For the past 20-25 years we have been driven by a need to believe that “bigger is better.” Buy the latest computer with more MHz’s, megabytes, and hard drive than you will need, and before you get it home it has been replaced on the market by a bigger and better product with more memory, more speed, more everything.

Or, for example, look at the no frills two-seat pickup? It’s probably not the popular vehicle it once was a few years ago. Nowadays, an individual owning a pickup drives one with a four-seat cab, more shiny chrome than a ‘56 Chevy, plus room enough for the baby seat and dog bed included. And don’t forget to add four tires that are three sizes too large for the vehicle.

Bigger is better. Even the re-release of the movie “Star Wars” is supposedly “bigger and better” than it was 20 years ago. At least Princess Leia’s hairdo remains unchanged.

Even such ideologies get debated by the Legislature. Creating new laws or improving on old ones are not always driven by how much more can be added, or how much less something will cost. Fortunately, bills may get changed because the legislative process is long and deliberate. Whether or not a bill is designed to build a bigger mousetrap, reform welfare, build a new stadium, or provide cheaper health care, the more a bill is refined, the better it will be, and the more it will be called a “good bill.”

Basically, that is how the legislative process works. Ideas are introduced and bills are written and studied. They are thoughtfully worked on and even amended if necessary to ensure that outcomes are not just bigger and better. The results should be a positive benefit to the citizenry.

Although a key responsibility for legislators is to pass bills, some bills may not be the best they can be. But keeping in mind that bigger is not always better, one can trust that with patience, thought, and common sense, legislators will, in the long run, “do the right thing.”

—LeClair G. Lambert

### INSIDE

- Highlights ................................................. 3
- A Closer Look: Welfare Reform .................... 12
- New Members: Reuter, Johnson ................. 13, 15
- Committee Accounts ................................. 14
- Bill Introductions (HF343 - HF542) ............... 16
- Committee Schedule (Feb. 10-14) .................. 21

On the cover: Lee Pao Xiong, executive director of the Asian Pacific Council, testified Jan. 30 before a joint House and Senate hearing on the new federal welfare reform law as it will affect legal immigrants in Minnesota. Lawmakers took about two hours of public testimony at the Christ Lutheran Church in St. Paul from many immigrants who will be severed from public assistance.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid
Hearings put human face on federal welfare changes

Moving Minnesotans on welfare to the ranks of the employed may sound like a straightforward task. But, as state lawmakers are learning, the new federal welfare reform law is anything but.

During the past week, members of both the Minnesota House and Senate have held special hearings to listen to several groups — such as legal immigrants and people with disabilities — who stand to lose their public assistance without state action.

Hearings also have dealt with new federal work requirements and the child care and transportation issues associated with them.

States across the country are hurrying to pass new welfare laws after the federal government scrapped the long-standing welfare system in August 1996.

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

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

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

Below is a summary of some of the issues touched on during the past week.

Disabled

Portions of the federal law will hit families whose children have behavioral disorders, mental retardation, or certain chronic illnesses.

These children are expected to lose their Supplemental Security Income (SSI), a federal program begun in 1974 that provides cash help to the needy who are aged, blind or disabled.

In Minnesota, some 3,200 children could lose their monthly SSI checks due to a more narrow definition of “disability” in the federal law. The average monthly benefit is $406 and the cuts are set to take effect after July 1997.

Families whose children fall short of meeting a new definition of “disabled” told some Minnesota lawmakers Feb. 4 that they fear the loss of their monthly check may force them to institutionalize their children.

“We want to keep Jennifer at home where she belongs,” said Kathleen Sanders, a single mom from Coon Rapids, Minn., whose 9-year-old daughter has Down’s Syndrome and attention-deficit problems.

Sanders said her family’s SSI check enables her to work 25 to 30 hours per week because she can afford specialized day care for Jennifer. It also helps pay for basics, such as food and shelter.

The mother said she worries that families like hers will begin to house their children in large institutions because they’ll have no other choice. Either that, or they’ll become destitute.

Without the monthly check, “I would not be able to work. I see no alternative but to apply for welfare,” Sanders told committee members from the House Health and Human Services Committee and the Senate Health and Family Security Committee.

Another 700 Minnesota families of chil-
dren with disabilities could lose their Medical Assistance under the change. Medical Assistance is a joint federal and state program that helps people who can’t afford health care. And, another 150 families could lose their access to a program that lets them buy into Medical Assistance as added insurance coverage.

Robin Rodenborg of Mora, Minn., and her 4-year-old son Alex also face the loss of their SSI check.

Alex, who waved a stuffed Pooh bear and sat with his mother as she testified, has many medical problems but, under the new definition, no one problem by itself qualifies for federal help.

Alex has asthma, a cleft palate, a muscle at the bottom of his stomach that keeps him from digesting food properly, is far-sighted, deaf in one ear, and his jaw sits on top of his airway.

Currently, Rodenborg’s monthly SSI check helps pay for Alex’s feeding tube, special car seat, adaptive furniture, long distance calls to “informed” doctors (her access to doctors is limited in rural Minnesota) as well as other needs.

She’s worried that insurance companies, schools, and hospitals will follow the federal government’s lead and cut benefits to people with disabilities.

In addition to children with disabilities, elderly and disabled legal immigrants will also lose their monthly SSI check. That is estimated to affect some 5,400 legal immigrants in Minnesota. Overall, legal immigrants are cut off from most federal programs.

Tatyana Kasperovich of Minneapolis testified on behalf of four immigrants from the former Soviet Union who have survived religious persecution, wars, and famine in their homeland and who are now about to lose their public assistance here.

“They only hope is God’s mercy and the Legislature,” Kasperovich said.

**Immigrants**

A crowd of about 300 people gathered at Christ Lutheran Church near the State Capitol Jan. 30 to hear how the loss of federal welfare benefits will affect Minnesota’s legal immigrants and refugees.

Kao Yang’s story illustrates how a situation far removed from state control can create an impact in Minnesota. “I was conscripted by the CIA to fight when I was 13 years old,” he told members of the Minnesota Senate Health and Family Security Committee and the House Health and Human Services Committee through a translator.

“It is very hard for me to study to become an American citizen . . . I cannot understand when they talk to me. I go to school every day and study hard. I want to be an American citizen very much.”

—Phon Not, a 72-year-old Cambodian woman

Alberto Puga, a migrant farm worker who testified in Spanish before a joint House and Senate hearing Jan. 30, told lawmakers of the struggle his mentally handicapped daughter has had trying to become a citizen. He worries about what will happen to her with the pending welfare cuts.

“They gave me an M-16 that later exploded in my hand making me blind in my right eye and limited the vision in my left eye. I married my wife while we lived in a refugee camp in Thailand and we have six children. We came to the United States three years ago and have not yet learned to speak English. My wife doesn’t have an education and can’t find a job.”

Yang and many others stand to lose current welfare benefits because of federal changes.

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

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

Also, many elderly and disabled immigrants will lose their SSI checks, which average $378 a month to the needy who are aged, blind, or disabled. In Minnesota, 5,400 immigrants are expected to lose their SSI.

Yang’s predicament is not that different from other refugees according to David Zander, a research analyst for the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans. “There are success stories but others are struggling,” Zander told the hearing. “What they all have in common is that they followed a path to Minnesota that started by running from communists in southeast Asia.”

Some wondered how many immigrants could live should benefits be removed.

“I’m most concerned about the impact of these changes on the elderly, people who were wounded during the war, people suffering from posttraumatic stress,” said Lee Pao Xiong, executive director of the Council on Asian-Pacific Islanders. “I can’t see how many of these people can survive.”

Mia Lee, a 62-year-old Hmong woman is one such person. The cane she uses to steady her walk bears witness to the traumas of her life. “When we tried to escape from the communist soldiers, they shot my baby in my arms and I had to leave it on the side of the road,” she said. “I also saw them shoot my mother-in-law. They forced me to carry ammunition and beat me, knocking out my teeth. I finally escaped and spent 15 years in refugee camps. Now I live here with my surviving children and we are very poor. If our benefits are cut, I don’t know what we will do, probably just starve.”

Several speakers complained about the difficulty of the citizenship exam, especially for the elderly.

Yur Hang, a 66-year-old Vietnamese woman asked the lawmakers, “If my benefits are cut off before I become a citizen, what will happen to me?!”

Phon Not has already taken and failed the citizenship test three times. “It is very hard for me to study to become an American citizen,” said the 72-year-old Cambodian
woman. “I cannot understand when they talk to me. I go to school every day and study hard. I want to be an American citizen very much.”

Judy Yellin of the Jewish Federation of Minneapolis’ Resettlement Services said that as many as 150 Russian Jewish immigrants face the same problem. “There are still many frail elderly who won’t be able to pass the citizenship test and will need some form of assistance,” she said.

“We Somalis have run away from hell,” Adam Amin Avil told the hearing. “Back home you can’t walk the streets. The Somali community here are many single-parent families, widows with their children who need a handout. If they lose assistance, God knows what will happen.”

Juanita Christiansen urged the lawmakers to consider the contributions of immigrants. “I’m the daughter of immigrants. My parents came across from Mexico in 1912,” she said. “Our country is rich because of its immigrants. I have a son who is a doctor at the Mayo Clinic. My daughter is a nurse. My other daughter works for the Minneapolis School Board. It is time for you to see that immigrants get the justice they have coming, not charity.”

Transportation

Any discussion of welfare reform is sure to include lofty calls to move people from welfare to work, but the street-level reality is that such an effort will require some method to transport people from their homes to jobs.

The House Transportation and Transit Committee’s Subcommittee on Transportation Operations heard from a dozen state and local officials from throughout the state during a Feb. 5 hearing on the implications of welfare reform.

“All the [job] training in the world doesn’t mean anything if you’re not there to use it,” said Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega. “We consider transit a critical component of welfare reform. We don’t think it’s going to succeed without transit.”

So far, much of the discussion of reform has focused on removing barriers that prevent welfare recipients from seeking work. Child care, health care, and job training frequently rank as the top needs of people looking to move off the welfare rolls.

The message from government officials serving both rural and urban areas is that transportation should be included in that list of ingredients for effective reform.

“In order for welfare reform to succeed, people will need adequate transportation to and from jobs or postsecondary institutions,” said Julie Aanenson, who supervises the Tri-Valley Heartland Express Transportation program in northwestern Minnesota.

“In rural Minnesota, these jobs and schools will be found in the larger communities and many of the people needing these options will be located in smaller communities.”

The demand for public transit is expected to increase because many current welfare recipients who will be forced into the job market by recent federal changes simply cannot afford to own a car. They will need public transit so they can bring their children to day care and get to work.

In rural areas, the problem is especially acute. Roughly 40 of the state’s 87 counties have no public transit system. In those that do, bus service is often very limited.

For example, Aanenson’s organization provides daily bus service in Thief River Falls, Minn., but buses run in-town routes only two days per week in Crookston.

In order to meet the demands of welfare reform, more buses will be needed and service will have to be expanded, Aanenson said.

She also urged lawmakers to foster cooperative efforts between organizations already providing transit services and to consider ways to make more efficient use of existing resources.

For example, Aanenson said, school buses could be put to better use during the long period of down time between the morning and afternoon commutes.

Urban areas face different transportation concerns than do rural areas, but the need for improvement is universal.

In the Twin Cities, people moving from welfare to work may have a hard time finding a bus to take them where they need to go. The expected increase in demand for public transit comes on the heels of Metropolitan Council Transit Operations (MCTO) fare hikes and cutbacks in the number of buses running on metropolitan-area streets.

The MCTO is hard pressed to meet the rise in reverse commuting, which brings workers from the core cities to the fast-developing business frontiers in first- and second-ring suburbs.

“If the jobs are at the Mall of America, we need to be able to take people from our Frogtown neighborhood and get them to the Mall of America,” said Ramsey County Commissioner Sue Haigh. “We are going to need reliable transit and transportation to get those folks to work.”

Legislators were urged to provide more funding for bus service and to work with businesses to find other solutions such as shuttle services to and from the work site.

“We want to succeed with reforming welfare,” Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin said. “We need a transit system that allows us to do that.”

Session Weekly writers Steve Compton, K. Darcy Hanzlik, and Nick Healy contributed to this article.

“We want to succeed with reforming welfare. . . .
We need a transit system that allows us to do that.”

—Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin

Send e-mail comments regarding Session Weekly to:
session@house.leg.state.mn.us
We thank you for your input.

The editors
**CHILDREN**

**Kids in open court?**

Should juvenile court proceedings be open to the public?

That’s one of the questions the House Judiciary Committee explored Feb. 5 in a meeting with three top court officials.

“There is some disagreement among judges in the state. It’s a time-honored practice to keep those proceedings closed and confidential,” said John Stanoch, Hennepin County District Court judge and presiding judge in juvenile court. “I’d like people to have a better understanding of the difficulty of the decisions we make. Often the only scrutiny we get is when something horrible happens, like when a child [who has had some contact with the system] dies.”

Under current law, juvenile court proceedings are closed to the public, as are juvenile court records.

“They probably should be opened, at least more than they are,” Stanoch added. “The time may have come for that to occur.”

Edward Toussaint, chief judge in the Minnesota Court of Appeals, said the issue is partly a matter of accountability: Would opening the proceedings undermine the protection children deserve from the courts? Toussaint mentioned fears some have that exposing the proceedings to the public could violate a child’s need for privacy.

The majority of members on a Minnesota Supreme Court Foster Care and Adoption Task Force recommended, with qualifications, that the proceedings be more open, Toussaint pointed out. “This debate will continue,” he said. “It would be an advantage for the public to take a look at it.”

Also testifying was Sue Dosal, Minnesota Supreme Court administrator.

“This meeting was to inform the committee,” Skoglund said, “but we ended up with a dialogue. Members are learning from them, and they [the court representatives] are hearing back. It was a very positive meeting.”

The meeting was one of a series the committee has conducted with members of agencies affected by the committee’s initiatives.

**DEVELOPMENT**

**Conventional expansion**

Legislators toured the Minneapolis Convention Center Feb. 4, where city officials presented a $185 million plan that relies on state financing to expand the facility.

Members of the Senate’s Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee joined several representatives from the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee on the outing, hosted by Minneapolis City Council Member Alice Rainville. Rainville, joined by fellow City Council Member Joan Campbell, told lawmakers that without their help, the facility could not remain competitive in the increasingly cut-throat convention market.

Indeed, Campbell said, the convention center, which opened in 1990, has already slipped in the national market from the 13th largest facility in the country to 37th.

“We are a Minnesota resource,” Rainville said, “and we are simply asking the state to have a role in the completion of the facility.”

The convention center’s original plans included 500,000 square feet of display space. When then-Gov. Rudy Perpich vetoed state funding in 1985, those plans were scaled back to the 280,000 square feet that exists today. Minneapolis financed the effort with $350 million in bonds, a debt that will be retired in 2014.

The city council members, along with representatives of the Minneapolis Downtown Council, presented an array of options for state funding, including state-secured bonds, revenue authority bonds, and no less than five pay-as-you-go options. The cost of the expansion, which would add dozens of meeting rooms in addition to the display space, is estimated at $185 million for the pay-as-you-go plan, or nearly $18 million annually for 24 years if state-backed bonds are used.

Supporters of the expansion maintain that Minneapolis cannot afford to shoulder the fiscal burden alone. In fact, the city has already done its part by going into debt for the original construction. To go further into debt, Rainville said, would jeopardize the city’s AAA credit rating.

“Minneapolis can’t do it on its own,” Campbell said. “Our businesses already have some of the highest taxes and our competitors all have regional or state funding.”

City officials hope to find someone to introduce legislation in the near future.

**DWI**

**Drugged drivers**

Until last year, the police had no way to deal with drivers under the influence of illegal drugs. Often, a dangerous driver would test negative for alcohol use and would have to be released.

“The officers were getting into situations where they had to toss up their hands because they didn’t know what else to do,” said Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) in testimony before the House Judiciary Committee’s Judiciary Finance Division Feb. 6.

So the 1996 Legislature made it “illegal for citizens to drive an automobile . . . with any amount of certain controlled substances in their systems.” That includes most addictive narcotics, stimulants, and depressants. The penalties for violating the law are consistent with the state’s current DWI laws.
This year, Entenza would like the Legislature to provide the funds to make enforcement possible.

He and John Laux, executive director of the Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) board, asked the committee to approve $6.8 million annually to train and pay for drug recognition experts to be deployed throughout the state. Entenza said the money would be used for 15 additional experts in the seven-county metro area and 22 others throughout the state. Minneapolis and St. Paul have their own programs.

“The need was highlighted by the deaths of three people in 1995,” Entenza said. “They were killed by a man who had used illegal drugs and rear-ended their car. They were pushed into a ditch and drowned.”

A fourth person was seriously injured. Entenza said the offender was difficult to prosecute because there was no drug recognition expert available at the scene.

The 1996 law called for the POST board to develop a plan to train a “sufficient” number of officers as Drug-Recognition Experts (DRE) to ensure they are available statewide each day to evaluate suspected drug-impaired drivers.

The DRE funding request coincided with a report from Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) that recommends expanding intensive probation programs for DWI offenders and continuing research to combat the problem. “Drunk drivers are Minnesota’s most dangerous offenders. There’s no doubt about that,” said Don Davis of the DPS.

**EDUCATION**

**Early school start**

The House passed a bill Feb. 6 that would allow school districts to begin classes before Labor Day in 1998 and 1999. The vote was 123-9.

Current state law forbids districts from opening schools before Labor Day. That measure, strongly supported by the state’s resort industry, has been on the books since 1986.

HF84, sponsored by Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), would allow school districts to begin classes on the Wednesday, Thursday or Friday before Labor Day in 1998 and 1999.

According to Carlson, the bill came about because Labor Day falls relatively late in September in 1998 (Sept. 7) and 1999 (Sept. 6).

Past efforts to change the law requiring school to begin after Labor Day have attracted some controversy at the Capitol. Tourism groups have been the most vocal defenders of the law, because it keeps available the teenagers they rely upon to fill seasonal jobs, and it stretches the season for summertime family vacations.

Rep. Gail Skare (DFL-Bemidji) said the bill would be a “hardship” for northern Minnesota resort owners who must make the most of a relatively short tourism season.

“That last week of the summer and the long weekend are vital to their businesses,” Skare said during earlier debate on the bill. However, at least one major tourism industry group is supporting HF84. The legislation grew out of negotiations between the Minnesota Restaurant, Hotel & Resort Association and the Minnesota School Boards Association, according to Carlson.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

**Statewide testing**

An effort to require uniform standardized testing in all public schools has taken a giant leap forward in the Senate. But it continues to move by small steps in the House — at least for now.

In a somewhat unexpected move, the Senate attached an amendment calling for statewide testing to an important but non-controversial education bill. The bill (HF1/*SF3) would lift statutory caps on education spending that, if left in place, would force a $337 million reduction in K-12 school funding.

It is uncertain how the House will respond to the Senate’s action. House members could concur with the upper chamber and send the bill to the governor, or they could send the measure to conference committee and work to get the statewide testing language altered or removed from the bill.

In the meantime, a House education subcommittee continues to deliberate the issue of statewide testing.

“Statewide assessment is not something you do on the fly,” said Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), who chairs the House Education Committee’s Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives.

Proponents of statewide testing claim it would make schools more accountable by providing an objective measurement of student performance and a reliable means for comparing schools across district and state lines.

Critics claim the testing would simply pit school districts against each other and could have a negative impact on students, potentially driving up dropout rates and special education designations.

Entenza’s panel considered HF129 on Feb. 4, which calls for standardized testing of Minnesota students in grades 3, 7, and 11.

Bill sponsor Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) said his legislation would do more than provide fodder for criticism of struggling schools and districts. The bill, according to Opatz, would create a system that fosters improvement in schools that are performing poorly and rewards schools that are succeeding.

Under the legislation, tests would be given to establish a baseline score for individual schools. Future performance at each school would be measured against its own baseline.

Schools that show improvement over their baseline would be rewarded by the state, which would direct funds to teachers at each improving site and give them authority to decide how the money can best be spent to bolster learning.

Schools that do not show improvement — dubbed in the bill as “schools in crisis” — also would receive financial assistance from the state. However, the funding would have to be spent to develop and implement a plan to improve learning.

No action was taken on HF129. Opatz’s bill is one of several statewide testing proposals introduced this year.

The education subcommittee earlier this
session discussed a separate proposal to require statewide testing. That bill (HF235), sponsored by Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayer (R-Princeton), consists of Gov. Arne Carlson’s prescription for standardized testing in all public schools. (See Jan. 31, 1997, Session Weekly, page 5.) No action has been taken on the Koppendrayer bill.

ENVIROMENT

Lottery funding stalls

A bill to extend the dedication of state lottery revenue for the environment (HF113) stalled Feb. 6 in the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

Bill sponsor Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) wants 40 percent of net lottery proceeds to continue funding environmental projects until 2050. Under the Minnesota Constitution, that dedication is set to expire in the year 2000.

But after testimony from Munger and members of the Environmental Trust Fund Coalition, a debate over two amendments to HF113 has left its future uncertain.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), chair of the panel, offered an amendment to extend the lottery fund’s dedication to 2020, arguing that by then the trust fund would have more than $1 billion in assets, according to current financial projections. The $1 billion figure was the original goal for the fund discussed by state lawmakers, said Osthoff. If allowed to continue until 2050, projections show the fund would be worth $5.9 billion. “I think it is irresponsible for legislators to tie up this [lottery] money for 50 years into the future,” Osthoff said.

Members approved the 2020 sunset date after Munger failed in attempts to lengthen it to 2040 and 2030.

Over Munger’s objections, the panel also approved an amendment by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) to allow up to 25 percent of the annual revenues deposited in the environmental fund to be used for land acquisition and development until 2020. Munger’s original bill would have authorized such expenditures only through fiscal year 1997. Munger argued that since land prices increase over time, it makes more sense to buy property as early as possible. “The best use of the trust fund is to accumulate public land,” Kahn said.

Munger, who had asked legislators to approve this bill without amendments, was visibly upset, and argued that the Kahn amendment would allow legislators to dip into dedicated environmental dollars every year for pet projects. “You are getting the trust fund from both ends,” Munger told the committee. “First you take away 30 years of funding and now you want to lower the amount by 25 percent.”

Greta Hesse Gauthier, director of the Environmental Trust Fund Coalition, told the committee her organization’s board of directors also opposed the change.

Munger then withdrew the bill, bringing discussion on the proposal to a sudden halt. It is unclear whether HF113 will be debated further.

GAMBLING

Revenue pay dirt

Minnesota gamblers spent nearly $376 million on numbers games and scratch-off tickets in 1996 — the highest sales total yet, the Minnesota State Lottery’s director said Feb. 5. And that number could have been larger.

“The blizzards hurt us a great deal,” Director George Andersen told members of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee’s Subcommittee on Gambling. “We lost about a million dollars a week.”

As it was, he said, 1996 sales were up more than 10 percent, with instant games accounting for nearly three-quarters of gross revenues. Powerball sales, he continued, slumped dramatically during that period, adding that the Daily Millions game introduced last September has yet to produce its first big-prize winner.

Andersen presented the sales numbers during his annual appearance, mandated by law, before the legislative committee. He also detailed the state’s piece of the action.

The lottery, Andersen said, returned almost $90 million to the state last year. That money, for the most part, went into the general fund and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. In general, he continued, the financial statements have not varied much since the game’s inception in 1990.

He went on about the notion that Minnesota’s lottery somehow competes with Indian casinos for gambling dollars. The idea, he said, is not true, adding that the increased sales figures bear him out.

“We’re retail,” he said, “not a destination.”

In presenting the numbers, Andersen placed the game in a historical context. The concept, he said, is ancient. For example, the Great Wall of China was built with lottery proceeds and European history is full of references to lotteries.

In the United States, people have enjoyed lottery action from the earliest days, even during the Revolutionary era, although the games in that time were privately run. In fact, Anderson said, Thomas Jefferson himself operated a numbers game.

The federal government, he said, banned lotteries in the 1850s and they did not reappear, legally, until New Hampshire introduced its sweepstakes in 1964. Other states quickly realized the revenue potential and created their own lotteries — although Andersen himself remained skeptical.

“I remember hearing on the radio . . . in
1972 that Pennsylvania had passed the lottery, and I thought it would never have a chance, that it would never succeed,” he said. “I stand corrected.”

Feeding the deer

Winter deer feeding costs the state too much in money and staff time and doesn’t save enough deer to make it worthwhile, according to a preliminary report presented to the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Jan. 4. The report, presented by Tim Bremicker, chief of the Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Division of Wildlife, evaluated the state’s 1996 Emergency Deer Feeding Program.

Deer feeding supporters argue that the report failed to take public support into account.

“The DNR doesn’t realize the number of volunteers who want to do this,” said Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook). Bakk has sponsored a bill (HF167) that would allocate $1.5 million for an emergency deer feeding program funded with a $2.50 surcharge on hunting licenses. "Everything in life isn’t about biology,” he said. "Sometimes government has to respond to the wishes of people.”

Bakk also sponsored a 1996 law that marked $750,000 in emergency deer feeding funds. In 1996, the DNR spent a total of $975,713 to provide 5,115 tons of feed. (The money came from a portion of the proceeds from hunting and fishing licenses, not general taxpayer revenue.)

The 1996 project involved 8,300 volunteer distributors spreading food at 9,150 sites over an area of 38,000 square miles. About 23 percent more deer were reached in 1996 than a similar effort in 1989.

According to the report, deer feeding is not effective in preventing widespread losses of deer during severe winters. Other findings include facts such as:

• more than 8,000 hours of staff time went into the feeding program;
• deer populations declined an average of 27 percent in areas where feeding occurred in 1996;
• the cost to provide an adequate ration to 50 percent of the herd would have been $2.3 million, more than twice as much as the 1996 expenditure; and
• no other state or province pays for emergency deer feeding, although there are numerous private efforts.

The report also raises what it terms serious biological concerns. “Deer feeding unnaturally concentrates deer, leading to increased susceptibility to predation, transmission of disease and parasites, and impacts to natural browse and vegetation. There are also potential long-term consequences of feeding on deer movements, habitat use, and the overall health of the deer herd.”

The report recommends that the state develop policies “to determine whether deer feeding should be included as part of future state deer management programs and if so, what the goals of future programs should be and strategies for meeting those goals.”

Joe Wood, executive director of the 18,000-member Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, sees a different message in the DNR report. The 1996 study shows that 23 percent of the deer in northern Minnesota were reached by the feeding program. That is an increase from 11 percent from the 1989 feeding. “It shows a substantial improvement from 1989,” Wood said. “Is the efficiency of deer feeding comparably as good as anything else the DNR does?” he asked.

In the end, the committee decided to send HF167 on to the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee without making a recommendation. A hearing is expected on the proposal next week.

Reducing teenage smoking

After nearly four hours of debate, the House of Representatives granted preliminary passage Feb. 6 to a bill aimed at reducing teenage smoking. The vote was 128-0.

Lawmakers approved a dramatically altered version of HF117 that hits store owners with fines for the first time, but no longer includes annual “sting” operations to ensure compliance.

As approved, HF117, sponsored by Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope), would require local governments to license establishments that sell tobacco. It also would slap store owners with a $50 fine should a clerk sell smokes to an underage buyer. Fines for a repeat offense increase to $150, and a third violation within two years would cause the store to lose its license to sell tobacco for at least a week. The bill also adds civil fines for clerks who sell to those who are underage.

Essentially, the bill fills a gap in Minnesota’s existing tobacco regulation, Rest said.

“The current law does not involve the stores,” Rest said. “Our bill . . . brings the stores into the circle of responsibility.”

Under current law, clerks who sell tobacco to minors can face criminal penalties of up to a year in jail and a $3,000 fine, but the store owner faces no penalties — civil or criminal.

But HF117 does provide room for a rebuttal on the part of clerks and proprietors.

Rest herself introduced an amendment, adopted by voice vote, that allows penalties to be waived if the accused “could not reasonably have known that the conduct was unlawful.” Such a situation could involve the use of a fake identification card.

Another amendment, offered by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) and approved by a 70-62 vote, would let store owners sell tobacco products from self-serve displays, as long as the fixtures are within the sight line of an employee. As introduced, the bill prohibited self-serve displays altogether. Proponents wanted to remove easy access to cigarettes. Opponents called the move an unnecessary burden on businesses.

Many lawmakers expressed dismay that HF117 apparently provides tougher sanctions for everyone culpable in underage smoking, except for the lawbreakers themselves. Several representatives offered amendments to remedy that shortcoming, including one from Rep. Mike Oskopp (R-Lake City) that would have slapped a $1,000 fine on teens caught trying to buy a pack of smokes. (Under current law, underage tobacco possession or use is a petty misdemeanor, which carries a top fine of $200.)

Ultimately, an amendment sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) was adopted. It requires an alternative to the fine system. Store owners, parents, and others peripherally involved in an underage tobacco purchase would collaborate to consider developing an education program on the hazards of smoking or examine community service as an option in lieu of a fine.

Legislators reserved what was perhaps their most passionate debate for an amendment by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), which was approved by a 66-62 margin. The amendment deleted a provision requiring communities to conduct at least one sting operation per year in each establishment licensed to sell tobacco.

“Are we that suspicious of our citizens?” Bishop asked, adding that law enforcement officials should have at least probable cause before engaging in undercover compliance checks. “This is a terrible precedent.”

A final vote on HF117 is expected Feb. 10.
Higher Education

Regent selection

Legislators are about to begin the process of choosing from 12 finalists for five seats on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

The House Education Committee received a briefing Feb. 6 on the regent selection process and on the final steps slated to take place this month.

The 12-member Board of Regents includes one person representing each of Minnesota’s eight congressional districts and four at-large members, including one U of M student (who is a student at the time of election).

Regents serve six-year terms that are staggered so that four seats come up for election by the Legislature in each odd-numbered year. Five seats are available this year because of the October 1996 resignation of Regent Jean Keffler. (Gov. Arne Carlson appointed Michael O’Keefe to temporarily fill Keffler’s seat, and O’Keefe is now seeking election to serve the remainder of a term set to expire in 2001.)

The 12 finalists were selected by the Regent Candidate Advisory Council, a panel created in 1988 to screen candidates for the board. Ninety-one candidates applied for the open seats this year, and 23 of them were interviewed by the advisory council.

Three major steps remain in the regent selection process.

First, nominees will be reviewed by a caucus of all legislators from the appropriate congressional district. Caucus members will vote to endorse one candidate. Congressional caucus meetings are expected to take place during the week of Feb. 10-14.

Next, the House and Senate education committees will meet jointly Feb. 18 to consider the advisory council recommendations and the caucus endorsements. Committee members will vote to endorse five candidates, whose names will be submitted to the full Legislature as a slate.

Finally, the full House and Senate will convene jointly in the House Chamber Feb. 27 to elect the regents. Lawmakers can vote the slate or choose from others among the 12 finalists. A majority of the 201 members of the House and Senate must approve any nomination to the board.

Here’s a look at the finalists in the five congressional districts with open seats.

First District: Bryan Neel, an incumbent regent and a doctor at Rochester’s Mayo Clinic. Thomas Stoa, Winona, a doctor practicing in La Crosse, Wis.


Fifth District: Michael O’Keefe, an incumbent regent and executive vice president of the McKnight Foundation. William Drake, Minneapolis, president and chief executive officer of Islet Technology Inc.

Sixth District: George Allen, Woodbury, retired 3M senior vice president. Barbara Klemme, Stillwater, consultant for nonprofits. Maureen Reed, Stillwater, a doctor and HealthPartners’ medical director for contracted care.

Seventh District: Bob Bergland, Roseau, former secretary of agriculture under President Jimmy Carter. Herbert Chilstrom, Peli- can Rapids, a retired presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Industry

Subterranean jungle

There’s much more to the streets of Minnesota than meets the eye. Countless miles of lines and cables run beneath the pavement, all carrying services for water, electricity, sewer, natural gas, telephones, and cable television.

The underground has become even busier in recent years with the advent of new technologies and new uses for the technology, such as those for telephones. The result? Increased demand for limited space.

Looking for ways to manage competing public and commercial interests, members of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee have been meeting with municipal and industry authorities to talk about how access to the ground below public streets should be managed.

The committee heard Feb. 4 from city officials and engineers who said the situation has gotten out of hand.

Streets are being torn up more than ever before and often are left with substandard repairs. New lines and cables are competing for space, and new installations make it hard for public works employees to reach existing utility lines.

“We’re fighting all the other utilities when we want to plan work,” said Leonard Krumm of the City Engineers Association of Minnesota (CEAM) and an assistant director of public works for the city of Minneapolis. “At
times, we can’t even get to our water mains. The telecommunication lines are all out of proportion.”

“It’s a utilities right-of-way management issue,” added John Maczko, also of CEAM and an engineer for the city of St. Paul.

“Cities need to have a say in how to manage it.”

Most agree that the new technologies are desirable and in demand. Representatives from the telephone industry said they’d like the Legislature to enact a statewide policy on below-ground rights-of-way. Currently, what little control that exists is shared by municipalities and the Public Utilities Commission.

“Everyone who uses the right-of-way should share the burden of costs. It has to be proportionate,” said Jerry Knickerbocker, director of the Minnesota Telephone Association.

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), committee chair, has authored a bill addressing rights-of-way concerns. “The bill does three things,” Jennings said. “It provides and establishes absolute authority on the part of cities to determine rights-of-way; it allows cities to recover actual costs for access [by others]; and it provides that access is not a revenue source for cities.”

The bill (HF322), however, has not yet received a hearing. While Jennings expects the bill’s three major provisions to remain intact, he also expects other changes will occur during committee discussion.

Further consideration of the issue is expected in the near future.

TAXES

Public handouts

About 130 years ago, Americans fought the Civil War, the bloodiest conflict this country has ever seen. Now, in the face of dizzying technological advancements, the states are once again at each other’s throats — but instead of bullets, the public tax dollar is the weapon of choice.

Increasingly, Federal Reserve Bank economist Arthur Rolnick told the House Taxes Committee Feb. 6, state and local governments have turned to subsidizing private businesses with public money in an effort to generate economic development. Indeed, as companies have become more mobile, they’ve started to press governments to offer subsidies or risk losing their business — and jobs.

Property taxes, as most legislators know, can arouse the strongest of emotions in even the most staid individuals — particularly around assessment time. During the course of the Taxes Committee’s Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division’s Feb. 5 meeting, an overview of the assessment process prompted Rep. Edwina Garcia (DFL-Richfield), who served on a local tax appeal board, to recall an incident where the procedure proved lethal.

“I remember one man who was just sitting there and he just keeled over — and he was gone,” Garcia said of one appellant who didn’t live to pay the tax. “I know it takes a lot of work to come in. How do we get the money out of him?”

Garcia asked. “I remember one case where the appellant had slipped on the ice and had been residing in a hospital for 10 years. He had a relative come in and pay the assessment. She comes in and says, ‘I want to appeal,'” Garcia said. “We have the appraiser appear. It’s the state auditor and the state assessor who are reviewing the appraisal. We have this meeting, and the relative says, ‘God, I just want my money back out of there.'”

The game would be over.”

The effect, Rolnick said, has been to pit state against state and city against city as corporations seek the best tax deal. Moreover, he continued, a strong argument can be made that the anticipated benefits rarely, if ever, emerge.

“No one’s overturned Adam Smith’s ‘invisible hand,’” Rolnick said, invoking the Scottish political philosopher whose “Wealth of Nations” became the bible of the free-market economy. “‘But Adam Smith’s theories don’t apply to competition among governments.’”

Economic competition, in and of itself, is not bad, Rolnick explained, it is just that one must distinguish between private and public goods. If a state wants to create a pro-business climate, then certainly that state can reap the benefits as firms relocate to take advantage. However, Rolnick said, when governments start to offer specific subsidies to lure particular businesses — that kind of competition can be debilitating.

For example, he said, Alabama, hoping to create an industrial base, enticed Mercedes-Benz to open a plant there by ceding the company tens of millions of dollars in taxes. From an Alabaman perspective, the move may have been worth the cost. But from a national perspective, the economy most definitely took a hit.

“Because we allowed the states to bid, these states gave up some revenue,” Rolnick said. “By playing this game nationally, you end up with less revenue.”

Mercedes would have located in the U.S. anyway, so there was no economic development and no net job creation by virtue of the subsidy, Rolnick said. What’s more, other businesses in Alabama need to pay more taxes to recover the share not paid by Mercedes.

Obviously, Rolnick said, no government will unilaterally remove itself from the competition. Such a move would be too costly. The obvious solution, he said, is to have Congress apply the Constitution’s interstate commerce clause and tax — as income — public subsidies.

“Congress does have the authority . . . and they should use it,” Rolnick said. “If you’re a private company and you’re able to get preferential treatment . . . you should have to declare it as income . . . and the IRS should tax it at a very high rate. I’d prefer 100 percent. The game would be over.”

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature’s web page at: http://www.leg.state.mn.us
Within the past few weeks, several different welfare bills have begun to spring up around the State Capitol and although House members have yet to debate them, it is expected that something based on the governor’s proposal will survive.

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) is sponsoring two welfare bills, one of which (HF161) encompasses much of what Gov. Michael Dukakis and the Department of Human Services would like.

Jennings cautioned, however, that the bill is “very fluid” and open to changes.

States across the country are hurrying to pass new welfare laws after the federal government scrapped the long-standing welfare system in August 1996.

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

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

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

Below are some of the highlights of HF161.

The bill, as it stands now, would:

• Set a five-year lifetime limit on receiving welfare benefits. This is in keeping with the new federal law.

• Mandate a 30-day residency requirement to receive welfare and require that, for the first year, families who move to Minnesota receive either the benefit amount they would have received in their previous state, or Minnesota’s rate, whichever is less.

• Beginning Jan. 1, 1998, expand a statewide welfare pilot program that requires poor families to work if they want public assistance. The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) is expected to become the state’s answer to the tough new federal welfare law.

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

• Under the proposal, two-parent families statewide would be required to work immediately to receive welfare benefits. Single-parent families would be required to work within six months of receiving assistance. Parents who do not meet the deadline to work will, at first, have their welfare benefits cut by 25 percent. Families face an additional 10 percent cut for each work deadline they miss.

• Under MFIP, parents would leave welfare when their income reaches 120 percent of the poverty level, which, for a family of three, is about $16,000.

• The bill also creates statewide employment and training services for welfare recipients who are now required to work. Under the governor’s proposal, the state is expected to spend less per person on employment and training services than it currently spends per person in the several counties that have experimented with MFIP for the past two years.

• In all, the governor recommends $17.8 million in fiscal year 1998 and $28.4 million in fiscal year 1999 to pay for MFIP. The governor has said that the cost of MFIP will cost the state no more than its old welfare system.

• In addition, the governor’s proposal would:

  • Allow legal immigrants on U.S. soil at the time the federal law was signed to be eligible for Medical Assistance. The federal law gives states the option of denying those individuals coverage. The law does bar immigrants who arrived after Aug. 22, 1996, from receiving MFIP. But, the governor’s proposal would offer the benefit to certain legal immigrants in that group. The state would use its own money to pay for them.

  • Allow legal immigrants on U.S. soil at the time the federal law was signed to be eligible for MFIP. Again the federal law gives states the option of denying those individuals coverage. The federal law does prevent immigrants who arrived after Aug. 22, 1996, from receiving MFIP. But, the governor’s proposal would offer the benefit to legal immigrants. Again, the state would use its own money to pay for them.

  • Require that the income of a legal immigrant’s American sponsor be considered when determining eligibility for public assistance of any kind.

  • Tap into the rental subsidies of some families on welfare. Specifically, the bill would count $100 of a welfare recipient’s rental subsidy as part of their income, thus potentially reducing their overall welfare benefit. This provision helps to pay to expand MFIP statewide but it has been criticized as shuffling benefits from one poor person to help another.

  • Eliminate a $50 payment to those on welfare who are owed child support. When a single parent is owed child support and applies for welfare, he or she must agree to allow the state and federal government to keep a part of any child support collected to compensate for the welfare payments. Under the old federal law, states were required to pass on the first $50 collected each month to the family. The new federal law no longer requires states to do that.

  • Limit to one year the amount of postsecondary education a person on welfare can receive while preparing for work. Jennings said this provision in particular is open for discussion. Some careers may require two years of schooling but offer better pay, thus helping to move people off welfare for good.

  • Eliminate the $1,500 cap on the value of a welfare recipient’s vehicle. Many argued that the low value too often meant unreliable transportation and could cost people their jobs.

  • Provide special citizenship training to help more legal immigrants pass the U.S. citizenship test.

K. Darcy Hanzlik

Check your local listings to watch House committee and floor sessions on TV.
Rep. Doug Reuter (R-Owatonna) likes to turn dreams into reality. The idea for his successful board game Sequence came to him in a dream. Another long-time dream came true when he was sworn in as the state representative for District 28A.

“I dream a lot,” Reuter said. “I keep paper and pencil by my bedside to write down ideas for products or solutions to problems that come to me.”

He woke up from a particularly vivid dream in 1974 with the full blown idea for his board game, he said. “I worked on it off and on for the next two years. Then, it sat in my closet until 1981 when I sold the rights to manufacture and distribute it to Jax [a New Hope-based game company].”

With no advertising, the game “didn’t do much for the first 12 years,” Reuter said. “But in the last three years, it has really taken off and sales are now at about one and a quarter million copies.” In November 1995, Reuter quit his job as human resources director for Owatonna exercise equipment manufacturer Cybex to devote his full attention to marketing the game.

Reuter, 47, was born in Superior, Wis., but grew up in the Twin Cities area. His parents eventually settled in New Hope where they are now retired.

After high school, Reuter joined the U.S. Navy, where he met and married his wife, Nancy, while stationed in Seattle. They now have three children, the oldest of whom is a senior at Owatonna High School. Chipping away at college courses at Metro State University, Reuter eventually received his degree in business administration in 1991. He worked in the field of human resources for 22 years, including his stint in the Navy and five years as an independent consultant.

He was first exposed to the legislative process as a lobbyist for Reuter, Inc., a waste management firm founded by his uncle. In the 1980s, the company was pushing recycling, composting and refuse-derived fuel as an alternative to landfills and mass incineration. Reuter made presentations before the Metropolitan Council, Legislature, city councils, and county boards, and eventually lobbied in 30 states.

“I am proud of the fact that, as a direct result of my efforts, we have many fewer mass incineration facilities in this country than we would have had,” Reuter said.

Now, as a legislator, he sits on the other side of the desk. “As a lobbyist, I had the easier job,” Reuter said. “Now I’m responsible for actually making laws.”

Reuter’s first exposure to party politics was as a Republican activist in Eden Prairie, where he and his family lived for 18 years. There, he ran for city council in 1982 and 1984 and for mayor in 1986. He lost all three races, but stayed active in the Republican Party, serving as a local officer and state delegate.

After moving to Owatonna, Reuter was offered a position on the executive committee of the Steele County Republicans in March 1996. The following month, incumbent Republican Rep. Gary Worke announced that he would not seek re-election. Reuter quickly decided to run for the seat.

“Education, crime, the stadium, and welfare reform were the top issues during the campaign,” Reuter said. “The proposed Twins stadium is the number one issue that I have heard about since. Virtually none of my constituents favor public funding of the stadium.”

Since the election, another concern has emerged in Owatonna: property taxes. Lost state aid school funding and a $29 million school bond referendum “combined to produce a large property tax increase, some as high as 200 percent,” he said.

The answer is to control spending, he said. “Coming from the private sector, there is no automatic 4 or 6 percent increase in spending every year. It’s tighten your belt, increase production while decreasing spending. We need to bring that attitude to government.”

— Steve Compton

---

District 28A

1996 population: 34,287
Largest city: Owatonna
Counties: Steele, Waseca
Location: southern Minnesota
Top concern: “Since the election, property taxes have become a huge issue in Owatonna. The school district lost state aid funding, and at the same time, a property tax increase was kicking in for a $29 million school bond referendum. Those two combined to produce a large tax property increase, some as high as 200 percent.”

— Rep. Doug Reuter

---

Frequently called numbers

- Committee Hotline, House: 296-9283
- Sergeant at Arms, Senate: 296-7159
- Research, House: 296-6753
- Legislative Reference Library: 296-3398
- Revisor of Statutes: 296-2868

---

Governor’s Office
- 130 Capitol: 296-3391
- Attorney General’s Office: 296-6196
- Secretary of State’s Office: 296-2803
- Capitol Security: 296-6741
- Emergency: 296-2100
- TYY*, Senate: 296-0250
- TYY*, House: 296-9896
- 1-800-657-3550

---

Secretary of the Senate
- 231 Capitol: 296-2344
- Voice mail/order bills: 296-2343

Chief Clerk of the House
- 211 Capitol: 296-2314
- Index, Senate: 296-2887

Index, House
- 211 Capitol: 296-6646

Information, Senate
- 231 Capitol: 296-0504

Information, House
- 173 State Office Building: 296-2146

Committee Hotline, Senate: 296-8088

---

New members . . .

Reuter not playing games with fiscal restraint
Departments, agencies, and programs are listed under the finance committee or division that will consider their funding this session.

### Capital Investment
- Capital Projects
- Debt Service

### Economic Development & International Trade
#### Economic Development Finance Division
- Arts Board
- Asian Pacific Americans Council
- Black Minnesotans Council
- Chicano Latino Affairs Council
- Commerce Department
- Economic Security Department
- Historical Society
- Humanities Commission
- Indian Affairs Council
- IRRBB
- Labor & Industry Department
- Labor Interpretive Center
- Mediation Services Bureau
- Minnesota Municipal Board
- Minnesota Technology, Inc.
- Non-Health Boards (4)
- Public Service Department
- Public Utilities Commission
- Trade & Economic Development Department
- Workers’ Compensation Court of Appeals World Trade Center

### Housing & Housing Finance Division
- Housing Finance Agency

### Environment & Natural Resources Finance
- Academy of Science
- Agriculture Utilization Research Institute
- Agriculture Department
- Animal Health Board
- Ethanol Development
- Environmental Assistance Office
- Horticultural Society
- LCMR
- Minn.-Wis. Boundary Waters Commission
- Minnesota Zoo
- Natural Resources Department
- Pollution Control Agency
- Science Museum
- Voyageurs National Park Council
- Water Resources Board

### Education
- Higher Education Finance Division
- Higher Education Services Office
- Higher Education Facilities Authority

### K-12 Education Finance Division
- Children, Families and Learning Department (except for programs listed under Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division)
- CFL Administration
- Education Finance
- Faribault Academies
- Minnesota Center for Arts Education
- Permanent School Fund
- Public Libraries

### Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division
- Community Education & Adult Education including:
  - Adult Basic Education Programs
  - Adults with Disabilities Programs
  - Adult Graduation Aid
  - Community Education Programs
  - Youth Development Programs (part of community education)
  - Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)
  - Extended Day Programs
  - GED Test Reimbursement
  - Hearing Impaired Adult Programs
  - Learning Readiness
  - Health Screening
  - Male Responsibility
  - Alcohol Impaired Driver Account Grants
- Family Service Collaboratives Part H
- Violence Prevention Grants, Councils & Education
- Way to Grow
- Youth Enrichment Grants
- Child Abuse Victims’ Services
- Child Care - Basic Sliding Fee
- Child Care - Family Assistance
- Children’s Trust Fund
- Community Services Block Grant
- Drug Policy & Violence Prevention
- Energy Assistance-Oil Program
- Energy Assistance-Liquified Petroleum Program
- Energy Assistance-State Energy Assistance
- Energy Assistance-Energy Assistance Program (EAP)
- Food Assistance-Food Banks/Shelf
- Food Assistance-Emergency Food Assistance
- Food Assistance-Community Food & Nutrition
- Head Start
- Housing Assistance-Transitional Housing
- Housing Assistance-Emergency Shelter Grant
- Housing Assistance-Rural Housing Assistance
- Housing Assistance-Supplemental
- Housing-Homeless
- Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grant
- Weatherization-State Weatherization
- Weatherization-Department of Energy Weatherization

### Governmental Operations
- State Government Finance Division
- Administrative Hearings Office
- Administration Department
- Amateur Sports Commission
- Attorney General
- Capitol Area Architectural & Planning (CAAP) Board
- Contingent Accounts
- Disabled American Veterans
- Employee Relations Department
- Ethical Practices Board
- Finance Department
- Government Innovation & Cooperation Board
- Governor & Lt. Governor
- Intergovernmental Information Systems Advisory Council (IISAC)
- Investment Board
- Legislature, Legislative Commissions, Legislative Retirement
- Lawful Gambling Control Board
- Lottery Board
- Military Affairs Department
- Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Pension Issues including PERA
- Public Broadcasting
- Racing Commission
- Revenue Department
- Salary Supplement
- Secretary of State
- State Auditor
- State Treasurer
- Strategic & Long Range Planning Office
- Veterans Affairs Department
- Veterans of Foreign Wars

### Health & Human Services
- Health & Human Services Finance Division
- Alternative Care Programs
- Community Social Services Act
- Council on Disabilities
- Emergency Medical Services Board
- Families Ombudsman
- Group Residential Grants
- Health Department
- Health Boards (13)
- Human Services Department
- Mental Health & Mental Retardation Ombudsman
- MinnesotaCare
- State Residential Facilities
- Veterans Homes Board

### Judiciary
- Judiciary Finance Division
- Board of Judicial Standards
- Corrections Department
- Corrections Ombudsman
- Court of Appeals
- District Courts
- Human Rights Department
New members . . .

Johnson brings strong focus on children, education

For Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL-St. Peter), several of life’s turning points have pivoted around Gustavus Adolphus College. Her father was a Gustavus student when she was born. After growing up in Nebraska, where her father was a Lutheran pastor, she, also, attended Gustavus Adolphus for her undergraduate work. Then, after receiving her master’s degree from Indiana University, and working in various other places, she returned again to become the associate dean of students at Gustavus.

Now as a newly elected member of the House, Johnson has taken a leave of absence from her duties at the college to devote her full attention to the five-month legislative session. She is also negotiating with Gustavus to reduce her workload for the remainder of the year so that she can attend town meetings and respond to constituents calls and letters.

As a child, Johnson remembers herself as a patriotic Girl Scout and a Republican sympathizer. “How could you be against President Eisenhower?” In high school, she supported Barry Goldwater. “By the time I was 21, I voted for Hubert Humphrey,” she said.

Like millions of other baby boomers, Johnson’s political conversion took place in college around opposition to the Vietnam War. “I was involved in the anti-war movement at Gustavus and became friends of some of the guys in VVAW (Vietnam Veterans Against the War) in graduate school,” Johnson said. “Those were extremely shaping political movements for me. I recognized that we needed a change in our government and that the change would come from citizen involvement.”

More practical political experience was to follow. She stayed on at Indiana University after graduate school to work in an experimental social justice program run by the Roger Williams Foundation. Later, while living and working in Kansas, Johnson volunteered on a congressional campaign where she “got an idea of what grassroots campaigning was all about.” She also served on the Kansas Democratic Party’s state affirmative action committee.

All of her previous political experience came into play last summer when former DFL Rep. Don Ostrom announced that he would not seek re-election in District 24B. After being encouraged by DFL party members, she decided to enter the race. “I had to hit the ground running in the middle of June and put a campaign together on very short notice,” Johnson said.

“My district is typical small-town Minnesota,” Johnson said. It includes parts of Nicollet, Le Sueur, and Blue Earth counties. The largest town is North Mankato. “People are concerned about kids,” she said. “And the first place they look is education. That’s perfect for me.”

On her arrival at the Capitol, Johnson immediately joined in working on one education-related issue that is close to her heart. She and Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) are sponsoring an anti-hazing bill. If passed, the new law would explicitly prohibit student hazing. Such unofficial student initiatives have become traditions on some high school and college campuses. Hazings are typically humiliating and painful for the initiates and have occasionally resulted in injury and death.

“About two-thirds of the states have laws on the books against hazing,” Johnson said. “Minnesota does not.”

Much of the behavior involved in hazing is already illegal, Johnson said. But it is often difficult to prosecute or gain damages because, in most cases, the victim has consented to the hazing. “Our bill would remove consent as a defense. We also want to educate young people to realize that their legitimate desire to belong or go through a rite of passage can involve challenge but not risk.” It was very helpful to us at Gustavus to put the word ‘hazing’ in our student conduct code,” Johnson said.

—Steve Compton

District 24B

1996 population: 34,922
Largest city: North Mankato
Counties: Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Nicollet
Location: south central Minnesota
Top concern: “People are concerned about kids and the first place they look is education. There are also concerns about property taxes and about finding better paying job opportunities for young people so that they won’t all move away.”

—Rep. Ruth Johnson
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Introductions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, Feb. 3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF343—Kubli (DFL)</strong> Economic Development &amp; International Trade Housing Finance Agency home improvement loan authority granted related to severe weather damage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF344—Slawik (DFL)</strong> Health &amp; Human Services Ombudsman for mental health and mental retardation services extended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF345—Folliard (DFL)</strong> Education Education fiscal year levy adjustment authorized related to the repeal of K-12 education appropriation caps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF346—Greenfield (DFL)</strong> Health &amp; Human Services Reimbursement rate increases provided for personal care services, home and community-based services for persons with mental retardation, adult residential program grants, adult and family community support grants, and money appropriated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF347—Greenfield (DFL)</strong> Health &amp; Human Services Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program definitions provided, county public assistance incentives provided, business tax incentives provided, higher education accessibility provided to low-income persons, and money appropriated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF348—Mullery (DFL)</strong> Economic Development &amp; International Trade Economic development department reporting requirements eliminated, and wage and job reporting requirements modified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF349—Kahn (DFL)</strong> Agriculture Hemp; industrial hemp classified as an agricultural product, hemp growers license required, and regulatory authority transferred.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF350—McGuire (DFL)</strong> Judiciary Emergency 911 telephone call interruption prohibited, and criminal penalty provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF351—Knoblach (R)</strong> Health &amp; Human Services MinnesotaCare provider tax rate reduced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF352—Pugh (DFL)</strong> Judiciary Terroristic threat crime expanded to include the display of replica grenades or explosive devices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF353—Swenson, D. (R)</strong> Judiciary Child in need of protection or services definition modified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF354—Huntley (DFL)</strong> Health &amp; Human Services Health care consumer protection and assistance provided, and money appropriated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF355—Bishop (R)</strong> Judiciary DWI-related offense forfeiture action filing fee exemption provided for local units of government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF356—Greiling (DFL)</strong> Local Government &amp; Metropolitan Affairs Newspapers of official publication designation criteria provisions modified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF357—Sykora (R)</strong> Education Laboratory school establishment authorized, grants provided, and money appropriated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF358—Weaver (R)</strong> Judiciary Peace officers provided firearms restriction exemption while acting in the course of official duties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF359—Nornes (R)</strong> Education Open enrollment and post-secondary enrollment options programs expanded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF360—Leppik (R)</strong> Environment &amp; Natural Resources State lottery proceed dedication to Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund duration extended until 2050, and constitutional amendment proposed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF361—Solberg (DFL)</strong> Agriculture Wholesale food processor and manufacturer fees modified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF362—Weaver (R)</strong> Judiciary Public accommodation access discrimination based upon clothing insignia prohibited, and civil cause of action provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF363—Molnau (R)</strong> Transportation &amp; Transit Omnibus transportation appropriations bill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF364—Sviggum (R)</strong> Economic Development &amp; International Trade Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board composition and appointment provisions modified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF365—Swenson, D. (R)</strong> Commerce, Tourism &amp; Consumer Affairs Liquor sale practices restricted between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. to prohibit discounted prices, multiple drinks, and increased alcohol volume or percentage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF366—Holsten (R)</strong> Environment &amp; Natural Resources Omnibus-agriculture and environment and natural resources appropriations bill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF367—Davids (R)</strong> Health &amp; Human Services Omnibus mortuary science regulation bill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF368—Koppendrayer (R)</strong> Education Omnibus K-12 education appropriations bill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF369—Holsten (R)</strong> Environment &amp; Natural Resources Hunting and fishing license and stamp identification and validation provisions modified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF370—Macklin (R)</strong> Judiciary Peace officers required to notify parents of juveniles accused of committing adult court traffic offenses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF371—Macklin (R)</strong> Judiciary Domestic abuse protection order violation provisions clarified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF372—Wolf (R)</strong> Regulated Industries &amp; Energy Public Utilities Commission authorized to levy civil penalties against public utilities and telephone companies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF373—Dempsey (R)</strong> Education School calendar start date requirement repealed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF374—Knoblach (R)</strong> Health &amp; Human Services Adoption assistance program cost reimbursement provisions modified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF375—Bettermann (R)</strong> Education Education investment fund and grant program established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF376—Smith (R)</strong> Judiciary Theft crimes to include tenant issuance of dishonored check to landlord for rent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF377—Sykora (R)</strong> Education Compensatory education revenue program provisions modified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF378—Finseth (R)</strong> Environment &amp; Natural Resources Deer; taking of two deer under one license authorized in designated counties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF379—Abrams (R)</strong> Commerce, Tourism &amp; Consumer Affairs Small corporate securities offering registration and regulation provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF380—Swenson, D. (R)</strong> Judiciary DWI-related offense license plate impoundment and vehicle forfeiture criteria expanded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF381—Greenfield (DFL)</strong> Health &amp; Human Services Nonprofit health care trust defined and transaction agreement regulation provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF382—Finseth (R)</strong> Environment &amp; Natural Resources Hunting and fishing rights affirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF383—Finseth (R)</strong> Taxes Used farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF384—Kahn (DFL)</strong> Governmental Operations State agency procurement procedures modified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HF385—Swenson, H. (R)</strong> Transportation &amp; Transit Trunk Highway No. 19 designated as Augie Mueller Memorial Highway.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HF386—Luther (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Dog training grants provided to organizations which train or provide service dogs for persons with disabilities, and money appropriated.

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

HF388—Tomassoni (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Insurance product sale and solicitation regulated.

HF389—Swenson, H. (R)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle license fee prorated allowed.

HF390—Knoblach (R)
Health & Human Services
Medical savings account federal income tax treatment provisions adopted.

HF391—Westfall (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Soil and water conservation district supervisor appointment provisions modified.

HF392—Lieder (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Metropolitan area highway construction designated toll facility project substitution allowed, municipal review and dispute resolution provided, transportation plan revision required, and technical changes provided.

HF393—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing home reimbursement formulas modified.

HF394—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing home contractual alternative payment demonstration project provisions modified.

HF395—Westrom (R)
Judiciary
Same-sex marriages not recognized or allowed.

HF396—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Naturopathic physician licensure provided, and criminal penalties provided.

HF397—Westrom (R)
Health & Human Services
Partial-birth abortions prohibited and criminal penalties provided.

HF398—Westrom (R)
Health & Human Services
Abortion; constitutional standard established relating to abortion, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF399—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Day training and habilitation services payment rate increase authorized.

HF400—Westrom (R)
Health & Human Services
Abortion informed consent required and civil cause of action provided.

HF401—Greiling (DFL)
Governmental Operations
State employee parking fee provisions modified.

HF402—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health maintenance organization regulatory provisions modified.

HF403—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Speech-language pathologist, unlicensed mental health practitioner, alcohol and drug counselor, and hearing instrument dispenser licensure requirements modified.

HF404—Abrams (R)
Education
Education fiscal year levy adjustment authorized related to the repeal of K-12 education appropriation caps.

HF405—Rhodes (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Insurance; Congress memorialized to pass legislation requiring insurance sales state law compliance.

HF406—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Snowmobile registration fees modified, liability insurance and safety education required, and criminal penalty provided.

HF407—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Snowmobile registration fees increased, snowmobile trail grants-in-aid provided, and money appropriated.

HF408—Solberg (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Direct reduction iron processing facility developed, and money appropriated.

HF409—Solberg (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Direct reduction iron processing facility developed, and money appropriated.

HF410—Skoglund (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Recreational vehicle operators fleeing peace officers provided criminal penalty.

HF411—Weaver (R)
Health & Human Services
Welfare fraud law expanded to include the failure to report changes in circumstances while receiving assistance, and criminal penalties provided.

HF412—Kubly (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Granite Falls appropriated money for river bank restoration.

HF413—Rest (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Job training income tax credit provided.

HF414—Smith (R)
Ways & Means
Legislative bill fiscal note requirement established.

HF415—Smith (R)
Ways & Means
Appropriations not to exceed consumer price index rate increases, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF416—Entenza (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Teachers Retirement Association service purchase credit purchase allowed for certain members on leave due to illness.

HF417—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
County payment provided related to number of visitors to state parks, and money appropriated.

HF418—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Red River Watershed Management Board authority provisions modified.

HF419—Tunheim (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Watershed district project cost payment through tax levy authorized.

HF420—Anderson, I. (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Staggered legislative elections provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF421—Molnau (R)
Health & Human Services
Belle Plaine nursing facility replacement bed moratorium exception provided.

HF422—McCullum (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Contaminated land industrial development provided, and money appropriated.

HF423—Orfield (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Metropolitan Council made an elective body and provided public campaign financing, and penalties imposed.

HF424—Koppendorf (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Mille Lacs County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF425—Greiling (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Lobbyist restrictions and requirements modified.

HF426—Schumacher (DFL)
Judiciary
Firearms; right to bear arms not abridged, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF427—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
St. Paul, Ramsey County, Independent School District No. 625 joint property tax advisory committee duration extended.

HF428—Jefferson (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Minneapolis utility charge assessment procedure clarified.

HF429—Jefferson (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Real property fire loss escrow account provisions clarified.

HF430—Hasskamp (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Tourism money expenditure requirements modified.

HF431—Mullery (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Corporation and limited liability company provisions modified, and domestic corporation and limited liability company mergers permitted.

HF432—Entenza (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Civil Commitment Act provisions clarified and reorganized.
HF433—Entenza (DFL) 
Judiciary
Equal rights provided to men and women, and constitutional amend-
ment proposed.

HF434—Swenson, D. (R) 
Judiciary
Omnibus judiciary finance and cor-
rections appropriations bill.

Thursday, Feb. 6

HF435—Wagenius (DFL) 
Environment & Natural Resources
Environmental response and liability act provisions modified, and money appropria-
ted.

HF436—Wagenius (DFL) 
Environment & Natural Resources
Reduction and recycling advisory council established, duties specified, and duration provided.

HF437—Kelso (DFL) 
Education
Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, additional community-based charter school grant awards authorized.

HF438—Opatz (DFL) 
Health & Human Services
Dentists exempted from state health care program participation require-
ment.

HF439—Leighton (DFL) 
Judiciary
Alternative dispute resolution presiders provided immunity from civil liability.

HF440—Chaudhary (DFL) 
Judiciary
Family support uniform interstate act enforcement provisions modified.

HF441—Orfield (DFL) 
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Uniform commercial code revised article 5 enacted, letter's of credit regulated, and conforming changes provided.

HF442—Opatz (DFL) 
Health & Human Services
Hospital construction moratorium provisions modified.

HF443—Luther (DFL) 
Taxes
Brooklyn Park economic development authority property tax certification authorized.

HF444—McCollum (DFL) 
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Persian gulf war veteran bonus payment program established, criminal penalty imposed for false application, and money appropriated.

HF445—Pugh (DFL) 
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Tort claims act exclusion provided for military affairs department and national guard.

HF446—Biernat (DFL) 
Education
Driver's license issuance prohibited to persons under age 18 who have failed to receive a passing score on the state high school graduation test or meet other educational requirements.

HF447—Murphy (DFL) 
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Obstetric and gynecologic service direct patient access provided by health plan companies.

HF448—Chaudhary (DFL) 
Judiciary
Unlawful acts against senior citizens and vulnerable adults prohibited, and civil action limitations provided.

HF449—Skare (DFL) 
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Becker, Clearwater, and Hubbard counties provided wind damage mitiga-
tion grants, and money appropriated.

HF450—Rest (DFL) 
Governmental Operations
Legislative Audit Commission membership provisions modified.

HF451—Jennings (DFL) 
Regulated Industries & Energy
Local regulation of telecommunication companies limited.

HF452—Entenza (DFL) 
Taxes
Cottage and camp federal land use property tax exemption provided.

HF453—McCollum (DFL) 
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Military Affairs Department require-
mements, duties, and procedures modified, language clarified, and armory provisions modified.

HF454—Johnson, A. (DFL) 
Transportation & Transit
Collector motor vehicle single license plate issuance and display allowed.

HF455—Huntley (DFL) 
Health & Human Services
Nursing home medical assistance cer-
tification moratorium provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF456—Milbert (DFL) 
Taxes
Real estate tax notice service provided.

HF457—Juhnke (DFL) 
Transportation & Transit
Transportation department federal construction project payment provi-
sions modified, bridge inspection provisions clarified, procurement pilot project extended, municipal aid transporta-
tion service assistance provided, technical corrections.

HF458—Juhnke (DFL) 
Transportation & Transit
Highway service sign placement provisions clarified, transportation depart-
ment exempt rules preserved, highway related definitions modified, and obsolete references corrected.

HF459—Rest (DFL) 
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal annexation state policy established.

HF460—Orfield (DFL) 
Taxes
Dependent care income tax credit expanded, and money appropriated.

HF461—Osskopp (R) 
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Wabasha appropriated money for de-
velopment of the American Bald Eagle Center.

HF462—Erhardt (R) 
Taxes
Three-fifths legislative majority vote required for sales or income tax in-
creases, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF463—Kubly (DFL) 
Agriculture
Passing on the Farm Center services expanded, and money appropriated.

HF464—Vickerman (R) 
Judiciary
Lower Sioux Indian community au-
thorized to exercise law enforcement authority.

HF465—Jaros (DFL) 
Environment & Natural Resources
Motorboat use restriction petitions permitted for owners of land contiguous to a body of water.

HF466—Erhardt (R) 
Taxes
Materials used in providing taxable services exempted from sales and use taxes.

HF467—Rostberg (R) 
Environment & Natural Resources
State lottery proceed dedication to Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund duration extended until 2050, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF468—Peterson (DFL) 
Education
School district size requirements removed related to debt service equal-
ization aid eligibility, and money appropria-
ted.

HF469—Otremba (DFL) 
Health & Human Services
Hospital districts authorized to operate assisted living facilities.

HF470—Erhardt (R) 
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Term limits imposed on legislative and executive offices and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF471—Delmont (DFL) 
Regulated Industries & Energy
Gambling Control Board granted li-
cense issuance and renewal authority.

HF472—Bishop (R) 
Judiciary
Sex offender release community notifica-
tion cost reimbursement provided to local units of government, and money appropriated.

HF473—Chaudhary (DFL) 
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Preventive health and employee rec-
ognition program operation permitted by Metropolitan Council.

HF474—Kalis (DFL) 
Education
Independent School District No. 2835, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, debt service equalization aid qualification provided.

HF475—Kalis (DFL) 
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
FarmAmerica provided operating grants, and money appropriated.

HF476—Kalis (DFL) 
Economic Development & International Trade
FarmAmerica provided operating grants, and money appropriated.
HF477—Rest (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs County commissioners removed from the Minnesota Municipal Board.

HF478—Wagenius (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Finance SCORE; Office of Environmental Assistance authorized to carry forward waste management block grants.

HF479—Farrell (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Crime prevention program grants awarded to certain first-class cities, and money appropriated.

HF480—Westrom (R) Education Statewide uniform educational testing provided, and money appropriated.

HF481—Erhardt (R) Regulated Industries & Energy State lottery advertising practices restricted and gross revenue use for advertising reduced.

HF482—Farrell (DFL) Judiciary Criminal gang council and strike force established, grants authorized, and money appropriated.

HF483—Olson, E. (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Municipal emergency service fee establishment authorized.

HF484—Skoglund (DFL) Judiciary Corrections officers authorized to carry firearms in the performance of official duties.

HF485—Tingelstad (R) Health & Human Services Lead and asbestos abatement and inspection provisions modified, infant testing provisions modified, elderly housing with service licensing provisions modified, and traumatic brain and spinal cord injury data provisions modified.

HF486—Haas (R) Judiciary Inmates barred from computer on-line service use.

HF487—Greenfield (DFL) Health & Human Services Hospital medical assistance surcharge tax eliminated, and hospital MinnesotaCare surcharge tax increased.

HF488—Rest (DFL) Governmental Operations MSRS, Teachers Retirement Association, and first-class city teachers retirement association members authorized service credit purchase for voluntary military service.

HF489—Murphy (DFL) Taxes Capital gains tax exclusion provided for the sale of property used as a principal residence.

HF490—Koppendrayer (R) Health & Human Services Physician assistant advisory council established.

HF491—Koppendrayer (R) Health & Human Services Physician assistants authorized to render emergency medical care without physician supervision, and liability immunity provided.

HF492—Knoblach (R) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Legislature reduced in size to 45 senators and 90 representatives.

HF493—Rostberg (R) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Election expense reallocation provided, and money appropriated.

HF494—Rostberg (R) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Legislature reduced in size to 50 senators and 100 representatives.

HF495—Oskopp (R) Regulated Industries & Energy Gambling lawful purpose expenditures to include acquisition of property to replace property under threat of acquisition by eminent domain.

HF496—Slawik (DFL) Health & Human Services Ambulance service financial data collection system established, and money appropriated.

HF497—Rest (DFL) Taxes Proposed property tax notice and truth in taxation advertising provisions modified.

HF498—Greenfield (DFL) Health and Human Services Physician designation use clarified.

HF499—McCollum (DFL) Health & Human Services Physician licensure surcharge exemptions provided.

HF500—Pugh (DFL) Judiciary Public defender document copying fee imposed by government agencies.

HF501—Evans (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Finance Laurentian Environmental Learning Center renovation provided, and money appropriated.

HF502—Opitz (DFL) Judiciary FDA approved product or device liability case punitive damage limitation provided.

HF503—Olson, E. (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Beaver Damage Control Board established, and money appropriated.

HF504—Murphy (DFL) Judiciary Probation defined, probation service provider jurisdiction clarified, and probation policies adopted.

HF505—Westrom (R) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Legislative service limited to 10 years in the House of Representatives and 12 years in the Senate, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF506—Swenson, D. (R) Transportation & Transit School bus safety regulated, student school bus conduct requirements developed, accident reporting provided, and penalties provided.

HF507—Olson, E. (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Municipal bankruptcy filing authorized, and first-class city teachers retirement association members authorized service credit purchase for voluntary military service.

HF508—Tomassoni (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.

HF509—Murphy (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Municipal unincorporated land development limited.

HF510—Rest (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Municipal unincorporated land development limited.

HF511—Otremba (DFL) Health & Human Services Rural hospital grant and loan program established, physician license surcharge eliminated, health care commission membership modified, and money appropriated.

HF512—Rest (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Municipal unincorporated land development limited.

HF513—Koskinen (DFL) Health & Human Services Human services nonentitlement grant program consolidation authority provided.

HF514—Wejman (DFL) Health & Human Services Living skills training program for persons with intractable epilepsy appropriated money.

HF515—Evans (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.

HF516—Goodno (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Municipal bankruptcy filing authorized.

HF517—Clark (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Housing accessibility loan fund eligibility modified, equity take-out loans authorized for 236 rental property, special needs housing for homeless persons program repealed, and housing trust fund project provisions clarified.

HF518—Entenza (DFL) Governmental Operations Sign language interpreters provided for meetings with legislators.

HF519—Mares (R) Education Health and physical education instruction required, and health education included in teacher preparation programs.

HF520—Rest (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Municipal unincorporated land development limited.
When the Department of Administration presented its budget request to the Governmental Operations Committee’s State Government Finance Division Feb. 5, they asked for funding to hire additional staff to inspect the thousands of elevators scattered throughout Minnesota.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) asked the administration spokesman if any of those new inspectors would be stationed in rural Minnesota.

“Do they have elevators in rural Minnesota?” asked Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), provoking laughter from the committee.

“I thought you were going to ask if they went all the way to the top,” said Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul).

While this winter’s bitter cold and record snowfall have recently given way to balmy temperatures in the 30s, some state officials aren’t necessarily looking forward to spring thaws.

In recent testimony before the House Judiciary Committee, Jim Franklin, director of emergency management for the Department of Public Safety, explained his rather grim duties: “We’re the people who spend all their time considering natural disasters.”

Currently, Franklin said, his department is planning for projected spring floods. Given the high water content of the packed snow now in huge drifts throughout Minnesota — and in southwestern Minnesota in particular — winter’s end could spell trouble.

“None of the accounting software programs used throughout the vast network of state offices knows what to make of the digits “00” when used to signify a year — such as the year 2000. Nor can they accommodate a four-digit year code.

The legislative auditor’s office on Feb. 6 told members of the House Governmental Operations Committee that new software must be purchased for the government to continue to function. Millions of transactions will become impossible, such as writing paychecks, paying Medicare and Medicaid bills, or paying vendors.

“The problem touches on virtually every business transaction the state has,” said Legislative Auditor Jim Nobles. “The state needs $25 million currently not appropriated to rewrite the computer code to accommodate dates in the 21st century. The state’s business depends on this problem being solved.”

It seems the government’s only option regards when, not whether, it will solve what has come to be known as “the year 2000 problem.”
### Coming Up Next Week . . . Feb. 10 - 14, 1997

#### Committee Schedule

**MONDAY, Feb. 10**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 8 a.m. | Economic Development  
Finance Division/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski  
**Agenda:** Presentations from the Bureau of Mediation and Minnesota Technology, Inc. |
| 8 a.m. | Higher Education  
Finance Division/EDUCATION  
500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimbyle  
**Agenda:** Presentations from Governor Carlson’s K-12 budget recommendations General Education Program, Tom Melcher, Department of Children, Families, and Learning. |
| 8 a.m. | Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF)  
Division/TAXES  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson  
**Agenda:** HF293 (Johnson, A.) Income, sales, property and MinnesotaCare tax technical corrections. |
| 8:30 a.m. | ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE  
Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff  
**Agenda:** Budget hearing: Zoological Gardens; and Intragrater Resource Management Report. |
| 10 a.m. | AGRICULTURE  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel  
**Agenda:** Continued presentations by Minnesota agricultural organizations: Minnesota Wheat Growers Association, Minnesota Barley Growers, Minnesota Sugarbeet Growers, Minnesota Turkey Growers, Minnesota COACT, Farm Credit Services, Northwest Agri-Dealers Association, Minnesota Crop Production Retailers, Minnesota Agri-Growth Council, Dairies Federation of Minnesota, Minnesota Milk Producers Association, and Minnesota Association of Cooperatives. |
| 10 a.m. | ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger  
**Agenda:** Reports from the Minnesota Forest Resources Council and the White Pine Regeneration Strategies Work Group. |
| 12:30 p.m. | Health & Human Services  
Finance Division/HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield  
**Agenda:** Overview of The Department of Human Services presentation of the governor’s recommendation for the department’s economic support programs. |
| 12:30 p.m. | JUDICIARY  
Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund  
**Agenda:** Overview of sentencing Guidelines system, Deb Dailey, director, Sentencing Guidelines Commission. |
| 12:30 p.m. | State Government Finance Division/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS  
400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina  
**Agenda:** Special projects review: Year 2000 Initiative, Bev Schult, director, Information Policy Office. |
| 1:30 p.m. | FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel  
**Agenda:** Program reviews: Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) Way to Grow. |
| 2:30 p.m. | EDUCATION  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert  
**Agenda:** Program reviews: Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) Way to Grow. |
| 2:30 p.m. | LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson  
**Agenda:** Overview: Dislocated Workers Program. |
| 2:30 p.m. | TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT  
500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius  
**Agenda:** To be announced. |

---

**TUESDAY, Feb. 11**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 8 a.m. | Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/EDUCATION  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza  
**Agenda:** Statewide testing. |
| 8 a.m. | Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY  
500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy  
**Agenda:** Effects of state criminal justice policies on courts, Department of Corrections, Department of Public Safety and public defenders on county budgets. Explanation of three probation systems: AMC; Department of Corrections. Criminal Justice Aid. |
| 8 a.m. | Transportation & Transit Finance Division/TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT  
300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bern Liecher  
**Agenda:** Budget overview by Minnesota Safety Council. Budget overview by the Department of Transportation: Rural Transit, Donna Allen. |
| 8:30 a.m. | ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE  
Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff  
**Agenda:** Presentations from local units of government on the fiscal impact of the Pollution Control Agency, Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Agriculture fees on cities, counties, and townships. |
| 10 a.m. | HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Dorn  
**Agenda:** Welfare reform: Nonprofit organizations. Public testimony. |
HF374 (Knoblach) Relating to adoption reimbursements.
HF289 (Johnson, R.) Relating to Human Services.

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

Tour
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
**Agenda:** Tour of Mary Hall in St. Paul and Community Rehab Project in West St. Paul.

**State Government Finance Division/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
**Agenda:** Budget review: Public broadcasting.

**TAXES**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
**Agenda:** HF293 (Johnson, A.) Income, sales, property and MinnesotaCare tax technical corrections.
HF125 (Svigum) Kenyon tax levy recertification authorized.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
**Agenda:** Statewide building access status report, Dennis Spalla, assistant commissioner, Department of Administration. American Disabilities Act/Prison Projects, Margot Imdieke, Council on Disabilities and Dennis Benson, assistant commissioner, Department of Corrections.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim
**Agenda:** Presentation by Tom Brownell, director, Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division, Department of Public Safety.
Presentation from the Iron Range (Svigum) Kenyon tax levy recertification authorized.

**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:** Discussion of Federal Communications Act-update and impact. Presentations by JoAnn Hansen, Department of Public Service; representative from the Attorney General’s Office; representative from the Public Utilities Commission; Michael Martin, executive director, Minnesota Cable Communications Association; Phyllis Harvin, U.S. West Communications; and Jerry Knickerbocker, Minnesota Telephone Association.

**Wednesday, Feb. 12**

5 p.m.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

Whitney Senior Center
St. Cloud, Minnesota
Chr. Rep. John Dorn
**Agenda:** Welfare reform. Public testimony.

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

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trumble
**Agenda:** Presentation from the Iron Range Resource & Rehabilitation Board.

**Higher Education**

Finance Division/EDUCATION
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
**Agenda:** HF108 (Tomassoni) Technical college employee benefits.
MSUSA Student Lobby Day. Testimony.

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
**Agenda:** To be announced.

** Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF)**

Division/TAXES
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson
**Agenda:** Overview of Tax Increment Financing.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
**Agenda:** Budget hearing: interagency water monitoring initiative; interagency community technical assistance and education.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
**Agenda:** HF406 (Peterson) Snowmobile registration fees modified; liability insurance and safety education required; and criminal penalty provided.
HF407 (Bakk) Snowmobile registration fees increased; snowmobile trail grants provided; and money appropriated.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson
**Agenda:** HF56 (Kahn) Minnesota electronic authentication act adopted; electronic signature and message transmission use, validity, and security provided, and penalties prescribed.

**Health & Human Services**

Finance Division/
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
**Agenda:** Continuation of Feb. 10 agenda.

**JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
**Agenda:** Continuation of Feb. 10 agenda. Overview of the Department of Corrections.

12:30 p.m.

**Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins
**Agenda:** HF218 (Mullery) relating to liens; clarifying the effect of service of notice in certain instances.
HF220 (Mullery) relating to property; validating certain conveyances by religious corporations; requiring published notice of dispositions of certain real property in a marriage dissolution action; etc.
HF246 (Dawkins) relating to public nuisance; adding to the acts that constitute a nuisance; etc.
HFXXX (Chaudhary) relating to landlord-tenant nuisance laws.

**Family & Early Childhood Education**

Finance Division/EDUCATION
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
**Agenda:** Program reviews: Learning Readiness; Early Childhood Screening; and Part H.

1 p.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros
**Agenda:** Presentation on the economic status of women, Aviva Breen.
HF348 (Mullery) Department of Trade and Economic Development housekeeping bill.
HF50 (Jaros) Trade and economic development officers to be placed in tourism offices.

**Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement**

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. To be announced
**Agenda:** Mandated studies: Review of draft report formulated on behalf of the special task force on investment performance attribution reporting. Review of draft report on the comparison of defined contribution pension plans and defined benefit pension plans. Review of draft report on the study of providing pension plan coverage for
educational breaks in service for regional treatment center and related Department of Human Services employees. Report on the use of Police State Aid to fund PERA-P&F pension coverage for salaried firefighters.

2:30 p.m.
Subcommittee on Gaming/REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Delmont
Agenda: To be announced.

THURSDAY, Feb. 13

8 a.m.
Economic Development Finance Division/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: Presentations by Displaced Homemakers and Minnesota Technology, Inc.

Subcommittee on Facilities/EDUCATION
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Geri Evans

Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/EDUCATION
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza
Agenda: Statewide testing.

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: HF100 (Wenzel) Emergency snow removal funding provided, and money appropriated. Working groups will meet.

8:30 a.m.
ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Budget hearing: BWSR and Horticulture Society.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES
300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson
Agenda: To be announced.

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

Housing & Housing Finance Division/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
Agenda: HF132 (Luther) Housing and redevelopment authorities occupancy standard determination provisions modified. HF99 (Clark) Emergency human services grant program established, and money appropriated.

State Government Finance Division/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Budget review: Minnesota Office of Technology, John Gunyou, Director; Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board.

TAXES
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long
Agenda: Discussion of Legislative Auditor’s report on performance measures at the Department of Revenue, Jody Hauer, Legislative Auditor’s Office and James Girard, commissioner, Department of Revenue.

12:30 p.m.
CAPITAL INVESTMENT
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim
Agenda: HF340 (Harder) Cigarette and tobacco sales taxes recodified, criminal and civil penalties provided, and money appropriated. HF341 (Daggett) Liquor taxes recodified, civil and criminal penalties, and money appropriated.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.
REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: HFXXXX (Jennings) Certificate of need for power lines crossing state borders. HFXXXX (Jennings) Indemnification of science advisors studying stray voltage.

2:30 p.m.
The House meets in session.

After Session
Hennepin County Legislative Delegation
200 State Office Building
Agenda: Criminal justice issues.

FRIDAY, Feb. 14

8 a.m.
Transportation & Transit Finance Division/TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: Budget overview by the Department of Transportation.

10 a.m.
Health & Human Services Finance Division/HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Conclusion of the Department of Human Services presentation of the Governor’s recommendations for the department’s economic support programs.

12:30 p.m.
AGRICULTURE
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel
Agenda: Report from the Legislative Auditor on ethanol.
Minnesota baseball and stadiums

Year that professional baseball began in Minnesota ............................................. 1884
Year that Charles Comiskey moved his baseball franchise from St. Paul to Chicago ............................................................................................... 1900
Pennants won by each of the Minneapolis and St. Paul American Association teams ....................................................................................................... 9
Seats taken from Griffith Stadium, in Washington D.C. (used by the Washington Senators from 1911-1960) and moved to Tinker Field, in Orlando, Fla., former spring training home of the Minnesota Twins ........................................ 909
Metropolitan Stadium fans forced into parking lots and the outfield grass on Aug. 25, 1970, because of a bomb scare ............................................. 17,967
Modern ballparks abandoned before the Twins left Metropolitan Stadium ............. 0
Cubic feet of air pressure needed to keep the Hubert H. Metrodome inflated ............................................................ 250,000
Times that heavy snow has caused the Metrodome to deflate ................................. 3
Baseball games postponed due to a Metrodome roof collapse ................................. 1
Height of the Metrodome, at its apex, in feet ......................................................... 195
Cost to build the Metrodome, in millions ............................................................... $68
Multi-sport facilities built in the United States since the Metrodome was completed in 1981 ................................................................. 0
Total cost to build Metropolitan Stadium in Bloomington, 1955, in millions $10.3
Estimated cost of the proposed convertible-roof stadium unveiled Jan. 31 by the Minnesota Twins, in millions $310-350
Time it will take to open or close the roof, in minutes ........................................... 15
Projected seating capacity .................................................................................... 42,000
Largest baseball crowd in Twin’s history, Oct. 25, 1987 ..................................... 55,376
Smallest paying crowd ever, Sept. 20, 1965 ......................................................... 537
Year that Dodger Stadium was built, the last privately funded Major League ballpark ................................................................. 1962
Public dollars to be spent on Pacific Bell Park in San Francisco, Calif., expected to open in 2000 ................................................................. 0
Major League Baseball stadiums completed since 1989 ..................................... 8
Additional stadiums scheduled to be built by the year 2000 ................................. 5
Teams currently building or exploring options to built a new ballpark ................ 13
Number of Major League Baseball’s 28 teams that have been in their current stadiums for at least 30 years ......................................................... 8
Of those, teams now building or looking to build a new stadium ....................... 5
Twins season ticket holders, 1996 ................................................................. 8,600
Free Twins tickets given to inner-city youth programs each summer through Kirby Puckett’s “Because We Care” program ......................................................... 30,000

Sources: Major League Baseball; Minnesota Twins; Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission; Ballparks by Munsey & Suppes (http://www.ballparks.com); Uncovering the Dome, Amy Klobuchar.