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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-LeClair G. Lambert
Stopping harassment . . .

House moves to strengthen unclear anti-stalking law

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

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

The House Jan. 23 passed a bill that tightens Minnesota's 1993 anti-stalking law. The Minnesota Supreme Court recently ruled that the 1993 law leaves prosecutors with the burden of proving a defendant had criminal intent when stalking a victim. That can be difficult because stalkers often claim affectionate or benign motives for their behavior.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HF5 now moves to the Senate.

— Celeste Riley

**BONDING**

**Better bond rating**

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

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

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

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

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

Minnesota lost its AAA rating from Standard & Poor’s in March 1982 and lost its top rating from Moody’s in April 1982. Both rating firms downgraded Minnesota to AA.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CRIME**

**Prison problems**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“It doesn’t say, ‘at least one pod.’ It says ‘one,’” said Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL—Bovey). “Clearly the law has to be changed before this can go ahead.”

Benson tried to allay concerns about the large number of inmates who would be sharing cells. He described the state’s experience with double-bunking at medium-security facilities and detailed the factors considered when selecting inmates for shared cells.
Double-bunking is opposed by some who contend that it poses an increased risk to the safety of staff and inmates. “This is a calculated risk business,” Benson said. “We have a program that we think will address those kinds of concerns, and we’re prepared to move ahead with it.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

Still, not all members of the joint panel seemed ready to endorse the department’s plan.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EDUCATION

Removing the caps

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

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

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

Emergency snow removal

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

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

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

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

January 24, 1997 / SESSION WEEKLY
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Much — at times heated — discussion focused not on the removal of the caps, a move which has broad bipartisan support, but on an amendment to HF1 to alter the complex formula that determines how much money each school district receives. The goal of the amendment, offered by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), was to hold the line on property taxes in those districts with excess levy referendums or high property taxes in place as a result of the caps. It was rejected on an 18-5 vote.

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The House bill provides that grants can be made to local units of government for: "snowplowing for emergencies because the snowplowing budget or other resources are..."
depleted; emergencies due to severe weather and its aftermath, which may include flooding, and which affects or threatens public safety; and required matching funds under 1997 federal weather-related disaster declarations."

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

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

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

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

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

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

HF100 now moves to the House Judiciary Committee.

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**Snowmobiles... Lawmakers react to snowmobile tragedies**

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

The Jan. 18-19 weekend saw five snowmobilers and one pedestrian die in snowmobile accidents. The death toll is 24 so far this season, fast approaching last year's 26 snowmobiling fatalities.

Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison) plans to introduce a bill that would set new requirements for snowmobile safety training and provide funds for increased enforcement and trail improvements.

"I want to make this sport safe," Peterson said. "It's a very big industry, and it's something that wasn't there for tourism 10 years ago. That's great for northern Minnesota, but they still want a safe experience."

Peterson's proposal would require snowmobilers to complete safety training and receive a special driver's license endorsement, similar to requirements now in place for motorcycle riders.

The measure also would impose a $10 annual surcharge on registration fees for snowmobiles with engines of 335 cubic centimeters or larger. Proceeds from that surcharge, which Peterson estimates would be about $2 million per year, would be used to boost enforcement of safety laws, to improve snowmobile trails, and to support safety training.

Peterson also wants a requirement that snowmobiles carry liability insurance. (Current law does not require that snowmobiles be insured, nor does it require insurance for boats, personal water craft or all-terrain vehicles.)

"I recognize that it's a small minority who causes most of the accidents," Peterson said. "But we cannot permit unsafe conditions and unsafe operation to continue when the toll in human life is so high."

Many of the recent snowmobiling deaths are being attributed to high speeds or alcohol or a mix of both. Most notably, a 20-year-old Coon Rapids man now faces charges that on Jan. 18 he was driving his snowmobile drunk when it struck and killed 10-year-old Josh Renken as the boy walked along a road near his Big Lake, Minn., home.

"The bad actors — the ones drinking and traveling at high speeds — need to know that’s over," Peterson said. "We’re not going to tolerate that recklessness."

Another lawmaker is taking a different approach to reducing alcohol-related fatalities involving snowmobiles, boats, or automobiles.

Rep. Doug Swenson (R-forest Lake) is sponsoring a bill (HF62) that would reduce the legal blood-alcohol limit from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent for drivers of all vehicles.

"I’m doing this for the purpose of trying to save some lives," Swenson said. "Deaths on the road and through the use of recreational vehicles have been a problem for a long time."

Swenson said his bill, which was introduced Jan. 16, is part of a Mothers Against Drunk Driving effort on the state and national level to enact tougher drunk driving laws.

"The [snowmobile] fatalities of last weekend are not a new phenomena," Swenson said. "I am not pleased that these tragedies have occurred, but I am pleased that they have increased public awareness and legislative interest in this issue."

There are currently more than 250,000 snowmobiles registered in Minnesota. Restrictions on who can operate a snowmobile are mostly limited to children under age 18.

Current law allows a child of any age to drive a snowmobile on private land as long as they are accompanied by an adult. Children 12 to 14 who complete a safety course can operate a snowmobile alone on private land. Children 14 and up who complete a safety course are unrestricted in their snowmobile travels.

State law sets a 50 mph speed limit for snowmobilers on public lands or lakes. Snowmobilers traveling in ditches on county roads must adhere to the speed limit on the adjacent road.

"If you're driving 55 to 65 on the highway and you can't keep up with the snowmobiles in the ditch, then you've got a problem," Peterson said.

— Nick Healy
1997 Budget Address . . .

Governor focuses on tax cuts, education spending

Gov. Arne Carlson doesn't promise a chicken in every pot in his biennial budget proposal, but he does want an computer in every classroom. That provision is a small part of the $20.3 billion in state spending the governor is asking for in the 1998-99 spending cycle, a $1.5 billion increase over the current biennium. Carlson said that his budget proposal will allow the state to achieve long-term fiscal stability, restore its AAA bond rating, and hold down the growth in state spending.

"A budget is usually seen as being about spending. But it is about much more than that," Carlson told a roomful of reporters, legislators, and onlookers Jan. 23 at the St. Paul World Trade Center. "We've worked over the last six years to bring Minnesota from a $1.8 billion budget deficit to a $1.4 billion surplus. This budget builds on that and reflects our priorities for bringing Minnesota into the 21st century."

In response to the governor's budget proposal, House Speaker Phil Carruthers and Majority Leader Ted Winter said there are many items that DFLers can support, although his proposals on education and property taxes are a cause for concern.

Carlson's administration forecasts a budget surplus of $1.4 billion for the coming biennium. Based on this prediction, the governor wants to give taxpayers a one-time income tax rebate of $261 million. Individual taxpayers would receive rebates of $50 to $248. He also proposes $180 million in education tax credits and savings incentives, and $94 million in business and other tax reductions to come out of the surplus.

Department of Finance Commissioner Wayne Simoneau noted that for the first time in 20 years, this budget achieves a structural balance. Spending for 1998-99 is projected to be less than the rate of growth in Minnesota's personal income. "In layman's terms, government should not grow at a rate faster than the taxpayer's ability to pay," he said.

The governor also wants to use $261 million of the remaining unallocated surplus to double the state's budget reserve to an amount equal to 5 percent of the total budget. The reserve is used to prevent disruption of services or forced tax increases as a result of unanticipated revenue shortfalls. (The proposal currently pending in the Legislature (HF100) for $20 million in emergency relief to communities impacted by this winter's severe storms would come from this fund.)

Carlson said that Standard & Poor's, a major financial rating agency, will upgrade Minnesota's bond rating if the Legislature adopts his budget parameters. (See related story, page 4.) In 1982, Minnesota's AAA credit rating was downgraded as a result of the state's fiscal difficulties. Since then, restoration of the state's financial condition has led two major rating agencies, Fitch Investors Service and Moody's Investor Service, to restore Minnesota's AAA bond rating.

The largest single item in the budget proposal is education. The governor calls for an increase of $673 million, or 11.5 percent, in total education spending over the previous biennium.

Several of the governor's education reform ideas appear as budget initiatives. He asks for $5 million to establish statewide testing for students in third, fifth, and eighth grade so that parents, school districts, and state officials could judge how well individual schools are performing. The governor proposes expanding the state's current education expense tax deduction by $150 million to allow parents to receive tax credits for private school tuition, tutoring, summer school enrichment programs, home schooling expenses, and computer hardware and software purchases. A $30 million initiative called EdVest would also allow families to establish tax-free savings accounts for higher education.

The budget seeks $216 million for technology development including a specific initiative to link every public school to the Internet and increase the number of computers in classrooms. "We want every child to have access to computers and technology, just as we had access to textbooks," Carlson said.

Higher education also comes in for a substantial $215 million increase in funding. $132 million would go to the University of Minnesota and $83 million to the Minnesota State Colleges and University system.

Other highlights of the governor's 1998-99 budget proposal include:

• A comprehensive restructuring of state welfare programs in response to the federal government's elimination of Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The major element in the governor's plan is the statewide implementation of the Minnesota Family Investment Program, a pilot program which ensures that work is rewarded. The budget also calls for a $90 million increase in child care services, considered a key element in
allowing parents currently receiving AFDC to go to work. (See related story, page XX.)

- $3.4 billion for transportation including the largest road construction program in state history. $890 million would go for state highway construction, $10 million for metropolitan transit, and $3 million for outstate Minnesota transit.

- $880 million, a 13 percent increase, is proposed for environmental and recreation programs including $25 million to double ethanol fuel production subsidies, $2.1 million for grooming and maintenance of local and state snowmobile trails and $7.8 million for continuation of the Motor Vehicle Transfer fee for Superfund cleanup activities.

- A mere $26,942 increase in state aids and credits to local government. "I'll be blunt," Carlson said. "The formula for local aid is not equitable. Some local governments are getting 70-90 percent of their budgets from the state. That's like going to a restaurant, ordering a meal and sending the bill to another table."

The DFL leadership in the House of Representative agreed with some of the governor's proposals. "We strongly support welfare reform with an orientation on work," said House Speaker Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center). "We also applauded his increase in higher education funding and efforts to control growth in spending by state agencies."

Carruthers expressed concern that the governor's budget "offers little real increase for K-12 education and virtually freezes property tax relief. There is almost no increase in the general school aid formula."

Much of the governor's proposed increase in education funding really represents restoration of $337 million in cuts in state aid, Carruthers noted. Another $180 million is taken up by the Governor's proposed tax credits and deductions for private schools, summer camps and private computers, he added.

"It's a mixed message," Carruthers said. "We support a lot of what he's doing — but we want to strongly support education and job training. The best place we can put education dollars is the general per-pupil aid formula. At the same time, we recognize problems in schools cannot be addressed by dollars alone, but also requires accountability for the use of the tAX dollar."

Winter (DFL-Fulda) said rural residents will likely be disappointed that the governor continues to stress income tax relief when rising property taxes are a much more urgent problem. "He's proposing a one-time income tax giveaway when we really need property tax relief," Winter said.

Carruthers said House DFLers look forward to getting more precise details on the governor's budget next week. That will start the legislative budget making process, including multiple public hearings.

"I look forward to working with the governor on the budget," Carruthers said. "That will be the key to a successful and smooth legislative session."

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**It's a fact!**

In Mexico, the press is notorious for its cozy relationship with politicians at all levels of government. The situation is so bad that in February 1996, President Ernesto Zedillo ordered all his ministers to stop paying journalists for favorable coverage.

Such practices fly in the face of Minnesota's proud reputation as a good government state. But history shows that not all local scribes were committed to reporting all the news from the statehouse that was fit to print. At least one appears to have received state dollars to color his prose.

In 1907, H. E. Samuelson was hired to serve as the House press gallery sergeant for the 1907 and 1909 legislative sessions. For his services, he drew a modest paycheck of $5 per day. In current dollars, that's more than a $24,000 annual salary.

Trouble was no press gallery existed, "and Mr. Samuelson did no work of any kind in connection with that position, except draw his salary," an outraged Carl J. Buell wrote in his text *The Minnesota Legislature of 1909*.

In fact, Samuelson was employed as a political reporter for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and specifically covered House activities for the newspaper during his tenure as press gallery sergeant.

"I think it is only fair to infer that he was given about a thousand dollars of the people's money to color his legislative correspondence," Buell wrote.

There is no mention of other newspapers or reporters who might have been entangled in a similar kickback scheme, but the problem certainly never grew to be of modern-day Mexican proportions. According to *Forbes* magazine, a highly placed Mexican source said that if the payment-for-coverage scam were to stop, "this loss of revenue may bankrupt some of the local newspapers."

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Welfare changes ...

State braces for law ending 'welfare as we know it'

Cindy Selmon of Minneapolis knows of people who use their monthly welfare check to buy crack and booze instead of feeding their children.

Kathy Munt of Rush City, Minn., knows of schoolmates who got pregnant so they could qualify for welfare and not have to work.

And Charles Lickteig of Stacy, Minn., knows of a family encouraging a tradition of welfare with each new generation.

These attitudes anger all three Minnesotans. It's because of abuses like these that the federal government scrapped the longstanding welfare system in August 1996. They, too, are on welfare and may soon lose their safety net.

Each will watch the 1997 Minnesota Legislature carefully as lawmakers grapple with a new federal law that "ends welfare as we know it" — just as President Bill Clinton promised. Welfare recipients know it will affect them; they're just not sure how and when.

For now, no one knows.

The only certainty is that lawmakers must react to major policy changes and limited dollars coming from the federal government. Debate on legislation outlining Minnesota's response to the tougher welfare restrictions is expected later this month.

The federal law does away with monthly welfare checks and food stamps for many legal immigrants and eliminates disability cash assistance for people with drug and alcohol addictions. It also eliminates cash assistance for children with certain behavioral disabilities and requires able-bodied adults, ages 18-50, who receive food stamps to work.

Perhaps the most significant change involves poor families with children. The law requires these parents to get a job and sets a five-year-lifetime limit on their welfare benefits. States that do not get these parents to work will be penalized by the federal government.

While the federal law prescribes much of what states are required to do, it leaves each state to decide how to design its own welfare system.

For their part, states will decide who qualifies for welfare, what the income limits will be, how much cash assistance to dole out, and whether to spend state dollars to help legal immigrants and others whose benefits have been cut off by the federal law.

Minnesota, like all states, faces several challenges, most of which will cost money:
• creating jobs that pay a livable wage and match the skills of people on welfare;
• expanding job training programs;
• locating and paying for child care for all those welfare families now required to work; and
• creating a safety net for children in families whose parents refuse or can't find work, or whose welfare benefits run out.

The welfare alphabet

Unlike the old system, poor families no longer have a guarantee or entitlement to welfare.

Specifically, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) has been eliminated and replaced with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), which will send a block grant to each state.

In all, the federal government will spend more than $16 billion annually over the next six years. Minnesota expects to receive about $268 million each year, which is about $44 million more per year than it currently receives.

The federal money, however, comes with tough restrictions on who can receive the cash and for how long. Under the new rules, families receiving monthly welfare checks must find work within two years and there is a five-year lifetime limit on receiving help. States have the option of paying for more assistance after five years, but the dollars must come out of the state's own coffers.

States also have the option of limiting public assistance to fewer than five years and could deny benefits to children born or conceived while the parent is on welfare. It is unclear what Minnesota lawmakers will do.

Currently, a typical AFDC family in Minnesota — a mother with one child — receives $437 per month on AFDC. A mother with two children receives $532 per month. The monthly benefit has not changed since 1986. An estimated 160,000 people (108,000 of whom are children) receive AFDC benefits each month.

It's important to note,
however, that more than 50 percent of the families who receive AFDC leave the program on their own in two years and do not return, according to Deborah Huskins, an assistant commissioner with the Department of Human Services.

The clock on the new federal five-year limit begins ticking when the state submits its plan to the federal government detailing how it will meet the new welfare restrictions and move folks into the job market. States have until July 1, 1997, to submit their plans. There are stiff cash penalties — in the form of reductions to a state's block grant — for failing to meet the deadline.

Currently, 13 percent of Minnesota's 52,000 AFDC families have been on welfare steadily for the past five years, according to the Department of Human Services.

States are under a great deal of pressure to move people off the welfare rolls. Beginning with fiscal year 1997, each state must show that 25 percent of families on welfare are working at least 20 hours per week. By fiscal year 2002, the requirement jumps to 50 percent working at least 30 hours per week. There are cash penalties for states that do not meet the percentages.

"Some of the women just don't believe it's going to happen. They don't believe the cuts are real. They figure the federal government will step in when the five-year limit hits," said Lynn Shellenberger who runs a Twin Cities project called Sister to Sister, a mentoring program that brings together AFDC mothers and those previously on welfare.

If the new law is to work, said Shellenberger, a former welfare mom herself, government and the private sector need to come up with several million more dollars for job training and child care.

According to the Minnesota Department of Economic Security, the state has plenty of jobs available for welfare families joining the ranks of the employed. But, that news makes social workers shake their heads. The availability of jobs is only part of the problem. People on welfare need to be trained to take those jobs and too many of them don't pay a livable wage to support a family.

Currently, Minnesota pays about $28 million per year specifically to train and find work for people on welfare, according to the Department of Human Services. It is unclear if, or by how much, that will increase under children whose parents are considered working poor — low-income but not on public assistance, said Barbara Yates, an assistant commissioner with the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

The bottom line on child care, Yates said, is "we have some and we need more."

She stressed that child care slots must be created in the evenings, on weekends, and during odd night shifts because that is when some welfare parents will find work.

Another unanswered question is whether the state will continue to provide child care to welfare parents who attend school instead of work. It is unclear if they will be able to continue their education or be forced to work.

"Child care is a main concern," said Tabitha Carlson, a 25-year-old mother of two who relies on welfare to pay for child care while she studies social work at the University of St. Thomas.

"Under the new law, there could be a penalty for choosing to stay in school rather than going to work right away," she said. That penalty could be no more subsidized child care.

But, Carlson said, she's got to find a way to finish no matter what obstacles the federal law throws at her. "I have a vision for myself and this (new law) is not going to stop me."

Cindy Selmon, a welfare mom from Minneapolis, is studying to be a nurse at Minneapolis Community College and is juggling her three kids with her classes and a work study job. With a year of study remaining before graduation, she's worried the state will make her quit school and find a job.

"I gotta finish school or my family has little hope. . . . The more I try, it seems the harder they make it for me," she said, wishing the welfare system would judge cases on an individual basis.

"People think everyone on welfare is just sitting at home and watching soaps, but we're not. . . . I know I'm going to get off this stuff," she said.

Selmon, like many on welfare, wishes she just knew what was going to happen. "I need to know something. I need to know how to prepare."

Immigrants

In all, the federal welfare law is expected to save the United States more than $50 billion over the next six years and much of that savings — $25 billion — targets one group of people.

Nationwide, more than two million legal immigrants use one of several welfare programs. Under the law, however, virtually all

People think everyone on welfare is just sitting at home and watching soaps, but we're not. . . . I know I'm going to get off this stuff.”

—Cindy Selmon, welfare recipient
Minnesota is home to immigrants from all over the globe. The top five countries of origin are: Laos, Vietnam, Korea, the former Soviet Union, and Mexico. Currently, 34,000 of the roughly 100,000 legal immigrants in Minnesota receive benefits from one program or another.

The food stamp program tops the list of federal welfare programs that are now off-limits to many legal immigrants. In Minnesota, an estimated 16,000 noncitizens will lose their food stamps in 1997. The average person receives $63 per month in food coupons.

Also, many elderly and disabled immigrants will lose their Supplemental Security Income (SSI), a federal program begun in 1974 that provides cash help (an average of $378 a month) to the needy who are aged, blind, or disabled. In Minnesota, 5,400 immigrants are expected to lose their SSI in August 1997.

There are some exceptions to the food stamp and SSI bans. For instance, legal immigrants who have worked 10 years in the United States will keep their benefits. New refugees also will be eligible for food stamps and SSI, but only for their first five years in the U.S. In contrast, refugees who have lived in this country for five years or more will lose the benefits.

In terms of the federal block grant that replaces AFDC, immigrant families with children who arrived after Aug. 22, 1996, (the day the federal law was signed), are now barred for five years from receiving any cash help. It is up to each state to determine whether immigrants already on U.S. soil at the time the law was signed should receive the benefit. If Minnesota decides they should, the law requires that the income of the immigrant's American sponsor be considered when determining eligibility.

The law also gives states the option of denying Medicaid coverage (known as Medical Assistance in Minnesota) to legal noncitizens even if they were in the country prior to the federal law being signed. Medical Assistance is a joint federal and state program that helps people who can't afford health care. New immigrants will automatically lose their Medicaid coverage if they come to this country after Jan. 1, 1997.

Certain emergency help will remain available for all immigrants — legal or otherwise — such as emergency hospital care, disaster relief, the national school lunch program, public health immunizations, soup kitchens, higher education, and Head Start for disadvantaged pre-schoolers.

Despite the fact that federal benefits are being taken from immigrants, there's no "mad rush" to become a U.S. citizen, said John Borden, a casework supervisor with the International Institute of Minnesota, a St. Paul center that offers citizenship classes.

The institute has scheduled additional citizenship classes anticipating a demand. But the expected rush hasn't materialized. "They aren't going to start coming until they start seeing that the pinches are real," Borden said.

He expects the state to soften the cuts somewhat but not nearly enough to replace the federal dollars. "There's going to be an awful lot of suffering for some people."
MFIP pilot program

For several years Minnesota has experimented with a welfare pilot program in eight counties that requires poor families to work if they want public assistance.

If Gov. Arne Carlson and many state officials have their way, that experiment will become permanent and spread to all 87 Minnesota counties.

The Minnesota Family Investment Plan (MFIP) is expected to become the state's answer to a tough new federal welfare law.

MFIP allows families to accept lower paying jobs while receiving some public assistance, such as extra monthly cash and subsidized child and health care. In theory, allowing someone to work while still receiving benefits helps a low-skilled parent gain work experience and eventually obtain a better job.

Under the proposal, two-parent families statewide would be required to work immediately to receive welfare benefits. Single-parent families would be required to work within six months of receiving assistance. Parents who don't work will have their welfare benefits cut by 25 to 35 percent.

Also, in keeping with the federal law, there will be a five-year lifetime limit on receiving benefits.

Under the MFIP plan parents would leave welfare when their income reaches 120 percent of the poverty level which, for a family of three, is about $15,600.

Under Minnesota's traditional welfare program, a family leaves welfare when its income reaches 85 percent of the poverty level. That, agency officials say, too often has discouraged people on welfare from even bothering to get a job.

Families who worked typically lost income because earnings were deducted from their welfare check.

Under MFIP, going to work increases a family's income. For example, a parent with one child who would receive a combined cash-food stamp grant of $638 per month without working, could earn $500 a month at a job and still receive a grant of $456 a month.

MFIP began in 1994 as a pilot project in seven counties — Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Sherburne and Todd. Ramsey County was added in July 1996.

About 4,500 families receive welfare under MFIP and preliminary study results suggest that those people are more likely to work than those under the old welfare system.

and St. Paul into the streets of downtown Los Angeles," said Allison Boisvert of Catholic Charities Exodus Division.

"These people are mentally ill, not just chemically dependent. . . . These are not people who will advocate for themselves," Boisvert said, adding she knows of none who can hold down a job.

"They aren't handling it. . . . This is a crowd that doesn't handle anything."

Many children with behavioral disorders and mild mental retardation also are among the group cut off from SSI benefits. Some 3,200 children with behavioral disorders are expected to lose their checks after July 1997 due to a more narrow definition of "disability." Their average monthly benefit is $406.

Food stamps

The federal food stamp program was also changed by Congress. Able-bodied adults ages 18 to 50 with no children will no longer receive food stamps unless they are working. This provision could affect some 3,400 Minnesotans who currently receive about $65 in food coupons per month.

Under the federal law, adults without children can only receive food stamps for three months in a three-year period unless they are working. "Work" can include participating in a government work program 20 hours or more per week.

"I realize they had to do something about welfare fraud, but this law is blanket coverage and people are going to get buried under it," said Charles Lickteig of Stacy, Minn., who has been on food stamps for about two months.

"If you look three years down the road, there's no telling what can happen to a person," said Lickteig, who was hospitalized last fall after an accident.

He doesn't plan on being on food stamps long. He's studying to become a certified welder and hopes he can soon pass out of his program at Southwestern Technical College before his food stamps run out.

"Sure, there are people happy sitting on welfare and they do nothing to get off, but there are lots of people who use it only when they need it, when there's trouble," he said.

"I just want to go back to a regular life. . . . Just the [food stamp] paperwork alone kills me.

The welfare debate in Minnesota is expected to heat up quickly during the 1997 Legislative Session. Officials with the Department of Human Services say they need a state welfare law signed by March 31, 1997 or they run the risk of missing the federal summer deadline to submit state plans.

Missing the deadline means cash penalties. And, with as many poor families expecting the state to pitch in where federal dollars leave off, Minnesota can't afford to be fined.

—K. Darcy Hanzlik

At precisely 11:36 a.m. in a Jan. 23 meeting of the House Taxes Committee, Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) pointed out that in the heavens above, four planets had just come into alignment with a full moon — a situation that occurs only once every 200 years or so. If one makes a wish under such a circumstance, McElroy said, supposedly that wish will be granted, although he was quick to add that he professes no great belief in the pseudoscience of astrology.

"You may wish for whatever you want," McElroy told the committee, "but I'm wishing for property tax reform."
Sviggum: Lawmaking one of ‘best things’ he’s done

Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) makes the transitions between meetings, interviews, and major press conferences look effortless. Maybe that’s because the 1997 session is his 19th as a legislator and his fifth as House minority leader. While serving in office is nothing new to him, he’s still enamored with the job. “Outside of my family, being a member of the Legislature is the best thing I’ve ever done in my life,” he said.

In addition, he said, he still feels challenged by the start of a new session. “Working with people means always being in a state of learning. Each session means beginning anew. It means dealing with peoples’ attitudes and feelings and with new relationships. I always work to stay aware and keep doors open.”

The start of the 1997 Legislative session is unique in several ways. The Republican party was disappointed in its effort to gain a House majority despite Sviggum’s best efforts and surest predictions. He attributes it, in part, to weakness at the top of the Republican ticket during the 1996 presidential election with Bob Dole and U.S. Senate candidate Rudy Boschwitz losing to Democrats. “If it hadn’t been a presidential election year, the Republicans would be the majority in the House,” he said. Still, he added, while the loss came as a blow, the final numbers also reveal a Republican victory. “We’re a very close minority at 64-70. It means we’ll be real players, especially when you factor in a Republican governor. Many of our initiatives will be looked upon favorably,” he said. “The outcome speaks well to the candidates and the issues. We have 10 new freshmen, and they’ll be good, solid legislators.”

Also new is the apparent goodwill between political parties. “I genuinely feel that there is going to be a bipartisan effort to attend to the peoples’ business. Hopefully, we’ll focus on policy rather than power politics,” Sviggum said.

Still, he’s a pragmatist. “Maybe it’s just natural for there to be optimism at the beginning of the session. As the session goes forward, maybe some optimism will give way to reality,” he said.

If Sviggum’s outlook is tempered, it may be due to his unbending political philosophy. “I’m conservative. I’m not a moderate,” he said. “I’m very traditional in my feelings and values.” He believes a more conservative viewpoint is a natural outgrowth of maturity. “Maybe you’ve heard the idea that at 20, politics was never very deep. “My farming background influenced me tremendously. It gave me my values and principles; namely hard work, honesty, self-reliance, and individual responsibility.” Sviggum and his two brothers farm the same 1,000 acres near Kenyon, Minn., that his family has cultivated for 100 years. Today, they grow soybeans and corn and raise beef cattle.

“One of my favorite pastimes is riding the tractor through the fields. It’s very calming,” he said. “I also enjoy heading out to the basketball court at night with the kids, just the four of us.” Sviggum has three children: Hans, 16; Eric, 14; and Marit, 12. “The biggest accomplishment of my life is having these three children with good values and principals.” How did he do that? “I have a good wife,” he said with a grin. Debbie Sviggum teaches high school in Cannon Falls, Minn. Sviggum also continues his long-standing activities as a basketball coach and referee.

He counts among his greatest legislative victories the bipartisan passage of a workers’ compensation bill in 1995. “It helped Minnesota become competitive for jobs,” he said. His biggest disappointment? “Not gathering a majority this session.” That rates with another one: the failure thus far to pass an equitable funding formula for education in which the state would pick up a greater share of the tab, he said.

At least there will always be lutefisk. Sviggum, who said he’s proud of his traditionalism, is also proud to be a connoisseur of lutefisk — cod soaked in lye. “I like it — love it,” he said.

“The church [Vang Lutheran] puts on a big lutefisk dinner every year, and we also eat it at home. But you have to develop a taste for it.” Do the kids eat it? “No. I didn’t at their age either. But they will — that’s tradition!”

— Celeste Riley
## Committee Information

### Agriculture

487 State Office Building .......... 296-4247  
Meets: Mon., 10 a.m. in Room 200*  
Members: 18  
Chair: Wenzel-DFL  
Vice Chair: Peterson-DFL  
Lead Republican: Harder-R  

| Gunther-R | Otremba-DFL |
| Jaros-DFL | Rifenberg-R |
| Juhnke-DFL | Schumacher-DFL |
| Kielkucki-R | Skare-DFL |
| Kraus-R | Trumble-DFL |
| Kubly-DFL | Westrom-R |
| Kuise-R | Winter-DFL |
| Molnau-R | |

**Staff**  
Committee Administrator  
Patrick J. Plonski .......................... 296-4172  
Committee Legislative Assistant  
Vacant ........................................... 296-SS26

### Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

509 State Office Building .......... 296-9635  
Meets: Tues., Thurs., 12:30 p.m. in Room 200*  
Members: 26  
Chair: Tunheim-DFL  
Vice Chair: Hasskamp-DFL  
Lead Republican: Commers-R  

| Boudreau-R | Milbert-DFL |
| Bradley-R | Nornes-R |
| Daggett-R | Paymar-DFL |
| Dorn-DFL | Peterson-DFL |
| Entenza-DFL | Pugh-DFL |
| Erhardt-R | Reuter-R |
| Farrell-DFL | Rifenberg-R |
| Gunther-R | Seifert-R |
| Juhnke-DFL | Sekhon-DFL |
| Kinkel-DFL | Slawik-DFL |
| Lepik-R | Tomassoni-DFL |
| McElroy-R | |

**Staff**  
Committee Administrator  
Lois J. Knutson ............................ 296-8893  
Committee Legislative Assistant  
Barbara Moehrle ......................... 296-4171

### Economic Development Finance Division

597 State Office Building .......... 296-4201  
Meets: Mon., Wed., Thurs., 8 a.m. in Room 500S*  
Members: 11  
Chair: Trimble-DFL  
Vice Chair: Mullaney-DFL  
Lead Republican: Gunther-R  

| Clark-DFL | Solberg-DFL |
| Jaros-DFL | Workman-R |
| Otremba-DFL | Kalis-DFL |
| Reuter-R | - ex officio** |

**Staff**  
Committee Administrator  
Laura K. Fenstermaker ...................... 296-5069  
Committee Legislative Assistant  
Mary Pat Speltz ............................ 296-4178  
Fiscal Analyst  
William E. Connors ........................ 296-5813

## Capital Investment

543 State Office Building .......... 296-4240  
Meets: Tues., Thurs., 12:30 p.m. in Room 500S*  
Members: 21  
Chair: Kalis-DFL  
Vice Chair: Luther-DFL  
Lead Republican: Dempsey-R  

| Bettermann-R | Murphy-DFL |
| Bishop-R | Opatz-DFL |
| Clark-DFL | Solberg-DFL |
| Davids-R | Rhodes-R |
| Jefferson-DFL | Rostberg-R |
| Knoblach-R | Smith-R |
| Kubly-DFL | Trumble-DFL |
| Lindner-R | Carlson-DFL |
| Mariani-DFL | - ex officio** |
| Munger-DFL | |

**Staff**  
Committee Administrator  
Patricia Lindgren .......................... 296-4172  
Committee Legislative Assistant  
Barbara Moehrle ......................... 296-4171

### Economic Development & International Trade

559 State Office Building .......... 296-4246  
Meets: Wed., 12:30 p.m. in Room 200*  
Members: 24  
Chair: Jaros-DFL  
Vice Chair: Wejcman-DFL  
Lead Republican: Van Dellen-R  

| Clark-DFL | Ness-R |
| Dempsey-R | Osskop-R |
| Evans-DFL | Otremba-DFL |
| Gunther-R | Paymar-DFL |
| Harder-R | Reuter-R |
| Huntley-DFL | Rifenberg-R |
| Kahn-DFL | Rostberg-R |
| Krinke-R | Rukavina-DFL |
| Kubly-DFL | Swenson, D.-R |
| Mariani-DFL | Trumble-DFL |
| Mullery-DFL | |

**Staff**  
Committee Administrator  
Cathy A. Strobel ........................... 296-1540  
Committee Legislative Assistant  
Kathleen C. Regalado ..................... 296-6586  
Fiscal Analyst  
Cynthia Coronado .......................... 296-5384

### Housing & Housing Finance Division

503 State Office Building .......... 296-0294  
Meets: Tues., Thurs., 10 a.m. in Room 500S*  
Members: 12  
Chair: Clark-DFL  
Vice Chair: Kubly-DFL  
Lead Republican: Rhodes-R  

| Dempsey-R | Trimble-DFL |
| Evans-DFL | Kalis-DFL |
| Jaros-DFL | - ex officio** |
| Mariani-DFL | Solberg-DFL |
| Olson, M.-R | - ex officio** |
| Sykora-R | |

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Committee Legislative Assistant  
Kathleen C. Regalado ..................... 296-6586  
Fiscal Analyst  
Cynthia Coronado .......................... 296-5384

Assignments as of 1/23/97  
*Rooms in State Office Building  
**ex officio - non-voting member
### Education
365 State Office Building .............. 296-4255
Meet: Tues., Thurs., 8 a.m. in Room 200*

- **Members**: 34
- **Chair**: Carlson-DFL
- **Vice Chair**: Greiling-DFL
- **Lead Republican**: Seagren-R

- Anderson, B.-R
- Bakk-DFL
- Biernat-DFL
- Carlson-DFL
- Chaudhary-DFL
- Dehler-R
- Enzena-DFL
- Evans-DFL
- Folliard-DFL
- Johnson, A.-DFL
- Johnson, R.-DFL
- Kelso-DFL
- Kielkucki-R
- Kinkel-DFL
- Koppendrayer-R
- Leighton-DFL
- Leppik-R
- Luther-DFL
- Mares-R
- Nornes-R
- Olson, M.-R
- Paulsen-R
- Pelowski-DFL
- Schumacher-DFL
- Tuma-R
- Weaver-R
- Wolf-R

- **Staff**
  - Committee Administrator
    - Nancy K. Conley .......................... 296-4374
  - Committee Legislative Assistant
    - Dori Vaughan .............................. 296-3367

### Higher Education
Finance Division
549 State Office Building .............. 296-8637
Meet: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 a.m. in Room 500N*

- **Members**: 14
- **Chair**: Pelowski-DFL
- **Vice Chair**: Johnson R.-DFL
- **Lead Republican**: Bettermann-R

- Carlson-DFL
- Chaudhary-DFL
- Dehler-R
- Folliard-DFL
- Huntley-DFL
- Leppik-R
- Paulsen-R
- Tuma-R
- Kalis-DFL
- - ex officio**
- Solberg-DFL
- - ex officio**

- **Staff**
  - Committee Administrator
    - Susan M. Burns .......................... 296-4091
  - Committee Legislative Assistant
    - Kathy L. Anderson ........................ 296-3806
  - Fiscal Analyst
    - Doug E. Berg ............................. 296-5346

### Environment & Natural Resources
Finance Division
479 State Office Building .............. 296-4282
Meet: Mon., Wed., 10 a.m. in Room 5*

- **Members**: 24
- **Chair**: Munger-DFL
- **Vice Chair**: Hausman-DFL
- **Lead Republican**: Leppik-R

- Bakk-DFL
- Delmont-DFL
- Dempsey-R
- Dempsey-R
- Finschet-R
- Folliard-DFL
- Huntley-DFL
- Johnson, R.-DFL
- Kalis-DFL
- Kinkel-DFL
- McCollum-DFL
- Milbert-DFL
- Nornes-R
- Orfield-DFL
- Osthoff-DFL
- Rostberg-R
- Sekhon-DFL
- Stang-R
- Swenson, H.-R
- Tingelstad-R
- Wagenius-DFL
- Westfall-R
- Workman-R

### Environment & Natural Resources Finance
475 State Office Building .............. 296-4224
Meet: Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m. in Basement Hearing Room*

- **Members**: 15
- **Chair**: Osthoff-DFL
- **Vice Chair**: Ssekhon-DFL
- **Lead Republican**: Holsten-R

- Bakk-DFL
- Davids-R
- Finseth-R
- Holsten-R
- Johnson, R.-DFL
- Kalis-DFL
- McCollum-DFL
- Munger-DFL
- Nornes-R
- Peterson-DFL
- Rostberg-R
- Tingelstad-R
- Wagenius-DFL
- Westfall-R

- **Staff**
  - Committee Administrator
    - Elizabeth R. Goihl .......................... 296-8879
  - Committee Legislative Assistant
    - Norma S. Christensen ...................... 296-7175

### K-12 Education
Finance Division
415 State Office Building .............. 296-1072
Meet: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 a.m. in Room 5*

- **Members**: 19
- **Chair**: Kelso-DFL
- **Vice Chair**: Schumacher-DFL
- **Lead Republican**: Koppendrayer-R

- Bakk-DFL
- Carlson-DFL
- Enzena-DFL
- Greiling-DFL
- Johnson, A.-DFL
- Kielkucki-R
- Leighton-DFL
- Mares-R
- Ness-R
- Seagren-R
- Tomassoni-DFL
- Tunheim-DFL
- Weaver-R
- Wolf-R

- **Staff**
  - Committee Administrator
    - P. Joshua Downham ..................... 296-8875
  - Committee Legislative Assistant
    - Urszula M. Gryska ...................... 296-5492
  - Fiscal Analyst
    - Greg O. Crowe ......................... 296-7165

- *Rooms in State Office Building
- **ex officio - non-voting member

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Assignments as of 1/23/97

January 24, 1997 / SESSION WEEKLY 15
Financial Institutions & Insurance
563 State Office Building.......... 296-4936
Meets: Wed., 10 a.m. in Room 200*
Members: 18
Chair: Anderson, L.-DFL
Vice Chair: Mariani-DFL
Lead Republican: Davids-R

Staff
Committee Administrator
Mariani-D FL

Committee Legislative Assistant
Davids-R

State Government
Finance Division
471 State Office Building.......... 296-0170
Meets: Mon., Wed., 10 a.m. in Room 4008*
Members: 12
Chair: Rukavina-DFL
Vice Chair: Farrell-DFL
Lead Republican: Knirkie-R

Staff
Committee Administrator
Jacquelyn B. Roscholt.............. 296-4112
Committee Legislative Assistant
Krysta Niedernhofer.............. 296-7173

Health & Human Services
Finance Division
381 State Office Building.......... 296-0173
Meets: Mon., Wed., Fri., 10 a.m. in Room 10*
Members: 14
Chair: Greenfield-DFL
Vice Chair: Otremba-DFL
Lead Republican: Goodno-R

General Legislation,
Veterans Affairs & Elections
579 State Office Building.......... 296-4192
Meets: Mon., 12:30 p.m. in Room 300N*
Members: 18
Chair: Milbert-DFL
Vice Chair: Folliard-DFL
Lead Republican: Vickerman-R

Staff
Committee Administrator
Maureen Novak.................... 296-4179
Committee Legislative Assistant
Joan I. Harrison.................. 296-7881

Judiciary
477 State Office Building.......... 296-4330
Meets: Mon., Wed., Fri., 10 a.m. in Basement Hearing Room*
Members: 24
Chair: Skoglund-DFL
Vice Chair: Biernat-DFL
Lead Republican: Bishop-R

Staff
Committee Administrator
Victor A. Thorstensen.............. 296-2317
Committee Legislative Assistant
Don Jorovsky...................... 297-7202
Fiscal Analyst
Joe Flores......................... 296-5483

Governmental Operations
367 State Office Building.......... 296-4257
Meets: Tues., Thurs., 10 a.m. in Basement Hearing Room*
Members: 20
Chair: Kahn-DFL
Vice Chair: Hilty-DFL
Lead Republican: Knight-R

Assignments as of 1/23/97
*Rooms in State Office Building
**ex officio - non-voting member
Assignments as of 1/23/97

*Rooms in State Office Building  **ex officio - non-voting member

January 24, 1997 / SESSION WEEKLY  17
Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division
565 State Office Building ............... 296-4265

Meetings: Mon., Wed., 8 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 18
Chair: Olson, E.-DFL
Vice Chair: Garcia-DFL
Lead Republican: Abrams-R

Anders, I.-DFL Ozment-R
Daggett-R Rest-DFL
Dawkins-DFL Seifert-R
Hasskamp-DFL Winter-DFL
Kraus-R
Long-DFL Kais-DFL
Macklin-R - ex officio**
McElroy-R Solberg-DFL
Orfield-DFL - ex officio**

Staff
Committee Administrator
Dorothy M. Sawyer .......................... 296-7427
Committee Legislative Assistant
Lu Finnegan ................................ 296-9463

Sales & Income Tax Division
539 State Office Building ............... 296-5510

Meetings: Tues., Thurs., 8 a.m. in Room 300S*

Members: 12
Chair: Johnson, A.-DFL
Vice Chair: Skare-DFL
Lead Republican: Erhardt-R

Bak-DFL Van Dellen-R
Commers-R Kalis-DFL
Garcia-DFL - ex officio**
Harder-R Solberg-DFL
Long-DFL - ex officio**

Staff
Committee Administrator
Ray Frost .................................... 296-5508
Committee Legislative Assistant
Nancy Haas ................................ 296-8857

Transporation & Transit
437 State Office Building ............... 296-4200

Meetings: Mon., Wed., 12:30 p.m. in Room 10*

Members: 22
Chair: Wagenius-DFL
Vice Chair: Juhanke-DFL
Lead Republican: Workman-R

Anderson, I.-DFL Mahon-DFL
Broecker-R Marko-DFL
Finseth-R Molau-R
Greenfield-DFL Peterson-DFL
Hausman-DFL Rhodes-R
Johnson, A.-DFL Schumacher-DFL
Kelso-DFL Stang-R
Knight-R Swenson, H.-R
Kuisle-R Westrom-R
Lieder-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Andre P. Colaiace .......................... 297-5600
Committee Legislative Assistant
Mary M. Hale ............................... 296-5486

Transportation & Transit Finance Division
515 State Office Building ............... 296-5091

Meetings: Tues., Fri., 8 a.m. in Room 500S*

Members: 12
Chair: Lieder-DFL
Vice Chair: Mahon-DFL
Lead Republican: Molnau-R

Hausman-DFL Westrom-R
Juhanke-DFL Kalis-DFL
Kuisle-R - ex officio**
Marko-DFL Solberg-DFL
Stang-R - ex officio**
Wagenius-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Todd Iverson ............................... 296-5528
Committee Legislative Assistant
Maxine J. Wiech ........................... 296-4230
Fiscal Analyst
William F. Marx ........................... 296-7176

Ways & Means
445 State Office Building ............... 296-2365

Meetings: Call of the chair

Members: 25
Chair: Solberg-DFL
Vice Chair: Evans-DFL
Lead Republican: Finseth-R

Bettermann-R Macklin-R
Bishop-R Molau-R
Carlson-DFL Pugh-DFL
Carruthers-DFL Rukavina-DFL
Dorn-DFL Skoglund-DFL
Goodno-R Slawik-DFL
Jennings-DFL Stang-R
Kahn-DFL Svigum-R
Kalis-DFL Swenson, D.-R
Koppendrayer-R Winter-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Dan Kane ................................. 296-6970
Committee Legislative Assistant
Maxine J. Wiech ........................... 296-4371
Fiscal Analyst
William F. Marx ........................... 296-7176

Notes

Even those audited by the state come away as satisfied customers, members of the House Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division were told at a meeting in mid-January. There, the Department of Revenue's Deputy Commissioner Mathew Smith reported that of the 500 or so taxpayers who had been audited during 1996 and responded to a customer-satisfaction survey, 92 percent had been "satisfied with the audit process."

Smith then told the committee it costs the state a mere 60 cents or so to collect $100 worth of sales tax — far less than the cost to collect the same amount of either individual or corporate franchise levies.

"As a small-business owner who is currently undergoing a sales-tax audit, I can tell you why it costs you less," Rep. Phil Krinke (R-Shoreview), the division's lead Republican, said sternly. "Because the business owners collect it for you."

"Well, 92 percent of you should be satisfied with that," piped up Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls).
New members...

Stang stays close to constituents, rural concerns

Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring) is used to questions about his age. He heard them on the campaign trail, and he’s hearing them in his early days as a member of the House.

The 22-year-old is the youngest member of the 1997 Legislature, but it’s a distinction he seems to pay little mind.

“Someone has to be youngest, and I guess I’m that person,” he said. “In my district, this is really nothing unusual. Our area has a history of sending young legislators down here to St. Paul.”

In fact, the region around Stang’s home-town has elected several relatively youthful state lawmakers. District 14B also claims the youngest member of the Minnesota Senate, Sen. Michelle Fischbach (R-Paynesville), 31.

A recent graduate of St. John’s University, Stang’s political education got a boost in 1995 when he served as a clerk for the Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, then chaired by Sen. Joe Bertram of Paynesville.

“Working in the Senate in 1995 gave me an idea of what exactly it takes to be a legislator and what you need to do,” Stang said. “At that point, my interest in running for office grew.”

Stang once stood up at a party for Bertram staffers and joked that he wasn’t sure who he might someday unseat, Joe Bertram or his brother Jeff Bertram, then a member of the House.

Within a short period of time, Stang made a bid for each of the seats once held by the Bertrams.

After Joe Bertram resigned in 1995, Stang declared his candidacy for the Senate seat, but lost in the Republican primary to Fischbach.

Stang got another chance at the Legislature when Jeff Betram announced that he would not seek re-election in 1996. This time Stang had better luck. He defeated Paynesville Mayor Joe Voss in the November general election.

Stang built his campaign around his promise to better mirror his district’s values. Those values, according to Stang, center on a strong work ethic and a commitment to family.

He also plans to support a fiscally conservative agenda focusing on issues such as continued reform of the welfare system and cautious use of the forecast budget surplus.

Stang sees a golden opportunity for the state to make effective welfare system changes in the wake of last year’s federal overhaul.

“There’s such a strong public uproar against the current system,” Stang said. “Now more than ever we have the public support to make the changes and to shift toward getting people back into the workplace.”

He is taking a cautious approach to any proposal that calls for dipping into the surplus in state funds, which is forecast to reach $1.4 billion.

“I don’t like the idea of spending that money,” Stang said. “If the additional revenue is there, I would like to see it spent on education if we’re going to spend it on anything.”

Improving public education was another theme of Stang’s campaign and it is something he intends to concentrate on as a legislator.

He would like to see the state pick up a larger share of the education spending tab to reduce the current reliance on local property taxes. And Stang has joined a chorus of legislators calling for repeal of education spending caps enacted in 1995 that would result in significant cutbacks over the next two years.

He also is among the many lawmakers who are opposed to public funding for a new baseball stadium.

“People love the Twins out in rural areas, but those people understand what their priorities are and the Legislature needs to understand those priorities as well,” Stang said.

Those down-home priorities seem to be Stang’s guiding force in his early days in the House, and he promises that age will not hold him back.

“The main thing is you have to earn the respect of your colleagues,” Stang said. “The way you do that is by respecting them and respecting the experience that they have. That’s what I’ve been doing, and that’s what I will continue to do.”

— Nick Healy

Lawmakers discussed streaking and got a firsthand look at their subject matter during one unusual day in 1974.

The Rochester Post-Bulletin, on March 14, 1974, reported that lawmakers debated a “streaking amendment” to an unrelated bill the previous day and that “nude male streakers” made their Capitol complex debut.

The tongue-in-cheek amendment, offered by Rep. Neil Haugerud (DFL-Preston), defined a streaker as “one who moves at a high speed, but not to exceed 55 miles an hour” — a sarcastic reference to the freshly established 55 mph speed limit.

The amendment also called for a $2 registration fee for streakers and a special tax on ski masks and sneakers. And the proposal included a requirement that “night streakers” be equipped with a light on the front and a red reflector on the rear, according to the Post-Bulletin.

Lawmakers had some fun with the proposed amendment. One suggested that streakers in the Senate be required to wear a coat and necktie — a jab at the upper body’s dress code.

The amendment never came up for a vote, but events that followed left some wondering if it should have. Moments after the proposal was dropped, three streakers scurried past the House chamber entrance.
Thursday, Jan. 23

HF118—Juhnke (DFL)
Taxes
Used farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently.

HF119—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Judges reduction of minimum mandatory fines, surcharges, and penalty assessments restricted.

HF120—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Office of technology established as a state agency, North Star information access account created, and money appropriated.

HF121—Jefferson (DFL)
Education
Youth initiative grant neighborhood substitution provided.

HF122—Jefferson (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Radio and stereo use restricted in motor vehicles.

HF123—Long (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk Highway No. 55 in Minneapolis railroad access reduced.

HF124—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Sentencing hearing defendant information presentation limited.

HF125—Sviggum (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Kenyon tax levy recertification authorized.

HF126—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
Commercial industrial property market value increased when subject to a reduced property tax class rate.

HF127—Folliard (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
State election law modified and clarified related to voter requirements and election procedure.

HF128—Luther (DFL)
Judiciary
Merchant physical search of suspected shoplifters prohibited.

HF129—Opatz (DFL)
Education
Educational accountability and enhanced achievement provided through uniform statewide testing, improvement plans for schools in crisis, and designating distinguished teachers, school improvement fund established, and money appropriated.

HF130—Carlson (DFL)
Education
Gopher state bonds; college savings bond program established, marketing plan development required, and bond sale authorized.

HF131—Luther (DFL)
Judiciary
Tenant notification of apartment manager criminal background check compliance required.

HF132—Luther (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Housing and redevelopment authorities occupancy standard determination provisions modified.

HF133—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Dangerous offender sentencing for violent crime definition to include felony-level domestic assault.

HF134—Sviggum (R)
Education
Independent School District No. 763, Medford, fund transfer provided.

HF135—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Community crime cost study by Legislative Audit Commission requested.

HF136—Leppik (R)
Health & Human Services
Physicians allowed to prescribe and administer controlled substances in cases of intractable pain.

HF137—Haas (R)
Taxes
Permanent and total disability homestead property tax classification requirements modified.

HF138—Haas (R)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare provider tax rate reduced.

HF139—Ness (R)
Education
Minnesota learning academy established to provide educators and administrators technology use training, learning resources network established, site-based grants and library site grant program provided, and money appropriated.

HF140—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Automobile insurance card rule adoption required.

HF141—Seifert (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Emergency snow removal funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF142—Skoglund (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Emergency snow removal funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF143—Wenzel (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Metropolitan Airports Commission name changed to Minnesota Airports Commission.

HF144—Nornes (R)
Governmental Operations
Licorice adopted as the official candy of the state of Minnesota.

HF145—Sviggum (R)
Governmental Operations
Term limits imposed on legislative and executive offices, biennial legislative sessions and unicameral legislature provided, legislative procedures modified, state primary election date changed, and constitutional amendments proposed.

HF146—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Stolen vehicle impoundment charges prohibited.

HF147—Weaver (R)
Judiciary
Juvenile crime data release authorized to crime victims, terrorist threat, crime offender, child custody or visitation right provisions modified, and child victim notification required when sentence modification occurs.

HF148—Tunheim (DFL)
Agriculture
Turfgrass research and development support continued, and money appropriated.

HF149—Rifenberg (R)
Health & Human Services
Abortion; constitutional standard established relating to abortion, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF150—Rifenberg (R)
Health & Human Services
Partial-birth abortions prohibited and criminal penalties provided.

HF151—Seifert (R)
Judiciary
Firearms; right to keep and bear arms for certain purposes not abridged; and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF152—Seifert (R)
Taxes
Use of farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently.

HF153—Osskopp (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Nuclear waste; radioactive waste management facility dry cask storage alternative site requirement eliminated.

HF154—Murphy (DFL)
Judiciary
Livestock activity liability provisions modified.

HF155—Jaros (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Temporary employee use restricted, and civil penalty provided.

HF156—Slawik (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Secretary of State filing fees and procedures regulated.

HF157—Rifenberg (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Term limits imposed on legislative and executive offices and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF158—Greiling (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Unicameral legislature provided with 99 members, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF159—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Welfare reform; human services and public assistance programs and eligibility requirements modified, and money appropriated.
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@sched.house.leg.state.mn.us. In the body of the message type: subscribe h-schedules.

MONDAY, Jan. 27

8 a.m.

Economic Development
Finance Division/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE
Tour
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: Site visits and briefings by the Minnesota Humanities Commission.

Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Presentation by the Higher Education Services Office.

K-12 Education Finance Division/EDUCATION
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Keho

Regent Candidate Advisory Council
Room to be announced.
Chr. Mary McLeod
Agenda: Regent candidate interviews.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE
Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Snowmobile report. Reports from the Safety Task Force; Minnesota United Snowmobile Association; and the Sheriff’s Association.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel
Agenda: Presentations and introductions of major agricultural organizations and their representatives, including: Minnesota Farmer’s Union; Minnesota Farm Bureau; National Farmer’s Organization; Farmer’s Legal Action Group (FLAG); Farm Credit Services; Minnesota Agri-growth Council; Dairies Federation of Minnesota; Ethanol producers’ organizations; Minnesota Pork Producers’ Association; Minnesota Wheat Growers’ Association; and Northwest Agri-Dealers’ Association.

12:30 p.m.

WORKING GROUP ON DE-WELFARING DAYCARE/
FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
Finance Division/EDUCATION
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: To be announced.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION
Tour
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: Tour of Ronald H. Hubbs Center for Lifelong Learning in St. Paul.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS
300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert
Agenda: HF74 (Osthoff) Absentee voting. HFXXXX (Folliair) Change of address voter registration.

TUESDAY, Jan. 28

8 a.m.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson
Agenda: Overview of Workers’ Compensation Reinsurance Association and Department of Labor.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: Global warming and transportation policy, Dean Abrahamson and Margaret Davis, University of Minnesota.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

EDUCATION
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: HF84 (Carlson) Labor Day school start. Overview of Governor’s budget recommendations by the Department of Finance.

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Brief overviews of new initiatives that need funding by the committee: committee members, noncommittee members with bills or ideas; agencies; and public. Past appropriations; juvenile bonding reports from each judicial district; correction officer positions allocated in 1994, probation officer caseload reduction money; Violence Prevention Education Grants; Youth Intervention Program; Auto Theft Prevention Board; Hennepin County Chemical Dependency Pilot Program; African American Violence Prevention Program; DWI; and Public Safety Aid to Minneapolis.

Regent Candidate Advisory Council
400S State Office Building
Chr. Mary McLeod
Agenda: Regent candidate interviews.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE
Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Waste prevention and management. Waste remediation presentations by the Pollution Control Agency; Department of Agriculture; and the Office of Environmental Assistance.

January 24, 1997 / SESSION WEEKLY 21
Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES
300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: Review of the Department of Revenue's technical bill.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Review of administrative rules processes.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: Welfare overview. No public testimony.

Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: Agency income limits and housing plans, Housing Finance Agency. Welfare reform proposal to deduct $100 from families receiving rental assistance, Department of Human Services. Minnesota Housing Partnership.

Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF)
Division/TAXES
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: Presentations by House Research and Fiscal Analysts regarding the implications of K-12 funding on property tax.

11:45 a.m.

COMMERCE, TOURISM &
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
Tour
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: Member tour of the Explore Minnesota Store in the Mall of America, Department of Tourism presentation.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Overview of the Department of Administration, Commissioner Elaine Hansen, Capital budget process, Assistant Commissioner Dennis Spalla.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS
Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: Presentation of Legislative Agendas: Association of Minnesota Counties; Minnesota Association of Townships; Metropolitan Inter-County Association; and Minnesota Municipal Board.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: Continuation of Jan. 21 agenda: Minnesota Telephone Association, Jerry Knickerbocker; MCI, Barry Tilley; AT&T, JoAnne Anderson; U.S. West Communications, Phyllis Harvin. HFXXXX (Jennings) Utility right-of-way (discussion only).

1:30 p.m.

WAYS & MEANS
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: Presentation by Wayne Simoneau, commissioner Department of Finance.

4:30 p.m.

Capitol Forum Series 1997
3M Auditorium,
Minnesota History Center

Agenda: How population trends will affect Minnesota's workforce, Hazel Reinhart, former State Demographer.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 29

8 a.m.

Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Briefings from Asian-Pacific Americans Council; Black Minnesotans Council; Chicano Latino Affairs Council; and Indian Affairs Council.

Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Budget overview, Lisa Deremeem, Department of Finance.

K-12 Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Overview of Governor Carlson's K-12 budget recommendations.

Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF)
Division/TAXES
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: Property tax overview.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE
Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Water management and water issues. Presentations from the Department of Natural Resources; Pollution Control Agency; BWSR; Department of Agriculture; Department of Health; Metropolitan Council; and Minnesota Planning.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF113 (Munger) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund; Constitutional Amendment.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS &
INSURANCE
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: Continuation of Department of Commerce overview.

Health & Human Services
Finance Division/
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield


12:30 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: Presentation by the Minnesota Supreme Court Task Force on Visitation and Child Support, Julie Brunner, county administrator, St. Louis County and Peter Farilla, former chair, Sociology Department, University of St. Thomas.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Division/EDUCATION
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Testimony by University of Minnesota experts on factors that lead to well-developed children.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: Department of Transportation budget presentation.

1 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE
Tour
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: Tour and site briefing by Minnesota Trade Office, George Crolick, executive director. Discussion of Office of Tourism and its efforts to promote international tourism, Steve Markuson, executive director. Discussion of the goals and operation of the Minnesota World Trade Association, D'Ann Brosnahan, executive director. (Directions and transportation information will be sent to members' offices.)
THURSDAY, Jan. 30

8 a.m.

Economic Development
Finance Division/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE
500 S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Delmont
Agenda: Overview of Allied Charities, King Wilson.

Subcommittee on Gaming/
REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY
500 S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza
Agenda: Description of the Board of Electricity, Employment Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Centers for Independent Living.

Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/
EDUCATION
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Presentation and discussion of Guiding Principles.

Subcommittee on School Facilities/
EDUCATION
200 S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: Overview of Allied Charities.

Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY
500 S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: Review of Jan. 23 agenda.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE
Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lisa Daugaard
Agenda: Land stewardship. Conservation
issues: Department of Agriculture; and BWSR.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES
300 S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson
Agenda: Review of the Department of Revenue's technical bill.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn
Agenda: Welfare overview. No public testimony.

Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE
500 S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
Agenda: Discussion on guiding principles. HF97 (Clark) Emergency Services Grant.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT
Tour
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: Tour of Lino Lakes Correctional Facility.

12:30 p.m.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS
200 S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim
Agenda: HFXXX (Slawik) Secretary of State housekeeping.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: Continuation of Jan. 21 agenda. Presentations from Association of Metropolitan Municipalities; Association of Small Cities; Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities; and League of Minnesota Cities.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

Subcommittee on Transportation Operations/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT
500 S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Sharon Marko
Agenda: Welfare reform and transportation.

Joint
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES/Senate
HEALTH & FAMILY SECURITY
Christ Lutheran Church,
105 University Avenue West
St. Paul, Minnesota
Agenda: Welfare reform bills: immigrant focus.

FRIDAY, Jan. 31

8 a.m.

Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION
500 S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Budget overview, Lisa Deremee, Department of Finance.

Transportation & Transit Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT
500 S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: Budget overview: Department of Public Safety, Donald E. Davis, commissioner and Frank Ahrens, finance director. Pipeline Safety, Charles Kenow, director. Traffic Safety, Thomas Boerner, director. Technical support services, Steve Patchet, assistant director. Driver and Vehicle Services, Kathy Burke Moore, director.

10:30 a.m.

JUDICIARY
Tour
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Tour of Minnesota Teen Challenge. Tour of Harriet Tubman Battered Women's Shelter.
Welfare in Minnesota

Average number of Minnesotans receiving monthly AFDC benefits, 1996...174,000
As a percent of all Minnesotans.................................................................3.7
AFDC families headed by a single parent.........................................................9 in 10
Average number of people in an AFDC household.................................................2.94
Percent of new AFDC families who are off the program in six months or less....23
Percent of state and county general fund budget devoted to AFDC, 1986........2.8
in 1996............................................................................................................1.4
Adjusted for inflation, change in the amount Minnesota
spent on AFDC, in percent, 1986-1996......................................................-32
Adjusted for inflation, change in the amount Minnesota
spent on Medical Assistance, in percent, 1986-1996.......................................+87
Increase in the dollar amount of monthly AFDC benefits since 1986...............0
Able-bodied childless Minnesotans ages 18 to 50 receiving
food stamps, 1996......................................................................................3,400
Statewide, change in AFDC recipients, 1986-1994........................................+33,600
Change from 1994 to 1996......................................................................-18,200
Number of Minnesota’s 87 counties in which the number of AFDC recipients
decreased between 1986 and 1996.................................................................67
Counties in which AFDC recipients make up more than 5 percent of
the population .................................................................................................10
Number of those counties in northern Minnesota................................................8
Beltrami County residents receiving AFDC, highest in Minnesota..............1 in 10
Number of expected new job openings requiring a high school education or less
for every welfare recipient required to work..................................................8
Number of applicants competing for every new job opening..............................3.6
Child support cases in which the state assisted with collections, 1996........204,000
AFDC payments to child support clients repaid from child support
collections, in millions, 1995........................................................................$55
Percent of U.S. population composed of legal immigrants..............................4.7
Minnesota population.....................................................................................1.4
Percent of federal savings from welfare reform that will come
from cuts in aid to legal immigrants...............................................................46