

SESSION WEEKLY

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Update

The Legislature has only met in session for one month now, but the average population has increased dramatically throughout the Capitol and State Office Buildings. Activists, constituents, and lobbyists have converged on the complex to share information and try and help to play a role in legislative decision-making.

While such issues as a new stadium for the Minnesota Twins or more money for education are being brought to the table, some of the 134 House members have already introduced 342 bills that received a first reading. All of these have been sent to House committees for hearings. Only four bills have been sent back to the body and passed. So far, no bills have failed to pass. About 1,500 bills will be introduced by the end of May, but only some 300 may go to the governor to be signed into law, and some of them may be vetoed.

Musing on these findings at this point in the session, total numbers are relatively unimportant. But indirectly, they do relate to the reason for the sea of dark business suits seen during lunch hour in the cafeterias of the two buildings.

Like their colleagues seen near the Capitol rotunda and talking on their cellular phones, the "business suiters," for the most part, are the 450-plus lobbyists who fill the hallways, tunnels, hearing rooms, and members' offices to discuss and advocate for their favorite issues, be it health care, tobacco, cities, oil refining, or money for the arts.

What the members do with the information they get from the advocates is difficult to discern. While standing or sitting in some most unlikely places, members who are stopped outside a hearing room or in front of the chamber, listen to and question the many people who seek them out. One can only guess at the reason for seeing so many cellular phone types so early in session, and why "session statistics" are climbing so rapidly.

It is a fact that now, more than ever in the world of clean Minnesota politics, no member or activist would dare be found guilty of ethics violations. Likewise, it is difficult to find any informational gatherings held at local eating establishments outside the complex.

As the early statistics continue to change and become more meaningful, the issues related to them will become more focused. For now, only observing the legislative players is a unique pastime as the legislative caucuses begin a compatible second month of conducting the business of the people.

-LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: The Bug O Nay Ge Shig Dance Troop, Cass Lake, Minn., danced their way into the Capitol rotunda Jan. 29 as part of Creative Ticket Day, an event sponsored by several arts education organizations.

— Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Highlights

Anti-smoking bill . . .

Lawmakers work to block tobacco sales to minors

The effort to crack down on the sale of tobacco products to minors, thought to be extinguished in 1996, has flared up again with the introduction of a new anti-smoking bill.

On Jan. 30, members of the Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee voted 21-4 to send the bill to the House floor.

As originally written, **HF117**, sponsored by Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) and Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), would require local governments to license and regulate the retail sale of tobacco and conduct at least two compliance checks per year in every establishment that sells it.

Amendments to the bill cut back the com-

establishes a minimum level of regulation and relies on a framework of local ordinances to meet, or exceed, the law.

Rest told committee members that the legislation has the support of a broad coalition of interests, including public health groups, law enforcement agencies, and children's and family advocates. Moreover, she continued, "the general public supports this legislation by a huge margin."

Rest called underage smoking the country's "number one public health problem," comparing it to the ravages of AIDS, highway death, and murder. Indeed, two local officials and two schoolchildren testified to that effect. One 11-year-old student illustrated

checks," said retail association spokeswoman Judy Cook, "and most often the clerk misjudges someone's age rather than commits a willful violation."

After hearing all public testimony, the committee accepted five amendments.

Under an amendment offered by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), a city, town or township would have the option of regulating tobacco sales and could enact regulations stronger than those outlined in the bill. If the municipality chose not to regulate tobacco sales, that responsibility would fall to the county, which would then be compelled to do so. The city, town, or county would also be allowed to set the license fee at an amount sufficient to recover, or perhaps exceed, the cost of enforcement.

An amendment offered by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), reduced the number of mandatory compliance checks from two per year to one. Many committee members felt that requiring municipalities to perform two checks, which are usually "sting" operations, would impose an undue financial burden on local governments.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) proposed an amendment that would require a local government to give at least 30 days written notice to retailers before adopting any ordinance that would change the tobacco regulations.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) successfully offered a pair of amendments. The first deleted a section that would have prohibited tobacco manufacturers or distributors from paying retailers to place tobacco products in special eye-catching locations in a store. Many distributors routinely pay shopkeepers "slot" payments to ensure their products receive the most prominent display space.

Gunther, who is a grocer, pointed out that, contrary to media reports, the profit margin on cigarettes is not great. In fact, he said, many small store owners have come to rely on the slot payments.

Gunther's second amendment reduced the amount of fines levied against the store owners for violating the law. Originally, the bill imposed a minimum \$100 fine for a first



A bill on its way to the House floor would crack down on the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products to minors.

pliance checks to one and give cities and towns the option of regulating tobacco sales. But, if they do not, counties would have no choice. They must.

Rest's measure is similar to the amendment she offered to a tobacco bill in 1996. But that bill, sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), would have set statewide penalties for selling tobacco to minors. Jennings modeled his bill after the so-called "pre-emption laws" already on the books in more than two dozen states that trump local ordinances. **HF117**, on the other hand, es-

the threat. He recounted the ease of strolling into a restaurant and buying a pack of cigarettes from a vending machine.

The bill, however, was not without opposition. Officials from the Minnesota Retail Grocer's Association and the Minnesota Retailer's Association testified in opposition to the legislation. The law, they said, would impose a difficult burden on merchants who operate stores in several different cities and towns, each of which could impose a different level of regulation.

"Most retailers do their own compliance



Shawn Rowley, a sixth grader at Mississippi Heights Middle School in Sauk Rapids, Minn., testified before the Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee Jan. 30 in favor of a bill that would provide for mandatory penalties when tobacco is illegally sold to minors.

offense and at least \$250 for a second offense. The amounts changed to \$50 and \$150, respectively.

Rest's bill retained its \$50 fine for store clerks who sell tobacco to a minor.

"The net effect of this bill is that we get a statewide standard . . . and still allow local governments to be more strict," in their regulation of tobacco, Rest said. "This approach to restricting tobacco . . . will be a very important public policy decision for Minnesota."

—F.J. Gallagher



AGRICULTURE

Exorbitant milk prices

State lawmakers are looking for answers to problems in the dairy industry that have Minnesota consumers paying exceptionally high milk prices while the state's dairy farmers struggle to make a living.

"I believe there is a crisis in the dairy industry today," said Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), who chairs the House Agriculture Committee. "The crisis is not being addressed by those who are profiting from it."

Wenzel's committee and the Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Committee met jointly Jan. 24 to discuss the plight of Minnesota's dairy farmers.

The recent history of the dairy business

has been troubled. Farmers have seen a significant drop in the prices they get for their products. Consumers continue to pay retail prices among the highest in the nation. And Minnesota's largest milk wholesalers face an investigation into price fixing accusations.

Frank Grimm, a Sibley County dairy farmer, told members of the joint panel that changes must be made to ensure the future of dairy farming in Minnesota.

Grimm's family has been in the dairy business in Minnesota since the 1800s, but his operation is "losing ground" because of low prices paid by processors and rising prices for feed and supplies

Longtime farmers are being forced out by low prices, and young, start-up farmers just can't make a go of it, according to Grimm, who spoke on behalf of the Minnesota Farmers Union.

"For people to start in this business, we need to have profit," he said. "The way to have profit is to have fair pricing."

Wenzel said he plans to pursue reforms this session to help dairy farmers.

Specifically, he expressed support for a proposal to repeal the Dairy Unfair Trade Practices Law, which prohibits the retail sale of milk at prices below wholesale.

Allowing stores to freely set milk prices could drive up consumer demand, and as a result, force an increase in the price paid to dairy farmers, according to Wenzel.

"Minnesota dairy farmers could hardly do worse under a free market system," he said. "Government intervention has put thousands of farmers out of business, and in the process, gouged consumers."

Wenzel also said he would support an effort to create a compact with neighboring states to guarantee dairy farmers a fair minimum price.

So far this session, neither proposal has been introduced in the form of a bill, but several legislative proposals related to dairy pricing are expected to be debated before lawmakers adjourn in May.



CRIME

The children's list

Last November, authorities at Lino Lakes prison discovered a computerized list of the names of 3,000 children from outstate Minnesota. The prisoner suspected of compiling the list is a repeat child molester who is scheduled for release in January 2002.

Recently, a second list was found with about 2,600 names — and addresses in many

cases — of children in the Twin Cities metro area.

Authorities believe the names on both lists were gathered from public sources, such as newspapers, and that the lists are between 4 and 10 years old.

"We'll probably never know all the sources with respect to where the names came from," said Dennis Benson, deputy commissioner of the Department of Corrections, during testimony before the House Judiciary Committee Jan. 29.

Benson concedes that compiling such a list is not illegal, which has made it difficult to formulate a departmental response.

"It's certainly disturbing, but not illegal," Benson said. "The individual's history, however, heightens our level of concern."

Roger Wheeler, a special agent with the corrections department, said the incident will generate a criminal investigation, then a possible grand jury indictment.

"We continue to review our internal policies," Benson said. "We will work with the Legislature on any bill you might produce."

The prisoner had computer access through Insight, Inc., a prison telemarketing program. He also had access to the Internet and a modem. An investigator told members that while there is no evidence the list was distributed, there is no way to prove it was not. Information detailing who received e-mail from prisoners is not available.

Investigators believe that none of the children on the list have been contacted by the prisoner or by others.

David Crist, acting commissioner of corrections, said that prisoners no longer have access to the Internet or other computers through a modem. They continue, however, to operate the telemarketing company and other computer programs, all on "stand alone" computers, he said.

Several legislators had concerns about inmates' continued access to computerized information and questioned whether they should have any access to computers.

At the time of the meeting, the corrections department had sent letters to 700 families of children whose names appeared on the list. They intended to send letters to remaining families by Jan. 31 and also have established an information line for concerned parents at (612) 603-0026.

"This is a yellow caution light in terms of the computer age, the Internet, and technology," Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said. "We have to be careful regarding the ease with which information is available to any one individual." Possible legislation stemming from the incidents may affect computer access by

prisoners and parolees, data privacy laws, or school and other lists with information about children, Dawkins said.

Pay up for troopers

State troopers were called to Minneapolis last August along with other law enforcement assistance. Many arrests were made, guns were taken off the street, and the city's murder rate did not reach the record level of 1995. Now the \$226,000 bill for those extra law officers has come to the Legislature.

The cost of deploying 25 state troopers, three to five Bureau of Criminal Apprehension agents and a state patrol helicopter was paid for out of the state's trunk highway fund. Legislation (**HF19**) sponsored by Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) authorizes the commissioner of finance to transfer \$226,000 from the general fund to reimburse the trunk highway fund before the current fiscal year ends on June 30, 1997. The bill was discussed Jan. 28 by the House Transportation and Transit Finance Division, which Lieder chairs.

Don Davis, state commissioner of public safety, recounted for the committee the events leading up to the trooper deployment. In late August 1996, Minneapolis appeared to be careening toward another record homicide level, Davis said. The *New York Times* had carried a story labeling Minnesota's largest city "Murderapolis," and Gov. Arne Carlson and Lt. Gov. Joanne Benson had both just returned from overseas trips concerned about the image Minneapolis was acquiring. On Aug. 25, there were three more murders while Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton and Police Chief Robert Olson were out of town. Two days later, Carlson summoned Davis to his office and wanted to know what the state could do to immediately address the crime problem in Minneapolis. After discussing the matter with city council and police officials, it was decided to send in 15 state troopers and three to five BCA agents to assist Minneapolis police for a 60-day period. A state patrol helicopter and pilot were also assigned to the city.

The results were dramatic, according to Davis. The state troopers made 1,089 arrests and assisted in responding to 505 emergency 911 calls. Among the arrests were 66 weapons-related, 196 for outstanding warrants, 86 for other felonies, and 154 for driving while intoxicated or without a license. Chief Olson has reported that after the troopers left, crime rates in the fourth and fifth precincts have stayed down, Davis said.

Fred Corrigan, vice president of the Minnesota Transportation Alliance, told the committee that his group is sympathetic to the problems experienced in Minneapolis and is supportive of state assistance, but also concerned about the use of highway trust fund dollars for non-highway purposes. "State law is very specific about the use of trust fund dollars and trunk highway dollars in stating these dollars shall be used solely for highway purposes," Corrigan said.

The committee voted to support **HF19**. It will be included in the division's omnibus funding bill.



EDUCATION

More education dollars

A bill that would avert a \$337 million cut in funding for public schools passed the House on Jan. 30. The vote was 133-0.

The bill (**HF1**), sponsored by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), would repeal spending caps that became law as part of a 1995 education spending package.

The caps, effective with the start of the 1998-99 biennium, would force a reduction in the per-pupil amount each school district receives from the state and would alter the formula used by the state to calculate funding levels for secondary students.

"I believe this bill is an example of good government at work," Johnson said. "I say that because we listened to the people of Minnesota. They asked us to pass a bill that would restore the funding cuts."

Passage of the bill was never really in doubt on the House floor. There was strong bipartisan support for the measure among House members. However, some controversy was stirred by an amendment offered on the House floor by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka).

The goal of the amendment 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.

Abrams offered the same amendment last week in the House Taxes Committee, only to see it defeated. At the time, committee members agreed with the principle of the amendment but most expressed a desire to deliver a "clean bill" that could move quickly through the legislative process.

On the House floor, the merits of the amendment were hardly disputed.

Johnson acknowledged the amendment addressed a "legitimate issue," but she said it is not an issue "to be considered at this time." She suggested it would be better to try to get the amendment included in the omnibus K-12 education or tax bills that will be assembled later in the session.

Ultimately, the amendment failed on a 94-37 vote.

HF1 now goes to the Senate.

Statewide testing

Lawmakers are considering whether Minnesota students should be subject to standardized, statewide testing to measure pupil and school performance.

Several statewide testing proposals are



Rep. Henry Kalis, foreground, and the rest of the Capital Investment Committee, took a tour of the Lino Lakes Correctional Facility Jan. 30. Warden Bert Mohs, far right, showed committee members recent renovations that gave access to people with disabilities.

expected to be considered this year, but Gov. Arne Carlson's plan is the first to be taken up by a House committee.

The governor's proposal (HF235) is sponsored by Rep. LeRoy Koppendray (R-Princeton), who argued such testing would help to assure the quality of Minnesota's schools.

"Minnesota prides itself on leading the way in public education," Koppendray said Jan. 30 before the House Education Committee's Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives. "Minnesota led the way on school choice and in many other areas."

The subcommittee took no action on HF235.

The bill would require that students in grades three, five, and eight take a single nationally recognized test each spring, and the bill would provide \$5 million to finance the testing in 1998 and 1999.

Statewide testing would provide a "comprehensive statewide assessment" of how students, schools, and districts are doing, Koppendray said. Testing each student at various points throughout his or her academic career would measure progress and identify areas of concern.

"The earlier we start, the less threatening it is and the more useful it is," Koppendray said, explaining the need to initiate testing at the third grade level. "It is something we can use as a tool to build a child's education."

Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) contradicted those remarks, describing statewide testing as "a tool of punishment" that offers nothing to help disadvantaged students.

Identifying struggling students in third grade is too late, according to Kinkel.

"I promise you the state would get a much better return if you took that \$5 million and put it into early childhood development," he said.

Current state law prohibits the use of a single, statewide test in public schools. (State-developed tests are the most common means of determining whether students meet the basic skills requirements of Minnesota's graduation rule, but school districts also have the authority to choose from more than a dozen approved alternative exams.)

Proponents of statewide testing argue that it would make schools more accountable by providing an objective measurement of student performance and a reliable foundation for comparing schools across both districts and states.

Opponents claim statewide testing would provide no information about student performance that their teachers don't already know and that the testing could have a nega-

tive effect on students, causing unnecessary anxiety and driving up dropout rates.

"A statewide test just pits school district against school district," said Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy).

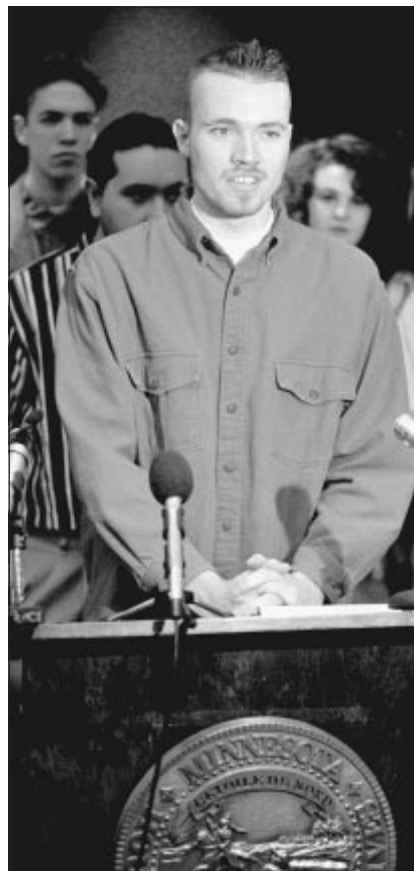
Koppendray, who described the bill as a work in progress, said it likely will be altered to include the recommendations of a recently released University of Minnesota report on statewide testing.

That report, required under a 1995 education funding law, maps out a comprehensive approach for implementation of statewide testing.

Major recommendations in the report call for statewide testing of students at four grade levels and suggest that the new testing be linked to the graduation standards required under current law.

Pre-Labor Day school

Students accustomed to savoring the Labor Day weekend as the last hours of summer freedom may be in for a surprise under a bill headed for the House floor.



Eric Hanson, Stillwater, a senior and student body vice president at the University of Minnesota, expressed his support for a bill Jan. 24 that would appropriate \$45 million to reduce the cost of tuition for students attending state educational institutions.

HF84, sponsored by Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), would allow school districts to begin classes before Labor Day in 1998 and 1999. The bill was approved by the House Education Committee on Jan. 28.

The reason for the bill is simple enough. Labor Day falls relatively late in September for the next two years (Sept. 7 and Sept. 6, respectively) and that can foul up the schedule for the entire academic year, Carlson said.

The bill even has the support of one major tourism industry group. But any discussion of the current state law mandating that school begin after Labor Day is bound to attract some controversy.

Tourism groups are usually the most vocal defenders of the law because those businesses benefit from the later school start. It keeps available the teenagers they rely upon to fill seasonal jobs, and it stretches the season for summertime family vacations.

The law's detractors include those who believe the academic calendar should be set by local school boards and those advocating alternative school schedules.

Bob Meeks, a lobbyist for the Minnesota School Boards Association, said HF84 is the result of negotiations between his organization and the Minnesota Restaurant, Hotel & Resort Associations, a trade group that lobbies for the hospitality and tourism businesses.

"They gave up quite a bit," Meeks said. "They were willing to compromise. . . . Obviously, they understand the need for education, and we understand their need to make a living."

Another tourism industry organization — The Minnesota Association of Innkeepers — registered its opposition to the bill in a memo to committee members.

The bill stirred little controversy in the committee, but the reaction of some members hinted at a larger debate that may lie ahead this session.

Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) said lawmakers need to discuss expanding the time for learning by extending hours in a school day and adding days to the school year.

"I believe this bill is a Band Aid," Folliard said.

To merge or not to merge

A plan to merge two Twin Cities postsecondary schools was presented to the Education Committee's Higher Education Finance Committee Jan. 27.

Under the plan, developed by the

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) at the direction of the Legislature, Metropolitan State University (MSU) and Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC), both in Minneapolis, would merge. The combined school would function much like a four-year educational institution, according to MnSCU Chancellor Judith Eaton.

Eaton said the plan is meant to increase the ability of inner city students to obtain college degrees.

"There's an enormous need for additional higher education opportunities, especially in the future," Eaton told the committee. "It has become more and more important to look at plans that cut across existing institutions and remove barriers. Minneapolis and Minnesota have an opportunity that is left in few urban centers."

Eaton said the plan is, in part, a response to the changing demographics of the Twin Cities. (See related story, page 15.) The state's minority population grew 75 percent between 1980 and 1990, according to the report compiled by MnSCU, which also says that 87 percent of that population resides in the Twin Cities seven-county metro area. Many are poor and undereducated, according to the report.

The merger plan, Eaton said, would address the growing need to reach out to and educate that increasing population. Based on her experiences in other major cities, it's a critical issue. "The erosion of which I'm speaking is not as bad as it's going to get," she told the committee. "The answer is to expand educational opportunities in Minneapolis before it's too late."

Under the plan, which was one of five options MnSCU examined, the two schools would form one at the existing campus of MCTC. MSU now rents space on Hennepin Avenue, just a few blocks from MCTC, which is itself the product of a recent merger. "While a major investment in facilities would be necessary, the costs would be much less than building a new campus," the report states.

The plan was met with mixed reactions from committee members. Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) expressed concern about the site-selection process, but said he would wait until further hearings to examine the issue more closely. "The magnitude and complexity of the decision on site selection is so great that it needs more in-depth discussion," Carlson said.

The 1996 Legislature, in two pieces of legislation, directed MnSCU to plan for MSU's future.

One called for a master plan for the Twin

Cities area and a permanent site for MSU's campus. (The school currently rents.) "The plan must consider short- and long-term demographic and enrollment projections . . . and coordination and duplication of program offerings."

The second law said MnSCU's board of trustees should "determine how best to improve the delivery of comprehensive, quality educational programs," and consider merging MSU with other campuses.

Rep. Gene Pelowski, (DFL-Winona), committee chair, said that future hearings on the issue will be held.



ELECTIONS

Vote from home

A House panel is taking another look at easing the process of voting by absentee ballot. An attempt to do so last year got tangled with other election issues and never made it to the House floor, according to Secretary of State Joan Growe.

The sponsors of **HF74** would like to make voting by absentee ballot available to anyone. Under current law, voters must have one of several reasons to vote outside an official polling place: expected absence from the precinct; illness; disability; religion; or service as an election judge in another precinct.

HF74 would remove the reasons for which a voter may vote by absentee ballot, and state "Any eligible voter may vote by absentee ballot. . . ."

"This proposal would result in more people participating in the process," Growe said during testimony before the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee Jan. 27.

"Voter participation is in decline," Growe continued. "The last [primary] election had the second lowest voter turnout ever."

Growe said the new legislation would remedy some of the causes that keep people from voting. Many voters cannot take the time to stand in line at polling places. Others, especially the elderly, are uncomfortable venturing onto often-hazardous roads during November in Minnesota, she said.

"Lifestyle changes within the voting population are factors that cannot be underestimated," Growe said. "This bill addresses the concerns of these voters. It permits people to vote at the time and place of their choosing."

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), the bill's sponsor, said, "In this day and age, we have to try to maximize voter turnout. We have to

reach out. We have to be experimental."

In last year's state primary election, only 13.2 percent of qualified voters cast ballots. In the general election, 64.8 percent voted. Since 1950, general election turnout has ranged from a high of 83.9 percent in 1956 to a low of 47 percent in 1986.

Members were quick to distinguish absentee balloting from mail balloting, which is now permitted in 161 precincts in cities and townships with fewer than 400 registered voters.

Also, there are numerous special elections in counties, municipalities, and school districts that allow ballot questions to be voted on by mail, according to Joe Mansky of the Office of the Secretary of State.

The primary difference between the two types of voting is that voters must request an absentee ballot; mail-in ballots are mailed to all registered voters. In 1996, Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed a measure to extend mail balloting to cities with fewer than 1,000 registered voters, calling it "a creeping spread of an unwise policy."

To prevent fraud and abuse, **HF74** has tight controls addressing who can handle the ballots and how ballots must be requested.

Lawmakers plan to vote on **HF74** after ensuring that certain provisions conform with the state's Data Practices Act.



FAMILY

Parental visitation

In November 1995, the Minnesota Supreme Court asked a task force to examine visitation issues among families who have undergone divorce and recommend ways to address related problems.

Among the questions explored by the panel: Should a non-custodial parent be allowed to withhold support payments if a custodial parent interferes with court-ordered visitation rights?

The task force answered with a resounding "no," and recommended against linking visitation and child support. Doing so, according to the report, "may encourage adversarial behavior . . . and negatively impact the emotional and financial well-being of the children involved."

The report was presented to the House Judiciary Committee's Civil and Family Law Division Jan. 29 by task force members Peter Parilla of the Sociology Department at the University of St. Thomas, and Julie Brunner, county administrator in St. Louis County.

"What came through is that there's a need

for visitation enforcement to catch up with support enforcement — but not to link them,” said Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), committee chair. “That equals a double-whammy for kids: They don’t get the visitation and they don’t get the support.”

The panel also examined: how often parents interfere with visitation rights; the frequency with which non-custodial parents fail to exercise their visitation rights; and the impact a lack of access to the courts has on compliance with visitation issues.

Included in the task force’s recommendations are:

- parent education and other family-support programs should be increased considerably and, in some cases, participation should be mandated;
- court officers should be better educated on matters related to divorce;
- compensatory visitation rights should be more regularly awarded to parents who have been wrongfully denied visitation, and sanctions imposed against parents who deny them;
- custody arrangements should be modified if a pattern of persistent denial of visitation occurs over a three-month period or longer — if doing so is in the best interest of the child; and
- visitation expeditors (neutral parties qualified to moderate visitation disputes) should be used more frequently.

Those attending the hearing, though on various sides of the issue, seemed to approve of the task force report. Testifying before the committee were representatives from the Father’s Resource Center, R-Kids, Aces (a group that works for compliance with support orders), Catholic Charities, and mediators and attorneys.

Dawkins said the next step is for legislators to come forward with bills in support of the recommendations.

The wing housed the children’s school and was named the Michael Dowling Memorial Hall, in honor of a state legislator who lost his hands and feet to frostbite at age 14. He became an advocate for people with disabilities.

Public and private dollars renovated the structure for \$2.6 million.

Members of the House Economic Development Finance Division listened to testimony about commission programs such as MOTHEREAD/FATHEREAD, which promotes family reading; the Teacher Institute, which provides energizing, week-long, residential seminars for teachers; and grants for public community humanities projects.

The MHC receives \$586,000 per year in state dollars and is requesting the same amount during the 1998-1999 budgeting period.

The humanities consist of history, literature, philosophy, archaeology, modern and classical languages, ethics, jurisprudence, comparative religion, linguistics, cultural anthropology, and history and criticism of the arts.

“People need a strong humanities background to become productive adults,” said Cheryl Dickson, the commission’s executive director.

Jan Wolden, a junior high teacher from Owatonna, Minn., shared her experience as part of the Teacher Institute. In 1994, she attended a week-long seminar on the “Cross-cultural Understanding of Health and Ill-

ness.”

The lessons learned helped with her Hmong and Hispanic students, Wolden said, adding that the “world is coming to Minnesota” and it is programs such as the Teacher Institute that help prepare teachers.

JeriAnn Angelo, a reading specialist from Minneapolis, spoke of the successes of MOTHEREAD/FATHEREAD.

“Many kids come into school not able to read or even listen to a story.” The reading program helps train parents and caregivers how to read to their children and apply the messages of culturally diverse literature to daily life, Angelo said.

Currently about 300 sites around the state are trained in MOTHEREAD/FATHEREAD, and there is a waiting list.

Theodore Schaum, a retired college professor, spoke of his MHC grant that allows him to run a discussion series out of the Detroit Lakes Library.

Several times a month 35-65 people in the area come to discuss topics such as “Can poetry matter?” “Can the heart be filled anywhere on Earth?” and “Is racism stronger than ever? — II.”

Schaum said the discussion series, known as Great Minds Appreciation Discussion Circle, “brings intellectual stimulation” to a community void of a college or university.

All communities need a cultural life, he said, adding that the MHC helps give Minnesota a “good intellectual climate.”



HUMANITIES

Strengthening the humanities

The staff of the Minnesota Humanities Commission (MHC) hosted a tour for several Minnesota lawmakers Jan. 27 to show off their renovated building and encourage continued funding of their programs.

The Humanities Education Center, near St. Paul’s Phalen Park, was originally the west wing of the Gillette State Children’s Hospital, a state-funded hospital established in 1897 that provided free care for children with disabilities.



Jessica Roth, right, classmate Kayla Karnes, left, and the rest of the eagles waited to play their parts during the Prairie Woods Elementary School’s performance of “Ronald Raven Saves Wetland Hollow” in the Capitol rotunda Jan. 29. The students from the New London-Spicer area performed as part of Creative Ticket Day, an event sponsored by several arts education organizations.



LABOR

Workers' comp refund

The board of the Workers Compensation Reinsurance Association (WCRA) will be authorizing a \$440 million refund of surplus funds, WCRA president Jay Benanav told the House Labor-Management Relations Committee Jan. 27. The amount of the distribution must be approved by the state commissioner of labor and industry and the commissioner of commerce.

The WCRA provides reinsurance to private insurance companies and to self-insured businesses for large claims such as those involving brain, spinal cord, or back injuries. The nonprofit insurance association was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1979 in response to concerns about the availability and cost of workers' compensation reinsurance. The WCRA is the state's exclusive provider of excess workers' compensation reinsurance.

The agency is able to keep the cost of reinsurance premiums down through successful investment and management of its reserves, Benanav said. It is the success of these investments, along with fewer claims filed than anticipated, that has led to the WCRA's surplus.

The 1997 refund will be the fourth in recent years. In 1992 and 1993, the WCRA refunded \$100 million and \$302 million, respectively. After the 1997 refund, the WCRA will have given back nearly every dollar it has ever collected in premiums. Also, since July 1996, the WCRA has applied \$42.5 million in excess reserves to lower premiums paid by insurance companies and self-insured employers. The refunds will not impair the agency's ability to pay future claims, Benanav told the committee.

Following the 1993 surplus declaration, the Legislature enacted a law requiring the WCRA to pass on the 1992 and 1993 excess surplus refunds to employer policyholders rather than to the insurance company members. Litigation initiated by insurance companies resulted in a federal judge's ruling in 1994 that the Legislature could not retroactively require the surpluses built up before the law passed to be refunded directly to policyholders. Therefore, insurance company members were allowed to keep the \$402 million surplus which had already been declared by the WCRA board. The ruling did not affect refunds directly to self-insured employers.

The judge did not rule on the constitutionality of the 1993 law as it applied to

future distributions of WCRA surpluses, Benanav said.

"Our board of directors intends to follow the law as it was amended in 1993. This will result in distributions of approximately \$140 million to Minnesota employers and \$260 million to insurance companies."



SPORTS

Trail funding crisis

Minnesota's snowmobile trail fund has an operating deficit of \$2.5 million for the 1997 fiscal year, according to a report from the Minnesota Snowmobile Advisory Committee (MSAC). The report was included in testimony delivered to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Jan. 27 in a plea for increased snowmobile trail funding.

Dennis Asmussen, director of Trails and Waterways for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, told the committee that the state's Snowmobile Trail Enforcement Account is not adequate to operate and maintain the existing 18,047 mile trail system. The fiscal year 1997 appropriation is \$6.1 million, though approximately \$8.6 million is actually needed.

The report cites a number of factors lead-



Jeff Mausolf, president of the Minnesota United Snowmobile Association, told the Environment and Natural Resources Committee Jan. 27 that his association would support a \$5 increase in license fees if more money was spent on the construction of more snowmobile trails.

ing to what the MSAC has called a crisis in snowmobile trail funding, including:

- a 41 percent increase in the number of registered snowmobile users in the past 10 years for a total of 255,000 in 1996;
- ridership averaging 1,400 miles per year, per machine, up from 500 miles in the late 1980s; and
- aging trail maintenance equipment in need of replacement.

In addition, Asmussen told the committee that the MSAC recommends adding 3,322 miles of trail. "Most of these trail proposals are based on historic use patterns and needs that have gone unanswered," Asmussen said. "The proposed trails would complete trail systems, create linkages and spread use out from heavily used existing trails."

The report estimates the cost of building the additional miles of trails at \$4.2 million. Another \$2.5 million is needed to modernize the existing system. The report estimates the annual cost of operating and maintaining a new enlarged trail system at \$9.5 million.

"Minnesota's snowmobile trails are the state's single largest economic development project and it is borne on the backs of volunteers," Jeff Mausolf, president of Minnesota United Snowmobile Association said of the current state trail maintenance system. He expressed concern that many volunteers are feeling overwhelmed and may not continue. "In 1993-94, our people logged 194,000 hours in trail maintenance and grooming."

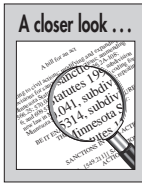
Mausolf said his group supports an increase in the annual snowmobile registration fee from \$10 to \$15 and an increase in the gasoline tax to pay for the trail expansions and improvements. He noted that the extra expenditures would be a good investment since "Winter recreationists who come to snowmobile will spend more than any other winter visitors to the state."



When the commissioner of Minnesota's Department of Veteran's Affairs presented the House Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division with his agency's performance report Jan. 29, he pointed out that customers often confuse the state's veteran's affairs office with the similarly named federal department. Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), the division's chair, offered some sound political advice: "Remind them that you're from Minnesota when they like you and just don't say anything when they don't. We politicians do that all the time."

Saving the trust fund . . .

Bill may extend lottery's environment dollars to 2050



Lotteries have long been used to raise money for underfunded causes, from Michelangelo's painting on the Sistine Chapel ceiling to the American Revolutionary War. In Minnesota, the lottery has been wed to funding for environmental causes.

"It is an unholy alliance," quipped Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) in recounting the history of the state's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The match came about in 1988 when Munger, long-time chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee, was pushing a bill to set up the state's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. At the same time, Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) was also trying to jump start legislation for a state-run lottery. When the two bills met in the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, it was not long before they were united, Munger said.

In the fall of 1988, Minnesotans voted by a margin of more than three-to-one to authorize a state-run lottery with a portion of the proceeds going to support environmental causes. In 1990, voters supported dedicating 40 percent of the lottery's net revenues to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund until Dec. 31, 2000. The remaining 60 percent of net lottery proceeds are now allocated to the state's general fund. When the lottery legislation originally passed, 35 percent of lottery profits funded capital improvements for educational facilities and environmental projects. The remaining 25 percent was marked for the now defunct Greater Minnesota Corporation, a joint public-private venture which encouraged economic development and job growth in Greater Minnesota.

This session the Legislature is considering a bill (HF113) sponsored by Rep. Munger which would extend the trust fund's ties to the lottery until 2050. It won approval Jan. 29 from the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

According to a report from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), the lottery has contributed \$149 million to the trust fund since it began in 1991. About seven cents of every dollar spent by lottery players goes to the fund, which is currently worth about \$140 million. Most of the funds are invested in an equal mix of stocks and bonds. Given stable lottery sales,

the LCMR projects that the trust fund will reach \$1 billion in assets by the 2016.

To date, the trust fund has contributed approximately \$60.5 million to 87 environmental projects. Forty more projects are proposed for 1998-99, which would increase total trust fund expenditures to about \$81 million. (An additional \$22 million has been leveraged from the private sector with another \$4 million promised by 1999.)

"Environmental enhancement is not a short-term fix," said Nancy Gibson of the

Citizens Advisory Committee on the Trust Fund. She testified in favor of HF113 along with a dozen other environmental activists at the Jan. 29 hearing. "We do know that spending dollars on environmental preservation is a lot cheaper than paying for recovery," she added.

Gabe Horner of the Nature Conservancy presented data to the committee from a survey her organization conducted to gauge the opinions of Minnesotans on environmental issues and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The survey included 400 registered voters from throughout the state who were polled Nov. 21-22, 1996. (The results have a margin error of plus or minus 4 percent.)

According to the survey, 86 percent of Minnesotans continue to support dedicating lottery proceeds to the environment. Ninety-seven percent of those surveyed agreed with the statement: "Natural areas and lakes are an important part of our heritage and should be preserved for future generations." Some 87 percent agreed that "Minnesota's lakes, farm lands, and other open spaces will soon be lost forever if we do not protect them now." When asked about the distribution of lottery profits, 69 percent said they would favor increasing the amount dedicated to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Ron Nargang, deputy commissioner for the Department of Natural Resources, told the committee that Gov. Arne Carlson will support the bill but would have preferred to deal with the issue in 1998.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) said that he would like to see the dedication of lottery funds extended even longer than 2050. Osthoff has introduced a similar bill (HF111) which would make the marriage between the environment and lottery "perpetual and in-violate forever."

HF113 now moves to the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.



Gabe Horner, *right*, of the Nature Conservancy, testified before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee Jan. 29 in support of an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution extending lottery proceeds to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund until the year 2050. Former state senator Gene Merriam, head of the Environmental Trust Fund Coalition, *left*, also testified in favor of the amendment. At right is a state map showing projects that have been funded by the trust fund.

— Steve Compton

Trust fund accomplishments

The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund's major accomplishments between 1991 and 1997 include:

Recreation: Twenty-two appropriations totaling \$22 million for acquisition of land for parks, trails, and water entry points to help meet increasing demands on state and regional recreation facilities. Americans with Disabilities Act compliance is incorporated into all developments. Project accomplishments include:

- 261 miles of trails acquired, developed, or improved for a variety of uses;
- 5,806 acres of recreational park land acquired;
- 7 public water accesses acquired and developed, including fishing piers; and
- 58 projects in park facilities for restoration, development or improvement.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat: Twenty-four appropriations totaling \$14.9 million for wildlife and fisheries habitat acquisition and improvement, biological control activities including Eurasian water milfoil and purple loosestrife, acceleration of the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) projects, wetland restoration, restoration of native species, collection of data and

assessment of rare and endangered species. Project accomplishments include:

- 5,900 acres acquired;
- 9,000 acres improved; and
- 13 miles of streams and rivers acquired and/or improved.

Water Resources: Seventeen appropriations totaling \$7.8 million for projects in pollution prevention, research, and/or restoration which have impacted all 39 of Minnesota's major watersheds.

Education: Twelve appropriations totaling \$3.9 million for environmental education programs directly impacting more than 250,000 students and teachers.

Agriculture: Three appropriations totaling \$1.75 million for biological control of pest and 1,244 acres of RIM reserve land acquired.

Land use and Natural Resource Information: Nine appropriations totaling \$5.5 million for projects including statewide and regional mapping of resources, activities to improve the health of forest ecosystems, bluffslands protection, and assessment of Minnesota's environmental health.

Source: Minnesota Commission on Minnesota Resources



Reps. Betty Folliard and Satveer Chaudhary, along with other members of the Higher Education Finance Division, used laptop computers available to Northwest Technical College students during a committee hearing Jan. 24. The lawmakers simulated a lab procedure that would normally cost \$100,000 by creating circuit boards, and then running tests on those boards. Gary Ellingson, a faculty member from the Moorhead campus, *left at witness table*, led them through the procedure.

Committee deadlines

Each year the House and Senate set deadlines by which most bills must be heard in a committee and forwarded through the process. The deadlines serve to weed out some of the several thousand bills introduced each year.

The first committee deadline is **Wednesday, March 26**. That means all bills must be passed out of all policy committees in their house of origin to receive further consideration this session. If a House bill hasn't been approved by House policy committees by the deadline, but its Senate companion has, the bill has met the committee deadline.

By the second committee deadline — **Wednesday, April 9** — all bills other than those containing appropriations, must be passed out of all policy committees in both the House and the Senate. The deadline does not apply to the finance divisions of the committees or the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, the Taxes Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee.

By **Friday, April 18**, all appropriations bills must clear their policy and finance committees and move to either the Taxes Committee or Ways and Means Committee.

Of course, there are exceptions to the deadlines. Any lawmaker may try to convince the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, which includes leaders from both party caucuses, to hear a bill after the deadlines.

Feedback

The House of Representatives Public Information Office has established an e-mail address and invites readers to comment on the *Session Weekly* and its contents.

Send messages to:

session@house.leg.state.mn.us

We thank you for your input.

The editors

Opatz, Wejcman take speaker's gavel when needed

Presiding over hours and hours of sometimes contentious debate on the floor of the Minnesota House of Representatives can be too much for one person.

Even if the speaker's hectic schedule doesn't demand he be elsewhere, simple exhaustion may require him to call in some relief.

This session, two lawmakers will share duties as backup to Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Park).

Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) and Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) have been named speakers *pro tempore*, as the position is officially known (or *pro tem* for short).

As the title makes clear, the speaker pro tem assumes the role of the speaker on a temporary basis whenever necessary.

"Later in the session, we are on the floor for very, very long periods of time," Opatz said. "It's just physically difficult for a person to stand up there for a dozen hours in a row.

"Just as importantly, the speaker is going to have to be meeting with other members, conference committees, the governor, [Senate Majority Leader] Roger Moe, the minority leadership. [Carruthers] will have other responsibilities that take him away from the floor, and that's where our role comes in."

While their time in the speaker's chair may be limited, Opatz and Wejcman likely will be required to make quick decisions on important, controversial issues.

Seemingly mundane procedural rulings, such as deciding whether an amendment is germane to a bill, can have a significant effect on the ultimate fate of the legislation.

"Determining if an amendment is germane can be a major issue, especially as we get to the end of session," Wejcman said. "There will have to be a lot of trust on the part of other legislators that I will be fair and I will make the right decisions."

Wejcman and Opatz have been selected to fill a position that is relatively new in the history of the House.

House rules have long allowed for temporary speakers, but the practice of selecting a stand-in has varied. Designating a speaker pro tem is a practice less than two decades old.

Before the 1980s, temporary speakers could not serve for more than one day. And instead of being appointed by the speaker, they were chosen by a majority of the House or by the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

Carruthers began his new job as speaker with a vow to foster bipartisan cooperation in the lower chamber. The speakers pro tem say they aim to support the speaker's efforts.

"I think I tend to be a fairly nonpartisan, objective person," Opatz said. "I see myself behaving in a way very consistent with the way [Carruthers] would like the floor to operate. It should be businesslike, and it should be civil."

body is here because they really want to do the right thing."

In addition to standing in for the speaker, Wejcman and Opatz will work with the majority leader and assistant majority leaders as part of the caucus' leadership team.

Wejcman is beginning her fourth term representing what she describes as a "wonderfully diverse" district in south Minneapolis.

Neighborhoods in the district include a mix of people from varied ethnic groups and economic classes, according to Wejcman. And she has focused her legislative work on universally important issues: child care, housing, employment, and safety.

Wejcman sponsored a 1996 law that will require all new police officers hired after Aug. 1, 1997, to have completed a course in community policing.

Opatz is in his third term representing a portion of St. Cloud and surrounding areas. Perhaps his most publicized legislative work was a 1996 law he sponsored requiring insurance companies to allow mothers and their newborn babies to stay in the hospital for at least 48 hours.

"There is no other legislation that I have ever carried that has gotten such a positive response in terms of its personal impact on people's lives," he said. "...That's been very gratifying."

Opatz also has worked heavily on land-use planning issues, with an eye toward controlling urban sprawl. And he has been active on issues related to education, which is something close to his heart. When not tied up at the Capitol, he works as an administrator at St. Cloud State University.

The speakers pro tem both say they are pleased to be part of Carruthers' vision for the House.

"It's really an honor to have that faith put in you, to be trusted," Wejcman said.



Reps. Joe Opatz and Linda Wejcman have been named speakers pro tempore and will step up to the podium to give the speaker a break.

The Legislature can meet the public's call for less partisanship, according to Wejcman.

"Everybody elected to the House is here with the intention of doing what their district wants and what they think is best for Minnesota," she said. "We might differ a little bit from district to district, but every-

— Nick Healy

Historic mansion . . .

Governor's Residence a treasure for all Minnesotans

Which capital city abode has sheltered world leaders, Olympic athletes, lumber barons and even a pair of goats? The Governor's Residence, of course, built on tony Summit Avenue in 1910.

St. Paul lumberman Horace Hills Irvine paid \$7,000 for a good-sized plot of land along the prestigious roadway, which at the time was an isolated retreat for the city's leading citizens. With the automobile age still in its infancy, most St. Paulites needed to hop an electric trolley to make it "up the hill" from the lower town.

After Minneapolis architect William Channing Whitney completed his designs, Irvine secured a building permit, specifying an estimated cost of \$50,000 for a "two-and-one-half story brick and stone dwelling."

When completed, the 20-room English Tudor country manor house would sport nine bedrooms, an equal number of fireplaces, and eight baths. It was equipped with both gas and electrical outlets, (since electricity was still a novelty at the time, and its future was uncertain). A complex call box and bell system covered most of the house, an ancestor of today's intercom. Perhaps the mansion's most interesting gadget was a central vacuum cleaner "with outlets throughout the house, and its mechanism in the basement . . . intended to ease the task of cleaning and free the staff for other household matters," according to *The Governor's Table: a Treasury of History and Hospitality at the Minnesota Governor's Residence*. The book project was spearheaded by Gretchen Quie, wife of Al Quie, Minnesota's 35th governor.

Here, Irvine and his wife, Clotilde, raised four children and entertained elite friends such as the Pillsburys, Kelloggs, Bells, and Ordways. More than 50 years later, the house would become the official Minnesota Governor's Residence.

In 1965, a year after the death of Clotilde Hills Irvine, (Horace had died in 1947), the surviving Irvine daughters gave the home at 1006 Summit Avenue to the state of Minnesota. The Legislature debated whether an aging home in disrepair was a wise investment of taxpayer dollars.

Florence Rolvaag, wife of sitting Gov. Karl Rolvaag, told reporters, "One of the problems of being governor in Minnesota is that we've never had an official place for dignitaries to stay. We've had to accommodate them . . . and do our entertaining in hotels."

Social clubs, the State Capitol, and even the state fairgrounds had also served as host sites to prestigious visitors.

Lawmakers quickly authorized the deal and marked \$100,000 to renovate and operate the building. Minnesota became the 41st state to provide its governor with an official residence.

The *St. Paul Dispatch* approved of the move, noting that in an effort to woo potential businesses "it probably is a help if a governor has some spot where he can hold private conferences and gatherings, entertain and "sell" his state to corporate executives and planners."

State Sen. Gordon Rosenmeier said it would be a place where the governor could have a little "dignity, pomp if you will."

And also a place near the Capitol for the governor to sleep. But when Gov. Karl Rolvaag, the first to occupy the Governor's Residence, showed up with his family on moving day, beds were nowhere to be found. Not only the cupboards but the floors were bare as well — of carpet and furniture. The Rolvaag's short-term solution was to bring furnishings from their Arden Hills home.

Efforts were soon under way to dress up the residence, and the Fine Arts Committee was established to "provide long-term en-

couragement to the citizens of Minnesota to give appropriate gifts to the house." By January 1966, more than 400 yards of carpeting had been laid and the kitchen, bathrooms, basement, and third floor were remodeled. Fine art lined the walls and halls of the residence, including a Rodin bust on loan from the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Construction continued during the LeVander administration with the help of continued private donations and another \$230,000 from the Legislature. Iantha LeVander, wife of Gov. Harold LeVander, was instrumental in decorating the residence. She wanted a "simple but elegant working, living house," according to *Minnesota Times and Tastes*, published in 1993 by the 1006 Summit Avenue Society as a project of current First Lady Susan Carlson. LeVander wanted the residence to "look like a governor's house."

After all, when not the site of official meetings and formal teas, the mansion is a private home. Both its size and special attributes have kept 15 children busy exploring its nooks and crannies.

Gov. Al Quie's son, Ben, played miniature golf in the attic. Gov. Wendell Anderson's daughter, Beth, recalls games of hide and seek with the chefs and security staff. There's



The Governor's Residence has hosted many dignitaries over the years including former Soviet Union head Mikhail Gorbachev in 1990 during Gov. Rudy Perpich's third term.

even a tunnel from the basement of the mansion to the adjacent carriage house, where the Irvine children are said to have played. (The same carriage house would house a Vietnamese refugee family during the Quie administration.) A secret panel is said to exist in the ornate walnut wood of the dining room, according to *The Governor's Table*.

And to many, a home just wouldn't be a home without a pet. Many governors, including Gov. Arne Carlson, have owned dogs, but Gov. Wendell Anderson is believed to be the only chief executive to be the proud owner of a pair of goats, which were stored and bottle-fed in the third floor storage area.

Doubling as both public building and private home, the Governor's Residence "is at the same time dignified and friendly, vast and intimate, formal and informal, a celebration of the past and a magnificent ac-

commodation for the present and the future," wrote the editors of *The Governor's Table*.

Since the Irvine's gave their family home to the state of Minnesota, seven governors and their families have juggled public and private lives in the stately Summit Avenue mansion. What Gretchen Quie called "Minnesota's house" continues to host more than 200 annual events and frequent public tours. Countless events throughout the years have been held there to honor Minnesotans for their service or achievements. Susan Carlson has said living in the Governor's Residence is a privilege, and she recognizes its place as a valued state resource. "The state is fortunate to have such a place where Minnesotans can feel special."

— John Tschida

Facts about the Governor's Residence

- In the basement are the paw prints of Gov. Karl Rolvaag's beagle, Leo. Workmen pouring a new slab of concrete left the prints and an identifying tag, preserved under varnish, in Leo's honor.
- Mixed in the poured concrete that makes up the sidewalk fronting the Governor's Residence are several campaign buttons of Gov. Harold LeVander, placed there by his wife, Iantha.
- In 1971, Dyan LeVander, daughter of outgoing Gov. Harold LeVander, tacked a horseshoe to her bedroom wall as a symbol of good luck for the incoming Wendell Anderson family. The horseshoe remains today.
- In 1974, the Governor's Residence was added to the National Register of Historic Places.
- In 1977, regularly scheduled public tours were started at the behest of Lola Perpich.

Media Day on the Hill

For the folks who work in Greater Minnesota newsrooms, the Capitol can seem a million miles away. Each year, the House hosts an event designed to bridge that gap.

More than 30 newspaper, radio, and television reporters from around the state converged on the Capitol Jan. 30 for "Media Day on the Hill."

The agenda included a full day of events designed to help members of the media gather information about major issues at hand and make valuable contacts to assist in coverage throughout the session.

"It's not often that reporters from Greater Minnesota can make it to the Capitol," said Brian McClung, a reporter for KCCO-TV in Alexandria, Minn. "This is a nice chance to spend some time here and to get to know more about what is happening in St. Paul."

Highlights of the day included lunch meetings with lawmakers from the home district

of each reporter and a question-and-answer session with House leadership, Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), and Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon).

"Government works best when everybody

The reporters also heard from staff members from both caucus media offices and the House Public Information Office, who detailed the resources available to assist in coverage of Capitol events. And Chief Clerk Ed Burdick led a refresher course on the legislative process.

To conclude the event, reporters headed to the House floor to cover debate on one of the most talked about bills to come up for a vote so far this year. (The bill [HF1] would repeal caps on education spending that require a \$337 million cut over the next two years. See related story, page 5.)

"It is harder for those of us in outstate areas to report on the Capitol without a hands-on chance to work with these people," McClung said. "This helps to make up for that."



Chief Clerk of the House Ed Burdick outlined the legislative process to out-state Minnesota news reporters as part of Media Day on the Hill Jan. 30.

is in the loop," Winter told the reporters.

Sviggum said that this legislative session will be different from others in recent history.

"We are not going to bring personalities into question and into the debate," he said. "We are going to get the people's business done."

State's aging workforce presents new challenges



Customers at some Twin Cities fast-food burger joints get more than just a side of fries with their order; they also get a vision of the forces transforming the face of Minnesota's workforce.

Increasingly, said Hazel H. Reinhart, the worker who

takes your order isn't a teenager but someone whose acne problems ended a long time ago — perhaps even a new retiree. Moreover, she continued, the burger itself could well have been assembled by machine, untouched by human hands.

"It's pretty clear to me that we're [soon] going to have a pretty substantial part of our labor force over the age of 45," Reinhart, the president of Reinhart Consulting Services, told an audience of legislators and staffers. "More of them will be better educated, but the bulk of the labor force will not have college degrees."

Reinhart's Minneapolis-based firm provides strategic marketing advice to business, education, and community organizations. She also has served as state demographer in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. She spoke in the Minnesota History Center's 3M Auditorium on Jan. 28 at the first in a five-part Capitol Forum lecture series, "Discussing Minnesota's Future," produced by Minnesota Technology Inc. and the McKnight Foundation.

The touchless-burger scenario, Reinhart said, illustrates what may be the most overwhelming set of social circumstances to confront policymakers since the Great Depression: rapidly expanding technology combined with an aging workforce ill-equipped — and perhaps ill-suited — to adapt to new, high-tech means of production. And while many workers displaced by technology and corporate downsizing may not find themselves handing robo-burgers

across the counter to hungry customers, huge numbers of them — in mid-career and mid-life — will need to be retrained in skills they could never have imagined when they first entered the work force.

"That's one of our biggest challenges, and it must be done by the public sector," Reinhart said. "It's a very major challenge — and one that we don't have much experience with."

In addition to a burgeoning cohort of older workers, Reinhart said, Minnesota is also experiencing an increase in the number of minorities entering the labor force, many of whom are quite young. These young people, she said, will be the ones replacing the baby boomers as they retire. Minnesota's primary and secondary education system must be able to school them in the ways of the on-line world of work.

Of course, Reinhart said, as soon as you think you've got one problem solved, a bigger one rears its head. In this case, she explained, it is the inevitable aging of America. By the year 2010, fully one-fifth of Minnesota's population will be over the age

of 65. If current spending habits continue, Reinhart said, both Social Security and Medicare will go broke, leaving hundreds of thousands of the newly retired without a financial safety net.

The key to avoiding catastrophe, Reinhart said, is to invest in both technology and the education — primary, secondary and postsecondary — necessary to put the technology to the most productive use.

Upon completing her remarks, Reinhart opened the floor to questions and comments. Many legislators probed the implications of the demographic changes Reinhart had outlined. Questions ranged from the effect an older society would have on pension policies, the housing market, and Minnesota's infrastructure to the increased potential for age discrimination.

After Reinhart's lecture, several legislators said her remarks had given them new perspective on the problems facing policymakers on the edge of a new millennium.

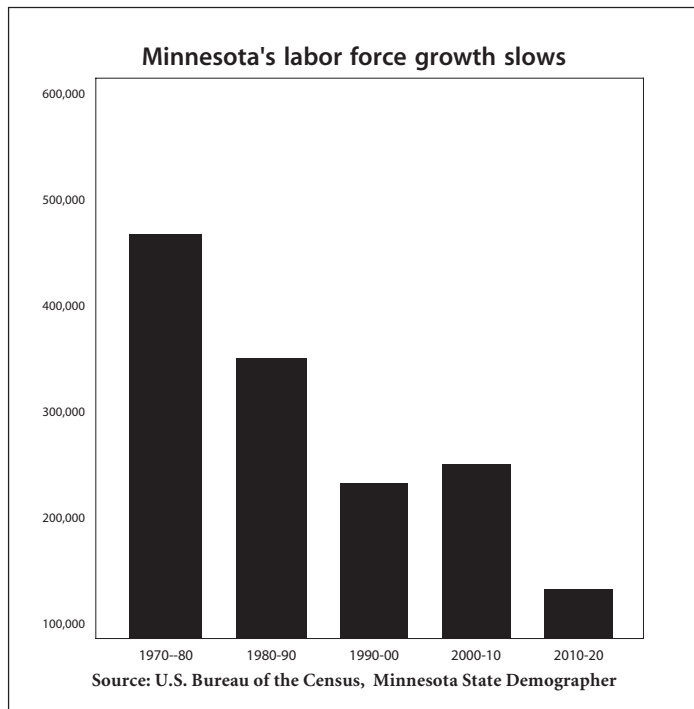
"When we're over at the Capitol, we're dealing with bills, we're dealing with specifics," said Senate Minority Leader Dean Johnson (R-Willmar). "This gives you more background. . . . You can make better policy. . . . It points out the big picture and broader themes."

Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) agreed with Johnson, and said that Reinhart's insight had provided lawmakers with a wake-up call of sorts.

"Demographics drive public policy, and what's more predictable than demographics?" Moe asked. "Why are we always reacting?"

The series' second lecture will feature cultural anthropologist and author Jennifer James, who will offer thoughts on technology and human interaction.

— F.J. Gallagher



Hazel H. Reinhart, owner of a Minneapolis-based consulting firm, told legislators that Minnesota's labor force will grow much more slowly through 2020 — just one of several demographic trends that will radically alter the labor market in years to come.

New members . . .

Kuisle weighs issues from urban, rural perspective

Rep. William Kuisle (R-High Forest Township) sees his Rochester-area district as a cross section of the Minnesota political landscape.



Rep. William Kuisle

District 31A includes a slice of Rochester's urban center, a portion that can best be described as suburban Rochester, and rural townships in Olmsted and Dodge counties.

Accordingly, Kuisle (pronounced KWEEZ-lee) says he must consider issues from a broad perspective. He must consider the effects legislation will have on constituents with diverse lifestyles, such as rural family farmers, medical professionals living on newly developed cul-de-sacs, and hourly wage workers renting apartments in the city.

"You have to make sure you're talking about issues that affect the whole district," Kuisle said. "Up here [at the Capitol], you see the split between rural and urban. I'm talking about what's best for both sides. I have to come up with something that can work for my district as a whole."

Kuisle, 39, is a dairy farmer who works the farm his family has owned since the 1930s. He got his start in politics at the local level when he was elected to the High Forest Township Board in 1987.

There, he served until elected to the Olmsted County Board in 1990. Kuisle resigned as a commissioner just days before being sworn in as a member of the House.

With all that experience in local government, Kuisle's decision to seek higher office may seem to be simply a natural progression. His story, however, is anything but typical.

To get to the House, Kuisle had to get past a senior legislator from his own party. That person was Rep. Don Frerichs (R-Rochester), a 16-year veteran and a minority caucus leader.

Kuisle stunned Frerichs in the August 1996 primary election, and then held off a Frerichs write-in campaign in November. (No DFL candidate sought the seat.)

Pundits were quick to attribute Kuisle's primary win to his opposition to legalized abortion and support of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, a political group that opposes abortion.

Kuisle said there was more to it than that. "My district is very unique," he said. "Only about 30 percent of the district is inside Rochester city limits. A lot of people thought [Frerichs] represented Rochester and overlooked the rest of it."

Kuisle's candidacy also created some controversy because of his switch in party affiliation shortly before his run for the House. Kuisle explains his jump to Republicanism with candor.

"I was on the wrong side, so I switched parties," he said with a laugh.

More seriously, Kuisle explains that his political values have not changed and that he found a more comfortable fit within the Republican Party.

"I've always been fiscally conservative," he said. "I treat the taxpayers' money as I treat my own money. I want to make sure it's spent wisely."

Kuisle's agenda centers on his support for welfare reform, his desire to protect family farmers, and his wish to crack down on crime.

A jump in crime overall and an increase in violence among juveniles have many people in the Rochester area concerned, Kuisle said.

He wants to see steps taken to prevent crime and to provide relief for overburdened local police and courts.

Where welfare reform is concerned, Kuisle sees an opportunity for the state to make real changes in the wake of federal reforms that will end many federal programs and send money to the states in the form of block grants.

"Anytime you talk welfare reform, you have to talk about moving people from welfare to work," he said.

Kuisle considers the split between urban and rural interests in the Legislature to be comparable to partisan divisions.

As he begins his legislative career, Kuisle is aiming to find solutions that best suit constituents who live in the country, the city, and everywhere in between.

"You've got to be willing to look at everything that comes up as to how it affects the whole district — and the whole state — not just part of it," he said. "You have to try not to be anti-urban or anti-rural. You have to find a balance."

— Nick Healy

District 31A

1996 population: 34,162

Largest city: Rochester

Counties: Dodge, Olmsted

Location: southeastern Minnesota

Top concern: "Trying to deal with the crime in our district is going to be a top priority for the community in coming years. Right now, the county attorney's office is swamped with cases, the courts are getting swamped, the probation officers are swamped, the jail is overflowing. We're experiencing, like a lot of other communities in the state, a rise in crime and the after-shocks of dealing with it."

—Rep. William Kuisle

Before an overhaul of Minnesota's liquor laws in the mid-1980s, it was illegal to sell liquor to a "spendthrift, habitual drunkard or improvident person."

That and other "obsolete and unenforceable" provisions of state liquor law were the subject of a 1977 Department of Public Safety report recommending the repeal of several outdated prohibitions, according to a March 24, 1977, report in the *Minneapolis Star*.

Specifically, state law made it illegal for anyone except a licensed pharmacist to sell

It's a fact!

liquor to spendthrifts and habitual drunkards within one year of notice by police, the person's parents or employers, or anyone "annoyed or injured by the intoxication" of such a person.

A similar measure also prohibited to sale of liquor to anyone identified as a "public prostitute."

The 1977 report amounted to a plea to the Legislature to update the existing liquor laws, most of which were written

early in the 1900s or shortly after the repeal of Prohibition.

Despite the urging of the public safety department, the 1977 Legislature left the archaic liquor laws on the books.

The provision forbidding sales to spendthrifts remained intact until it was repealed by the 1984 Legislature. In 1985, lawmakers completed a thorough overhaul of state liquor laws. The 1985 legislation wiped out archaic portions of the liquor law and increased the legal drinking age from 19 to 21.



How to get here

Location

The Capitol complex is north of I-94, just minutes from downtown St. Paul. It is accessible from the east and west on I-94, and from the north and south on I-35E.

I-94 eastbound: Exit at Marion Street. Turn left. Go to Aurora Avenue and turn right. Go one block, cross Rice Street, and enter Parking Lot D.

I-94 westbound: Exit at Marion Street. Turn right. Go to Aurora Avenue and turn right. Go one block, cross Rice Street, and enter Parking Lot D.

I-35E northbound: Exit at Kellogg Boulevard. Turn left. Go to John Ireland Boulevard and turn right. Metered parking spaces line both sides of the boulevard.

I-35E southbound: Exit at University Avenue. Turn right. Go to Rice Street and turn left. Go one block and turn left to enter Parking Lot D.

Visiting the Minnesota State Capitol complex can be a rewarding and educational experience for everyone. There are buildings to explore and tours to take almost any time you choose to visit. And, when the Legislature is in session during the first part of every year, there are floor sessions to observe, committee meetings to attend, and legislators to meet. Remember that this is your state Capitol, and you are always welcome.

Parking

Public metered parking is available in Lot Q, north of the Capitol at Cedar Street and Sherburne Avenue; Lot D, next to the State Office Building off Rice Street on Aurora Avenue; Lot K, across from the Armory on Cedar Street (enter from 12th Street); and on the orange level of the Centennial Office Building Ramp at Cedar Street and Constitution Avenue. All-day parking is available in Lot Q and in the Centennial Office Building Ramp. Capitol Security personnel will issue tickets for expired parking.

Outdoor handicapped parking is available in Lot N, which is directly behind the Capitol; in Lot D, which is off Rice Street on Aurora Avenue; and in Lot F, which is directly behind the Transportation Building.

Indoor handicapped parking is available on the lower level of the State Office Building Ramp (use the call box at the ramp entrance to gain entry); on the blue level of the Centennial Office Building Ramp; and on the entry level of the Administration Building Ramp (two stalls).

There are two handicapped entrances to the Capitol. One is on the north side of the building, just off Lot N; the other is a drop-off entrance under the south portico at the front of the building.

Since parking is limited during legislative sessions, busing may be easier. Freeway express bus service also is available. Bus number 94B takes you to the Capitol and the State Office Building. Call the Transit Information Center at (612) 349-7000 for other schedule and route information.

What to do

Tours

Tours of the Capitol are offered through the Capitol Historic Site Program of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Tour guides lead the 45-minute tours on the hour Mondays through Fridays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (last tour leaves at 4 p.m.); Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.); and Sundays between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.). The tours are free of charge and begin at the Capitol's information desk at the end of the corridor to the right of the main entrance. Brochures in about 15 foreign languages also are available there.

Tour participants may request customized tours that emphasize either the building's art and architecture or state government. Also, tours can be customized for senior citizens or grade school students.

The society offers "Voice of the People: Your Role in Minnesota Government," a half-day educational session for students in grades 7-12.

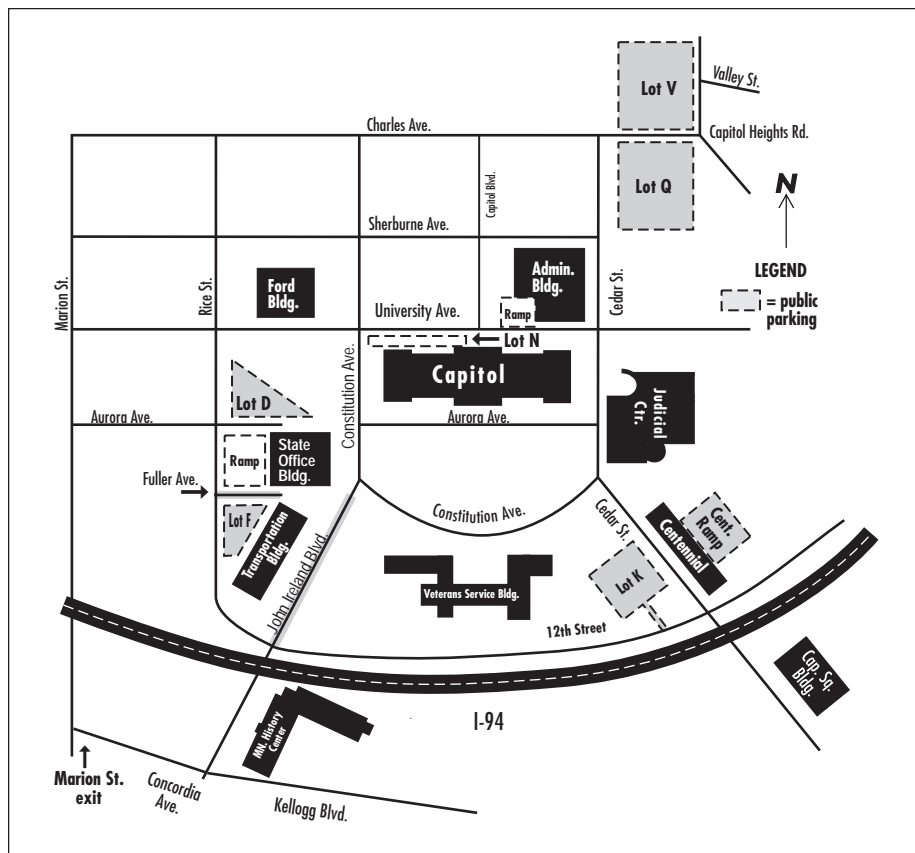
Historical society officials ask that groups of 10 or more call at least two weeks in advance to reserve a tour time.

For a recorded message regarding tours and events, call (612) 297-3521.

For more information about the tours or to reserve a time, call the Capitol Historic Site Program, (612) 296-2881.

Legislators

Representatives and senators are busy but look forward to meeting with their constituents. You should contact your legislator's office to set up an appointment.



Legislative sessions

Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate debate bills when the Legislature is in session.

At the beginning of a legislative session, the pace of floor sessions is generally slow as new bills are assigned to committees and non-controversial items are discussed. At about the session's midpoint, however, the legislative pace quickens.

The House meets at 2:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, and the Senate meets at 10 a.m. Mondays and at 8 a.m. Thursdays during the first few weeks. House floor sessions are scheduled for the afternoon because committees meet in the morning and early afternoon. As the session nears the end, however, both bodies may meet several times a day, often into the night.

All House and Senate floor sessions are open to the public. Visitors interested in observing these sessions may call the House Chief Clerk's Office, (612) 296-2314, or Senate Information, (612) 296-0504, with questions. Spectators may sit in the galleries of either chamber.

Committee meetings

Visitors wanting to attend a committee meeting may call the committee hotlines for prerecorded messages with the meeting times and agendas for each day: House, (612) 296-9283; Senate, (612) 296-8088. Printed agendas for the week also appear in each issue of the *Session Weekly* and the *Senate Briefly*.

Anyone with e-mail can receive both House and Senate committee schedules.

To receive the House schedule, send a message to:

listserv@hsched.house.leg.state.mn.us

Leave the subject line blank, and in the body of the message, enter:

subscribe h-schedules

To receive the Senate schedule, send a message to:

listserv@senate.leg.state.mn.us

Leave the subject line blank, and in the body of the message, enter:

subscribe sen-schedules

Committee meetings are open to the public. When a public hearing is scheduled the committee may listen to comments from the audience (when time permits) in addition to the scheduled speakers. Committees have different policies on hearing testimony, depending upon their size and workload. Some committees hear general testimony at the subcommittee level, while others allow general testimony during meetings of the full committee. Informational handouts that committee members receive during meetings or hearings are considered public information

and are available to the audience on a first-come, first-served basis.

Major proposals on issues often have several public hearings so committee members may listen to all arguments for and against a bill.

Each committee has a chair, vice chair, administrator, and legislative assistant. A list of committees and members is available in the House Public Information Office in Room 175 of the State Office Building or the Senate Information Office in Room 231 of the State Capitol.

Groups and individuals wishing to testify before a committee should call the appropriate committee's legislative assistant well in advance of the meeting and ask to be placed on the agenda. Committees prefer requests one week in advance but will accept later notification when unexpected issues appear on the committee schedule. A brochure containing tips on testifying at legislative committee hearings is available from the House Public Information Office.

Dining

All buildings in the Capitol complex have their own cafeterias. The Capitol and State Office Building cafeterias are in the basement. The Transportation and Centennial buildings' cafeterias are on the ground floor of each building. The Veterans Service Building cafeteria is on the fifth floor, and the Capitol Square Building's dining area is on the lower level. The Capitol also has a snack bar on the second floor (where the House and Senate chambers are located) during the session. The Café Minnesota is on the first level of the Minnesota History Center. All cafeterias serve breakfast and lunch.

Group visits

Sometimes groups plan a "legislative day" at the Capitol to express a particular viewpoint to legislators.

Rooms for special conferences or speakers can be reserved by calling Betty Langenberger, (612) 296-5974, room scheduler for the State Office Building; or Marilyn Hall, (612) 296-0866, room scheduler for the Capitol.

If group members want to meet with their individual legislators or testify before a committee (see "Committee meetings"), arrangements should be made at least a week in advance.

Often such groups have members wear a distinctive name tag or badge to indicate their concern about a particular issue.

Groups planning a trip to the Capitol should remember that seating is fairly limited in some committee rooms — particularly when the topic is controversial.

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

175 State Office Building
(612) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

This nonpartisan office provides: committee meeting schedules, legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* newsmagazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

Most of what this office publishes can be viewed on the Legislature's World Wide Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

House Television Services

216C State Capitol (612) 297-1338

This office is responsible for live coverage of House floor sessions and some committee hearings. Since 1996, such coverage has been aired in the Twin Cities area on KTCI-TV, Channel 17. Beginning in mid-March 1997, the House will broadcast via satellite statewide. Outstate residents should check with local cable operators for time and channel information or the office's Web site at: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/htv/htv.ssi>

All televised floor sessions and committee hearings are close-captioned for people with hearing impairments.

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

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

House Index Department

211 State Capitol (612) 296-6646

The House Index Department, a part of the Chief Clerk's Office, has a computerized index available for public use. House Index lists bills by committee, topic, author, file number, and other categories. The office can also give you the current status of legislation.

Senate Information Office

231 State Capitol (612) 296-0504

This office is responsible for all information about the Senate, including the committee schedule, bill status, legislator information, and the distribution of bill copies.

Senate Media Services

B-44 State Capitol (612) 296-0264

This bipartisan office produces television programs, multi-media production, scriptwriting, photography and graphics. It offers live coverage of the Senate floor sessions and some committee hearings.

New members . . .

Chaudhary plows new ground in election to House

Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley) displayed both a sense of history and a sense of humor when commenting on his election to the Minnesota Legislature. "When was the last time a tall, skinny, left-handed, balding, Gemini was elected in Minnesota?" he asked. The answer: "Hubert Humphrey."



Rep. Satveer Chaudhary

Satveer Chaudhary (pronounced SUT-veer CHAW-dree) has made history in another way as well. He is the first Asian Indian elected to public office in Minnesota, and only the fourth person of Asian Indian heritage to hold public office nationwide. His election was covered by the U.S. Indian press and by a prominent Indian news magazine.

"It is a source of pride to the Asian community and I'm happy to be part of that," Chaudhary said. "It is especially good for the children to see that they can be proud of their heritage."

Chaudhary's parents immigrated from India in 1966. His father, S.P.S. Chaudhary, is a retired inspector with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The story of how he got that job became a frequently told story in the Chaudhary family. "My dad was a Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota and, being a new immigrant, was having a hard time finding a job," Chaudhary said. "He decided to utilize the American system and write to his U.S. senator. Hubert Humphrey called him back and said that there was no reason why my dad, if he was a qualified veterinarian, shouldn't work for the USDA."

Chaudhary's mother, Raj, owns an import firm. "I definitely get my business sense

and political savvy from her," he said. "Both of my parents taught us to never forget how we began."

Though only 27 years old, Chaudhary already has a decade of political involvement under his belt. "I've been pretty much a political animal since high school. My senior government teacher at Columbia Heights [Jack Gause] got us involved. The first campaign I ever worked on was for Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) in 1986," Chaudhary said. "It was a great honor to co-sponsor [legislation] HF1 with her 10 years later."

Chaudhary has been involved in DFL politics ever since. As an undergraduate, he was in the student senate at St. Olaf College and lobbied for the state student coalition. He also worked for Attorney General Skip Humphrey's office doing outreach. "After college, I worked for Sen. (Ted) Kennedy in Washington, D.C. for a few months," Chaudhary said. "That was a tremendous experience."

In 1992, Chaudhary took a year off from academics to work on the Tom Harkin presidential campaign and Gerry Sikorski's last 6th District congressional race. Both candidates lost, but "that experience provided some important political lessons," Chaudhary said.

"During law school, I became more involved with my own community," he said. "I started speaking to Columbia Heights [High School] social studies classes about the importance of being involved with government. I also joined the Columbia Heights Lions Club and the Fridley Kiwanis, and became a member of the Fridley Human Resources Commission."

Chaudhary's first run for office came when

he was just two weeks out of law school. He ran in a July 1995 special election primary for the District 52A legislative seat, a Minneapolis suburban area that includes parts of Fridley and New Brighton and all of Columbia Heights and Hilltop. Chaudhary lost that race, but came back to defeat the winner, Republican Skip Carlson, in 1996.

"The district really needed a strong representative for working families," Chaudhary said. "On top of the district's agenda are education, crime, taxes, welfare reform, and affordable health care. We're an inner ring suburban area and are facing a lot of pressures."

Chaudhary is especially interested in education and economic development. "Without education you have higher crime and without economic development you have a weak tax base," he said.

The other constituency Chaudhary expects to hear from is Minnesota's Asian community. "I've already had some contacts from the Hmong community," he said. "I hope other Asian groups will bring me their concerns as well."

— Steve Compton

District 52A

1996 population: 33,290

Largest city: Fridley

Counties: Anoka, Ramsey

Location: northwestern metro area

Top concern: "On top of the district's agenda are education, crime, taxes, welfare reform, and affordable health care. We're an inner ring suburban area and are facing a lot of pressures."

—Rep. Satveer Chaudhary



Staff of the Criminal Justice Center at Minnesota Planning presented a host of 1995 statistics to the House Judiciary Committee Jan. 27:

- Individuals aged 10 to 24 years old comprised 21 percent of the state's population, but accounted for 69 percent of all

arrests for violent and other serious crimes. In the seven-county metropolitan area, that population, numbered at 470,760 in 1995, is expected to grow to 552,210 by 2005, after which it will begin to decline. In the other 80 counties, that population, numbered at 323,680 in 1995, will peak at 489,040 in 2000, then begin to decline.

- The number of arrests and apprehensions for all crimes — serious and minor — rose from 144,211 in 1985 to 231,049 in

1995. Less serious crimes accounted for 179,782 of the arrests and apprehensions in 1995.

- While males accounted for 74 percent of arrests and apprehensions for the most serious crimes, females showed the greatest increase: 36 percent since 1985.
- Nationwide, juvenile arrests for violent crime increased 107 percent in the 10 years leading to 1995; adult arrests rose by 81 percent. Those numbers are similar to Minnesota's.

Bill Introductions

HF160-HF342

Monday, Jan. 27

HF160—Winter (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 175, Westbrook, high school student entrepreneurship pilot program established, and money appropriated.

HF161—Jennings (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Welfare reform; Minnesota Family Investment Plan implemented.

HF162—Tunheim (DFL)

Agriculture

Seed potato inspection fund appropriated money.

HF163—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Criminal gang council and strike force established, grants authorized, and money appropriated.

HF164—Bakk (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Snowmobile trail grants-in-aid provided, and money appropriated.

HF165—Rest (DFL)

Taxes

Property tax market value limitation formula modified and program duration extended.

HF166—Hasskamp (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

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

HF167—Bakk (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Deer hunting license surcharge established to fund emergency deer feeding activities, and money appropriated.

HF168—Tunheim (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Mail balloting in certain elections expanded to include additional cities and towns.

HF169—Mulder (R)

Judiciary

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

HF170—McCollum (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, retirement plan coverage exclusion election authorized for certain trades personnel.

HF171—Bakk (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Deer; youth resident deer hunting license established.

HF172—Paulsen (R)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Term limits imposed on legislative and executive offices and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF173—Mahon (DFL)

Taxes

Aspirin substitute sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF174—Jaros (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Duluth teachers retirement fund association members provided interim military service credit purchase.

HF175—Finseth (R)

Environment & Natural Resources

Erosion control and water management cost-sharing contract approved practices modified related to windbreaks and shelterbelts.

HF176—Vickerman (R)

Judiciary

Distressed food donor injury liability limited.

HF177—Tunheim (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Multiple party voting allowed in state primary elections.

HF178—Finseth (R)

Environment & Natural Resources

RIM; Reinvest in Minnesota resources act windbreak definition modified.

HF179—Bishop (R)

Transportation & Transit

Health care directive designation provided on drivers' licenses and identification cards.

HF180—Goodno (R)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Moorhead liquor license issuance authorized.

HF181—Greiling (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Mail balloting requirement provided for certain elections.

HF182—Greiling (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Legislative coordinating commission assigned responsibility for review of legislative rules.

HF183—McCollum (DFL)

Education

School site decision-making options and intradistrict enrollment options provided, and charter school provisions modified.

HF184—Bishop (R)

Judiciary

Harassment victim civil cause of action provided.

HF185—Sykora (R)

Health & Human Services

Child welfare and children's mental health collaborative provisions modified, privatization of adoption services for children under state guardianship provided, pilot projects established, and money appropriated.

HF186—Paulsen (R)

Judiciary

Plea bargaining prohibited when defendant is charged with committing a dangerous felony with a firearm, and defendant testimony provisions modified.

HF187—Swenson, D. (R)

Judiciary

Sentencing guidelines commission mitigating sentencing departure restrictions provided.

HF188—Long (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Coya Knutson memorials designed and constructed, and money appropriated.

HF189—Pugh (DFL)

Judiciary

DWI; repeat DWI offenders provided felony penalties, prior offense definition provisions modified, and sentencing guidelines commission criminal history point weighting provisions modified.

HF190—Hasskamp (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Crow Wing county tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF191—Pugh (DFL)

Judiciary

DWI; criminal penalties enhanced for repeat DWI offenses involving commercial vehicles, commercial vehicle definition modified, and technical corrections provided.

<p>HF192—Sviggum (R) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Legislator resignation required upon filing for or appointment to another office, and constitutional amendment proposed.</p>	<p>HF204—Knoblach (R) Health & Human Services Abortion informed consent required and civil cause of action provided.</p>	<p>HF217—Opatz (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Land use mandatory comprehensive planning provided, capital improvement program established, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF193—Murphy (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Municipal off-sale intoxicating liquor sale time of day restrictions modified.</p>	<p>HF205—Paymar (DFL) Judiciary Pistol illegal possession criminal penalties increased.</p>	<p>HF218—Mullery (DFL) Judiciary Vendor or consenting owner mechanic lien service notice effect clarification provided.</p>
<p>HF194—Bishop (R) Judiciary Adult corrections facility occupancy standards altered.</p>	<p>HF206—Paymar (DFL) Judiciary Firearm unlawful possession mandatory minimum sentence increased.</p>	<p>HF219—Hasskamp (DFL) Labor-Management Relations Civil air patrol members provided unpaid leaves of absence from employers.</p>
<p>HF195—Bishop (R) Judiciary Crime victim impact statement defendant rebuttal provisions clarified, crime victim and witness advisory council duration extended, victims provided notification of defendant appeal, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF207—Paymar (DFL) Judiciary Explosive materials required to contain identification and detection taggants, and criminal penalty imposed.</p>	<p>HF220—Mullery (DFL) Judiciary Religious corporation property conveyances validated, real property disposition notices required pending marriage dissolution, and uniform probate code property distribution regulation provided.</p>
<p>HF196—Bishop (R) Judiciary Crime victim reparation provisions expanded, and peace officer records of children release authorized.</p>	<p>HF208—Swenson, D. (R) Judiciary Vehicle license plate impoundment criteria expanded.</p>	<p>HF221—Rhodes (R) Transportation & Transit Seat belt use required for all persons between ages three and 15, and primary offense designation provided for failure to use seat belts.</p>
<p>HF197—Leppik (R) Governmental Operations Administrative procedure act rulemaking procedures modified.</p>	<p>HF209—Vickerman (R) Health & Human Services Human services child placement heritage or background provisions modified.</p>	<p>HF222—Milbert (DFL) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Lobbyist registration requirements, conflicts of interest, and campaign finance provisions clarified, and invalid provisions eliminated.</p>
<p>HF198—Hasskamp (DFL) Education K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF210—Daggett (R) Taxes Long-term health care insurance premium income tax credit provided.</p>	<p>HF223—Mulder (R) Judiciary Marriage dissolution decrees to include debt and real property transfer notices.</p>
<p>HF199—McCollum (DFL) Education K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF211—Sviggum (R) Education Telephone extended area service installation authorized within combined school districts.</p>	<p>HF224—Commers (R) Judiciary Peace officers authorized to stop vehicles bearing special series license plates.</p>
<p>HF200—Wenzel (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Emergency snow removal funding provided, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF212—McCollum (DFL) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Ramsey county soil and water conservation district supervisor election requirements modified.</p>	<p>HF225—Broecker (R) Judiciary Peace officers authorized to arrest persons within four hours of a violation for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle.</p>
<p>HF201—Swenson, D. (R) Judiciary DWI; criminal penalty provided for operators of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and motorboats who refuse an alcohol test.</p>	<p>HF213—Greiling (DFL) Rules & Legislative Administration Legislator per diem payments eliminated and salary recommendations required.</p>	<p>HF226—Macklin (R) Judiciary Vehicle theft notification responsibility transferred.</p>
<p>HF202—Knoblach (R) Health & Human Services Partial-birth abortions prohibited and criminal penalties provided.</p>	<p>HF214—Paulsen (R) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Initiative and referendum provided and constitutional amendment proposed.</p>	<p>HF227—Goodno (R) Judiciary Human rights department investigative data reclassification provided.</p>
<p>HF203—Knoblach (R) Health & Human Services Abortion; constitutional standard established relating to abortion, and constitutional amendment proposed.</p>	<p>HF215—Swenson, D. (R) Regulated Industries & Energy State lottery advertising practices restricted and gross revenue use for advertising reduced.</p>	<p>HF228—Davids (R) Transportation & Transit Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Highway extended.</p>
<p>HF203—Knoblach (R) Health & Human Services Abortion; constitutional standard established relating to abortion, and constitutional amendment proposed.</p>	<p>HF216—Mariani (DFL) Labor-Management Relations Employment contract provisions modified.</p>	

HF229—Weaver (R)**Judiciary**

DWI; repeat DWI offender violations provided enhanced gross misdemeanor penalty.

HF230—Erhardt (R)**Taxes**

Senior citizens' property tax deferral program adopted, and money appropriated.

HF231—Swenson, D. (R)**Judiciary**

DWI; maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered for operation of motor vehicles, criminal vehicular homicide crime scope expanded, prior DWI offense definition modified, and technical corrections provided.

HF232—Finseth (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Soil and water conservation district supervisors provided four-year terms of office.

HF233—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services**

Partial-birth abortions prohibited, and criminal penalties provided.

HF234—Macklin (R)**Judiciary**

Local jail booking fees and collection procedures established.

HF235—Koppendrayner (R)**Education**

Standard statewide education testing provided, and money appropriated.

HF236—Pawlenty (R)**Judiciary**

Tear gas compounds and electronic incapacitation devices categorized as dangerous weapons.

HF237—Sviggum (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Hunter, trapper, and angler harassment prohibition provisions modified.

HF238—Leppik (R)**Taxes**

Third-party income tax bulk filer registration required, and civil penalty provided.

HF239—Tuma (R)**Education**

Independent School District No. 721, New Prague, permitted to begin school year prior to Labor Day.

Thursday, Jan. 30**HF240—Hausman (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan area transit and paratransit capital expenditure financing provided, employer discount bus pass sale requirements modified, regional transit subsidy alternative demonstration program authorized, and obsolete language deleted.

HF241—Mullery (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Motor carrier audits conducted jointly by public safety and transportation departments, commercial vehicle traffic accident information provisions modified, and federal motor carrier safety regulation conformity provided.

HF242—Juhnke (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Recreational equipment registration and taxation provisions modified related to slip in pickup truck campers, and vehicle registration information access restricted, vehicle dealer purchase receipt requirements modified.

HF243—Juhnke (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Truck tractor wheel flaps required, unsafe fire-wood hauling citation issuance authorized, vehicle axle weight restrictions regulated, truck weight enforcement provisions modified, and technical changes provided.

HF244—Bishop (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Individual sewage system requirements modified, and Pollution Control Agency rule compliance authority granted.

HF245—Dawkins (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Community rehabilitation program nonprofit organization participation allowed, and money appropriated.

HF246—Dawkins (DFL)**Judiciary**

Public nuisance definition expanded, and nuisance civil action participation and cost recovery provisions modified.

HF247—Daggett (R)**Health & Human Services**

Assisted living facilities financing provided through bond issuance.

HF248—Trimble (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Refugee citizenship and employment training provided, and money appropriated.

HF249—Paulsen (R)**Education**

Statewide uniform educational testing provided, and money appropriated.

HF250—Entenza (DFL)**Judiciary**

DWI; maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered to 0.08 for adults and 0.04 for minors for operation of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and while hunting.

HF251—Seagren (R)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

State lottery advertising practices restricted and gross revenue use for advertising reduced.

HF252—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Juvenile court open hearings and records provided in certain cases.

HF253—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Juvenile court open hearings and records provided in certain cases involving children in need of protection and delinquency.

HF254—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Juvenile court open hearings and records provided in certain cases involving children in need of protection.

HF255—Johnson, R. (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Environmental Quality Board membership modified.

HF256—Slawik (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

State department earnings report submission, cash flow resources advancement, and litigation and settlement money use provisions modified, and rulemaking exemptions renewed.

HF257—Dorn (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Ambulance service licensing requirements established, emergency medical services statutory provisions relocated, and money appropriated.

HF258—Kubly (DFL)**Taxes**

Used farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently.

HF259—Slawik (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Community and statewide immunization registry creation authorized and penalties provided.

HF260—Delmont (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

School immunization and health record provisions modified.

HF261—Farrell (DFL)**Judiciary**

Motor vehicle crime statutory elements and defense provisions modified.

HF262—Daggett (R)**Judiciary**

Law enforcement agencies authorized to sell forfeited firearms, ammunition, and accessories to eligible persons.

HF263—Abrams (R)**Education**

Independent School District No. 284, Wayzata, permitted to begin school year prior to Labor Day.

HF264—Milbert (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Personal watercraft operation requirements modified.

HF265—Molnau (R)**Agriculture**

Farm crisis assistance personnel employment status clarified.

HF266—Munger (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Water and Soil Resources Board membership provisions modified.

HF267—Greiling (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Health care administration simplification act rule expiration and operating procedure provisions modified.

HF268—Murphy (DFL)**Judiciary**

Close custody corrections facility construction appropriation and construction bid provisions modified.

HF269—Bakk (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

State owned iron-bearing material and stockpiled metallic minerals material ownership provisions modified.

HF270—Macklin (R)**Judiciary**

Tax return data, information and inspection requirements modified, and penalties provided.

HF271—Rukavina (DFL)**Labor-Management Relations**

Employer wage reporting requirements modified related to reemployment insurance.

HF272—Wejcman (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Human services program licensure requirements modified, and civil penalties imposed and modified.

HF273—Pelowski (DFL)**Education**

Virtual U Minnesota established to develop life-long learning opportunities, and money appropriated.

HF274—Pelowski (DFL)**Judiciary**

Probate code devisee rights provided for transfers made on behalf of incapacitated principals.

HF275—Pelowski (DFL)**Education**

Information technology initiatives appropriations provided to the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

HF276—Pelowski (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Floating structure public waters work permit issuance restricted.

HF277—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services**

Welfare reform; public assistance residency requirements modified.

HF278—Mulder (R)**Judiciary**

Three strikes; mandatory life sentence imposed for persons convicted of a third violent felony offense.

HF279—Delmont (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare provider tax rate reduced.

HF280—Johnson, R. (DFL)**Education**

American sign language recognized as a fully developed natural language.

HF281—Jennings (DFL)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Gas utility service provider performance regulation plans provided.

HF282—Stanek (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan transit police officer appointment, discharge, and discipline procedures provided.

HF283—Stanek (R)**Judiciary**

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

HF284—Luther (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Medical assistance drug formulary, home care advisory, traumatic brain injury advisory, preadmission screening, alternative care, and home-based services advisory committees, and American Indian child welfare council duration extended.

HF285—Delmont (DFL)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Gambling device manufacturer inspection cost-funding mechanism established.

HF286—Wejcman (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Day training and habilitation service vendor payment rate increase authorized for the purposes of personnel salary increases.

HF287—Bakk (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Hastings, Luverne, and Silver Bay veterans homes improvements provided through the use of donated funds.

HF288—Jaros (DFL)**Taxes**

Duluth Lake Superior center authority construction material sales tax exemption provided.

HF289—Johnson, R. (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Elderly housing with services provisions modified, nursing facility appeal process provisions

modified, permanent child placement family foster care reimbursement provisions modified, and family general assistance time limit removed.

HF290—Hausman (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Environmental Quality Board review program modified, and rulemaking authorized.

HF291—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Elderly housing with services requirements modified, and home care provider medical assistance reimbursement permitted.

HF292—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Elderly housing with services and home care provider requirements modified.

HF293—Johnson, A. (DFL)**Taxes**

Income, sales, property and MinnesotaCare tax technical corrections bill.

HF294—Folliard (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Voter change of address system established.

HF295—Ozment (R)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Public Utilities Commission public utility transaction approval criteria established.

HF296—Wejcman (DFL)**Judiciary**

Father registry created and adoption notice and consent provisions modified.

HF297—Jennings (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

National guard member tuition and textbook reimbursement grant program provisions modified.

HF298—Jennings (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Railroad charges to utilities for right-of-way access disputes heard and resolved by transportation commissioner.

HF299—Bakk (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

State park additions and name changes provided.

HF300—Kahn (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Police state aid provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF301—Jennings (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Accountant licensure requirements modified.

HF302—Greiling (DFL)**Education**

Learning year program approval required by State Board of Education.

HF303—Johnson, A. (DFL)**Education**

School disciplinary policy evaluation and implementation grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF304—Opatz (DFL)**Education**

Higher education master plan commission established, and money appropriated.

HF305—Wagenius (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Minneapolis Teachers Retirement Fund Association retirement coverage provided for former part-time nursing teachers.

HF306—Olson, E. (DFL)**Taxes**

Rental residential property tax class rate reduced.

HF307—Koppendrayner (R)**Education**

Education funding reform provided.

HF308—Koppendrayner (R)**Education**

Education income tax credit and deduction provided, and money appropriated.

HF309—Koppendrayner (R)**Education**

School boards authorized to contract for instructional and noninstructional services.

HF310—Koppendrayner (R)**Education**

Teachers employment contract provisions modified.

HF311—Luther (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Angling assistance provided to disabled residents permitted without a license.

HF312—Jefferson (DFL)**Labor-Management Relations**

Reemployment insurance technical and administrative modifications provided.

HF313—Milbert (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Fish habitat and propagation provisions modified, special hunting events established for youth, airboats restricted, minnow taking provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF314—Seagren (R)**Education**

Education site based financing and site merit pay provided, and money appropriated.

HF315—Seagren (R)**Education**

Charter school law provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF316—Huntley (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare provider tax rate reduced.

HF317—Huntley (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Municipal wastewater infrastructure eminent domain action authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF318—Jennings (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare provider tax rate reduced.

HF319—Pelowski (DFL)**Education**

Higher education institution gift income tax credit allowed.

HF320—Paymar (DFL)**Taxes**

Property tax increase disclosure and vote required.

HF321—Folliard (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Lobbyist contribution and solicitation prohibition provisions clarified.

HF322—Jennings (DFL)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Municipalities authorized to control public rights-of-way related to utility services.

HF323—Anderson, I. (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Precinct caucuses eliminated.

HF324—Bishop (R)**Taxes**

Dependent care tax credit requirements modified.

HF325—Johnson, A. (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Fridley; Locke Lake dam construction loan canceled and forgiven.

HF326—Holsten (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Hunting and fishing rights affirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF327—Van Dellen (R)**Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare provider tax rate reduced.

HF328—Seagren (R)**Health & Human Services**

Individual medical savings account income tax deduction provided.

HF329—Leighton (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Uniform partnership act adopted, and money appropriated.

HF330—Luther (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

School bus safety provided through bus monitors, seat belts and video cameras.

HF331—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Ways & Means**

State fiscal biennium to begin in even-numbered years, and legislative approval required for federal fund expenditures.

HF332—Rukavina (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Taconite mining wetland replacement requirement exemption provided.

HF333—Farrell (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Peace officers killed or injured in the line of duty provided continued health insurance coverage.

HF334—Jaros (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Duluth special assessment provisions modified.

HF335—Jennings (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Building and construction contracts, payments and retainages, and mechanics liens regulated.

HF336—Ozment (R)**Governmental Operations**

Building code division transferred from the Department of Administration to the Department of Public Safety.

HF337—Marko (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Motor vehicle sales and registration tax proceeds dedicated to the Minnesota transportation fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF338—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

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

HF339—Rest (DFL)**Taxes**

Property tax fiscal disparities determination provisions modified.

HF340—Harder (R)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Cigarette and tobacco sales taxes recodified, criminal and civil penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF341—Daggett (R)**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Liquor taxes recodified, civil and criminal penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF342—Farrell (DFL)**Judiciary**

Impounded vehicle sales authorized 15 days after impoundment notification.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
For information updates, call
House Calls at (612) 296-9283.
All meetings are open to the public.
Sign language interpreter services:
(612) 282-2331 v/tty
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MONDAY, Feb. 3

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Tour
Department of Economic Security
390 N. Robert Street,
St. Paul, Minnesota
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: Tour and site briefing of the
Department of Economic Security.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: Overview of Governor Carlson's
K-12 budget recommendations: General
Education Program, Tom Melcher,
Department of Children, Families, and
Learning.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Presentations from Minnesota/
Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission; and
Voyager National Park Citizens Council.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel
Agenda: Overview of the Department of
Agriculture and its initiatives, Commissioner
Gene Hugoson. Continuation of Jan. 27 agenda
(presentations and introductions of major
Minnesota agricultural organizations and their
representatives).

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: Chemical contaminants: Pesticides
and other contaminants, human health, and
the potential impact of genetically-engineered
crops, Vincent Garry, Environmental Medicine
& Pathology, University of Minnesota, and
Donald Alstad, Department of Ecology,
Evolution & Behavior, University of Minnesota.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Presentation of the governor's 1998-
1999 proposed budget for programs
administered by the Department of Human
Services

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Overview of agencies within the
oversight of the committee.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Performance review and budget
overview and review: Department of Finance.

12:15 p.m.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

Tour
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson
Agenda: Tour and site briefing of the
Department of Economic Security. (Depart
from south entrance of the State Office
Building.)

12:30 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: Governor's budget recommendations,
the Department of Finance and the Department
of Children, Families, and Learning.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert
Agenda: HF74 (Osthoff) Absentee ballot voting
provisions modified.
HF294 (Folliard) Change of address voter
registration.
HF127 (Folliard) State election law modified
and clarified related to voter requirements and
election procedure.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: Budget overviews from the
Department of Public Safety and the
Metropolitan Council.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

7:30 p.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

Ballroom B, Kirby Student Center,
University of Minnesota-Duluth
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Higher education issues and concerns:
testimony from students, community
members, faculty and staff.

TUESDAY, Feb. 4

8 a.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

Tour
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Tours: University of
Minnesota, Duluth; Natural Resources
Research Institute; Lake Superior College,
Duluth; and Fond du Lac Tribal and
Community College, Cloquet.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: How were past appropriations spent?:
Juvenile bonding reports from each judicial
district; correction officer positions allocated
in 1994; Violence Prevention Education Grants;
Auto Theft Prevention Board; African
American Violence Prevention Program; DWI;
Public Safety Aid to Minneapolis; Anti-
Violence Campaign; and School of Law
Enforcement. Brief Overviews of new initiatives
that need funding by the committee: Non-
committee legislators with bills or ideas: Rep.
Matt Entenza, Rep. Richard Jefferson. Agencies:
Sentencing Guidelines Commission;
Department of Human Rights; Uniform Laws
Commission; Ombudsman for Corrections;
Department of Corrections; and Public Defense
Board. Other Agencies: Olmsted County,
Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault;
and Hennepin County Attorney's Office.
Public.

Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/ EDUCATION

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza
Agenda: HF129 (Opatz) School accountability
initiatives.

Continuation of Jan. 30 agenda, statewide testing. Public testimony.

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

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: Budget overview by the Department of Public Safety, Kathy Burke Moore, Director of Driver and Vehicle Services; and Colonel Mike Chabries, Chief of State Patrol.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Presentations by Science Museum of Minnesota and Minnesota Academy of Science.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson
Agenda: Continuation of the discussion of the Department of Revenue's technical bill.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Continued presentation by the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

**Joint
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES/
Senate**

HEALTH & FAMILY SECURITY
15 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. John Dorn, Sen. John Hottinger
Agenda: Welfare reform: focus on the disabled. Public testimony.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
Agenda: Metropolitan livable communities, Metropolitan Council and Latimer Group.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Department of Revenue's technical bill.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: Debt capacity forecast, Assistant Commissioner Peter Sausen.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM &
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim
Agenda: Continuation of Jan. 30 agenda.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: To be announced.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: Overview, Vic Dobras, Sprint. HFXXXX (Jennings) Utility right of way (discussion continued). Presentations from Public Utilities Commission, Burl Haar, Executive Director; City of Redwood Falls, Jeffrey Weldon, City Administrator; City of St. Paul, John Maczko; Minnesota Telephone Association, Jerry Knickerbocker, Director.

1:45 p.m.

**Joint
COMMERCE, TOURISM &
CONSUMER AFFAIRS/
Senate COMMERCE**

Tour
Chrs. Rep. Jim Tunheim, Sen. Sam Solon
Agenda: Tour and site briefing of Minneapolis Convention Center. (Buses leaving at 1:45 p.m..)

4:15 p.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: HF167 (Bakk) Emergency deer feeding.

7 p.m.

**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Division/EDUCATION**

Blaine City Hall
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: Testimony from local citizens. (Bus leaves from East side of State Office Building at 4:45 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 5

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: To be announced.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**

Tour
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Tours: Laurentian Community & Technical College, Virginia; Laurentian Community & Technical College, Eveleth; Hibbing Technical College; Hibbing Community College; and Itasca Community College, Grand Rapids.

**K-12 Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: "An Analysis of Changes in School Funding in Minnesota Over the Past 20 Years," John Myers, Augenblick & Myers, Inc.

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

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson
Agenda: Overview of assessment process/sales ratio.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Presentations from Board of Animal Health and Agriculture Utilization Research Institute.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: Forestry Practices: Biodiversity and landscape level coordination, Jim Erkel, The Nature Conservancy; David Tilman, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, University of Minnesota; and Kim Chapman, The Nature Conservancy.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS &
INSURANCE**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson
Agenda: To be announced.

**Health & Human Services
Finance Division/
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 3 agenda.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 3 agenda.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Department of Administration budget reviews: Minnesota Children's Museum; State Archeologist.

12:30 p.m.

**Working Group on
Sliding Fee Day Care/
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Division/EDUCATION**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: "De-welfarizing" daycare.

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

1 p.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros
Agenda: The group "Strategies for Economic Growth" will present the findings of their study which defines public policy goals for Minnesota, Janna King and Kevin Walli. Presentation on the economic status of women, Aviva Breen. Tour of Minneapolis Convention Center (transportation will be provided).

2:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Gaming/
REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Delmont
Agenda: Report to the Legislature, George Anderson, Director, Minnesota State Lottery.

3:30 p.m.

**Joint
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT/
Senate TRANSPORTATION**
112 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Jean Wagenius,
Sen. Carol Flynn
Agenda: Presentation by Walter Kulash, Traffic Engineer, national expert on transit planning.

THURSDAY, Feb. 6

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: To be announced.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 4 agenda.
HF100 (Wenzel) Emergency snow removal funding provided, and money appropriated.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson
Agenda: Technology presentations by Keith Carlson, Senate Staff; Larry Wilkie, Department of Revenue; Alan Johanningsmerir, Department of Revenue.

8:30 a.m.

EDUCATION
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: HF121 (Jefferson) Youth initiative grants. Overview of University Regent election process.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: HF113 (Munger) State lottery proceed dedication to environment and natural resources trust fund duration extended, and constitutional amendment proposed.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Overview of the Secretary of State's Office. Report of the Legislative Auditor on Statewide Systems Project.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn
Agenda: Welfare reform: focus on nonprofit organizations. Public testimony.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
Agenda: Governor's budget and performance report, Housing Finance Agency. Governor's budget and executive order to move programs from the Department of Economic Security, Department of Children, Families, and Learning.

TAXES
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Public subsidies, Art Rolnick.

12:30 p.m.

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

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

3:30 p.m. or After Session.

St. Louis County Delegation
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Election of officers. Presentation of 1997 legislative agenda, Julie Brunner, County Administrator and John Ongaro,

Intergovernmental Relations Director.

6 p.m.

EDUCATION
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: HF33 (Koppendray) Omnibus K-12 policy and appropriations. Governor's education initiatives. Public testimony.

FRIDAY, Feb. 7

8 a.m.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**
Tour
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Tour and site briefing of Metro State University, St. Paul Campus.

**Transportation & Transit
Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: Budget of overview of Transit Operations, Jim Solum, Executive Director, Metropolitan Council; and Curt Johnson, Chair of Metropolitan Council.

8:30 a.m.

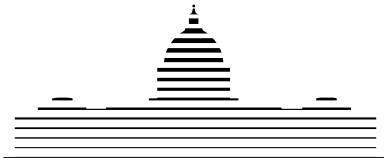
JUDICIARY
Tour
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Tour of Woodland Hills, First Witness Child Abuse Center and other facilities and programs in Duluth.

12 Noon

St. Paul House Delegation
112 State Capitol
Chr. Alice Hausman
Agenda: Presentation by St. Paul Public Schools. Wilder Schools proposal. Charter Schools in St. Paul.

1:30 p.m.

**Compensation Council/
Legislative Coordinating Commission**
5 State Office Building
Chr. Tom Swain
Agenda: Organizational matters: introduction of members; election of a chair. Review of council responsibilities. Agency head salary ranges. Salaries for constitutional officers, judges and legislators.



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

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

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota State Lottery

Cents of every lottery dollar spent that goes to the state's general fund	11
to the Environmental Trust Fund	7
Other states dedicating a portion of lottery funds to environment and natural resource programs	3
Total dollars appropriated from the Environmental Trust Fund (including projects recommended for funding in 1989-1999), in millions, 1991-1998	\$81.5
Instant game tickets sold on April 17, 1990, the debut of the Minnesota Lottery, per second	62
Other state's with lotteries when Minnesota's lottery began	32
States with lotteries, 1996	36
Year that George Washington operated a lottery to finance road construction	1768
Different lotteries operating in 1831	420
Ratio of dollars raised by those lotteries compared to the 1831 federal budget ...	5:1
Year the Federal Lottery Act was passed to ban these largely private lotteries...	1890
Percent of net lottery profits dedicated to the state's general fund when the lottery was instituted in 1990	0
in 1997	60
Percent of net profits dedicated to capital improvements for state universities and colleges, 1990	28.3
in 1997	0
Dedicated lottery fund beneficiaries originally called for in 1990 and not protected by the Minnesota Constitution that are still receiving funds today	0
Lottery dollars marked for compulsive gambling, fiscal year 1990	\$100,000
fiscal year 1995, in millions	\$1.5
Minnesota State Lottery sales in fiscal year 1996, in millions, highest to date ...	\$379
Unclaimed prize money, in millions, fiscal year 1996	\$1.5
Cents of every lottery dollar that went to prizes, fiscal year 1996	60
Lottery dollars spent on advertising, in millions, fiscal year 1996	\$8.7
Percent of gross lottery revenue that can be spent on advertising, according to state law	2.75

Sources: Minnesota State Lottery, *Annual Report, 1990*; House Research Department; Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources; Environmental Trust Fund Coalition

For more information



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