

# SESSION WEEKLY

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## MINNESOTA



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EIGHTIETH SESSION 1997-1998

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## Our policy . . .

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

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

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—LeClair G. Lambert

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

—Photo illustration by Andrew Von Bank

# Highlights

House File 1 . . .

## Top priority: elimination of K-12 spending caps

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— Nick Healy



## CRIME

### Repeat offenders

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

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

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

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

Among the report's other findings:

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

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

reviewed on a regular basis," the report concludes.

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

Lawmakers realize there are no simple solutions.

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

### Stopping stalking

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

**HF5** now moves to the House floor.



## EDUCATION

### Supporting Youth Works

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Surplus for education?

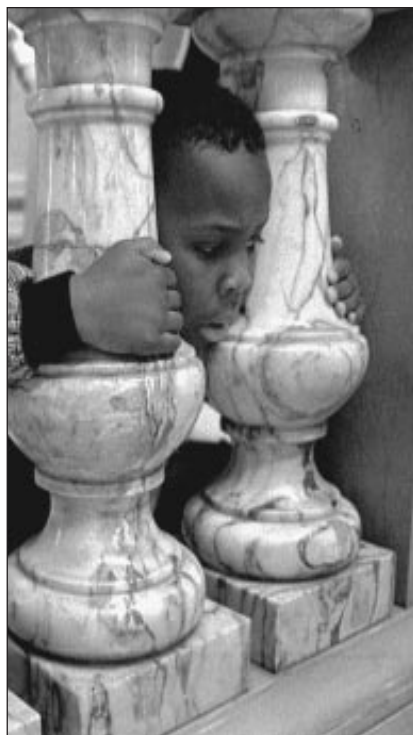
An education funding panel began the 1997 session by discussing the anticipated state budget surplus — how much it is and how much of it will be available for new proposals.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## GOVERNMENT

### Grading performance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## TAXES

### The price we pay

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The nine-member Council (now the

## It's a fact!



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Legislature hears governor's vision for Minnesota

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

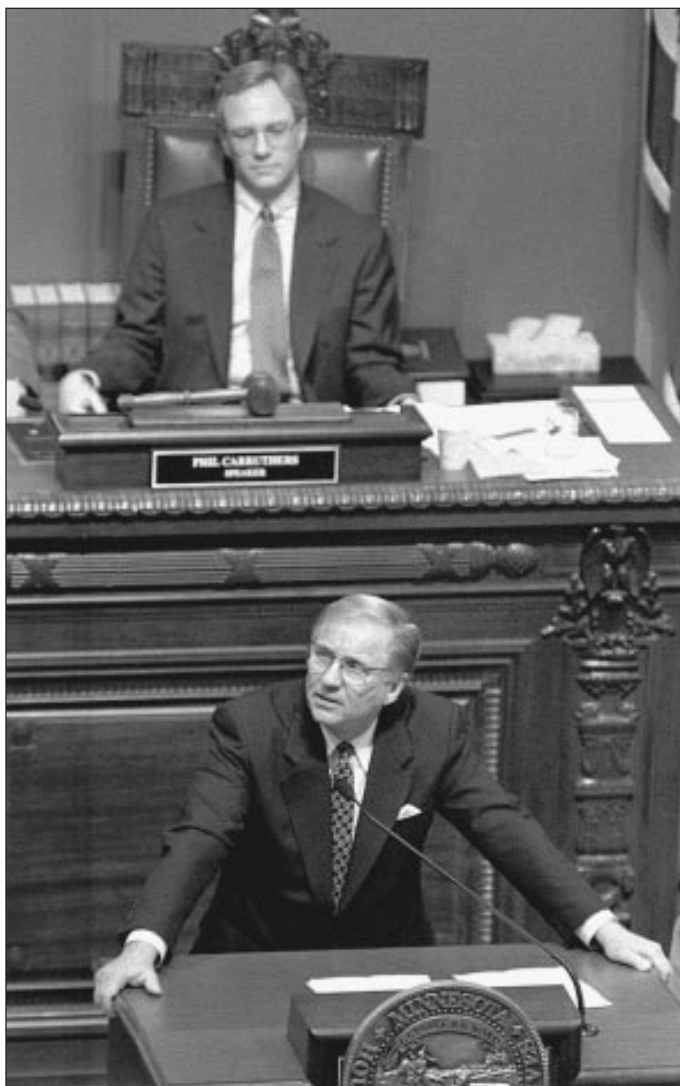
Property tax reform, Carlson said, means property tax relief, primarily in the commercial/industrial sector of the economy. Without such measures, he explained, Minnesota will see its bid to grow more jobs stymied.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— F.J. Gallagher

### Feedback

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The staff

## Leaders react to governor’s address

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

Which issue? The baseball stadium.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Nick Healy

## Winter tills legislative soil to benefit Minnesota

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— F.J. Gallagher

# Minnesota House of Representatives

## 1997 Committee Assignments by Member

<b>Abrams, Ron</b> (R-Minnetonka) ..... 45A Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance Division, Lead Republican Financial Institutions & Insurance Rules & Legislative Administration Taxes	<b>Broecker, Sherry</b> (R-Vadnais Heights) ... 53B Judiciary Judiciary Finance Division Transportation & Transit	<b>Dawkins, Andy</b> (DFL-St. Paul) ..... 65A Civil & Family Law Division, Chair Judiciary Judiciary Finance Division Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division
<b>Anderson, Bruce</b> (R-Buffalo Township) .... 19B Education General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Governmental Operations State Government Finance Division Regulated Industries & Energy	<b>Carlson, Lyndon R.</b> (DFL-Crystal) ..... 46B Education, Chair Capital Investment, ex officio Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division Financial Institutions & Insurance Higher Education Finance Division K-12 Education Finance Division Ways & Means	<b>Dehler, Steve</b> (R-St. Joseph) ..... 14A Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs, Lead Republican Education Higher Education Finance Division
<b>Anderson, Irv</b> (DFL-Int'l Falls) ..... 3A Financial Institutions & Insurance, Chair Regulated Industries & Energy Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division Transportation & Transit	<b>Carruthers, Phil</b> (DFL-Brooklyn Center) 47B Rules & Legislative Administration Taxes Ways & Means	<b>Delmont, Mike</b> (DFL-Lexington) ..... 51A Regulated Industries & Energy, Vice Chair Environment & Natural Resources Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division Health & Human Services
<b>Bakk, Thomas</b> (DFL-Cook) ..... 6A Taxes, Vice Chair Environment & Natural Resources Environment & Natural Resources Finance Labor-Management Relations Sales & Income Tax Division	<b>Chaudhary, Satveer</b> (DFL-Fridley) ..... 52A Civil & Family Law Division, Vice Chair Education Higher Education Finance Division Judiciary Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs	<b>Dempsey, Jerry</b> (R-Hastings) ..... 29A Capital Investment, Lead Republican Economic Development & International Affairs Housing and Housing Finance Division Environment & Natural Resources
<b>Bettermann, Hilda</b> (R-Brandon) ..... 10B Higher Education Finance Division, Lead Republican Capital Investment Education Labor-Management Relations Ways & Means	<b>Clark, Karen</b> (DFL-Mpls) ..... 61A Housing & Housing Finance Division, Chair Capital Investment Economic Development & International Trade Economic Development Finance Division Financial Institutions & Insurance	<b>Dorn, John</b> (DFL-Mankato) ..... 24A Health & Human Services, Chair Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Health & Human Services Finance Division Ways & Means
<b>Biernat, Len</b> (DFL-Mpls) ..... 59A Judiciary, Vice Chair Civil & Family Law Division Education K-12 Education Finance Division	<b>Commers, Tim</b> (R-Eagan) ..... 38A Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs, Lead Republican General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Taxes Sales & Income Tax Division	<b>Entenza, Matt</b> (DFL-St. Paul) ..... 64A Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Education K-12 Education Finance Division Judiciary Civil & Family Law Division
<b>Bishop, Dave</b> (R-Rochester) ..... 30B Judiciary, Lead Republican Capital Investment Civil & Family Law Division Ways & Means	<b>Daggett, Roxann</b> (R-Frazee) ..... 11A Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Labor-Management Relations Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division	<b>Erhardt, Ron</b> (R-Edina) ..... 42A Sales & Income Tax Division, Lead Republican Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Taxes
<b>Boudreau, Lynda</b> (R-Faribault) ..... 25B Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division Financial Institutions & Insurance Health & Human Services	<b>Dauids, Gregory M.</b> (R-Preston) ..... 31B Financial Institutions & Insurance, Lead Republican Capital Investment Environment & Natural Resources Finance	<b>Evans, Geri</b> (DFL-New Brighton) ..... 52B Ways & Means, Vice Chair Economic Development & International Trade Housing & Housing Finance Division Education Judiciary
<b>Bradley, Fran</b> (R-Rochester) ..... 30A Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Health & Human Services Health & Human Services Finance Division		<b>Farrell, Jim</b> (DFL-St. Paul) ..... 67A State Government Finance Division, Vice Chair Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Governmental Operations

<b>Finseth, Tim</b> (R-Angus) ..... 1B Ways & Means, Lead Republican Environment & Natural Resources Environment & Natural Resources Finance Transportation & Transit	<b>Hasskamp, Kris</b> (DFL-Crosby) ..... 12A Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs, Vice Chair General Legislation, Veteran Affairs & Elections Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division	<b>Johnson, Ruth</b> (DFL-St. Peter) ..... 24B Higher Education Finance Division, Vice Chair Education Environment & Natural Resources Health & Human Services
<b>Folliard, Betty</b> (DFL-Hopkins) ..... 44A General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections, Vice Chair Education Higher Education Finance Division Environment & Natural Resources	<b>Hausman, Alice</b> (DFL-St. Paul) ..... 66B Environment & Natural Resources, Vice Chair Regulated Industries & Energy Transportation & Transit Transportation & Transit Finance Division	<b>Juhnke, Al</b> (DFL-Willmar) ..... 15A Transportation & Transit, Vice Chair Agriculture Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Transportation & Transit Finance Division
<b>Garcia, Edwina</b> (DFL-Richfield) ..... 63B Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division, Vice Chair Labor-Management Relations Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Taxes Sales & Income Tax Division	<b>Hilty, Bill</b> (DFL-Finlayson) ..... 8B Governmental Operations, Vice Chair Labor-Management Relations Regulated Industries & Energy State Government Finance Division	<b>Kahn, Phyllis</b> (DFL-Mpls) ..... 59B Governmental Operations, Chair Economic Development & International Trade Regulated Industries & Energy State Government Finance Division Ways & Means
<b>Goodno, Kevin</b> (R-Moorhead) ..... 9A Health & Human Services Finance Division, Lead Republican Health & Human Services Labor-Management Relations Rules & Legislative Administration Ways & Means	<b>Holsten, Mark</b> (R-Stillwater) ..... 56A Environment & Natural Resources Finance, Lead Republican Environment & Natural Resources Regulated Industries & Energy	<b>Kalis, Henry J.</b> (DFL-Wells) ..... 26B Capital Investment, Chair Environment & Natural Resources Finance Ways & Means (Ex officio: all other tax and finance divisions)
<b>Greenfield, Lee</b> (DFL-Mpls) ..... 62A Health & Human Services Finance Division, Chair Health & Human Services Rules & Legislative Administration Transportation & Transit	<b>Huntley, Thomas</b> (DFL-Duluth) ..... 6B Economic Development & International Trade Health & Human Services Health & Human Services Finance Division Higher Education Finance Division	<b>Kelso, Becky</b> (DFL-Shakopee) ..... 35B K-12 Education Finance Division, Chair Education Regulated Industries & Energy Rules & Legislative Administration Transportation & Transit
<b>Greiling, Mindy</b> (DFL-Roseville) ..... 54B Education, Vice Chair General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections K-12 Education Finance Division Regulated Industries & Energy	<b>Jaros, Mike</b> (DFL-Duluth) ..... 7B Economic Development & International Trade, Chair Agriculture Economic Development Finance Division Housing & Housing Finance Division	<b>Kielkucki, Tony</b> (R-Lester Prairie) ..... 20B Agriculture Education K-12 Education Finance Division Labor-Management Relations
<b>Gunther, Bob</b> (R-Fairmont) ..... 26A Economic Development Finance Division, Lead Republican Agriculture Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Economic Development & International Affairs	<b>Jefferson, Richard H.</b> (DFL-Mpls) ..... 58B Labor-Management Relations, Chair Capital Investment Governmental Operations State Government Finance Division	<b>Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony"</b> (DFL-Park Rapids) ..... 4B Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division, Chair Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Education Environment & Natural Resources Governmental Operations
<b>Haas, Bill</b> (R-Champlin) ..... 48A General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Health & Human Services Health & Human Services Finance Division	<b>Jennings, Loren</b> (DFL-Harris) ..... 18B Regulated Industries & Energy, Chair Health & Human Services Health & Human Services Finance Division Ways & Means	<b>Knight, Kevin</b> (R-Bloomington) ..... 40B Governmental Operations, Lead Republican Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs State Government Finance Division Transportation & Transit
<b>Harder, Elaine</b> (R-Jackson) ..... 22B Agriculture, Lead Republican Economic Development & International Affairs Taxes Sales & Income Tax Division	<b>Johnson, Alice M.</b> (DFL-Spring Lk. Pk.) ..... 48B Sales & Income Tax Division, Chair Education K-12 Education Finance Division Taxes Transportation & Transit	<b>Knoblach, Jim</b> (R-St. Cloud) ..... 16B Capital Investment Financial Institutions & Insurance General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Health & Human Services

<b>Koppendray, LeRoy</b> (R-Princeton) ..... 17A K-12 Education Finance Division, Lead Republican Education Governmental Operations Regulated Industries & Energy Ways & Means	<b>Lieder, Bernie</b> (DFL-Crookston) ..... 2A Transportation & Transit Finance Division, Chair Financial Institutions & Insurance Transportation & Transit	<b>McCollum, Betty</b> (DFL-North St. Paul) ... 55B Environment & Natural Resources Environment & Natural Resources Finance General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Health & Human Services Rules & Administrative Legislation
<b>Koskinen, Luanne</b> (DFL-Coon Rapids) .. 49B Labor-Management Relations, Vice Chair Health & Human Services Health & Human Services Finance Division Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs	<b>Lindner, Arlon</b> (R-Corcoran) ..... 33A Capital Investment Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division Health & Human Services	<b>McElroy, Dan</b> (R-Burnsville) ..... 36B Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division
<b>Kraus, Ron</b> (R-Albert Lea) ..... 27A Agriculture Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division	<b>Long, Dee</b> (DFL-Mpls) ..... 60A Taxes, Chair Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division Sales & Income Tax Division Rules & Legislative Administration Ways & Means	<b>McGuire, Mary Jo</b> (DFL-Falcon Heights) 54A Family & Early Childhood Education Division, Vice Chair Governmental Operations Judiciary Judiciary Finance Division
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<b>Larsen, Peg</b> (R-Lakeland) ..... 56B Governmental Operations Judiciary Civil & Family Law Division Judiciary Finance Division	<b>Mares, Harry</b> (R-White Bear Lake) ..... 55A Education K-12 Education Finance Division Governmental Operations	<b>Mullery, Joe</b> (DFL-Mpls) ..... 58A Economic Development Finance Division, Vice Chair Economic Development & International Trade Governmental Operations Judiciary Labor-Management Relations
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<b>Olson, Mark</b> (R-Big Lake) ..... 19A Education Housing & Housing Finance Division Judiciary Labor-Management Relations Regulated Industries & Energy	<b>Paymar, Michael</b> (DFL-St. Paul) ..... 64B Judiciary Finance Division, Vice Chair Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Economic Development & International Trade Judiciary Labor-Management Relations	<b>Rostberg, Jim</b> (R-Isanti) ..... 18A Capital Investment Economic Development & International Affairs Environment & Natural Resources General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
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<b>Orfield, Myron</b> (DFL-Mpls) ..... 60B Environment & Natural Resources Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division	<b>Peterson, Doug</b> (DFL-Madison) ..... 13B Agriculture, Vice Chair Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Environment & Natural Resources Finance Rules & Legislative Administration Transportation & Transit	<b>Schumacher, Leslie</b> (DFL-Princeton) ..... 17B K-12 Education Finance Division, Vice Chair Agriculture Education Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Transportation & Transit
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<b>Osthoff, Tom</b> (DFL-St. Paul) ..... 66A Environment & Natural Resources Finance, Chair Environment & Natural Resources General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Governmental Operations		<b>Seifert, Marty</b> (R-Marshall) ..... 21A Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Taxes Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division

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

Informing the public . . .

# Legislative information is everywhere, for free

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

## The Internet

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

## E-mail

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

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

To receive the House schedule, send a message to:

[listserv@hsched.house.leg.state.mn.us](mailto:listserv@hsched.house.leg.state.mn.us)

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

To receive the Senate schedule, send a message to: [listserv@senate.leg.state.mn.us](mailto:listserv@senate.leg.state.mn.us)

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

## Television

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

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

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

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

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

## The old standbys

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

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

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



## Minor members storm Capitol, take reins of power

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

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

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

has existed nationally since 1936, Lindquist said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— Celeste Riley

New members . . .

## Education, environment top concerns for Tingelstad

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



Rep. Kathy Tingelstad

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Environmental issues also are a priority for

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

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

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

— F.J. Gallagher

### District 50B

**1995 population:** 37,063

**Largest city:** Andover

**County:** Anoka

**Location:** northern metro area

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

— Rep. Kathy Tingelstad

# Bill Introductions

HF36-HF117

## Monday, Jan. 13

### HF36—Anderson, I. (DFL) Education

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

### HF37—Mulder (R) Education

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

### HF38—Tunheim (DFL) Education

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

### HF39—Knoblach (R) Education

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

### HF40—Leppik (R) Transportation & Transit

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

### HF41—Seifert (R) Judiciary

Same-sex marriages not recognized or allowed.

### HF42—Davids (R) Education

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

### HF43—Sviggum (R) Taxes

High school league tournament admission sales tax exemption provided.

### HF44—Sviggum (R) Judiciary

Joint and several liability apportionment regulated.

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

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

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

Legislator election provided without political party designation.

### HF47—Daggett (R) Judiciary

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

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

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

### HF49—Swenson, D. (R) Judiciary

Medium security corrections facilities minimum capacity requirement imposed.

### HF50—Jaros (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade

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

### HF51—Leppik (R) Judiciary

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

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

State treasurer office eliminated and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF53—Solberg (DFL) Education

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

### HF54—Murphy (DFL) Governmental Operations

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

### HF55—Sviggum (R) Health & Human Services

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

### HF56—Kahn (DFL) Financial Institutions & Insurance

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

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

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

### HF58—McElroy (R) Health & Human Services

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

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

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

## Thursday, Jan. 16

### HF60—Greiling (DFL) Judiciary

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

### HF61—Molnau (R) Agriculture

Agriculture department service contract and grant provisions modified.

### HF62—Swenson, D. (R) Judiciary

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

### HF63—Harder (R) Education

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

### HF64—Pawlentz (R) Judiciary

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

### HF65—Bishop (R) Judiciary

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

### HF66—Leppik (R) Environment & Natural Resources

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

### HF67—Osskopp (R) Judiciary

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

**HF68—Erhardt (R)****Education**

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

**HF69—Osskopp (R)****Judiciary**

Same-sex marriages not recognized or allowed.

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

Public assistance program residency requirement provisions modified.

**HF71—Wolf (R)****Education**

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

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

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

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

Eveleth Police and Fire Trust Fund benefit increase provided.

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

Absentee ballot voting provisions modified.

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

Medical practices board disciplinary action provisions modified.

**HF76—Dehler (R)****Education**

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

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

Partial-birth abortions prohibited and criminal penalties provided.

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

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

**HF79—Sykora (R)****Education**

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

**HF80—Nornes (R)****Education**

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

**HF81—Murphy (DFL)****Judiciary**

Corrections facilities multiple occupancy requirements modified.

**HF82—Mares (R)****Education**

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

**HF83—Skoglund (DFL)****Judiciary**

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

**HF84—Carlson (DFL)****Education**

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

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

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

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

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

**HF87—Stanek (R)****Judiciary**

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

**HF88—Skoglund (DFL)****Judiciary**

Sentencing guidelines application clarified.

**HF89—Gunther (R)****Education**

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

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

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

**HF91—Skoglund (DFL)****Judiciary**

Corrections facilities single and double bunking requirement repealed.

**HF92—Skoglund (DFL)****Judiciary**

Tattoo removal pilot grant program established, and money appropriated.

**HF93—Skoglund (DFL)****Judiciary**

Probationer or parolee concealment or harboring provided criminal penalties.

**HF94—Skoglund (DFL)****Judiciary**

Emergency telephone call disruption or interference provided criminal penalties.

**HF95—Skoglund (DFL)****Judiciary**

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

**HF96—Skoglund (DFL)****Judiciary**

Methcathinone classified as a schedule II controlled substance.

**HF97—Skoglund (DFL)****Judiciary**

Controlled substance crime sale amount aggregation authorized.

**HF98—Stanek (R)****Judiciary**

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

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

Emergency human services grant program established, and money appropriated.

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

Emergency snow removal funding provided, and money appropriated.

**HF101—Swenson, D. (R)****Judiciary**

DWI; drivers license revocation and reinstatement provisions modified.

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

Art in state buildings appropriations authorization removed.

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

State treasurer office eliminated and constitutional amendment proposed.

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

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

**HF105—Olson, E. (DFL)**  
**Ways & Means**

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

**HF106—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**

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

**HF107—Sviggum (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

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

**HF108—Tomassoni (DFL)**  
**Education**

Technical college employee retirement benefit protection provided.

**HF109—Haas (R)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

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

**HF110—Long (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families residency requirements established.

**HF111—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**

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

**HF112—Leppik (R)**  
**Transportation & Transit**

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

**HF113—Munger (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**

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

**HF114—Pawlenty (R)**  
**Taxes**

Dependent child income tax credit allowed.

**HF115—Kinkel (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**

Cass county tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

**HF116—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

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

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

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

New members . . .

## Evans rekindles friendships, focuses on education

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



Rep. Geri Evans

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### District 52B

**1995 population:** 33,290

**Largest city:** New Brighton

**County:** Ramsey

**Location:** northwestern Metro

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

— Rep. Geri Evans

# Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.  
 For information updates, call  
 House Calls at (612) 296-9283.  
 All meetings are open to the public.  
 Sign language interpreter services:  
 (612) 282-2331 v/tty  
 To have the daily and weekly schedules  
 delivered to your e-mail address, send a  
 message to:  
**listserv@hsched.house.leg.state.mn.us**  
 In the body of the message type:  
**subscribe h-schedules**

Association of Minnesota Municipalities;  
 Association of Small Cities; Coalition of  
 Greater Minnesota Cities; League of  
 Minnesota Cities; and Municipal Legislative  
 Commission.

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

## WEDNESDAY, Jan. 22

No committee meetings

## THURSDAY, Jan. 23

8 a.m.

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

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

8:30 a.m.

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

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

10 a.m.

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

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

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

12:30 p.m.

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

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

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

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

## FRIDAY, Jan. 24

8 a.m.

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

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

## MONDAY, Jan. 20

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

## TUESDAY, Jan. 21

9 a.m.

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

12:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

10:30 a.m.

**JUDICIARY**

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

**House Ethics Committee**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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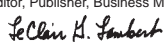
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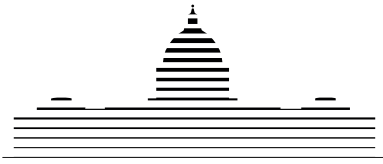
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**References to the fabled "frozen tundra"** of Lambeau Field, both printed and verbal, have been inescapable during the Green Bay Packers' successful drive toward Super Bowl XXXI. Cheesehead mania has even infected the hallowed halls of the Capitol,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

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



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

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

## ***Blizzards beyond budgets***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **For more information**



For general information, call:  
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To obtain a copy of a bill, call:  
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