (Jennings) Welfare reform; Minnesota Family Investment Program implemented.
 HF347 (Greenfield) (parts) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program definitions provided, county public assistance incentives provided, business tax incentives provided, higher education accessibility provided to low-income persons, and money appropriated.

Law

As of May 12, 1997

Omnibus DWI Bill
HF1004/SF985* (Entenza)

HF62 (Swenson, D.) Maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered for operation of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and motorboats.
 HF101 (Swenson, D.) Driver's license revocation and reinstatement provisions modified.
 HF201 (Swenson, D.) Criminal penalty provided for operators of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and motorboats who refuse an alcohol test.
 HF229 (Weaver) Repeat DWI offender violations provided enhanced gross misdemeanor penalty.
 HF250 (Entenza) Maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered to 0.08 for adults and 0.04 for minors for operation of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and while hunting.
 HF355 (Bishop) DWI related offense forfeiture action filing fee exemption provided for local units of government.
 HF506 (Swenson, D.) (one section only) School bus safety regulated, student school bus conduct requirements developed, accident reporting provided, and penalties provided.

HF918 (Skoglund) Electronic alcohol monitor use mandated during pretrial release and following conviction for certain driving while intoxicated violations.
 HF1094 (Boudreau) (Section 4 only) Driver's license revocation period doubled for persons who violate driving while intoxicated laws with a blood alcohol level of 0.20 or greater, and penalty assessment provided.
 HF1061 (Chaudhary) Criminal penalties, minimum sentences, and administrative sanctions increased for driving while intoxicated offenders with an alcohol concentration of 0.20 or more.
 HF1318 (Skoglund) DWI offender maximum stay of sentence provided.
 HF1482 (Skoglund) Preliminary breath test result permissible use broadened, and DWI forfeiture law scope expanded.
 HF1591 (Weaver) Preliminary screening test result use authorized in court proceedings.

As of May 15, 1997

Omnibus Data Practices Bill
HF1460*/SF1277 (McGuire)

HF116 (Skoglund) Public assistance and housing agency data made available to law enforcement agencies.
 HF260 (Delmont) School immunization and health record provisions modified.
 HF270 (Macklin) Taxation; providing for disclosure or inspection of certain data or return information; limiting disclosure of certain data under subpoena; providing criminal penalties.
 HF1165 (Skoglund) Criminal justice and juvenile history records; modifying juvenile court records to be forwarded to the BCA; specifying retention periods for juvenile history records; providing for release of juvenile history records.
 HF1196 (Weaver) Voter registration list peace officer and judge address information omission provided.
 HF1460 (McGuire) Privacy; providing for the classification of and access to government data; eliminating the requirement that government agencies pay a fee for commissioner's opinions.
 HF1790 (McGuire) Privacy; authorizing the board of nursing to withhold access to residence addresses and telephone numbers.
 HF1933 (Bishop) Patient health record release consent provisions modified.
 HF1958 (Pugh) Health record destruction provided after death of patient.

Taxes

As of May 2, 1997

Omnibus Tax Bill
HF2163*/SF493 (Long)

Bills and amendments included in list.

1. GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS
A. Revenues: New Legislation

The following are some of the line items found in either HF716 (Sviggum) - Governor I items or HF 808 (Long) - DOR Policy Bill items.

Individual and Corporate Federal Update, w/partial conformity re. banks: (banks are taxed as C-Corps and dividends paid to individuals are exempt).

Corporate - Estimated tax payment date conformity.

Corporate - Environmental tax addback to FTI.

Corporate - Job training tax credit (RISE!) (amended).

Sales - Eliminate tax on replacement capital equipment.

Sales - Exempt state hospitals & vets home (prospectively).
 Sales - Exempt fuel for fire trucks, emergency vehicles.
 Sales - Uniform treatment of prepared food.
 Sales - Nurseries and greenhouses are farm equipment.
 Sales - Indoor plant care is taxable.
 Sales - Exempt gas tax for Power Take Offs. Includes HF 1803 (Bakk) Well-drilling machines exempt from gas tax for off-road use.

B. Governor's Spending: PTR, School Funding, State Aids

The following are line items from part of HF716 (Sviggum).

Property Tax Refunds: Repeal PTR on tax statement.
 Cambridge Bank judgment: appropriation for cash payment of pending claims.

2. PROPERTY TAX BILLS

HF137 (Rest) Expands eligibility for Class 1b (disabled homestead).
 HF165 (Rest) Changes definition of Limited Market Value.
 HF230 (Erhardt) Establishes the "Senior Citizen Tax Deferral Program" for low-moderate income senior citizens.
 HF339 (Rest) Eliminates the one-year lag in fiscal disparities calculations and payments, effective payable 1999.
 HF419 (Tunheim) Authorizes property tax/bonds/notes for watersheds.
 HF456 (Milbert) Service of real estate redemption notices.
 HF497 (Rest) Notice, advertisement and PT notice modifications.
 HF660 (Kelso) T-in-T notice, hearing, PT statement changes.
 HF532 (Rest) Town board or city may transfer board of review powers to county board.
 HF627 (Rest) Rental housing: low income housing standards, including Sec. 8. MHFA Appropriation: \$500,000 FY 1998.
 HF709 (Rest) Reduces the class rate for the high-value tier of cabins, for taxes payable in 1998 and 1999, with HACA payment. (Variation of original bill.)
 HF722 (Dawkins) This old house in a new location (within the taxing jurisdiction).
 HF744 (Garcia) "This old apartment" for improvements; 3 years, report to Legislature, in Richfield, Brooklyn Center, and St. Louis Park only.
 HF755 (Otremba) Sauk River Watershed levy.
 HF758 (Long) Development, imposition, and management of state mandates on local government.
 HF809 (Winter) Regional development commissions: revised powers and levy limits.
 HF812 (Dawkins) Local Performance Aid modified, new funding with equivalent levy reduction.
 HF887 (Anderson, I.) Gives certain golf course property 2.3% class rate.
 HF987 (Kubly) PT exemption for machinery and transmission lines — biomass electric generation. Also, by amendments, provides like exemptions for waste wood electric generation and for an electric generating facility adjacent to a new industrial park in St. Louis County. All provisions require approval of all affected local governments, reverse referendum, 5-year limit.
 HF995 (McElroy) Allows optional joint city, county, school district T-in-T hearings.
 HF1086 (Ness) Allows costs to prevailing party and against losing party in state Tax Court (codifies civil rules).
 HF1222 (Milbert) As the Abrams amendment: provides for a reverse referendum on counties' and certain cities' levy increases.
 HF1232 (Lieder) Wild Rice Watershed District levies.

HF1275 (Ozment) Residential structures required to house migrant workers get ag class.
 HF1390 (Solberg) Authorizes Floodwood joint recreation Board and levy.
 HF1433 (Peterson) Vaule exclusion for improvements to certain C/I property.
 HF1445 (Ozment) Allows split ag class in certain cases; no green acres.
 HF1446 (Abrams) Removes the one-per-owner-per-county limit on 1st tier C/I property.
 HF1470 (Rukavina) Authorizes Virginia-area ambulance district and levy.
 HF1544 (Dawkins) T-in-T Notices: levy costs for shared services (revised version).
 HF1575 (Munger) Requires St. Louis County auditor to collect Lake Superior Sanitary District charges on property tax statement; WLSSD to reimburse costs.
 HF1592 (Tuma) Homestead class retained for single nursing home residents.
 HF1798 (Murphy) Aid base adjustment, city of Proctor (redistributes existing aid).
 HF2010 (Abrams) and HF 914 (Rostberg) Allows certain municipal C/I property abatements for economic development.
 Department: Restricts Housing and Redevelopment Authority abatements to own-jurisdiction's levy only.
 Amendment (Johnson, A.) Classification by use of "Elderly Assisted Living Facilities" clarified, and study required.
 Property tax reform: Appropriation to Counties (\$2 million) to administer T-in-T and new classification system conversion.

3. TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

General TIF Law Changes

HF1547 (Ozment) TIF Laws: clarifications, modifications, and restrictions.
 HF1964 (Olson, E.) Changes indexing of original net tax capacity.
 HF2010 (Abrams) Requires state approval for certain TIF; allows PT abatements.

TIF, Local provisions

HF637 (Abrams) Housing Minnetonka.
 HF816 (Finseth) East Grand Forks TIF.
 HF1108 (Bettermann) Brandon, amended version.
 HF1169 (Carlson) Brookdale Pond.
 HF1265 (Swenson, H.) TIF extension, City of Gaylord.
 HF1330 (Koskinen) Coon Rapids TIF, amended version.
 HF1546 (Jefferson) Minneapolis Housing Transition TIF, amended.
 HF1922 (Chaudhary) Columbia Heights TIF.
 HF1927 (Kubly) Buffalo Lake TIF.

4. SALES AND USE TAX

STAC Recommendations

HF2066 (Rest) Exempt production inputs (excluding utility and fuel) of 1987-taxed services and pet boarding/grooming, 7/1/98.
 Extend de minimis use tax exemption to businesses effective 1/1/98.
 Make sales and use tax complimentary and clarify that tax paid by direct pay permittees is *use* tax.
 HF173 (Mahon) Sales tax exemption extended to more non-aspirin analgesics. (STAC Recommendation.)
 HF2066 (Rest) STAC- interest on refunds, as if filed as vendor claim.
 Amendment (Johnson, A.): Sales tax prepaid long-distance telephone calling cards.

HF118 (Juhnke) Permanently exempt USED farm machinery and logging equipment. Clarify definition of “used” equipment.

Phase-out and exempt NEW farm and logging equipment (includes nursery and greenhouse in base).

Phaseout: rate is 1.5% 7/1/98; & 0% on 7/1/99.

STAC/Governor: Exemption for manufacturing replacement capital equipment (see Gov’s rec’s, top).

“SCORE”/Sales Tax

HF808 (Long) SCORE sales tax applies at bag/sticker price charged by hauler/government.

Compromise SCORE, taxable base for governments equals direct costs only.

Amendment (Johnson, A.) Permanent moratorium on collection of any unpaid prior-years’ use tax liabilities under the SCORE tax.

Additional Sales Tax Bills

Amendment (Ozment) Exempts smoke-penetrating head gear and “authorized” purchases of firefighter equipment.

HF728 (Juhnke) Restores distributor refund for ag use gasoline in on-farm bulk storage (does not apply to undyed diesel fuel).

HF981 (Broecker) A gift of a motor vehicle to a 501(c)(3) charitable, religious or educational organization is exempt from the STMV.

HF993 (Milbert) Exempts (retro 1992) copies of court transcripts sold to parties involved in a case.

HF1336 (Long) Exempts materials for Metro emergency radio system.

HF1628 (Johnson, A.) Legislative study of taxation of Internet and on-line services.

HF1804 (Bakk) Exemption for construction materials to build jail and courthouse in Cook County.

HF1894 (Wenzel) Exempts from sales tax the gross receipts from otherwise-taxable sales of firewood, between 1/1/89 and 1/1/97.

HF2078 (Solberg) Exemption for construction materials to build jail in Itasca County.

HF2090 (Macklin) Exempts nonprofit electronic surveillance services.

HF1942 (Huntley) Exemption for hospitals, excluding construction materials, as amended.

Department and Amendment (VanDellen): “Goods for resale” does not include promotional and gambling prizes; machinery, equipment and devices for recreation and entertainment services is not ‘leased.’

Legislative intent findings are not intended to affect a pending case in the Minnesota court system.

Local Sales Taxes

HF2066 (Rest/STAC) Makes local sales taxes uniform and adopt policy standards for future requests.

HF18 (Juhnke) Authorizes 0.5 cent city sales tax for Willmar library.

HF1788 (Olson, E.) Allows a 0.5 cent city sales tax in Fosston.

HF1802 (Bakk) Cook County may use proceeds of its local sales tax for improvements to the hospital and care center.

5. INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE INCOME TAX BILLS

HF238 (Leppik) Requires registration and standards of 3rd party bulk filers (of withholding and other trust taxes).

HF1976 (Dawkins) Exempts Americorps and Youthworks education grants paid to education institutions.

HF210 (Daggett) Credit/ long-term care insurance premiums.

(Long) Legislative study of alternative forms of business taxation and report.

HF716 and HF808 (See Federal Update and Governor’s Recommendations, top.)

6. GAMBLING TAX BILLS

HF667 (Macklin) Eliminates required separate bank account for refunds; DOR “flares” language (amended per DOR rec.).

HF1499 (Milbert) Lawful gambling reduces combined receipts tax, increase tax thresholds by \$200,000, after 6/30/98. New form: calculate tax @ old/new (lower) rates and savings must be used exclusively for charitable/tax-exempt purposes.

7. MINERALS TAX BILLS

HF269 (Bakk) Ownership of stockpiled metallic minerals material.

HF712 (Lieder) Increases parameters for aggregates (gravel) tax.

HF773 (Murphy) Authorizes an aggregates (gravel) tax in certain Carlton County and St. Louis County townships.

Amendment (Bakk): Sets aside 5 cents per ton of the (existing amount of) taconite production taxes for distribution to the taconite environmental fund.

8. MISCELLANEOUS BILLS AND INITIATIVES

HF1263 (Rest) Extends county capital improvement bonds authority to 2003.

HF2077 (Macklin) Exempts marriage dissolution document filings.

HF387 (Wagenius) Exempts transfers of state land to other governments for trunk highway rights-of-way.

HF1392 (Kinkel) Natural resource lands market value is included in Fire Aid distribution formula.

HF1909 (Erhardt) Authorizes GO bonds for a joint Richfield, Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Edina training facility.

Governor: Cambridge Bank judgment: appropriation for cash payment of pending claims (\$16.6 million, not in Tax Target).

Budget reserve and cash flow provisions.

Appropriation for administering the PT rebate.

Appropriation for administering the bill.

Author’s amendment (Long) LGA formula revised and additional funding (\$8.9 million) is provided.

Changes the basis of the renters’ credit eff. 1998 claims.

Levy limits exemption for municipalities affected by spring flooding disaster.

Rest: Clarifies the application of the deed tax as applied to new residential construction.

HF 854 (Dorn) and HF 716 (Sviggum): Replaces premiums tax with MnCare tax (for MCHA)

Exempts Minnesota Health Department-licensed home health care providers from MnCare tax.

Milbert: Sets standards for “tax expenditure” revenue estimates, to include compliance factor when practicable.

Transportation

As of May 13, 1997

Omnibus Transportation Finance Bill SF1881 (Lieder)

HF19 (Lieder) State patrol; trunk highway fund reimbursement provided for expenditures incurred by state patrol for provision of patrolling services in Minneapolis.

HF20 (Lieder) State patrol operating appropriations to originate from state general fund, traffic violation and overweight vehicle fines deposited in general fund, and gasoline tax revenue nonhighway use studied.

HF407 (Bakk) Snowmobile registration fees increased, snowmobile trail grants-in-aid provided, snowmobile trail use permits required, and money appropriated.

HF708 (Juhnke) Fertilizer and agricultural chemical transporter quarterly registration allowed.

HF738 (Wagenius) Metropolitan Council urban service area extension moratorium imposed.

HF956 (Osthoff) Port development assistance project eligibility criteria modified, project review procedure exemption provided, and money appropriated.

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

HF1295 (Hausman) Counties authorized to sell county state-aid highway bonds to fund maintenance building construction.

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

HF1472 (Juhnke) Air transportation service marketing program established.

HF1578 (Mullery) Veteran service organization members provided special motor vehicle license plate stickers.

HF1644 (Molnau) Municipal state-aid street fund apportionment city population estimate provisions modified.

HF1689 (Johnson, A.) Motorcycle driver instruction permit provisions modified, and endorsement fees provided.

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

HF1941 (Mahon) Public safety inspectors authorized to stop motor vehicles under certain circumstances.

Minnesota House and Senate Membership

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

Minnesota House of Representatives 1997 Members

List as of April 24, 1997

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

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

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

Governor's Desk

CH123-CH163

Bills await governor's action

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
 - veto the bill;
 - line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
 - do nothing, which results in the bill becoming law in the first year of the biennium.
- The timing of these actions is as significant as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is that the gover-

nor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each

house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Internet access to this information is available at:
<http://www.governor.state.mn.us> (select "legislative issues" folder)

Key:

CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
123	322	442*	Public right-of-way telecom services use control.	5/9/97	
124	136	244*	Prescriptions for intractable pain.	5/9/97	
125	22	91*	Police state aid amount ratified and money appropriated.	5/9/97	
126	2097	338*	Corporate farming provisions modifications.	5/9/97	
127	335	256*	Building and construction contract payments regulated.	5/9/97	
128	1870	1807*	Workers compensation insurance reporting deadline delay.	5/9/97	
129	524	277*	Liquor provisions modifications.	5/9/97	
130	212	35*	Soil and water conservation district election modification.	5/9/97	
131	569	543*	Grain bank license requirements modification.	5/9/97	
132	2042	1722*	Pharmacy technician definition and regulation.	5/9/97	
133	686*	756	Tenants' police and emergency assistance right.	5/12/97	
134	1071	1000*	Psychology practice licensure requirements modifications.	5/12/97	
135	609	1404*	Motor vehicle transfer notice time limit reduction.	5/12/97	
136	1380	1136*	Duluth family practice residency program responsibility transfer.	5/12/97	
137	156*	269	Secretary of state filing fees.	5/12/97	
138	2179*	1934	Statewide testing.	5/12/97	
139	1129	995*	Retirement provisions modifications.		5/13/97
140	1246	641*	Mental health provider peer review.	5/12/97	
141	723	1097*	Highway revolving loan account project funding.	5/12/97	
142	1863*	1630	Agricultural marketing and bargaining task force.	5/13/97	
143	458	724*	Speed limits.		

*The legislative bill marked with an asterisk denotes the file submitted to the governor.

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
144	1914	1684*	Minneapolis school board election modification.	5/15/97	
145	168	703*	Mail balloting authority expansion.	5/13/97	
146	970	868*	Minneapolis building contractor licensing requirement exemption extended.		5/13/97
147	127	72*	Election and voter registration provisions.	5/13/97	
148	512*	388	Municipal bankruptcy filing authorized.	5/13/97	
149	282*	470	Metro transit police officers.		
150	858*	920	Health care cost containment provisions.		
151	423*	175	Elected Metropolitan Council.		
152	1936*	1823	Labor disputes mandatory arbitration.		
153	658	612*	Washington County appointed auditor permitted.		
154	829	755*	Government bodies meeting on interactive television.		
155	700	566*	Lawful gambling profit expenditure provisions modified.		
163	892*	882	Minimum wage increase.		

Capitol chandelier: illuminating Minnesota politics

Observant visitors to the Capitol may notice, suspended high above their heads in the middle of the dome, an ornate crystal chandelier.

Usually, said Carolyn Kompelien, of the Capitol Historic Site Program, the chandelier remains unlit. But there are those occasions, she continued, when the massive fixture illuminates the rotunda.

The chandelier, Kompelien explained, is always lit on the anniversary of Minnesota's admittance to the Union: May 11. This year, that date fell on a Sunday, so the maintenance personnel brightened the rotunda on Friday as well, so citizens could enjoy the warm glow.

Inaugurations, too, are occasions worthy of the light, although lately, she said, the trend has been toward holding the events outside the Capitol.

"It's just sort of been forgotten," Kompelien said of the inaugural tradition.

The lamp is also lit during times of sadness. Whenever the body of a Minnesota dignitary lies in state, the chandelier provides the light. Legendary statesman Hubert H. Humphrey was

the last individual to receive that honor.

Of course, the governor always has the option of lighting the chandelier



Though the glowing crystal orb may look small from the ground, this 6-foot high chandelier is suspended by a massive chain 120 feet above the State Capitol's rotunda floor. It is made of thousands of crystal beads, weighs 2,000 pounds, has three access doors, and could accommodate two adults comfortably.

whenever he feels like it. Indeed, one Capitol docent recalls hearing some noise coming from the rotunda after hours one evening. Curious, the guide went forth to explore and there, dancing a polka under the blazing chandelier, was Gov. Rudy Perpich and his wife, Lola, along with several friends.

Kompelien said there are no official regulations regarding the lighting of the usually dormant chandelier.

The fixture itself dates from 1904, when it was purchased from a New York City manufacturer at a cost of \$1,250. In 1991 dollars, the chandelier would cost nearly \$20,000.

The original specifications called for "the very best quality French cut crystals" and required that the fixture hang "about 28 feet from the top of the dome."

The light has a diameter of six feet and a circumference of nearly 20 feet. It features 92 75-watt lamps mounted on a ribbed, metal framework and can, by means of an electric motor, be raised and lowered as needed. The chandelier and the chain together weigh nearly 2,500 pounds.

—F.J.G.

Bill Introductions

HF2201- HF2221

Friday, May 9

HF2201—Milbert (DFL)

Taxes

Major league baseball stadium construction, funding, maintenance, and governance provided, Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission powers and duties provided, taxes imposed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2202—Anderson, B. (R)

Judiciary

Children in need of protection or services outpatient treatment provided without parental consent, notices required, and penalties imposed.

Monday, May 12

HF2203—Skoglund (DFL)

Rules & Legislative Administration

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

HF2204—Huntley (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Sault Ste. Marie Narrows Poe Lock state cost paid, and money appropriated.

HF2205—Commers (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Local government land use planning and zoning ordinance relation provided.

HF2206—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

International Falls city employee residency requirement notification provided.

HF2207—Winter (DFL)

Rules & Legislative Administration

Major league sports findings and recommendations submitted to Legislature by planning and fiscal policy commission.

Tuesday, May 13

HF2208—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Sandy Lake Band of Mississippi Chippewa provided state Indian tribe recognition.

HF2209—Jaros (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2210—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Mortgage group life insurance waiver requirements permitted.

HF2211—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Life insurance company foreign investments regulated.

HF2212—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Education

Higher education course common numbering convention provided, community college tuition grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF2213—Workman (R)

Education

Media center revenue provided to eligible school districts, and money appropriated.

Wednesday, May 14

HF2214—Murphy (DFL)

Education

High school pupils enrolled in post-secondary courses allowed to participate in high school activities, and post-secondary course grades excluded from pupil's grade point average.

HF2215—Dehler (R)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Dice games authorized in retail establishments licensed to sell alcoholic beverages.

HF2216—Tunheim (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Private property protection act adopted.

HF2217—Kahn (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Public body mediation meetings subject to open meeting requirements.

Thursday, May 15

HF2218—Mulder (R)

Health & Human Services

Senior citizen prescription drug program established, and money appropriated.

HF2219—Knoblach (R)

Health & Human Services

Red Wing nursing facility nursing home moratorium exception provided.

HF2220—Westrom (R)

Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance

Lawndale Farms Environmental Learning Center capital improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2221—Entenza (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Service station business operating hours regulated, and motor fuel retailer fuel purchase options provided.

Coming Up Next Week . . .

May 19, 1997

Session Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

For information updates, call

House Calls at **(612) 296-9283**.

All meetings are open to the public.

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**The time for Session on Monday,
May 19 will be 9:30 a.m.**

Order Form: *New Laws 1997*

A publication outlining the new laws of 1997 will provide brief, easy-to-read summaries of the bills that were passed by both the House and Senate and signed or vetoed by the governor. *New Laws 1997* will be available a few months after the session ends. Copies will be mailed without charge to those who order them.

Do you want to receive a copy of *New Laws 1997*? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Please place this form (**with the mailing label on the back**) in an envelope. Mail it by June 1, 1997, to: *Session Weekly*, House Public Information Office, 175 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.

Readership Survey: *1997 Session Weekly*

Please take a moment to tell us what you think about the *Session Weekly*. Your opinions will help us plan for next year.

1. Where do you live? (Please check one.)

☐ Minneapolis/St. Paul ☐ Outstate Minnesota ☐ Twin Cities Suburban Metro Area ☐ Other _____

2. What is your occupation? _____

3. How often do you read the *Session Weekly*? (Please check one.)

☐ Once a month ☐ Twice a month ☐ Three times a month ☐ Every week

4. Which sections of the *Session Weekly* do you most often read? (Please check all that apply.)

☐ Update (page 2)	☐ A Closer Look	☐ Governor's Desk
☐ Opening Story (page 3)	☐ Features	☐ Bill Introductions
☐ Highlights	☐ Information (i.e., lists)	☐ Committee Schedule
☐ Member Profiles	☐ It's a Fact!/Do You Know?	☐ Minnesota Index

5. Do you have any comments (positive or negative) on any of the sections in Question 4? _____

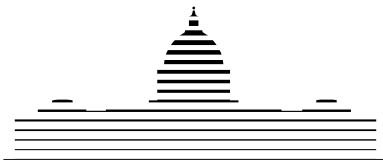
6. Please rate the following aspects of the *Session Weekly* by checking one answer in each set.

Writing	☐ Hard to understand	☐ Somewhat understandable	☐ Easy to understand
Story Length	☐ Too short	☐ Too long	☐ Just right
Readability (type size)	☐ Too small	☐ Too large	☐ Just right
Photographs	☐ Poor	☐ Average	☐ Excellent
Layout	☐ Poor	☐ Average	☐ Excellent

7. What do you like about the *Session Weekly*? _____

8. Do you have any suggestions for improving the *Session Weekly*? _____

9. Do you have any questions about the Minnesota House of Representatives or the legislative process that could be answered in a Q & A column? _____



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
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Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota crash facts

Minnesotans with a driver's license	3,388,357
Registered vehicles	3,684,846
Nationwide, rank of car crashes as a cause of death among people between the ages of 1 and 24	1
Traffic crashes in Minnesota, 1995	96,022
Crashes per hour throughout Minnesota, 1995	11
People injured in crashes, 1995	47,161
in 1994	46,403
Minnesota motor vehicle fatalities, 1995	597
in 1994	644
Fatalities in 1968, highest in Minnesota history	1,060
Counties without a fatality, 1995	9
Licensed teenage drivers involved in a reported traffic crash, 1995	1 in 10
Licensed drivers age 80-84 years old involved in a crash	1 in 42
Ratio of male drivers to female drivers involved in fatal crashes	3:1
in all crashes	1.5:1
Bicyclists who died in collisions with a vehicle, 1995	5
in 1994	16
Pedestrian fatalities, 1995	46
Pedestrians injured, 1995	1,471
Percent of all fatalities that were in alcohol-related crashes	41
in 1994	35
DWI arrests, 1996	38,900
in 1995	33,355
Crashes resulting from a collision with a deer	5,266
Decline compared to previous year	- 621
Other animals involved in crashes	485
Motorcycles registered in Minnesota	113,981
Motorcycle crashes, 1995	1,126
in 1980	3,308
Motorcyclists killed, 1995	35
Drivers killed who didn't have a valid motorcycle endorsement	11

Sources: *Minnesota Motor Vehicle Crash Facts, 1995*, Office of Traffic Safety, Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

For more information

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To obtain a copy of a bill, call:
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