

SESSION WEEKLY

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Update

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

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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

Highlights

Welfare reform . . .

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



Four-Year-old Alex Rodenborg of Mora, Minn., who requires a feeding tube, as well as having other medical needs, plays with his Winnie the Pooh bear as his mother, Robin, tells a joint House and Senate committee Feb. 4 about the difficulties her family will have caring for Alex without their monthly public assistance check.

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.

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.

According to Anne Henry of the Minnesota Disability Law Center, the change in the SSI definition of "disabled" will affect many other children as well.

Another 700 Minnesota families of chil-

***"We want to keep Jennifer at home
where she belongs."***

— Kathleen Sanders

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, mild

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

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.

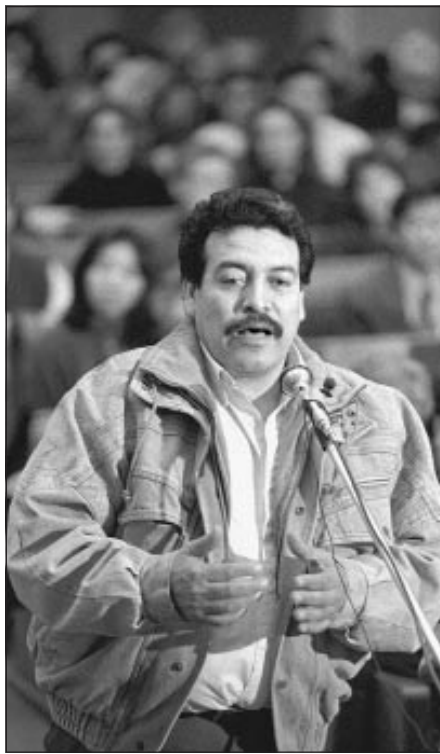
Tatyana Kasperovich of Minneapolis testified on behalf of four immigrants from the former Soviet Union who have survived religious persecution, wars, and famine in their homeland and who are now about to lose their public assistance here.

"Their 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.



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 cur-

rent 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 savings — \$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

"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

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

ing 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

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

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 look-

ing to move off the welfare rolls.

"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



Ramsey County Commissioner Sue Haigh holds up a map with dots indicating the concentration of welfare recipients in Ramsey County. She testified Feb. 5 before the Transportation and Transit Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation Operations.

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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.



Minneapolis Convention Center officials met with members of both the House and Senate commerce committees to tour the facility Feb. 4. 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



Irene McIfée, director of assessment for the St. Paul Public School District, testified Feb. 4 before the Quality Initiatives Subcommittee of the Education Committee on a bill that would require uniform standardized testing in all public schools.

(**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 Koppendraye (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 Koppendraye bill.



ENVIRONMENT

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. Kahn 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, Andersen 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



Three-year-old Taylor Ireland plays with his toy cars as his mother, Jessica, a welfare recipient from Northfield, holds a sign with his picture on it. Several demonstrators gathered outside a joint House and Senate hearing Feb. 4 as lawmakers took testimony on impending welfare cuts.

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."



GAME & FISH

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.



HEALTH

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 Osskopp (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.

Fourth District: Andrew Boss, St. Paul, chair of the board for St. Anthony Park State Bank. Carol Erickson, Roseville, superintendent of the Roseville School District. David Metzen,

superintendent of the South St. Paul School District.

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, Pelican 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



During a celebration of Minnesota National Girls and Women in Sports Day, Briana Kennedy-Coker, left, and Clyde Lund performed a segment of the play "Tomboy Stone" Feb. 6 in the Capitol rotunda. This play, currently running at the Great American History Theater in St. Paul, is a story about the first woman to play big league baseball — St. Paul's Marcenia Toni "Tomboy" Stone Alberga. Briana plays the part of Stone as a young girl who had to convince the men in power to let her play with the boys.

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.



Arthur Rolnick, an economist from the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, listened to a question from a member of the Taxes Committee Feb. 6. The hearing dealt with the increasing demand from private businesses that state and local governments subsidize them to better the job climate.

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."



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 Catholics a long time to get over something like that. I felt responsible."

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

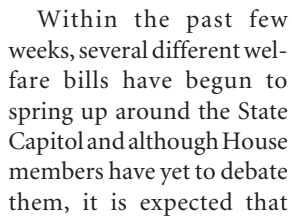


TAXES

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.



- 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

- 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 indi-

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

12 SESSION WEEKLY / February 7, 1997

New members . . .

Reuter not playing games with fiscal restraint

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.



Rep. Doug Reuter

"I dream a lot," Reuter said. "I keep paper and pencil by my bedside to write down ideas for products or services 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 Re-

publican 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

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

110 Capitol 296-2887

Index, House

211 Capitol 296-6646

Information, Senate

231 Capitol 296-0504

Information, House

175 State Office Building 296-2146

Committee Hotline, Senate 296-8088

Committee Hotline, House 296-9283

Sergeant at Arms, Senate

Senate Chamber 296-7159

Sergeant at Arms, House

45 State Office Building 296-4860

Counsel and Research, Senate

G-17 Capitol 296-4791

Research, House

600 State Office Building 296-6753

Legislative Reference Library

645 State Office Building 296-3398

Revisor of Statutes

700 State Office Building 296-2868

Governor's Office

130 Capitol 296-3391

Attorney General's Office

102 Capitol 296-6196

Secretary of State's Office

180 State Office Building 296-2803

Capitol Security

B-4 Capitol 296-6741

Emergency 296-2100

TYY*, Senate 296-0250

TYY*, House 296-9896

or 1-800-657-3550

1997 House finance committee/division accounts

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
IRRRB
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

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
University of Minnesota
Mayo Medical School

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

Judges' Retirement
 Peace Officer Standards & Training Board (POST)
 Private Detective Board
 Public Defense Board
 Public Safety Department (except for
 programs listed under Transportation
 & Transit Finance Division)
 Crime Victims Ombudsman
 Crime Victims' Services
 Criminal Apprehension
 Emergency Management
 Fire Marshal
 Gambling Enforcement
 Liquor Control
 Sentencing Guidelines Commission
 Supreme Court
 Tax Court

Uniform Laws Commission

Taxes

Income Taxes
 Sales Taxes
 Other Taxes
 Property Taxes
 Property Tax Aids & Credits
 Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Transportation & Transit

Transportation

& Transit Finance Division

Metropolitan Council Transit Operations
 Minnesota Safety Council
 Public Safety Department (except for programs

listed under Judiciary Finance Division)

- Administrative Services
- Driver & Vehicle Services
- Pipeline Services
- State Patrol
- Traffic Safety

Transportation Department

Transportation Regulation Board

Trunk Highway Contingent Accounts

Source: House Fiscal Analysis 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



Rep. Ruth Johnson

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 constituent 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 Veter-

ans 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

Bill Introductions

HF343-HF542

Monday, Feb. 3

HF343—Kubly (DFL) **Economic Development** **& International Trade**

Housing Finance Agency home improvement loan authority granted related to severe weather damage.

HF344—Slawik (DFL) **Health & Human Services**

Ombudsman for mental health and mental retardation services extended.

HF345—Folliard (DFL) **Education**

Education fiscal year levy adjustment authorized related to the repeal of K-12 education appropriation caps.

HF346—Greenfield (DFL) **Health & 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.

HF347—Greenfield (DFL) **Health & 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.

HF348—Mullery (DFL) **Economic Development** **& International Trade**

Economic development department reporting requirements eliminated, and wage and job reporting requirements modified.

HF349—Kahn (DFL) **Agriculture**

Hemp; industrial hemp classified as an agricultural product, hemp growers license required, and regulatory authority transferred.

HF350—McGuire (DFL) **Judiciary**

Emergency 911 telephone call interruption prohibited, and criminal penalty provided.

HF351—Knoblach (R)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare provider tax rate reduced.

HF352—Pugh (DFL) **Judiciary**

Terroristic threat crime expanded to include the display of replica grenades or explosive devices.

HF353—Swenson, D. (R) **Judiciary**

Child in need of protection or services definition modified.

HF354—Huntley (DFL) **Health & Human Services**

Health care consumer protection and assistance provided, and money appropriated.

HF355—Bishop (R) **Judiciary**

DWI-related offense forfeiture action filing fee exemption provided for local units of government.

HF356—Greiling (DFL) **Local Government** **& Metropolitan Affairs**

Newspapers of official publication designation criteria provisions modified.

HF357—Sykora (R) **Education**

Laboratory school establishment authorized, grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF358—Weaver (R) **Judiciary**

Peace officers provided firearms restriction exemption while acting in the course of official duties.

HF359—Nornes (R) **Education**

Open enrollment and post-secondary enrollment options programs expanded.

HF360—Leppik (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
State lottery proceed dedication to Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund duration extended until 2050, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF361—Solberg (DFL) **Agriculture**

Wholesale food processor and manufacturer fees modified.

HF362—Weaver (R) **Judiciary**

Public accommodation access discrimination based upon clothing insignia prohibited, and civil cause of action provided.

HF363—Molnau (R) **Transportation & Transit**

Omnibus transportation appropriations bill.

HF364—Sviggum (R) **Economic Development** **& International Trade**

Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board composition and appointment provisions modified.

HF365—Swenson, D. (R) **Commerce, Tourism** **& 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.

HF366—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Omnibus agriculture and environment and natural resources appropriations bill.

HF367—Davids (R)
Health & Human Services
Omnibus mortuary science regulation bill.

HF368—Koppendrayner (R)
Education
Omnibus K-12 education appropriations bill.

HF369—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Hunting and fishing license and stamp identification and validation provisions modified.

HF370—Macklin (R)
Judiciary
Peace officers required to notify parents of juveniles accused of committing adult court traffic offenses.

HF371—Macklin (R)
Judiciary
Domestic abuse protection order violation provisions clarified.

HF372—Wolf (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Public Utilities Commission authorized to levy civil penalties against public utilities and telephone companies.

HF373—Dempsey (R)
Education
School calendar start date requirement repealed.

HF374—Knoblach (R) **Health & Human Services**

Adoption assistance program cost reimbursement provisions modified.

HF375—Bettermann (R) **Education**

Education investment fund and grant program established.

HF376—Smith (R) **Judiciary**

Theft crimes to include tenant issuance of dishonored check to landlord for rent.

HF377—Sykora (R) **Education**

Compensatory education revenue program provisions modified.

HF378—Finseth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Deer; taking of two deer under one license authorized in designated counties.

HF379—Abrams (R)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Small corporate securities offering registration and regulation provided.

HF380—Swenson, D. (R)
Judiciary
DWI-related offense license plate impoundment and vehicle forfeiture criteria expanded.

HF381—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nonprofit health care trust defined and transaction agreement regulation provided.

HF382—Finseth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Hunting and fishing rights affirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF383—Finseth (R)
Taxes
Used farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently.

HF384—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
State agency procurement procedures modified.

HF385—Swenson, H. (R)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk Highway No. 19 designated as Augie Mueller Memorial Highway.

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 payments 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 Finance
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 Finance
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—McCollum (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—Koppendrayner (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 amendment proposed.

HF434—Swenson, D. (R)**Judiciary**

Omnibus judiciary finance and corrections appropriations bill.

Thursday, Feb. 6

HF435—Wagenius (D L)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Environmental response and liability act provisions modified, and money appropriated.

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 requirement.

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, letters 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 mitigation grants, and money appropriated.

HF450—Rest (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Legislative Audit Commission membership provisions modified.

HF451—Jennings (DFL)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Local regulation of telecommunications 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 requirements, 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 certification 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 provisions modified, bridge inspection provisions clarified, procurement pilot project extended, municipal air transportation service assistance provided, technical corrections.

HF458—Juhnke (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Highway service sign placement provisions clarified, transportation department 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 development of the American Bald Eagle Center.

HF462—Erhardt (R)**Taxes**

Three-fifths legislative majority vote required for sales or income tax increases, 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 authorized 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 equalization aid eligibility, and money appropriated.

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 license issuance and renewal authority.

HF472—Bishop (R)**Judiciary**

Sex offender release community notification cost reimbursement provided to local units of government, and money appropriated.

HF473—Chaudhary (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Preventive health and employee recognition 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—Koppendrayner (R)
Health & Human Services
Physician assistant advisory council established.

HF491—Koppendrayner (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—Osskopp (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—Opatz (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
Partition fence cost share apportioned to the state and counties.

HF508—Tomassoni (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Taconite company restraint of trade provisions modified.

HF509—Murphy (DFL)
Judiciary
Deadly force use against a peace officer provided mandatory minimum sentence.

HF510—Rest (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Waste management and treatment procedures provided for unincorporated areas.

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 bankruptcy filing authorized.

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

HF514—Wejcman (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 unincorporated land development limited.

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 joint planning and aid provided in certain instances.

HF521—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Group residential housing supplementary rates provided.

HF522—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Licensed health care and human services program applicant background study process modified.

HF523—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Ways & Means
K-12 education appropriation caps repealed, school district revenue formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF524—Tunheim (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Malt liquor importation permit required.

HF525—Tunheim (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Liquor retailer liability insurance requirements modified.

HF526—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
Animal cruelty penalties increased and definitions provided.

HF527—McCollum (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Veterans employment preference act provisions modified.

HF528—McCollum (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Employee invention agreements regulated.

HF529—McCollum (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk Highway No. 36 in North St. Paul pedestrian-bicycle overpass construction required.

HF530—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Weed and seed; crime, drug, and illegal activity eradication program grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF531—Pawlenty (R)
Judiciary
Tobacco smoke exposure considered in child custody and visitation decisions.

HF532—Rest (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipalities allowed to transfer local board of review duties and responsibilities to counties.

HF533—McGuire (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.

HF534—Pugh (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Commitment proceeding provisions and state liens for cost of care provisions modified.

HF535—Juhnke (DFL)
Agriculture
Bison designated as livestock, and federal food rule conformity provided.

HF536—Juhnke (DFL)
Agriculture
Minnesota commercial feed law provisions modified.

HF537—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Large energy facility definition expanded to include high voltage transmission lines that cross the state boundary.

HF538—Knoblach (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Business incentives; Congress memorialized to mitigate economic competition among states related to targeted business incentive programs.

HF539—Bishop (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
State lottery proceed dedication to environment and natural resources trust fund duration extended until 2050, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF540—Delmont (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Home care service reimbursement rate increased.

HF541—Bishop (R)
Judiciary
Sex offender release community notification provisions clarified.

HF542—Rest (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal incorporation, detachment, and annexation authority transferred to the office of strategic and long-range planning and the office of administrative hearings, and money appropriated.



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.

"It is very difficult for me to study for citizenship," said Yur Hang. The elderly Vietnamese woman was testifying Jan. 30 before Senate and House lawmakers looking at how federal welfare cuts will affect legal immigrants. "Even the senators and representatives of Minnesota, I don't know," she admitted, gesturing toward the committees.

Sen. John Hottinger quickly responded, "Let me assure you that you are not the only one here who doesn't know who we are."

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."

Committee Schedule

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

MONDAY, Feb. 10

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Presentations from the Bureau of
Mediation and Minnesota Technology, Inc.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Higher education systems cooperation,
Nils Hasselmo, president University of Minnesota;
Judith Eaton, chancellor, Minnesota State Colleges
and Universities (MnSCU); and David Laird,
president, Minnesota Private College Council.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Overview of Governor Carlson's K-12
budget recommendations General Education
Program, Tom Melcher, Department of Children,
Families, and Learning.

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
Intrigated 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.

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.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Continuation of The Department of
Human Services presentation of the governor's
recommendation for the department's economic
support programs.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Overview of Sentencing Guidelines
system, Deb Dailey, director, Sentencing
Guidelines Commission.
HF88 (Evans) Clarifying that the application of
the sentencing guidelines system is not a right
that the defendant may waive.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Special projects review: Year 2000
Initiative, Bev Schuft, director, Information
Policy Office.

12:30 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Program reviews: Early Childhood
Family Education (ECFE) Way to Grow.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

Agenda: HFXXXX (McCollum) Department of
Military Affairs housekeeping bill.
HFXXXX (Pugh) Department of Military Affairs

bill adding an exclusion to the Tort Claims Act.
HFXXXX (McCollum) Employment rights
modified relating to Veterans preference.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: Overview: Dislocated Workers Program.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

TUESDAY, Feb. 11

8 a.m.

Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza

Agenda: Statewide testing.

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Effects of state criminal justice policies
of 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.

Transportation & Transit Finance Division/ TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: Budget overviews 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 (Sviggum) Kenyon tax levy recertification authorized.

12:30 p.m.

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 by the Minnesota beverage industry. Minnesota demographics and housing, Glen Dorfman, Minnesota Association of Realtors.

**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.

4:30 p.m.

Capitol Forum Series 1997

Minnesota History Center
Agenda: Presentation by Jennifer James, Ph.D., cultural anthropologist and author of "Thinking in the Future Tense."

5 p.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 12

8 a.m.

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

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
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.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Budget review: Minnesota Office of Technology, John Gunyou, director.

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.
HFXXXX (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.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: To be announced.

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.

2 p.m.

**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
Agenda: Air quality in schools. Public testimony.

**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
Agenda: Welfare reform. Public testimony.

**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 reviews: 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
Agenda: HFXXXX (Folliard) Hopkins Performing Arts Center.
Capital budget priority resolution, Rep. Jim Knoblach.

**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

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.
HFXXXX (Jennings) Certification of need exemption in certain conditions.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

**Hennepin County
Legislative Delegation**

200 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Ron Abrams,
Rep. Linda Wejcman
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.

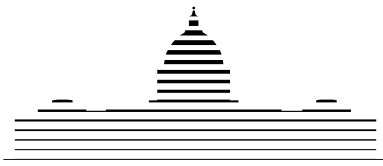
**Health & Human Services Finance Division/
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

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

MINNESOTA INDEX

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, Cal., 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.

For more information



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