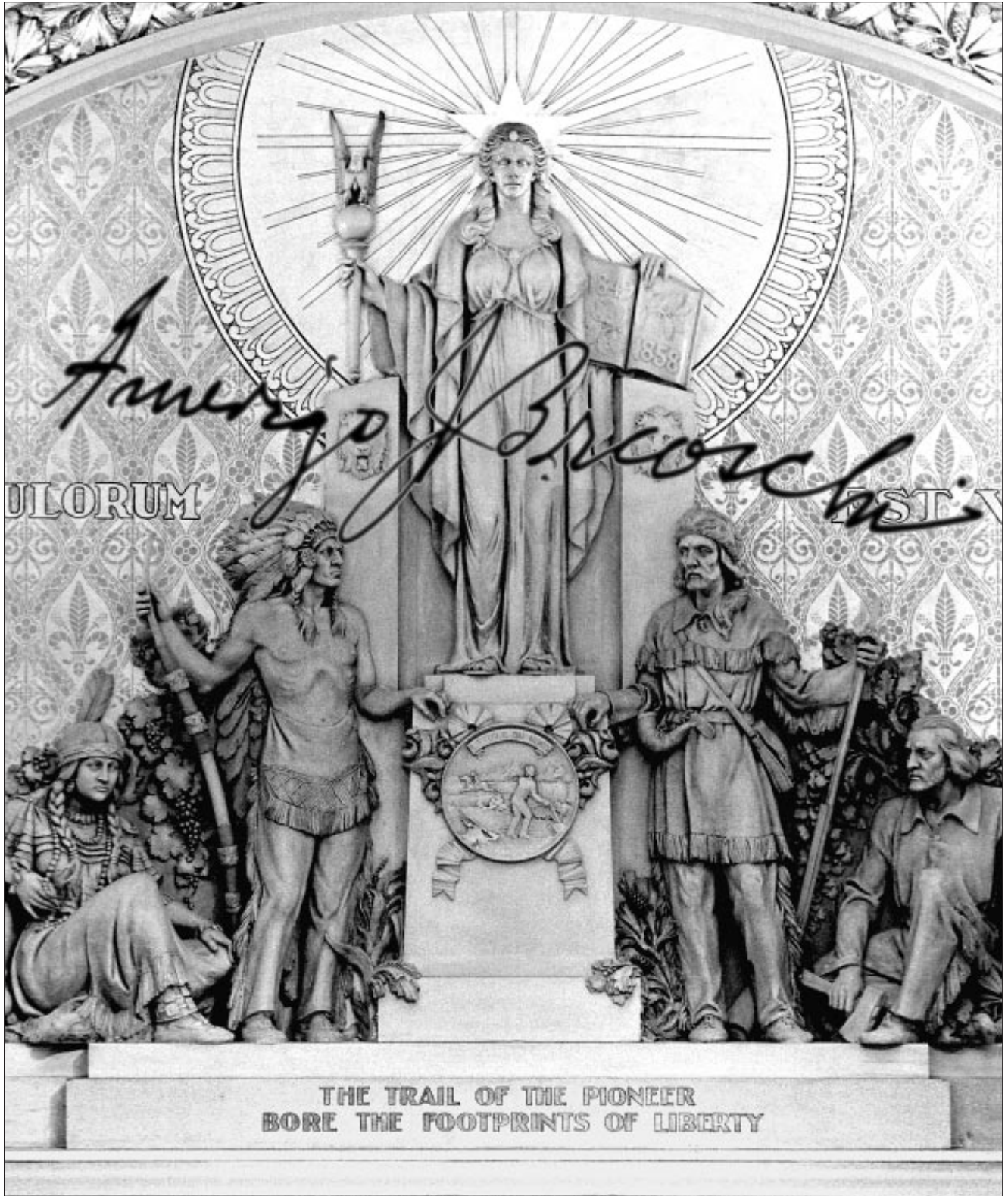


# SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ February 28, 1997 ♦ Volume 14, Number 8



# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • February 28, 1997 • Volume 14, Number 8

**Session Weekly** is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1997-98 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

To subscribe, contact:  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
Public Information Office  
175 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298  
(612) 296-2146 or  
1-800-657-3550  
TTY (612) 296-9896

**Director**  
LeClair G. Lambert

**Assistant Director/Editor**  
Peg Hamerston

**Assistant Editors**  
John T. Tschida  
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**Art & Production Coordinator**  
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**Writers**  
Steve Compton, F. J. Gallagher,  
Nick Healy, Celeste Riley

**Photographers**  
Tom Olmscheid, Laura Phillips,  
Andrew Von Bank

**Office Manager**  
Toinette L. B. Bettis

**Staff Assistants**  
Grant Martin, Nicole Thompson



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## Update

Amerigo J. Brioschi died last week at the age of 89 years. Amidst the hubbub of daily life around the Capitol, his death mostly went unnoticed. Amerigo and his father, Carlo, an Italian immigrant, were the sculptors of the most prominent work of art in the House chamber, "Minnesota, Spirit of Government," some 25 feet above the House speaker's desk.

Seven years ago, Brioschi came to the Capitol for one of his last visits to the House chamber, and was present for its March 13, 1990, restoration celebration. His autograph from that significant day appears on the cover of this week's *Session Weekly*.

During another restoration of the chamber 59 years ago, Amerigo and his father were commissioned by the State Emergency Relief Administration to design statuary for a wall that would enclose a former visitors' gallery to create office space.

Carlo, who died March 27, 1941, was the artist who, in 1931, designed "With Ethnic Pride," the Christopher Columbus statue on the Capitol lawn that faces the State Judicial Center. (Some 25,000 people were on hand for the dedication in 1931.) Amerigo's statue of Floyd B. Olson was erected in 1958. It is located directly west of his father's work— across the lawn in front of the State Office Building.

The pioneering spirit of the Brioschis is depicted in the theme of their artwork and in its *trompe l'oeil* effect— deceiving illusions of two-dimensional blending into three-dimensional figures. Their monumental tribute to Minnesota's early residents and its government is highly visible to all who enter the chamber.

The Spirit of Government serves as a reminder to the diversity of its people, the natural richness of the territory, and a strong belief in a government ". . . of the people, by the people, and for the people." On their patterned gilded wall behind the painted and sculptured plaster are the words: *VOX POPULORUM EST VOX DEI*— "the Voice of the People is the Voice of God."

And so, Amerigo and Carlo Brioschi, your outstanding works do not go unnoticed; they are an integral part of Minnesota's rich history, and are much appreciated.

— LeClair G. Lambert

## INSIDE

Highlights .....	3
Stadium Proposal Raises Roof .....	15
American Public Opinion .....	16
New Members: Westfall, Paymar .....	17, 18
Bill Introductions (HF890 - HF1087) .....	19
Committee Schedule (March 3-7) .....	24

**On the cover:** The autograph of St. Paul artist Amerigo J. Brioschi is superimposed over the work, "Minnesota, Spirit of Government," in memory of his death, Feb. 16, 1997. Brioschi and his father, Carlo, created the unique painting, sculpture, and gilded wall in the House Chamber in 1938.

— Photo illustration by Andrew Von Bank



# Highlights

Juvenile court . . .

## Public hearings — saving or shaming children?

Momentum is growing to open juvenile court proceedings — and records — to the public. On Feb. 26, the House Judiciary Committee approved a bill for a pilot program to open juvenile court proceedings in Hennepin County, the busiest of the state's judicial districts.

**HF254** would open hearings involving children in need of protection services (CHIPS), a legal distinction that refers to children who have been exposed to abuse or neglect. Such cases are among the most severe in the juvenile court system. The pilot program would be in effect from Jan. 1, 1998, to Aug. 1, 2000. About 1,200 CHIPS cases are tried each year in the Hennepin County District Court.

Additional bills sponsored by committee chair Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL Mpls) would open most other areas of juvenile proceedings, such as delinquency proceedings, and records. No action has been taken on Skoglund's bills.

The issue has generated strong feelings on both sides of the debate.

"If the public had any idea of the kind of decisions being made for these vulnerable



Several court officials testified before the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 26 in favor of a bill that would open juvenile court proceedings and records to the public. Pictured, left to right, are Hennepin County District Court Judge Heidi Schellhas, Minnesota Court of Appeals Chief Judge Edward Toussaint Jr., and Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice Kathleen Blatz.

for what happens in this very difficult area. Too often we intervene way too late."

Others fear that opening the courts will expose children to further trauma and shame. Tamara Malik, a child protection worker, spoke of a case in which a girl was taunted at school after it became known she had been sexually abused by her father. The father lost his job, and the mother abandoned the fam-

The effort to shed light on the closed world of juvenile court is, in part, a response to a recent report from a Minnesota Supreme Court task force that recommended opening the proceedings unless there are "exceptional circumstances."

Skoglund and Schellhas also joined a group last August that visited Wayne County, Mich., which includes the Detroit area, where the juvenile court system is open for all to view.

"We talked to all the players," Schellhas said. "We wanted to hear problems. We thought our credibility would be hurt if we came back with only pros. But there were no cons."

Skoglund said there were no problems in opening the system. Family members who felt locked out of the closed system now participate and observe. "None of the fears about opening the system have been met. . . . We met with social workers, probation officers, referees [judges], court administrators, reporters. Every single person said the system was improved by being open," Skoglund added. "They said it has made life better for kids in desperate need of help."

Michigan and Oregon currently are the only states with open systems; Pennsylvania and Arizona are experimenting with pilot systems, and other states are exploring the issue, Skoglund said.

Under current Minnesota law, all juvenile

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***"The most compelling issue is to get the community to participate in setting the standards for what happens in this very difficult area. Too often we intervene way too late."***

***—Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman***

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children, the public would be outraged. I am," Heidi Schellhas, a judge in Hennepin County District Court, told the committee. "Children aren't being protected by closed proceedings; adults are."

Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman agreed.

"One reason we close the hearings is because society is uncomfortable with what goes on in those courtrooms," he said. "The most compelling issue is to get the community to participate in setting the standards

ily. "It's wrong to drag family crises to where school classes and neighbors can sit and listen," she said.

Fred Friedman, a public defender in Duluth, didn't want the names of juveniles to show up in the local papers. While major daily newspapers may honor an agreement to not publish children's names, it can't be assumed that every small community paper will do the same. "It would be a huge mistake to put names in the papers," he said. "We're talking about neglected and dependent children."

proceedings are closed. Judges also can close proceedings in other courts at their discretion, which **HF254** would not change. (Cameras are not allowed in any Minnesota courtroom.)

Rep. Andy Dawkins, (DFL-St. Paul.) asked what was wrong with the current juvenile court system. "Is it shoddy proceedings? Lack of resources? No funds for public defenders? Problems with child protection workers?"

"All of the above," Schellhas said, adding that without public awareness, the Legislature cannot get the support to make necessary changes.

Skoglund said that abuses do occur under the current system, and cited a case in which a judge kicked a child during a court proceeding. "The point is to raise the accountability of the people within the system. It's to make it more difficult for adults to fail children. As it is now, if they make a mistake, no one knows."

Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice Kathleen Blatz said those outside the court system need to demand information and monitor the statistics.

"We don't get changes because we don't get the data. We need fresh air in the system." With closed proceedings, children are "second-class citizens," she added, because they get less protection. "The biggest reason we continue to close them is [because] that's how it's always been done."

Only a small fraction — and the most severe — of the almost 40,000 cases referred to child protection agencies each year ever make it to court, Blatz said. And the nature of those cases remains a mystery to most citizens.

"The public at large doesn't know the gravity of the child welfare crisis," said Mark Toogood, a guardian ad litem, or advocate for children during court proceedings. "You've heard the horror stories. What you don't know is now pervasive it is. If something dramatic doesn't happen, the future of our society is in question. There are storm clouds on the horizon."

Media scrutiny can only serve to improve the situation, he said.

"The media spotlight galvanized the public against [the problem of] battered women. Children deserve the same protection."

Esther Wattenberg, director of the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, spoke on behalf of the minority on the state Supreme Court task force opposed to opening the system. "The notion is absurd that media scrutiny will help abused children," she said. "Opening the courts has made no difference in Michigan's staggering child welfare system."

"Opening the hearings to the public is a distraction from the problems that plague the child welfare system," she added, and will have a chilling effect on reporting by welfare workers reluctant to expose children to further harm.

**HF254** now heads to the House floor.

— Celeste Riley



## BUSINESS

### Protecting payroll

The House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee recently moved to protect businesses from unscrupulous payroll service firms.

"**HF238** addresses an area that is long overdue for regulation — payroll service companies," said bill sponsor Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley). "This bill will become a model for the rest of the country."

Many small businesses use payroll firms instead of going to the expense of hiring their own payroll staff. The firms issue checks to employees and make income and other tax payments to the government.

Leppik's bill emerged after a number of payroll service companies declared bankruptcy, including one highly publicized action by Edina-based CFS Office Automation in 1996.

CFS, now the subject of an Internal Revenue Service criminal investigation, faces accusations that it defrauded more than 200 clients of nearly \$6 million in payroll tax payments. All of CFS's clients, along with the customers of the other bankrupt payroll services, remained liable for the tax payments, despite the fact that CFS told its clients the payments had been made.

**HF238** would protect small businesses from such fraudulent practices, Leppik said, by requiring payroll service companies to register with the Department of Revenue. The companies would have to furnish the department with a monthly updated client list, make all tax payments electronically, and prove that all their customers' money is kept separately from the firms' operating funds.

The revenue department would in turn notify clients directly that their payroll company had not made payments and that the client is still responsible for the taxes. The department, under the bill, also could penalize firms that don't comply with the law, either by suspending or revoking their registration or assessing a fine of up to \$5,000 for each violation.

Most payroll services don't charge their clients directly for their work, Leppik said. Rather, they make their money by investing the client's tax payments and keeping the return. **HF238** also mandates that the revenue department notify clients of this practice and at the same time inform them that no state agency regulates the payroll services' financial solvency.

The Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee approved the bill, which would take effect on Jan. 1, 1998, and sent it to the House Taxes Committee.



## CHILDREN

### Placing wards of the state

The more than 1,700 children who are wards of the state may have their adoption odds increased under a bill approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 25.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), would allow the Department of Human Services to contract with licensed, private adoption agencies to find homes for these children.

Currently, county agencies are responsible for placing these children in adoptive homes. But too many county caseworkers are too busy responding to crisis child protection and abuse cases to have enough time to find adoptive homes, according to Erin Sullivan Sutton, interim director of the department's family and children services division.

As a result, 40 percent to 60 percent of these children do not get adopted, ever, according to the department.

The intent of **HF185** is to have private adoption agencies help counties in the effort to find adoptive homes for children, not to replace county workers. Some counties have dedicated staffers working on adoptions, some do not, Sullivan Sutton said.

Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids) successfully amended the bill to state that any state contract with a private adoption agency "must be designed to supplement existing county efforts, and shall not replace existing county programs" unless the county agrees.

Children who are wards of the state come from different backgrounds and their parents have relinquished their parental rights. Many were neglected, physically abused, or sexually abused. Some came from parents

who were incapacitated. Of the 1,700 children, some are being considered by families for adoption but nothing has been finalized. As of January, however, no one had shown an interest in 813 of those children.

Another section of the bill would allow the Department of Human Services to encourage local reforms in child welfare services by authorizing local pilot programs. Some ideas include developing a program to better identify which children are at risk and may need protection down the road. Another idea may be to develop an early intervention program that brings help into a child's home before a major abuse or neglect situation erupts.

Another provision would give individuals whom the department determines have, in fact, abused a child a chance to appeal during an agency hearing. That is, only if the abuse case is not pending before a juvenile court or adult criminal court.

Currently, the only recourse for people who believe they have been falsely found to have mistreated a child is to file a data practices complaint to get the department record stricken.

**HF185** now moves to the House Health and Human Services Finance Division.

## Childhood delinquency

Troubled children who are likely to engage in an escalating pattern of crime and violence can be identified early, according to a study presented to the House Judiciary Finance Division Feb. 25.

In January 1995, the Hennepin County Attorney's Office began studying 134 children under the age of 10 who reportedly committed 147 crimes, including criminal sexual conduct, assault, arson, shoplifting, theft, burglary, and damage to property.

The children were not arrested because Minnesota law does not allow for the arrest of a child under 10 years old.

The report, funded by a \$450,000 legislative appropriation, concludes that children who are likely to continue a pattern of criminal and violent behavior can be identified through the presence of a combination of predictors. They include:

- early encounters with police;
- the presence of abuse, neglect, violence, or criminal activity in the home;
- poor school attendance and/or school failure;
- an absence of positive relationships with adults and peers; and
- overall problems in family daily functioning, based on factors such as single-

parenthood, the number of other children in the home, and the age of the parent(s).

The goal of the study is to establish new prevention programs, including one which pairs police officers with troubled children to provide guidance.

The study is believed to be the only one of its kind in the country, according to Janet Wiig, assistant Hennepin County attorney. New groups of young children are studied as the members of the original group reach age 10.

Of the original study group, 44 have been referred to the criminal justice system for prosecution for additional crimes. Of those, half committed at least one new offense against a person. According to Wiig, the frequency and severity of the crimes are rising with the children's ages.



Morgan Jellison, a 3-year-old from Minneapolis, played hide-and-seek with other children Feb. 21 during Family Day on the Hill, an event sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council.

"It's those with the worst profiles who are coming back," Wiig said.

The study was commended by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), chair of the Judiciary Committee. "These kids face enormous odds," Skoglund said. "I hope we can stick with them."



## CRIME

### Guns in kids' hands

Acquiring a gun is like "ordering pizza," a juvenile with an arrest record told a joint hearing of the House Judiciary Committee and Senate Crime Prevention Committee Feb. 21. The committee met to consider ways to control escalating violence, especially gun violence, among youth in Minnesota, and strategies that have been successful in other regions.

Key testimony came from David Kennedy, a Harvard University senior research analyst and the director of a successful youth violence intervention program in Boston that resulted in a dramatic reduction in gun violence.

During a six-year period, the Boston Gun Project reported a drop in homicides among victims age 24 and under from 30 in 1990 to nine in 1996, and a citywide drop from 40 victims in 1990 to 16 in 1996.

Kennedy explained that the project first examined the routes by which guns came into the hands of youths, and learned that stopping the flow of illegal guns is a weak link in law enforcement.

"Curiously, that is the part of the problem we have the least focus on. Gun crimes — yes, but gun trafficking — no," Kennedy said. "We wanted to make that part of regular police business." The project traced every gun recovered from suspects under age 21.

"How closely is the illegal gun trade scrutinized?" Kennedy asked. "It's scrutinized so tightly that the perpetrators advertise" in newspapers and magazines. Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) suggested legislation to prosecute those who sell guns which are later used in crimes.

Second, the project in Boston mobilized community agencies to strictly enforce the law. The offending youths — mostly gang members well-known to police — were threatened with sanctions that the agencies were prepared to impose against anyone who committed a violent act. After following through a few times, the problems stopped, Kennedy said. In effect, "we told them to stop," he explained, and they did. Boston



subsequently experienced its lowest homicide rate since the 1960s, Kennedy said.

Committee members debated whether their focus should be on stopping the flow of guns or exploring the causes of youth crime. Several juveniles with police records testified. A recurring theme: Perpetrators are not sufficiently penalized.

"I've had 25 arrests and haven't spent a day of my life in jail," a young man told the joint committee. "When you catch someone, do something — not just probation or treatment."

"It's how you punish juveniles," another told the committee. "I could say 'Sorry, I have a problem with drugs or gangs,' and I'd get a fourth, fifth, or sixth chance, or I'd get treatment." He said it wasn't until he reached "extended jurisdiction juvenile" status, a last-chance designation meaning he would be treated as an adult upon the next arrest, that he stopped offending, he said. "You guys own my butt," he said.

Another juvenile told law enforcers: "As soon as you stopped watching me, I'd go back to the gang."

In 1995, Minneapolis recorded 17 fire-arms-related deaths of juveniles age 17 and younger, and six in 1996, during a record-breaking year in which 97 homicides occurred. An estimated 2,668 juveniles were murdered in the U.S. in 1994, 20 percent of them by other juveniles.

### Inmates to share cells

The House Feb. 27 approved a bill that would require most inmates sent to a new prison planned for Rush City, Minn. to double up in their cells. The vote was 127-3.

**HF268** repeals a statute that requires inmates be placed in separate cells whenever space allows in prisons with a security level similar to that of the planned Rush City prison. On a scale of 1 to 6 — 6 being a maximum-security prison — the Rush City prison would be a 4. The bill also reverses an earlier requirement specific to the Rush City prison that it be designed with mostly single occupancy units.

The bill now requires the opposite: that the new facility provide multiple-occupancy cells "to the greatest extent possible." The result is that only one-seventh of the beds at Rush City will be in single-occupancy cells.

The construction plans were revised so that the prison could be built within the \$89 million budget the Legislature appropriated. "They would have had to give up too much programming, common, recreational, and

educational space," said Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown).

Murphy said that Department of Corrections officials have said that they can manage security in the double-occupancy facility.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) offered an amendment that would have prohibited the plan at Rush City. "We all know of the need for additional bed space in our prisons. But the issues of safety of the guards and inmates; the implications for lawsuits as a result of assaults; and the cost of recidivism to society" have not been adequately examined, Paymar said. The amendment failed 118-12.

The new plan calls for three "pods" with 136 double-occupancy cells in each, and one pod with 136 single-occupancy units. The double-occupancy cells would measure 84.2 square feet. The new design would increase the facility's capacity to 952 inmates, up from 800.

The earlier plan had called for six single-occupancy pods. The two pods not requested in this latest proposal could be added later if needed.

**HF268** now moves to the Senate.



## DEVELOPMENT

### Coordinated land planning

Urban sprawl has been gobbling up open land on the edges of the Twin Cities metropolitan area for decades. But now it is taking substantial bites out of Minnesota's rural areas as well. Statewide, urban development consumes about 68 acres per day.

Since the mid 1970s, the Metropolitan Council has planned and shaped development in the seven-county metropolitan area. The council periodically reviews its Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA) boundary. Inside the boundary, new development is provided with municipal utility services such as roads, water, and sewer. Outside the MUSA, development is more restricted and receives no such services.

A bill (**HF217**) discussed — but not voted on — Feb. 25 by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee attempts to curtail sprawl in the rest of Minnesota. The bill provides the legal framework and funding for state-mandated comprehensive planning in rural counties, cities, and townships under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB).

Bill sponsor Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) explained that developers are currently avoiding the restrictions imposed on them by the Metropolitan Council and are building in the surrounding counties. These developments often take the form of high-priced housing on five-acre plots of former farm land. "We like the Twin Cities," Opatz said. "But we want you [residents] to stay where you are."

Projections are that central Minnesota will get 100,000 new residents in the next decade, Opatz told the panel. "We will consume 25 square miles of open space. We have no plan for all of that growth."

Opatz said that local government officials are often reluctant to restrict land use when a friend, family member, or neighbor has something to gain from a new development.



State Patrol officers arrested a welfare rights demonstrator after about 35 people refused to leave the State Capitol rotunda at closing Feb. 26. The protesters rallied against cuts in welfare benefits for nearly seven hours.

A Chisago County resident confirmed Opatz's view. "Chisago County already has a comprehensive plan with wonderful goals which are supported by the public," Bill Newman said. "But developers put a lot of pressure on our local officials. Unsustained growth is being subsidized by the rest of us who have to pay for it."

**HF217** would require all Minnesota counties outside the Metropolitan area to submit comprehensive land-use plans to the EQB. The plans must conform to 12 broad goals for sustainable development outlined in the bill.

Counties with a population density greater than 50 people per square mile and gaining population at a rate faster than the state as a whole would be considered "growth" counties. In growth counties, any land not included within a city municipal plan would be zoned as permanent agricultural land. Developments in such counties would be limited to one dwelling unit per 40 acres. Seven counties — Benton, Chisago, Isanti, Olmsted, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright — would currently qualify as growth counties.

Under the bill, any municipality that does not submit a comprehensive plan to its county board would have a plan prepared for it by the county. If a county board does not submit a plan to the EQB, the EQB would prepare a plan for the county.

Representing the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, Dave Olson said, "We're very pleased to see this debate move forward. Statewide planning is important but must be coordinated."

"Builders have long advocated for good planning," said Gary Laurent of the Builders Association of Minnesota in offering qualified support for the bill. Growth boundaries can drive up the cost of land and planning is best done at the local level, he said.

Officials from the Minnesota Association of Realtors and the Metropolitan Council also spoke in favor of the bill.

The bill also will appropriate an unspecified amount to the EQB for planning grants to local governments.

The committee's hearing on **HF217** will continue March 4.

## Recycling polluted lands

Revenue now used to clean up old tire dumps would instead be channeled into reclaiming contaminated land under legislation approved Feb. 26 by the Economic Development and International Trade Committee.

Under current law, the state attaches a \$4 fee on the transfer of motor vehicles and uses the proceeds to dispose of used tires. The fee, which generates nearly \$4 million annually, is set to expire on July 1. **HF422** would extend the fee indefinitely and allow local governments to direct the money instead toward the rehabilitation of contaminated sites, known as "brownfields," once occupied by businesses such as auto salvage yards. The sites, in turn, could be used for expanding light industry businesses. The move, bill sponsor Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) said, would allow communities to develop land that was once useless.

"It's cost effective to recycle and reclaim this land," McCollum said, adding that manufacturers could expand into an area already supported by an infrastructure instead of locating in the suburbs, far from potential new employees. "It fits in wonderfully with welfare reform."

Other legislators, while supportive of the bill, questioned how much control the state will be able to exercise over the disposition of brownfields.

"Land that is being used for light industrial purposes doesn't need to be clean enough to grow organic vegetables for small children," said Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls). "We need to take a sensible approach [as] to how clean is clean."

That approach, Kahn said, could be hindered by an overzealous and inflexible federal Environmental Protection Agency.

**HF422** now moves to the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.



## EDUCATION

### Pass or don't drive

Proponents of a proposal that would link teen driving privileges to academic performance say the bill would help motivate students.

**HF446**, sponsored Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), would require Minnesotans under age 18 to pass high school graduation tests and to stay in school to be eligible to receive a driver's license.

"I think this sends a strong message to students that education is important, these tests are important, and we want you to pass," Biernat said during a Feb. 27 House Education Committee hearing.

Under the bill, which was not acted upon, public school students would have to fulfill existing driver's education requirements and pass the state's basic skills tests in math and reading in order to be issued a driver's license.

Math and reading tests, required under Minnesota's graduation rule, are first given to students in eighth grade, when most students are 14 years old. Students who fail one or both of the tests are given another chance to pass at least once each school year.

Exceptions to the academic requirements could be made for special-needs students,



Sandra Ebensteiner, *holding sign*, and "Dr. I. Kleendirt," played by Sharon Horgan, who carried a container of dry ice representing pollution, performed a skit about "brownfields" before the Economic Development and International Trade Committee Feb. 26. Several groups joined forces to push for state money to help clean up vacant contaminated industry sites to make room for new businesses and new jobs. The skit was presented by Interfaith Action and the St. Paul Ecumenical Alliance of Congregations.

**Note:** The cover photo illustration on the Feb. 21, 1997, issue of the *Session Weekly* was rendered by Andrew Von Bank. His name was inadvertently omitted in the last issue.

under the bill. Private school students, who are not required to take the state's basic skills tests, would simply be required to document enrollment in school.

The bill also provides that the state could suspend the license of anyone under age 18 who drops out of school or is a habitual truant.

Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), who is co-sponsoring the bill, is a high school teacher and a driver's education instructor, a job he has performed for more than 25 years.

He said the bill aims to direct some of the enthusiasm students have for driver's education to their regular school work.

"It's unbelievable, the desire a youngster has to get that [learner's] permit," Mares said.

Mares also pointed out that academic performance is already linked to other privileges. Students must meet academic requirements to participate in extra-curricular activities such as sports, and insurance companies give better rates to students with good grades.

"In the long run, this [bill] would raise the educational skills of our young people," Mares added.

In 1988, West Virginia became the first state to adopt a similar so-called "no-pass, no-drive" law. Such laws are increasingly popular and are now on the books in a total of 15 states, including Wisconsin.

**HF446** received support from school officials who testified during the hearing.

Requiring students to pass the basic skills test to get a driver's license would give school work "a direct tie to something important in the lives of students," said Dr. Ray Hoheisel, superintendent of the Cambridge-Isanti School District.

"This bill can make a difference," he said. "It can help improve the overall learning of a good number of students."

Some lawmakers expressed concerns about the impact the bill would have on special-needs students and others struggling to make it academically.

"It's just an awful lot of pressure," said Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee). "I think there are some marginal kids under a lot of pressure in different ways, and this may be going too far."

**HF446** will be discussed further by the Education Committee on March 4.

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

## Alternative school schedules

The House Education Committee approved a bill Feb. 25 that would make it easier for school districts to establish year-round school or other alternative schedules.

**HF302**, sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), would do away with a requirement in current law that makes districts receive the approval of the State Board of Education before establishing a flexible learning year program at a particular school.

Such a program could include a four-day school week or an elimination of the traditional summer vacation in favor of classes for 45 out of every 60 days.

Under current law, a district wishing to establish a flexible learning year for a school site must submit an application to the Board of Education, which has authority to review the plans and approve or disapprove.

Greiling's bill would give local school district officials the authority to establish a flexible learning year and relegate the Board of Education to a supervisory role.

The state board would retain responsibility for setting standards for flexible learning year programs, and those standards would require all programs to meet state requirements for testing and reporting.

"We feel that it is a nice balance," said Marsha Gronseth, executive director of the Board of Education. "It's probably the school districts that should be making the decision."

**HF302** now goes to the House floor.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Snowmobile safety

Snowmobile safety concerns continue to stir up a flurry of legislative initiatives at the state Capitol.

One bill, the Joshua Renken and Stacy Schlosser Snowmobile Safety Act (**HF770**), named in honor of two young Minnesotans who lost their lives after being struck by snowmobiles this season, won approval from a House panel Feb. 21.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby), accompanied by the children's mothers, Lori Renken and Jan Schlosser, spoke before the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee on Feb. 19 and 21.

"I have been working on this bill for five years," said Hasskamp. "It is the least we could do to name it for the two young people who lost their lives totally unnecessarily."

The bill would impose a number of changes in current snowmobile laws. It requires that registration applications contain the legal name and address of every owner of the snowmobile. Current practice allows the use of nicknames and initials on registration forms, Hasskamp said. The bill also requires that registration numbers be clearly and visibly affixed to the snowmobile. Many snowmobilers now use fancy lettering to match their machine's logo style. Law enforcement officials find the wide variety of lettering styles often difficult to read, especially at high speeds. Registration fees also would be doubled from \$30 for three years to \$60.

Persons operating a snowmobile with an engine displacement of more than 440 cubic centimeters would be required to possess a valid driver's license.

Jan Schlosser had asked the committee to consider lowering the nighttime snowmobile speed limit to 30 miles per hour, down from the current 50 miles per hour maximum on public lands and waters. **HF770** proposes that, and would prohibit operating a snowmobile in a "careless, reckless, or negligent manner so as to endanger the person or property of another or to cause injury or damage."

The bill also allows counties, cities, and townships to set a snowmobile speed limit that is 10 miles per hour below the posted maximum for automobile traffic.

"We need more enforcement in rural areas so that we can stop these people [snowmobilers] who use rural streets and county roads," Jan Schlosser told the panel. "That's where the problem is at."

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and local snowmobile groups that receive state grants-in-aid would be charged with posting and improving safety signage on snowmobile trails, under the bill. Current trail posting and signs is inadequate, according to Hasskamp and Mike Grupa, of the DNR's enforcement division. "There are a lot of blind hills and curves that are very dangerous," Hasskamp said.

Funds from the snowmobile trails and enforcement account would be allocated according to a new formula with 50 percent going for the state's grant-in-aid trail program which makes grants to local snowmobile clubs for trail grooming. Another 25 percent would go to maintain the state's own recreational snowmobile trails. The final 25 percent would be earmarked for snowmobile enforcement purposes. The DNR would apportion some of the enforcement funds to local and county law enforcement agencies.





### Revenue building

In 1988, Minnesota's Department of Revenue moved its hundreds of employees, along with all of its computers, furniture, and files, into a new building on the banks of the Mississippi River.

The state, however, did not own the structure. St. Paul's JLT Group owns it. The real estate company rented the space to the revenue department, offering a five-year lease that also contained five, one-year options to renew the agreement.

Now, nearly 10 years later, the department has outgrown the space at 10 River Park Plaza. In fact, according to a report written by the SGS Group, consultants the Legislature hired to study the idea of a new revenue building, the department will need even more space by 2010, when it has nearly 1,500 employees.

Unfortunately, said Jim Steinmann of SGS, the final one-year renewal expires Nov. 30, 1998, putting the Legislature in what is an uncomfortable position: begin construction on a new building or purchase and renovate the existing one. Either way, he said, each month that the Legislature delays a decision could cost the state as much as \$1 million in increased rent and future construction costs.

Rent would likely increase under a renegotiated lease.

"The timing is critical because . . . the solutions that are available to you may not be able to be done" by the time the state's lease expires on the current revenue building, Steinmann said. "The state does not have a comfortable time frame."

Steinmann, along with Carl Remick of the Minneapolis-based Architectural Alliance, presented their findings to a joint meeting of the Senate Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee, the Senate Governmental Operations Budget Division, the House State Government Finance Division, and the House Capital Investment Committee Feb 25.

The Department of Revenue moved from the Centennial Building in the Capitol complex to River Park Plaza in December 1988. That first year, the department paid JLT \$3.6 million in rent. Over the years, the amount of rent paid to JLT grew — by about 7 percent annually — even as the department itself did. Now, according to the Department of Administration, the state pays JLT \$6.3 million per year for the 299,000 square feet that house its 1,369 employees.

The bill also appropriates an additional \$250,000 annually from the general fund in fiscal years 1998 and 1999 to the DNR for snowmobile operation safety and enforcement.

"The bill is not going to bring back Joshua and Stacy, but it is going to help," Schlosser said.

HF770 now goes to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

### Changes to state parks

Land would be added to four state parks, an additional park would get a new name, and another would be allowed to sell beer in its lodge, under a bill being considered by the Land Sales Subcommittee of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

Sponsor Rep. Thomas Bakk (DFL-Cook) presented the bill (HF299) Feb. 25. It would authorize the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to add land to the following state parks:

- Bear Head Lake State Park in St. Louis County would add 160 acres of adjacent undeveloped land, wooded with mature red and white pine trees. The addition would prevent a proposed housing development near the Taconite State Trail.
- Forestville State Park in Fillmore County would get an adjacent 40-acre parcel on the south branch of the Root River. The river is a designated trout stream and the

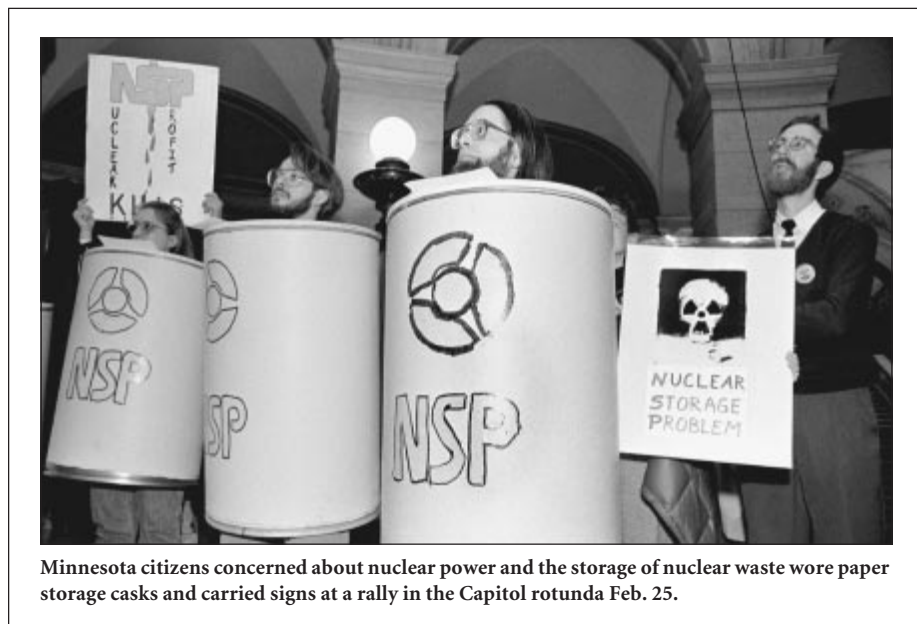
surrounding bluffs contain excellent habitat for the endangered timber rattlesnake.

- John Latsch State Park in Winona County would gain access to the Mississippi River with a 120-acre parcel that includes privately owned water access, a resort, and campground.
- Split Rock Lighthouse State Park in Lake County would acquire 80 acres of land along the Lake Superior shore northeast of the park. The land is currently owned by the Congdon family and includes Gold Rock Point, the largest of the few exposed granite cliffs on the North Shore. It also contains 3,700 feet of lake shore and access to the Madeira shipwreck, one of the most popular diving sites in the Great Lakes.

The bill also seeks to change the name of O.L. Kipp State Park in Winona County to Great River Bluffs State Park. Bill Morrissey, director of the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division, explained that O.L. Kipp is the first state park encountered by travelers entering the state from the east on Interstate 90. "It is our gateway park, and the current name doesn't attract people," Morrissey said. "Great River Bluffs is a more descriptive name that we believe will attract more tourists to the park."

Other provisions of the bill would allow Itasca State Park in Clearwater County to add beer to the wine menu in its restaurant. And visitors to Tettegouche State Park would be allowed to use the parking lot for one hour without buying a state park permit.

No action was taken on the bill, which will be discussed further in the weeks ahead.



Minnesota citizens concerned about nuclear power and the storage of nuclear waste wore paper storage casks and carried signs at a rally in the Capitol rotunda Feb. 25.

"The existing building . . . will become inadequate over time," Steinmann said, "and an addition still wouldn't deal with all the problems," which include a limited electrical and data distribution system, water penetration problems, and an unreliable power system. In addition, Steinmann said, purchasing and renovating the River Park Plaza building would not achieve any significant savings.

According to the SGS report, renovating the existing building would cost nearly \$40 million, plus somewhere between \$22 million and \$44 million to buy it.

The consultants told the legislators that, as far as constructing a new building, they have essentially two options — the current site of the state's motor pool at 13th and Robert streets or the downtown St. Paul block at East 11th and Wabasha streets. Of the two, Steinmann said, the motor pool site is the most workable and the least expensive. A building at the downtown site would cost nearly \$97 million to construct, Steinmann said, while a similar structure at the motor pool lot would check in at a little more than \$90 million.

Of course, Steinmann said, the state could always opt to purchase the existing building and rehabilitate it, but he argued against that move.

Not everybody, however, agrees with the SGS numbers.

Jerry Toolien, who owns the JLT Group called Steinmann's report "ineffective and irrelevant." The building, he said, could be renovated for half the amount the SGS Group said would be necessary.

"There isn't anything wrong with that building," Toolien said, adding that the building was appraised seven years ago and valued at \$47 million.

JLT, Toolien said, would love to do business with the state, but no state official has yet broached the subject.

"We know that the deal has to work for the state and the Minnesota taxpayers," Toolien said, but "we can't keep doing one-year deals. We can't. It just doesn't work."

## Snow removal costs

The House passed a proposal Feb. 27 to mark \$20 million to help cities and counties recoup some of their weather-related costs. The vote was 131-1.

Sponsored by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), **HF100** would authorize the commissioner of public safety, the governor, and the Legislature to appropriate grant money to cities, counties, and towns for recent se-

vere weather-related matters. Most of the appropriations would be matched by federal emergency funds.

The funds would be divided into three parts: \$7 million to the disaster areas; \$7 million to all units of government to cover this year's costs; and \$6 million to handle spring floods.

"This was the worst winter in 50 years by some estimates; 100 years by others," said Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), who spoke in favor of the funding. Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said township budgets in his district are overwhelmed by snow removal costs. "It illustrates that the funding is direly needed," Seifert said.

Wenzel added that the money would be equitably distributed and said that more damage occurred this winter than the state could pay for.

**HF100** now moves to the Senate.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### U of M regents selected

After initially generating considerable controversy over the selection process, the Minnesota Legislature elected five new regents to the University of Minnesota without debate. The vote was conducted in a joint session of the House and Senate on Feb. 27.

The new regents are:

- **First District:** Bryan Neel, an incumbent regent and a doctor at Rochester's Mayo Clinic (169 votes) over Thomas Stoa, a doctor practicing in La Crosse, Wis., (25 votes).

- **Fourth District:** David Metzen, superintendent of the South St. Paul schools (177 votes) over Carol Erickson, superintendent of the Roseville School District (18 votes).

- **Fifth District:** Michael O'Keefe, an incumbent regent and executive vice president of the McKnight Foundation (194 votes). No other candidates were nominated for the post.

- **Sixth District:** Maureen Reed, a doctor and HealthPartners medical director for contracted care (194 votes) over Harry Sieben Jr., a former House speaker (1 vote).

- **Seventh District:** Bob Bergland, a former secretary of agriculture (176 votes) over former state representative Bob Anderson (19 votes), who was nominated on the House floor by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls).

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 enrolled 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 were available this year because of the October 1996 resignation of Regent Jean Keffler. (Gov. Arne Carlson appointed O'Keefe to temporarily fill Keffler's seat).

Ninety-one candidates applied for the open seats this year, and 23 of them were interviewed by the Regent Candidate Advisory Council, a panel created in 1988 to screen candidates for the board. (See Feb. 7, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 10.)



University of Minnesota regent candidate Bryan Neel, First Congressional District, kept a vote tally as members of the House and Senate voted to elect the University of Minnesota Board of Regents Feb. 27. Neel was elected along with four others.

## Instructors and technology

College students on some campuses don't have to worry if they miss a lecture; they can review the material or consult with faculty members via their own computer stations. They can also find material on topics and subjects from sources around the world and gain access to leaders in a desired field of study. Students can learn a foreign language and even earn a degree through the electronic media.

Many schools use such services as a selling point to prospective students. Bemidji State University even uses multimedia to sell its campus — a CD-ROM can now replace the publication the school would normally send to potential enrollees.

Still, not everyone is sold on the benefits of the escalating use of technology for teaching students.

The subject was discussed Feb. 24 by the House Education Committee's Higher Education Finance Division. Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) said she has heard from college instructors who fear that technology will replace them. James Bensen, president of Bemidji State University, put those fears to rest.

"On our campus, the opposite is so. We thought we might have 20 faculty members opt to become involved in our electronic academy. Instead, we have 60. There is so much excitement because what they're seeing is not only a chance to interact with students on campus, but students anywhere in the world. It puts the faculty on the front end of the curve," Bensen said.

Marvin Marshak, vice president of Academic Affairs at the University of Minnesota, concurred. "You can't have students sitting by themselves at computers and learning that way," he said. "Technology relieves faculty of the repetitive, lower-value parts of teaching, and frees them to do the really important parts, which is to engage students, challenge them, help them question their ideas, and learn how to analyze problems."

Further discussion on the issue is expected, particularly in light of Gov. Arne Carlson's budget recommendations that call for a record number of dollars to be spent on technology in the schools.

## Saving for education

A bill to help parents save for their children's college years was approved Feb. 25 by the House Education Committee.

**HF130** would make affordable, tax-free bonds available from the state. Bill sponsor

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) said the aim of his proposal is to assist middle-income families who may not qualify for some financial aid programs but are hard-pressed to pay out-of-pocket for a child's college education.

Under the bill, the Department of Finance would be required to make the general obligation bonds sold to finance state construction projects available at a lower cost. Currently, the bonds are sold at a minimum \$5,000 denomination. The bill calls for bonds as small as \$500 to be made available.

Anyone could buy the smaller bonds, but the bill includes provisions designed to encourage their purchase for college savings.

First, the bill stipulates that up to \$25,000 in bonds would not count against a student when determining eligibility for state grants. Second, the bill would allow employees to use a payroll deduction plan to purchase the bonds, thus decreasing the employee's taxable income. (See Feb. 14, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 7.)

Carlson said his bill would set up a program, dubbed Gopher State Bonds, similar to ones already in place in 24 other states. The first state to try it was Illinois, Carlson said, and the response there was very positive.

The bill drew bipartisan support in the Education Committee.

"It just makes an awful lot of sense," said Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel), who praised the simplicity of the plan to allow parents to reap the benefits of the ongoing practice of state bond sales.

Carlson sponsored a similar bill in 1996, which passed the House but failed to win Senate approval.

The bill now goes to the House Capital Investment Committee.



## INDUSTRY

### Taconite help

Minnesota's taconite producers face substantial challenges in the coming years and need \$4 million from the Legislature to remain competitive, industry representatives told the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee Feb. 26.

**HF409**, sponsored by Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), would provide the industry with \$4 million from the state general fund to construct a new high tech processing facility that produces taconite pellets containing a much higher percentage of iron. Known as Direct Reduction Iron (DRI), the pellets contain 93 percent iron, compared to the 64

percent found in the product now in production.

"This is . . . a critical first step in saving an industry that doesn't need saving today or tomorrow, but possibly 10 or 20 years down the road," Solberg told the committee.

The entire facility, said Minnesota Iron and Steel Company (MIS) Chair and Chief Executive Officer Robert Greer, would cost more than \$650 million. The legislative dollars, he said, represent seed money to get the project off the ground. The plant, would almost assuredly be built by MIS.

Other industry representatives told the committee that the Iron Range is in danger of losing its place as a leader in the industry, which is why the Legislature must act now to provide the funding. Other facilities, located for the most part in foreign countries, are heavily subsidized by their governments and have already moved to DRI, putting Minnesota behind the competitive eight ball.

Moreover, the technology will shift again, to producing steel directly from taconite ore, said Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board Commissioner Jim Gustafson.

"The timing is very critical for the state of Minnesota," Gustafson said. "The window of opportunity is very narrow because everybody is going to be building these" new production facilities.

MIS, Solberg said, is working to line up private investors to finance the remainder of the project's cost, but the company may come back to the state for more money sometime down the road.

The committee approved **HF409** and sent the bill to its Economic Development Finance Division.



## INSURANCE

### Direct care for women

A bill that would forbid health insurers from requiring women to obtain a referral to see an obstetrician or a gynecologist passed the House Feb. 24. The vote was 132-0.

**HF447**, sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), would require that insurance companies and health maintenance organizations allow female enrollees direct access to obstetricians and gynecologists.

Under the bill, women would have to be allowed to schedule an appointment with an obstetrician or gynecologist without prior approval from the insurer or a referral from a "gatekeeper" primary care physician.



Direct access to an obstetrician or gynecologist would be required for annual examinations, any subsequent treatment deemed necessary by the specialist, maternity care, and treatment of acute or emergency conditions. Companies would be barred from charging women extra for direct access. (See Feb. 21, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 7.)

The bill now goes to the Senate.



## TAXES

### Senior tax break

Senior citizens struggling to keep up with burgeoning taxes in the face of increasing property values could defer their payments under three identical bills heard by the House Taxes Committee's Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division Feb. 24.

Many senior citizens on fixed or low incomes, said Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), who sponsored **HF633**, are "scared to death" that they will be forced to leave their homes because they can't pay their taxes. This legislation, she said, would provide them one more option.

The bills — **HF230**, **HF633**, and **HF732** — would allow senior citizens with incomes of under \$30,000 who are not delinquent in previous assessments to put off property tax payments that exceed 5 percent of their household income. The deferrals could not exceed three-quarters of the value of their home. The state would pay the tab and issue a lien, subject to a 5-percent interest rate, against the property for the deferred amount.

The deferral would end, and the taxes would be due within 90 days, when the property is sold, when the owner dies or chooses to opt out of the program, or when the property no longer qualifies as a homestead. The bills are similar to a measure passed by the House in both 1995 and 1996 that did not become law.

"This is not an answer, but an option for senior citizens if we're not going to do any serious property tax reform," Murphy said. "Rising property taxes should not be the deciding factor if they're going to leave their home or not."

The division referred **HF230** to the full Taxes Committee.



## TRANSPORTATION

### Tightening title transfers

Car buyers who fail to promptly transfer the title on the vehicle would face new penalties, under a bill approved Feb. 26 by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

Bill sponsor Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina) said **HF609** would help the state to "squeeze down on those folks who are in violation" of state law.

Some car buyers do not transfer the title on a vehicle for a variety of reasons, Erhardt said. For example, the buyer may not want to pay for insurance or may not have a driver's license. (State law requires proof of insurance and a valid driver's license to obtain a title.)

When a title is not transferred, problems can arise for car sellers, who may be held liable for parking tickets or other infractions that occur after the vehicle has been sold.

Currently, it is a misdemeanor for a buyer to fail to apply for a title transfer within 14 days of acquiring a vehicle. The bill would give buyers just 10 days to apply for a title transfer and to pay the necessary fees.

The Department of Public Safety would

suspend the registration on the vehicle if the buyer does not transfer the title within 10 days of the sale, under the bill.

If the vehicle registration is suspended, the buyer would have to pay an additional \$5 reinstatement fee along with the normal title transfer charges. If, after 14 days, the buyer still has not transferred the title, an additional \$2 charge will be applied.

Also, law enforcement officers could impound a vehicle if the registration has been suspended because the buyer failed to transfer the title.

Erhardt sponsored a similar bill in 1995. The measure passed the House but stalled in a House-Senate conference committee.

**HF609** now goes to the House floor.

### Turn up the volume

A bill that would have allowed Minnesota police officers to ticket motorists who play their car stereos at a volume that "unreasonably disturbs the peace and quiet of a person nearby," failed on the House floor Feb. 27. The vote was 58-72.

Under **HF86**, sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), a violation would occur if sound from a radio, tape, or compact disc player is "plainly audible" at a distance of 100 feet or more from a vehicle. Violators would face a petty misdemeanor charge, which carries a fine of up to \$200.

Stanek, a Minneapolis police officer, said he wanted a law that "law enforcement could use to address quality-of-life issues."

But many members had reservations. "This bill could declare open season on kids," said Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm). "Anyone playing a stereo gives the police an open invitation to stop them. This is ridiculous."

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) saw otherwise. "It's ridiculous how others expand their own rights to stomp all over the peace and quiet of others."

The legislation would not have interfered with the right of municipalities to enact their own noise abatement laws. Several cities, including Minneapolis and St. Paul, already have ordinances related to loud car stereos. Stanek's bill would have provided a statewide standard for car stereo use.

Despite the House vote, **HF86** is not officially dead. After the floor vote, lawmakers reconsidered the bill and referred it to the House Judiciary Committee for more work.



Susan Downing, left, a St. Paul citizen concerned about education, talked with Mary Martin, a visiting scholar from the University of Minnesota's Center for Advance Feminist Study, during the Women Come to the Capitol event Feb. 24. Martin collected pieces of poetry, prose, collage, drawings, and photos to make a collaborative art form called a Zine (a photocopied publication) to commemorate the event.



## VETERANS

### Gulf War bonuses

The Minnesota Legislature has paid out bonuses to Minnesota veterans of every major war “since the beginning of time,” according to Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City). This session, Minnesota’s Persian Gulf War veterans came a step closer to receiving theirs.

Osskopp and Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) are sponsoring a bill that would spend \$17.3 million to pay bonuses to 44,000 Minnesota Gulf War veterans. It was approved by both the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee and the House Government Operations Committee Feb. 24 and Feb. 25, respectively.

Last November, voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment to allow the state to appropriate money to pay the bonuses. The bill, **HF444**, outlines how to distribute the money.

In addition to the \$17.3 million, another \$250,000 would be spent on the administrative costs of advertising the bonuses’ availability, the application process, and issuing the checks.

The bill would apportion bonuses at three levels. About 13,200 veterans who are eligible for the Southwest Asia Service Medal — essentially those who served within the war zone — would each receive \$600. Another 30,500 veterans who were preparing to be shipped overseas would receive \$300 each. The families of nine Minnesota soldiers killed in the war would receive \$2,000 each.

The bonuses are identical to those paid to veterans of the Vietnam War with one exception — families who lost a loved one during that war received \$1,000.

Only Minnesota veterans who served between Aug. 2, 1990, and July 31, 1991, would be eligible for the bonus money. Applications would be accepted from Nov. 1, 1997, to June 30, 1999. The program would be administered by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, which would make applications available through local service organizations, such as Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion groups.

Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) sought assurance that the bonus money could not be taken from homeless veterans to satisfy liens. The bill stipulates that the payments are tax-free and are not “subject to garnishment, attachment, or levy of execution.”

Wejcman and several other committee members also questioned how to handle payments to veterans in mental health, substance abuse, or other treatment programs.

Jeff Olson, deputy commissioner for the Department of Veterans Affairs, said that further study is required to determine if the bonus money could be withheld until program completion.

The timing of the bill’s passage from the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee coincided with the six-year anniversary of the first day of Gulf War ground action, according to Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin).

**HF444** now moves to the House floor.



**Speaking in support of a bill** requiring rural cities and counties to work with the state on land-use planning, Glenn Dorfman of the Minnesota Association of Realtors said, “As a New York transplant to Minnesota, I think anything we can do to get passive-aggressive Minnesotans to talk to each other should be supported.”

Among the first women to serve in the Minnesota House of Representatives was a twentysomething “flapper” whose idealism and determination thwarted attempts to dismiss her.

Dubbed by the press as the “flapper legislator,” Myrtle Cain, a women’s labor union activist from Minneapolis, drew national attention by introducing legislation to combat the Ku Klux Klan, and she led an early attempt to pass equal rights legislation.

Historical documents are unclear about Cain’s precise age when, in 1923, she joined three other women in being the first females to enter the state House. Most records estimate she was born around the turn of century and was in her early 20s when she came to the Capitol.

Cain was raised in a working-class Minneapolis household and worked for the Telephone Operators Union, where she was a leader in its first strike in 1918. She also was active in the Women’s Trade Union League of Minneapolis and the National Woman’s Party.

In the wake of the success of the women’s suffrage movement, Cain felt compelled to seek public office. A pro-

## Do you know?



**Myrtle Cain, among the first women to serve in the Minnesota House of Representatives, was a twenty something “flapper” who introduced legislation to combat the Ku Klux Klan and led an early attempt to pass equal rights legislation.**

Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

union platform won her election in 1922 from a labor stronghold in Minneapolis.

Cain’s youth, good looks, and liberal ideas brought her the “flapper legislator” and “working girl legislator” tags and provided grist for those clinging to the notion

that politics ought to be solely a man’s game.

However, her work in the Legislature demonstrated that she belonged. Cain authored an anti-Ku Klux Klan measure making it illegal to appear in public with a masked face. Fifteen states imitated Cain’s idea. (The Minnesota law was altered in 1995 to allow concealed faces for religious reasons and for protection from weather.)

After the 1923 session, Theodore Christianson, who served with Cain in the Legislature and later became governor, described Cain as “a quiet and painstaking worker who shunned the limelight consistently.”

In 1924, Cain, along with the three other female incumbents and six female newcomers, sought election to the House. Eight of the women lost that year, including Cain, who fell to a male opponent by a margin of 39 votes.

Cain was never again elected to public office, but she returned to the Capitol in 1973 to speak in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment, a national proposal similar to the measure she sponsored on the state level 50 years earlier.

Revised budget forecast . . .

## Governor wants tax refund for all Minnesotans

A new state budget forecast predicting a surplus topping \$2 billion has Gov. Arne Carlson calling for a one-time tax refund and legislative leaders offering ideas of their own.

At a Feb. 27 press conference, Carlson revealed the specifics of the latest state budget forecast, which all sides agree paints a rosy picture of Minnesota's economic situation.

A forecast budget surplus last estimated in November 1996 to be \$1.4 billion has grown to \$2.3 billion on the strength of steady economic growth and lower than expected spending, according to the latest figures from the Department of Finance. (The forecast predicts the balance in state coffers at the end of the 1998-99 biennium based on spending and revenue estimates.)

The governor is pitching a plan to devote \$750 million to a tax refund program he says would return an average of \$400 to each taxpayer. The minimum refund would be \$50 and the maximum would be \$900 for a single filer or \$1,800 for a couple filing jointly.

"Bear in mind, this is their money," Carlson said. "This is their opportunity to celebrate, and this day really is for them."

Carlson also hopes to commit \$250 million of surplus revenues to what he described as "modest, incremental" property tax reform targeting commercial, industrial, and rental properties. Under Carlson's proposal,



House Republican Leader Steve Sviggum holds up a sample tax refund check for \$1,000 at a press conference Feb. 27. House Republicans are proposing to send \$1.3 billion of the state budget surplus back to the taxpayer through income tax rebates.

However, House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) and Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) both vowed to seek a different brand of tax reform from what Carlson is proposing.

"We're definitely interested in tax relief for the citizens of Minnesota," Carruthers said. "We want to focus on property tax relief."

"... We believe that this is an opportunity — one that we haven't had for a long time —

"It's wonderful growth, but we have to keep in mind that the economy is cyclical," he said. "We should put resources aside to deal with that."

House Republicans also have a plan of their own — one that is similar to the governor's. The House GOP plan calls for \$1.3 billion of surplus revenues to be devoted to taxpayer refunds, which would be capped at \$1,500 for a family of three.

"It's the taxpayers' money, and they should get it back. It's that simple," said House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon). "If we don't give it back, the Legislature will spend it."

"Instead of debating whether we have a rebate, we should be debating the size of the rebate."

Despite the differences of opinion, Carlson said he is optimistic that consensus can be reached on major issues, such as reforms in the property tax system and in education, during this legislative session.

In fact, the governor is so optimistic he said there is "no reason why we can't close [the session] earlier than expected."

At the same time, Carlson vowed to oppose legislative proposals that would require new, long-term spending commitments. Such spending, the governor said, could thrust the state into a situation similar to "the darkness of 1991," when he entered office facing a \$1.8 billion deficit.

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***"We believe that this is an opportunity — one that we haven't had for a long time — to make some fundamental property tax reform and relief and provide that to the citizens of Minnesota."***

***—House Speaker Phil Carruthers***

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that \$250 million would go toward property tax relief in 1999 as the first piece of a three-year, \$900 million property tax cut.

The governor also hopes to use surplus revenues to fund initiatives in early childhood development and education, including a proposed \$150 million for tax credits intended to help parents of school-age children to afford private school tuition or other educational expenses such as tutoring.

Leaders of DFL caucuses in both legislative chambers also welcomed the news of the latest economic forecast, and they echoed the governor's call for tax reforms.

to make some fundamental property tax reform and relief and provide that to the citizens of Minnesota."

Neither Carruthers nor Moe said they plan to support the governor's plan to send refunds to taxpayers.

"We don't believe that a one-time check to people is the kind of reform that will be meaningful," Moe said. Instead, he said, lawmakers should pursue "real property tax relief" that is not just "a short-term fix."

Moe also responded to the latest economic forecast with a call for caution among lawmakers.

***— Nick Healy***



# Stadium proposal raises roof, lowers public risk

Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) and Sen. Jerry Janezich (DFL-Chisholm) announced Feb. 24 that they will soon introduce legislation creating a partnership between the state and the Minnesota Twins to build a new outdoor baseball stadium. Under the deal, the state would assume 49 percent ownership of the Twins.

The new proposal alters a previous plan announced by Gov. Arne Carlson Jan. 8, and is the result of ongoing negotiations between the two legislators, the governor's Chief of Staff Morrie Anderson, Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission President Henry Savelkoul, and representatives of the Pohlads family, which owns the Twins.

The new plan removes the retractable roof from the stadium. Otherwise, the building design remains much the same. Raising the roof lowers the total construction cost from around \$350 million to about \$285 million, not counting land acquisition costs. "The ballpark was designed to work with or without the roof," said Twins President Jerry Bell.

"With no roof, there will be lost revenues," Bell said. "We're not giving up



Twins president Jerry Bell, left, watches as Twins stars past and present Harmon Killebrew, center, and Paul Monitor, right, unveil the model of a new Twins baseball stadium during a recent press conference at the Mall of America, the former site of Minnesota's last outdoor professional ballpark.

would have to repay. Many lawmakers regarded the wording as misleading. Bell said that calling the \$82.5 million a "contribution" in the original plan was business lingo for "financing" and had been misinterpreted. "It was a mistake," Bell said.

If the state decides to add the roof later, the Pohlads would still make the

million and under the proposal would be paid for by a 10-cent-per-pack cigarette tax hike and by an unspecified ticket tax.

Local government, presumably Minneapolis, would be responsible for providing a site for the stadium and an additional \$3 million annual subsidy.

In return for its \$250 million, the state would get a 49-percent share of the Twins operation, and the team would sign a 30-year lease on the stadium. The Twins' current estimated market value is \$105 million. An appraisal will be conducted to determine the team's true value.

The Pohlads would be locked into the agreement through April 1, 2006. At that time, they could ask the state to buy out their share of the Twins.

"I would say there is substantially less risk to the public [in the new plan]," said Anderson.

Acknowledging that the plan has few supporters in the Legislature, Rest said, "We are committed to changing one mind at a time."

— Steve Compton

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***"The retractable roof is something we can discuss later."***

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—Rep. Ann H. Rest

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on the roof, but we see that it's impractical at this time to keep it in the proposal."

"The retractable roof is something we can discuss later," Rest said.

Along with the roof, the Pohlads also are removing an \$82.5 million loan from the table. Originally presented to lawmakers and the public as a contribution, it was later revealed that the money was intended to be a loan which the state

\$82.5 million loan available.

This time, the Pohlads are offering a no-strings-attached \$15 million donation to the project. The Twins also relinquish their claim on up to \$25 million of up-front project revenues from naming and concession rights. Unlike the previous plan, the Pohlads would assume all responsibility for operating losses.

The state's portion of the construction cost is estimated to be about \$250

# Conflicting public opinion makes lawmaking tough



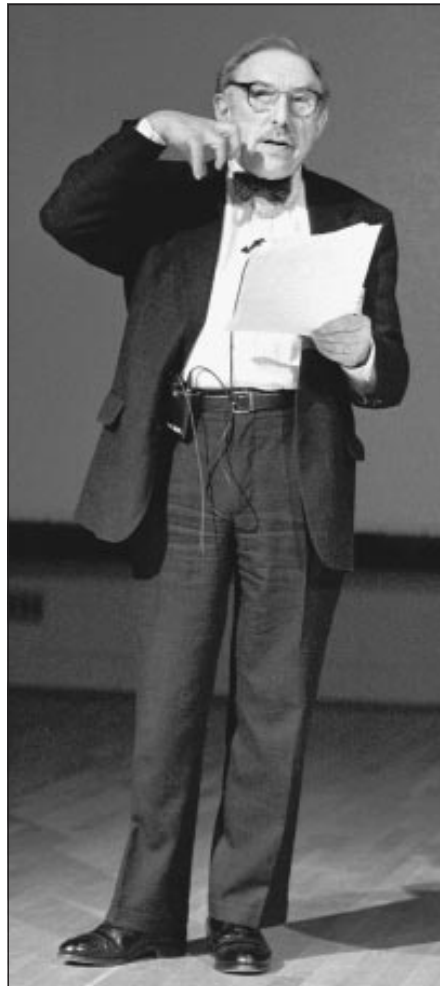
According to public opinion, America is a seething mass of contradictions — politically, economically, and socially — more so now than ever, and policymakers would be wise to understand that, a prominent pollster told a group of legislators Feb. 25.

“Public opinion is a very important part of our country,” said Charles H. White, whom President Bill Clinton appointed to the National Commission for Employment Policy in August 1994. “In many ways, it’s more important now . . . because it’s a good indicator of how the American people feel about how things are going.”

White is the vice chair of Yankelovich and Partners, which provides research and consulting services to a variety of corporations and government agencies. He has been an outspoken advocate for the nonprofit sector. White made his remarks at the Minnesota History Center’s 3M Auditorium, the third speaker in the Capitol Forum Series sponsored by Minnesota Technology, Inc. and the McKnight Foundation. The series is designed to present legislators with a more expansive view of the circumstances in which they make policy decisions.

White opened his lecture by explaining what he called the “complicated process” that determines public opinion. He outlined four distinct phases through which an issue travels before it registers on the societal consciousness: awareness, identification, formation of attitudes, and behavior.

This process, he said, extends to all aspects



Politicians should be careful not to dismiss public opinion in the U.S. because no matter how contradictory, “it’s a good indicator of how the American people feel about how things are going,” according to Charles H. White, vice chair of Yankelovich and Partners, which provides research and consulting services to a variety of corporations and government agencies. He spoke as part of the Capitol Forum Series Feb. 26.

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*“He’s talking about what public opinion is. It’s up to us, as public officials, to tie into that public perception, to try and understand, ‘Why does someone feel that way?’ and to try and turn the tide.”*

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—Rep. Phil Krinkie

of society — politics, business, nonprofits, ethics, and social issues — and, upon closer examination, reveals that Americans have experienced a profound transformation since the 1950s. A nation that once believed what’s good for General Motors is good for the country now views corporations as faceless

entities driven relentlessly by the bottom line with no regard for the consequences of their actions.

Similarly, many people believe they are better off now than their parents were at the same age, but feel that their children won’t be. Contradictions such as this abound, White said.

In an effort to explain the seeming reversal of attitudes, White traced a brief social history. He contrasted the relatively naive attitudes of the 1950s and early 1960s with the cynicism that emerged in the late 1960s and bloomed into dark flower with Watergate and the 1980s corporate, free-for-all frenzy.

“We came to a point at which it became clear that some of our policies caused high divorce rates and increased drug use and drop-out rates,” White said. “The whole morality question became one for all of us.”

As a result, he said, people feel positively about the country, but not too deeply. They want big changes in education and a devolution in government. They’re down on big business, particularly corporate media monopolies, yet they want more information quicker — they just won’t always use it. They want a better quality of life, but they’re unsure of how to measure it.

All of these conclusions, White said, have implications for legislators, who must redefine the role government plays in people’s lives. Government, he said, does not bear all the responsibility for the social ills and cannot shoulder all the burden of addressing them.

Government can focus on the lopsided economy and welfare system, which White called the “defining challenge of our time.” It can also define goals and a means of measuring success; it can organize itself and the nonprofit sector more effectively to deal with problems.

“Thousands are suffering,” White said, “but we haven’t put together the government, the nonprofits, and the idea of individual responsibility.”

Indeed, White’s comments rang true, several legislators said after the lecture, but noted that White was not the first to present them.

“A lot of it is information we’ve had in the past,” said Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda). “I think the salient issue he had is the performance evaluators . . . the value of government can’t be sold if there’s not some way to show it.”

And there’s certainly no disputing the value of well-conducted public opinion polling, said Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview).

“He’s talking about what public opinion is,” Krinkie said. “It’s up to us, as public officials, to tie into that public perception, to try and understand, ‘Why does someone feel that way?’ and to try and turn the tide.”

— F.J. Gallagher

New members . . .

## For Westfall, fewer laws often can be a better solution

It seems some Minnesota lawmakers were born political, reared in households where opinions on current events were passed at the dinner table along with the potatoes and



Rep. Bob Westfall

green beans. Others were not, and talk of family and farming dominated meals.

"I grew up in a family that wasn't very political," said Rep. Bob Westfall (R-Rothsay).

His parents didn't discuss politics at home and wouldn't tell their children who they voted for. "They said that was a secret."

But since 1962, when he attended his first precinct caucus, Westfall has not been shy in expressing his opinions among the Republican faithful. At that first caucus, he was elected a delegate to the county convention. "I don't think I've missed a caucus or convention since then," he said.

Westfall's first run for public office led to a six-year stint on the Rothsay School Board in the 1970s. Later, he served four years on the board of the West Central Education Cooperative Service Unit (WCECSU) at Fergus Falls. WCECSU is one of nine Education Cooperative Service Units in the state that provide a range of shared educational services to schools.

He was first exposed to the Legislature on lobbying trips to St. Paul for WCECSU in the early 1980s. But he said those lobbying trips

didn't whet his appetite to become a lawmaker. "It just didn't appeal to me at the time," Westfall said.

He did, however, answer the Republican party's call to duty and challenged District 9 Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon) in 1990.

"The party needed a candidate, and nobody else wanted to run," Westfall said. He lost by nearly 6,000 votes.

Two years later, Westfall again was recruited, this time to challenge District 9B DFL incumbent Rep. Marvin Dauner. He lost by more than 2,500 votes.

In a second shot at Dauner's seat in 1994, however, Westfall came within 543 votes of winning. The term would be Dauner's last. He announced that he would not run again in 1996.

Westfall's persistence paid off in 1996 when he defeated the DFL-endorsed candidate John Young by 321 votes for the vacant seat.

With his wife, Darlene, and his oldest son back home minding the family's crop and livestock farm, Westfall is now devoting his full attention to representing his district's concerns at the Legislature. Along the North Dakota border in the west central Minnesota district, property taxes are a big issue.

"Property tax reform, everybody wants it," Westfall said. The solution is to hold the line on spending. "Our mentality is that someone else is going to pay for it. People have to realize that if we are going to spend, we [all] have got to pay for it."

He is also hearing from retailers back home

who are upset about Gov. Arne Carlson's proposal to pay for a new stadium for the Minnesota Twins with a 10-cent tobacco tax increase. "They say they are already getting too much competition from the Indian casino." (Nearby Shooting Star Casino is able to sell tobacco free from state taxes.)

Westfall also campaigned on term limits for state officials and plans to introduce pertinent legislation, although he admits its chances of passage are slim.

While some have come to the Capitol with a detailed agenda, Westfall subscribes to the theory that no government action can often be a better solution.

"If there is a need, I'll definitely do the best I can," said the Republican farmer from Rothsay, Minn. "But I didn't come [to the Legislature] with the idea of being the first out of the chute with a bill."

— Steve Compton

### District 9B

**1996 population:** 34,572

**Largest city:** Breckenridge

**Counties:** Becker, Clay, Otter Tail, and Wilkin

**Location:** northwestern Minnesota

**Top concern:** "I think we need to keep some of our school funding local, so that we can control [the schools] locally. School boards spend too much time on state mandates. I don't think any state mandate should go out without the funding to back it up."

—Rep. Bob Westfall



Marquis Maggie, left, and Ho Nguyen, fifth graders at Anderson Open School in Minneapolis, testified before the K-12 Education Finance Division of the Education Committee Feb. 26 in support of a bill that would expand a pilot breakfast program established in 1994.



New members . . .

## Paymar brings urban voice to help all Minnesotans

It's no coincidence that the office of Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) belonged to his predecessor, fellow DFLer and District 64B Rep. Howard Orenstein.



Rep. Michael Paymar

"I asked for it. I felt it would be good karma," Paymar said. That's because Orenstein not only served as co-chair of Paymar's campaign committee, he left office well-liked after a decade of service. "If, after I've served in office, people talk about me the way I heard them talk about Howard, I'll be very happy."

While the Capitol hallways are new to Paymar, he is no stranger to elective politics. He served eight years as a member of Duluth's city council, including a term as president, which gives him a fairly good handle on the legislative process, he said. Still, he's struck by the difference in mass between state and city governing bodies.

"In Duluth, I was one of nine members. Now I'm one of 134, plus the Senate and all the departments and commissions. The state is huge. It's an awesome responsibility."

Having grown up in the Duluth area and living now in St. Paul, Paymar said he has a broad perspective on state policy issues. His family background has made him sensitive to even larger themes.

"My mother did a lot to help me see the impact of racism and discrimination. She was very angry about racism, and that strongly influenced who I am. It made me determined to do my part to stop injustice," he said.

Part of his mother's perspective came from

losing family members to the Holocaust. "I was born eight years after [World War II] ended. I was indoctrinated on the Holocaust," Paymar said. It led to civic activism and the peace and civil rights movements while still in his teens, starting with a memorial march after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Neighborhood activism and work on environmental causes would follow.

Paymar moved to St. Paul in 1989 when his wife, Susan Askelin, took a job in Dakota County. Their children, Jason, 28, and Nicole, 22, also live and work in the Twin Cities. Paymar said the peace and stability of the Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods that he represents do not insulate him from concern about the city's overall health. From his seat on the Judiciary Committee, Paymar is in a position to help.

"I have a 15-year history in working against domestic violence. I hope to influence the way we approach crime prevention. It's a critical issue in St. Paul," Paymar said.

Paymar has written two books: *Violent No More: Helping Men End Domestic Abuse*, a self-help book for violent and abusive men who want to change their behavior; and *Education Groups for Men Who Batter: The Duluth Model*, an academic book for practitioners who work with men who are violent. The model is being used by over 300 programs throughout the country, Paymar said.

Property tax reform is another of his other priorities.

"One thing I heard over and over during the campaign is frustration that reform gets discussed, argued over, and debated, but nothing ever happens." He worries that the heavy tax burden will drive people from St.

Paul and into the suburbs, only worsening urban sprawl — another issue of concern to him. He said the property tax code should be simplified so that people can better judge whether it's fair. He also believes that there is widespread, bipartisan support for the state to assume a greater portion of public education funding, which would reduce the amount that comes from property taxes.

Paymar said he'd fight urban sprawl by strengthening the authority of the Metropolitan Council and having its members be elected, rather than appointed. Addressing urban concerns — across party lines — can benefit all Minnesotans, he said.

"This is a pivotal time for the metro area, in which we have to address the social problems creeping into the entire state. There will be less rancor and political bickering between the parties, and more cooperation this session. All of us need to be sympathetic to the needs of legislators throughout the state."

— Celeste Riley

### District 64B

**1996 population:** 32,468

**Largest city:** St. Paul

**County:** Ramsey

**Location:** inner city

**Top concern:** "All neighborhoods need to work together for stronger community. It's important to expand the tax base, increase the quality of the schools, assure safe streets, and provide opportunities for our children. I'm going to do what I can to assure that the state is furthering those goals."

—Rep. Michael Paymar

### Where to find information

#### Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

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

#### House Index Department

211 State Capitol (612) 296-6646

The House Index Department, a part of the Chief Clerk's Office, has a computerized index available for public use. House Index

lists bills by committee, topic, author, file number, and other categories. The office can also give you the current status of legislation.

#### House Television Services

216C State Capitol (612) 297-1338

This office is responsible for live coverage of House floor sessions and some committee hearings. Since 1996, such coverage has been aired in the Twin Cities area on

KTCI-TV, Channel 17. Beginning in mid-March 1997, the House will broadcast via satellite statewide. Outstate residents should check with local cable operators for time and channel information or the office's Web site at: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hvtv/hvtv.ssi>

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

# Bill Introductions

HF890-HF1087

## Monday, Feb. 24

**HF890—Entenza (DFL)  
Commerce, Tourism  
& Consumer Affairs**

New motor vehicle dealer licensure requirements provided.

**HF891—Harder (R)  
Education**

Independent School District No. 638, Sanborn, authorized to enter into an interdistrict cooperation agreement.

**HF892—Rukavina (DFL)  
Labor-Management Relations**

Minimum wage increased, and large and small employer requirements specified.

**HF893—Delmont (DFL)  
Education**

Independent School District No. 12, Centennial, class size reduction project established, and money appropriated.

**HF894—Olson, E. (DFL)  
Education**

Minnesota undergraduate college and university tuition scholarship trust fund established, and money appropriated.

**HF895—Kinkel (DFL)  
Education**

State colleges and universities board of regents and board of trustees provisions modified.

**HF896—Sykora (R)  
Education**

Community and school services and children and family support program funding provided, and money appropriated.

**HF897—Greiling (DFL)  
Education**

School district superintendent performance contracts authorized, and salary increases provided.

**HF898—Tompkins (R)  
Health & Human Services**

Health plan company willing provider acceptance required, and expanded network and point-of-service options eliminated.

**HF899—Bishop (R)  
Judiciary**

Dodge-Fillmore-Olmsted community corrections agency productive day pilot project operation provided, and money appropriated.

**HF900—Erhardt (R)  
Governmental Operations**

Legislators retirement defined contribution plan coverage provided.

**HF901—Wejcman (DFL)  
Economic Development  
& International Trade**

Minnesota employment center for deaf and hard-of-hearing people funded, and money appropriated.

**HF902—Entenza (DFL)  
Judiciary**

Public official telephone record data classification provisions modified.

**HF903—Peterson (DFL)  
Agriculture**

Infected cattle herd identification program established, and money appropriated.

**HF904—Larsen (R)  
Education**

Student tobacco use reporting required.

**HF905—Pugh (DFL)  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs  
& Elections**

Legislature reduced in size, term limits imposed, partially unicameral legislature provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF906—Kuisle (R)  
Transportation & Transit**

Farm machinery tax exemption provisions modified, and farm machinery speed limit increase provided.

**HF907—Garcia (DFL)  
Governmental Operations**

Richfield Fire Department relief association benefit increases provided.

**HF908—Pugh (DFL)  
Judiciary**

Prison inmate lawsuit provisions modified and clarified.

**HF909—Pugh (DFL)  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs  
& Elections**

Campaign finance candidate spending limit provisions modified.

**HF910—Greenfield (DFL)  
Health & Human Services**

Indian child welfare defense corporation provided grant to promote compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act, and money appropriated.

**HF911—Koppendrayner (R)  
Education**

Independent School District No. 473, Isle, permitted to begin school year prior to Labor Day.

**HF912—Sviggum (R)  
Judiciary**

Public official communication record data classification provisions modified.

**HF913—Kubly (DFL)  
Agriculture**

Livestock odor research program developed at the University of Minnesota, and money appropriated.

**HF914—Rostberg (R)  
Local Government  
& Metropolitan Affairs**

Commercial property improvement property tax abatement allowed.

**HF915—Osskopp (R)  
Health & Human Services**

Wabasha County intermediate care facility size reduction pilot project authorized.

**HF916—Entenza (DFL)  
Commerce, Tourism  
& Consumer Affairs**

Wine tasting event restrictions modified, and malt liquor consumption authorized at wine tasting events.

**HF917—Vickerman (R)  
Health & Human Services**

Children's mental health programs appropriated money.

**HF918—Skoglund (DFL)  
Judiciary**

DWI; electronic alcohol monitor use mandated during pretrial release and following conviction for certain driving while intoxicated violations.

**HF919—Sykora (R)  
Health & Human Services**

Children in need of protection or services petition uniform process provided, child data access provisions modified, parental right termination grounds modified, father registry established, and child abuse administrative review provided.

**HF920—Hilty (DFL)  
Health & Human Services**

Pine County categorical social service programs provided an alternative grant application process.

**HF921—Haas (R)  
Health & Human Services**

Chemically dependent persons, fugitives, parole violators, and persons with a history of felony drug convictions excluded from general assistance and general assistance medical care programs.

**HF922—Juhnke (DFL)  
Agriculture**

Farmers exempted from tax on gasoline and special fuel received in on-farm bulk storage tanks.

**HF923—Seagren (R)  
Financial Institutions & Insurance**

State-chartered financial institutions authorized to act as trustees of federally qualified medical savings accounts.

**HF924—Abrams (R)  
Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Health plan companies required to disclose certain information to enrollees relating to financial arrangements.

**HF925—Entenza (DFL)  
Judiciary**

Child support obligor data classified, and child support reporting contractor report required.

**HF926—Sviggum (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Municipal tax increment financing district addition provisions modified.

**HF927—Evans (DFL)****Economic Development & International Trade**

Bridges program; rental housing assistance program for persons with a mental illness or families with an adult member with a mental illness appropriated money.

**HF928—Wejcman (DFL)****Education**

Child care service integration demonstration projects established, and money appropriated.

**HF929—Orfield (DFL)****Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Patient protection act adopted, health care consumer assistance program established, and money appropriated.

**HF930—Juhnke (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Nursing facility reimbursement rate modified.

**HF931—Clark (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Community health clinics allowed to offer health care services on a prepaid basis.

**HF932—Wejcman (DFL)****Judiciary**

Public nuisance definition expanded to include zoning and business license violations.

**HF933—Olson, M. (R)****Judiciary**

Correctional facility for recidivists feasibility study provided and task force established, and money appropriated.

**HF934—Wejcman (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Neighborhood revitalization program provisions modified.

**HF935—Marko (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan transit powers transferred from Metropolitan Council to transportation department, and money appropriated.

**HF936—Kahn (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Major league baseball franchise purchase and community ownership provided, stadium construction conditions established, task force created, and money appropriated.

**HF937—Carlson (DFL)****Education**

School district interim superintendent retirement provisions modified.

**HF938—Murphy (DFL)****Governmental Operations**

Corrections employee retirement benefit coverage extended to include certain employees of the Cambridge Regional Human Services Center.

**HF939—Anderson, B. (R)****Judiciary**

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

**HF940—Winter (DFL)****Capital Investment**

Tourism and exposition center previous appropriation provisions modified.

**HF941—Nornes (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Mayor and fire chief offices may be held by the same person under certain circumstances.

**HF942—Wenzel (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Disaster relief account established.

**HF943—Knight (R)****Governmental Operations**

Legislators retirement defined contribution plan coverage provided.

**HF944—Knight (R)****Health & Human Services**

Dental services exempted from MinnesotaCare provider tax.

**HF945—Jaros (DFL)****Economic Development & International Trade**

Independent living centers funded, and money appropriated.

**HF946—Hasskamp (DFL)****Judiciary**

Domestic abuse protection orders from other states provided enforcement, and penalties provided.

**HF947—Wagenius (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Toxics in packaging regulations modified.

**HF948—Wagenius (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Mercury emissions consumer information act of 1997 adopted.

**HF949—Wagenius (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Electric relay and device manufacturers deemed responsible for the waste management costs of these devices.

**HF950—McCollum (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Native ecological habitat information collected and disseminated, and money appropriated.

**HF951—Knight (R)****Governmental Operations**

Unfunded state mandates prohibited.

**HF952—Knight (R)****Education**

University of Minnesota Board of Regents made an elective body, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF953—Knight (R)****General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Legislature reduced in size, term limits imposed, legislative committee organization provided, legislative leaders service limited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF954—Swenson, D. (R)****Judiciary**

Corrections ombudsman jurisdiction clarified and extended.

**HF955—Huntley (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Medical Assistance performance based contracting demonstration projects established for recipients of services from intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation or related conditions.

**HF956—Osthoff (DFL)****Transportation & Transit**

Port development assistance project eligibility criteria modified, project review procedure exemption provided, and money appropriated.

**HF957—Hausman (DFL)****Education**

School district operating learning year program total operating capital revenue provisions modified.

**HF958—Rukavina (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

St. Louis County unorganized territory attachment authorized.

**HF959—Anderson, I. (DFL)****Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Health care policy rates regulated.

**HF960—Rukavina (DFL)****Economic Development & International Trade**

Blind Minnesotans board established, and money appropriated.

**HF961—Greiling (DFL)****Education**

Education supervisory personnel code of ethics established.

**HF962—Schumacher (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Manufactured home park municipal zoning provisions modified.

**HF963—Wagenius (DFL)****Education**

Early reading instruction included as part of teacher candidate curriculum, challenge grants provided, and money appropriated.

**HF964—Murphy (DFL)****Education**

Interactive television revenue use by school districts expanded.

**HF965—Delmont (DFL)****Education**

Community collaboratives for children and youth provided grants, and money appropriated.

**HF966—Garcia (DFL)****Labor-Management Relations**

Employer wage and payment requirement definitions expanded to include the state.



**HF967—Tomassoni (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Horse racing licensee allowed to conduct card club activities.

**HF968—Bradley (R)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
Special transportation service provider medical assistance reimbursement eligibility provisions clarified.

**HF969—Chaudhary (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Criminal alert network responsibilities expanded, and money appropriated.

**HF970—Wejcman (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Minneapolis building contractor licensing requirement exemption expiration removed.

**HF971—Mullery (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Hennepin County radio system facility lease by commercial wireless system authorized.

**HF972—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Ramsey County personnel director eligibility certification provisions modified.

**HF973—Solberg (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Human rights commissioner duties specified, data privacy provisions modified, and cost reimbursement provided.

**HF974—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Noise abatement standard exemption provided for city streets, county highways, and town roads.

**HF975—Hilty (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Aitkin County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

**HF976—Winter (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
CALs; comprehensive advanced life support program funded, and money appropriated.

**HF977—Mullery (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**  
State agency construction contract design-build requirement provided.

**HF978—Goodno (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Omnibus property tax reform bill, and money appropriated.

**HF979—Swenson, D. (R)**  
**Education**  
School district lease purchase or installment buy definitions modified.

**HF980—Davids (R)**  
**Education**  
School district debt service equalization eligibility provisions modified, and money appropriated.

**HF981—Broecker (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Motor vehicles transferred by gift to nonprofit organizations provided sales tax exemption.

**HF982—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Public Safety Department liquor control and gambling enforcement divisions consolidated, and technical corrections provided.

**HF983—Tuma (R)**  
**Education**  
Public post-secondary education funding state payment limits provided.

**HF984—Tuma (R)**  
**Education**  
Higher education student association audits required.

**HF985—Bettermann (R)**  
**Judiciary**  
Firearm carry permit issuance provided, and issuance criteria established.

**HF986—Haas (R)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Political campaign sign posting time limit established.

**HF987—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Biomass electric energy generation personal property use taxation exemption provided.

**HF988—Wejcman (DFL)**  
**Economic Development & International Trade**  
Economic Security Department extended employment program procedures modified.

**HF989—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Education**  
State high school league interschool competition authority modified.

**HF990—Haas (R)**  
**Health & Human Services**  
MinnesotaCare loss ratio standards modified, universal coverage provisions modified, eligibility requirements modified, integrated service network provisions repealed, and money appropriated.

## Thursday, Feb. 27

**HF991—Clark (DFL)**  
**Education**  
Child care facility improvement grants provided, and money appropriated.

**HF992—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Thomson detached banking facility establishment authorized.

**HF993—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Court reporter transcript and copy sales provided sales tax exemption.

**HF994—McElroy (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Relative homestead property tax treatment provided in cases of involuntary absences.

**HF995—McElroy (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Joint truth in taxation hearings allowed.

**HF996—Carruthers (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Northwest Hennepin County community law enforcement project appropriated money.

**HF997—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Rental-purchase agreements regulated, cost-of-lease charges limited, cash price evidence provided, and definitions modified.

**HF998—Biernat (DFL)**  
**Education**  
School district superintendent licensure requirement exemption provided.

**HF999—Seifert (R)**  
**Education**  
Public high school graduation rule profile of learning requirement eliminated.

**HF1000—Long (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Community-based planning act adopted providing sustainable metropolitan development, Metropolitan Council requirements specified, advisory council established, and money appropriated.

**HF1001—Tomassoni (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
Insurance company exclusive agencies regulated, penalties provided for agent rights violations, and enforcement of agreements against terminated agents prohibited.

**HF1002—Farrell (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Fire protection industry regulation modified, and civil penalty provided.

**HF1003—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
Dakota County family group conferencing pilot project established, alleged offender diversion provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1004—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**  
DWI; alcohol presence determination test requirements modified, implied consent hearing process modified, accident injury reports required, and penalties provided.

**HF1005—Tomassoni (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**  
Minnesota insurance guaranty act state law conformance provided with the post-assessment property and liability insurance guaranty association model act of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

**HF1006—Munger (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
State lottery proceeds dedication to Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund duration extended indefinitely, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1007—Pelowski (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Presidential primary elections conducted by mail.

**HF1008—Tuma (R)**  
**Education**

Higher education state grant student share reduced, living and miscellaneous allowance increased, work-study provided for grant recipients, and money appropriated.

**HF1009—Commers (R)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Legislature reduced in size to 53 senators and 106 representatives.

**HF1010—Tomassoni (DFL)**  
**Economic Development & International Trade**

Taconite industry technology research grant program established, and money appropriated.

**HF1011—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Presentence domestic abuse investigation procedures and terminology modified.

**HF1012—Paymar (DFL)**  
**Economic Development & International Trade**

Contamination Cleanup Grant program requirements modified, and money appropriated.

**HF1013—Biernat (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Parent education and cooperation provided in marriage dissolution proceedings involving children, and money appropriated.

**HF1014—Trimble (DFL)**  
**Economic Development & International Trade**

Film production jobs program established, and money appropriated.

**HF1015—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**

Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation provided, bond issuance authorized, and appropriation increase provided.

**HF1016—Leighton (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Child support enforcement provisions modified, driver's license suspension provisions modified, most wanted list published, mandatory jail time required for certain offenders, data disclosure required, and money appropriated.

**HF1017—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Education**

Youth Community Service Program participant eligibility requirements modified, and money appropriated.

**HF1018—Koppendrayner (R)**  
**Education**

Independent School District No. 473, Isle, capital grant authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF1019—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Pistol and semiautomatic military-style assault weapon possession regulated by local units of government.

**HF1020—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Education**

High school graduation incentives grant program established, and money appropriated.

**HF1021—Mariani (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Jobs-plus welfare pilot project established in Ramsey County.

**HF1022—Mariani (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Legal immigrants in Ramsey County provided job training, english language education, and citizenship education, and money appropriated.

**HF1023—Clark (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Women leaving systems of prostitution provided support services, and money appropriated.

**HF1024—Clark (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Patient medical record data use by state agencies restricted.

**HF1025—Clark (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Physicians allowed to prescribe marijuana and tetrahydrocannabinols for the treatment of specified medical conditions.

**HF1026—Clark (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Senior citizen assisted living services pilot project developed, and money appropriated.

**HF1027—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Taxes**

Apartment property tax class rate reduced.

**HF1028—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Education**

Youth Works program repeal removed, Youth Works commission director selection provisions modified, and money appropriated.

**HF1029—Mares (R)**  
**Education**

Teacher background check working group recommendations adopted.

**HF1030—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Agriculture**

Milk transport vehicles provided exemption from local road weight restrictions.

**HF1031—Hasskamp (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Alex and Brandon Frank Child Safety Act adopted, and money appropriated.

**HF1032—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Commerce department powers and duties specified, regulatory provisions modified, and technical corrections provided.

**HF1033—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Consumer and charitable solicitation fraud, deceptive trade practices, and false advertising against elderly or handicapped victims provided criminal penalties.

**HF1034—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Animal cruelty penalties increased and definitions provided.

**HF1035—Johnson, A. (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**

Fair Labor Standards Act wage definition modified.

**HF1036—Macklin (R)**  
**Judiciary**

Government data practices program integrity initiatives established, and child support enforcement registry access provided.

**HF1037—Daggett (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**

Becker County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

**HF1038—Goodno (R)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**

Employee wage protection act adopted, wage protection account established, and money appropriated.

**HF1039—Finseth (R)**  
**Judiciary**

Firearm carry permit issuance eligibility criteria established.

**HF1040—Mariani (DFL)**  
**Environment**

Mississippi River vegetation restoration provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1041—Mulder (R)**  
**Agriculture**

Farmers exempted from tax on gasoline and special fuel received in on-farm bulk storage tanks.

**HF1042—Mulder (R)**  
**Taxes**

Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF1043—Farrell (DFL)**  
**Education**

Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, community-based school construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1044—Farrell (DFL)**  
**Education**

Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, community-based school construction provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1045—Farrell (DFL)**  
**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Insurance surcharges prohibited for automobile accidents in which the insured is a passenger in a bus, taxi, or commuter van.

**HF1046—Tingelstad (R)**  
**Environment**

Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota appropriated money for electronic environmental education network.

**HF1047—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Education**

South Central Minnesota talented youth program appropriated money.

**HF1048—Farrell (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Private detective and protective agent mandatory dismissal provisions modified.

**HF1049—Workman (R)****Transportation & Transit**

Household good mover safety standards established, service area restrictions removed, file tariff requirement provisions modified, and complaint resolution procedures established.

**HF1050—Dorn (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Mankato tax-forfeited land conveyance authorized.

**HF1051—Smith (R)****Judiciary**

Child support and assistance accounting required in marriage dissolution proceedings.

**HF1052—Koppendrayner (R)****Education**

Post-secondary enrollment options act extended to include nonpublic school students.

**HF1053—Pelowski (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

First responder registration program established.

**HF1054—Tunheim (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Individual sewage treatment system requirements modified.

**HF1055—Molnau (R)****Judiciary**

Firearm carry permit issuance eligibility criteria established.

**HF1056—Greenfield (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Nursing home and certified boarding care home receivership provisions modified, and money appropriated.

**HF1057—Greenfield (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Medicare maximization program certification requirement repealed.

**HF1058—Greenfield (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare technical, policy, and administrative modifications and corrections provided.

**HF1059—Gunther (R)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Individual sewage treatment system statewide cost-share program established, and money appropriated.

**HF1060—Smith (R)****Financial Institutions & Insurance**

Homeowner insurance policy nonrenewal provisions modified.

**HF1061—Chaudhary (DFL)****Judiciary**

DWI; criminal penalties, minimum sentences, and administrative sanctions increased for driving while intoxicated offenders with an alcohol concentration of 0.20 or more.

**HF1062—Tomassoni (DFL)****Education**

Historic building revenue eligibility provided to school districts that maintain a school building listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and money appropriated.

**HF1063—Tomassoni (DFL)****Education**

School district retired employee health benefit levy increase provided.

**HF1064—Leppik (R)****Education**

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities mission statement clarified.

**HF1065—Weaver (R)****Judiciary**

Same-sex marriages not recognized or allowed.

**HF1066—Greenfield (DFL)****Transportation & Transit**

Seat belt use failure violation provided primary offense designation.

**HF1067—Wenzel (DFL)****Agriculture**

Milk; President and Congress memorialized to adjust the federal milk marketing order system related to Minnesota family dairy farmers.

**HF1068—Wenzel (DFL)****Agriculture**

Soy-based biodiesel use pilot project provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1069—Pawlenty (R)****Judiciary**

Employer reference check civil liability immunity provided.

**HF1070—Knoblach (R)****Judiciary**

Employer reference check civil liability immunity provided.

**HF1071—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services**

Psychology board education, supervision, and patient confidence provisions modified.

**HF1072—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services**

Psychology board enforcement provisions modified, and criminal penalties provided.

**HF1073—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services**

Psychology board licensee part-time practice and emeritus registration provided.

**HF1074—Peterson (DFL)****Taxes**

Truth in taxation hearings abolished.

**HF1075—Pugh (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism****& Consumer Affairs**

Professional health services regulated under the professional corporation act.

**HF1076—McGuire (DFL)****Judiciary**

Seat belt and child restraint system use civil action evidence admissibility provisions clarified.

**HF1077—McGuire (DFL)****Judiciary**

Judges appointed by Governor, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1078—Koskinen (DFL)****Local Government****& Metropolitan Affairs**

Displaced local government employee rights and procedures provided.

**HF1079—Garcia (DFL)****Taxes**

Low and moderate-income housing construction material sales and use tax exemption provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1080—Jennings (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Plumber and water conditioning contractor licensing provisions modified.

**HF1081—Carruthers (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare antitrust exemption not applicable for health plan companies.

**HF1082—Osthoff (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Hunting and fishing license fees modified, aquatic farming fees and requirements modified, and commercial fishing and netting provisions modified.

**HF1083—Seifert (R)****Environment****& Natural Resources Finance**

Lazarus Creek/LQP-25 floodwater retention project appropriated money.

**HF1084—Anderson, I. (DFL)****Taxes**

Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1085—Farrell (DFL)****Taxes**

Mentoring income tax credit provided.

**HF1086—Ness (R)****Taxes**

Tax appeal cost and disbursement provisions modified.

**HF1087—Rukavina (DFL)****Health & Human Services**

Attorney general required to investigate unfair drug price discrimination, prescription drug price negotiation authorized, and money appropriated.

**Check your local listings to watch the House committee and floor sessions on TV.**



# Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

For information updates, call

House Calls at (612) 296-9283.

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## MONDAY, March 3

8 a.m.

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

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

**Agenda:** Budget hearing: Department of Economic Security.

### Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

**Agenda:** Presentation on the allocation model, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU); faculty groups; and student groups.

### K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Overview of governor's budget recommendations-Article 6, Education Organization and Article 7, Education Excellence.

8:30 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

**Agenda:** Budget hearing: Department of Natural Resources.

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

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

**Agenda:** HF627 (Rest) Low-income housing property tax class uniform rules established, apartment and nonhomestead residential property tax class rates reduced, penalties imposed, rulemaking authorized, and money appropriated.

10 a.m.

### AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

**Agenda:** HF463 (Kubly) Passing on the Farm Center services expanded, and money appropriated.

HF265 (Molnau) Farm crisis assistance personnel employment status clarified.

HF779 (Lieder) Hybrid tree management research funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF361 (Solberg) Wholesale food processor and manufacturer fees modified.

HFXXXX (Wenzel) Bio-diesel fuel test program established.

HFXXXX (Wenzel) Dairy resolution to Congress.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** HF718 (Folliard) Conservation corps youth corps advisory committee provisions modified.

HF632 (Solberg) Environmental learning centers previous appropriation provisions modified.

HF852 (McGuire) Ramsey County environmental education consortium developed, and money appropriated.

HF704 (Ozment) Electric power generating plant certificate of need proceeding exemption provided.

HF436 (Wagenius) Reduction and recycling advisory council established, duties specified, and duration provided.

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

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Public testimony: Public responses to governor's proposed budget for Continuing Care and Community Support Grants. (Call 296-0173 or 2962317 to sign up to testify.)

### JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** HF163 (Skoglund) Criminal gang council and strike force established, grants authorized, and money appropriated.

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

HF25 (Stanek) Omnibus crime prevention and judiciary finance appropriations bill.

HF434 (Swenson, D.) Omnibus judiciary finance and corrections appropriations bill.

### State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Tour

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Tour and site briefing of the Minnesota Children's Museum. (Buses will leave from the east entrance of the State Office Building.)

12:30 p.m.

### GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

**Agenda:** SF35 (Wiger); HF212 (McCollum) Ramsey county soil and water conservation district supervisor election requirements modified.

HF74 (Osthoff) Absentee ballot voting provisions modified.

HF78 (Rest) State primary election name changed, candidate party support required, primary election date changed, and election procedures, terms, and deadlines modified.

### LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** HF787 (Hilty) Human rights department employer definition expanded to include certain temporary placements.

HF814 (Koskinen) Unfair employment discriminatory practice reprisal provisions modified.

SF145 (Runbeck); HF312 (Jefferson) Reemployment insurance technical and administrative modifications provided.

### TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

**Agenda:** HF842 (Orfield) LUTRAQ; land use, transportation, air quality connection analysis required for any metropolitan area highway expansion project.

HF40 (Leppik) State identification card created for persons under the age of 21.

HF242 (Juhnke) Recreational equipment registration and taxation provisions modified related to slip in pickup truck campers, and vehicle registration information access restricted, vehicle dealer purchase receipt requirements modified.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

### WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

**Agenda:** Governor's forecast and supplemental budget.

## TUESDAY, March 4

8 a.m.

### EDUCATION

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** HF260 (Delmont) School immunization and health record provisions modified.

HF872 (Seagren) Pupil Fair Dismissal Act provisions modified.

HF961 (Greiling) Code of ethics for school supervisors.

### Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Agency budget presentations: Courts - Administration and Technology; Legal Services; Community Dispute Resolution and Victim Mediation Services, Rep. Thomas Pugh, Rep. Sherry Broecker and Rep. Peg Larsen.

Public Safety - Emergency Management and Fire Marshall, Rep. Michael Paymar; Gambling Enforcement & Liquor Control, Rep. Andy Dawkins; Law Enforcement and Community Grants, Rep. Michael Paymar, Rep. Sherry Broecker; Crime Victim's Services, Rep. Mary Jo McGuire, Rep. Peg Larsen, Rep. Rich Stanek; Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Rep. Wes Skoglund, Rep. Doug Swenson; Employee Concerns, Rep. Thomas Pugh.

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

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** Implications of future revenue and expenditures projections on the transportation system, Department of Transportation.

8:30 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

**Agenda:** Continuation of March 3 agenda.

### Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** HF43 (Sviggum) High school league tournament admission sales tax exemption provided.

10 a.m.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** HF197 (Leppik) Administrative procedure act rulemaking procedures modified (committee action on league rules authority). HF747 (Kahn) State high school league governing board appointing authority provisions modified (testimony only).

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

**Agenda:** HF259 (Slawik) Community and

statewide immunization registry creation authorized and penalties provided.

HF487 (Greenfield) Hospital medical assistance surcharge tax eliminated, and hospital MinnesotaCare surcharge tax increased.

HF556 (Greenfield) Health care provider unique identifier implementation and identification provisions modified.

HF513 (Koskinen) Human services nonentitlement grant program consolidation authority provided.

HF209 (Vickerman) Human services child placement heritage or background provisions modified.

HF367 (Davids) Omnibus mortuary science regulation bill.

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

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** Continuation of Minnesota Housing Finance budget review.

HF592 (McElroy) Affordable neighborhood design and development initiative funded, and money appropriated.

HF843 (Clark) Lead hazard reduction advisory task force established, and money appropriated.

12:15 p.m.

### CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Tour  
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Tour of the buildings for lease to the Department of Revenue. (Buses will leave from the east entrance of State Office Building at 12:15 p.m.)

12:30 p.m.

### COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** HF1075 (Pugh) Relating to health; defining professional health service under the professional corporation act.

HF335 (Jennings) Building and construction contracts, payments and retainages, and mechanics liens regulated.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** HF217 (Opatz) Land use mandatory comprehensive planning provided, capital improvement program established, and money appropriated.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

**Agenda:** HF211 (Sviggum) Telephone extended area service installation authorized within combined school districts. Review and discussion of the Telephone Assistance Plan/Lifeline Program.

3:30 p.m.

### Joint

#### St. Paul House/Senate Legislative Delegation

5 State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. Jim Farrell,  
Sen. Ellen Anderson

**Agenda:** Testimony from Gene Washbush, St. Paul Teacher's Retirement Association and Dick Wasco, retired teacher.

4:30 p.m.

### Permanent School Fund Advisory Committee

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Investment policy and forestry proceeds.

7 p.m.

### EDUCATION

Room To Be Announced  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** HF446 (Biernat) 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.

### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

Room To Be Announced  
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

**Agenda:** HF740 (Juhnke) Insurance companies and agents regulated.

HF753 (Kubly) Financial institution facsimile or electronic filings and certifications authorized, special purpose banks defined and regulated, and technical and conforming modifications provided.

## WEDNESDAY, March 5

8 a.m.

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

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

**Agenda:** Budget hearing: Department of Commerce.

### Higher Education

#### Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

**Agenda:** Budget process presentation, Doug Berg, Fiscal Analyst.

HF648 (Johnson, R.) Law school loan repayment assistance program established, and money appropriated.

HF775 (Huntley) Student opportunity grants established to provide financial support to students of low-income families, state lottery proceed dedication provided, constitutional amendment proposed, and money appropriated.

HF776 (Huntley) Student opportunity grant program established to provide financial support to students of low-income families, and money appropriated.

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

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Overview of governor's budget recommendations-Article 10, Libraries.

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

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

**Agenda:** HF744 (Garcia) Apartment property improvements provided valuation exclusion for property tax purposes.

HF627 (Rest) Low-income housing property tax class uniform rules established, apartment and nonhomestead residential property tax class rates reduced, penalties imposed, rulemaking authorized, and money appropriated.

HF6 (Wenzel) Commercial industrial first-tier property tax class rate reduced, and additional state aid provided.

**8:30 a.m.**

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

**Agenda:** Continuation of March 3 agenda.

**10 a.m.**

**The House meets in session.**

**10:30 a.m.**

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** HF244 (Bishop) Community rehabilitation program nonprofit organization participation allowed, and money appropriated.

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Presentation of governor's proposed budget for Department of Human Services health care programs.

**JUDICIARY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** HF31 (Skoglund) Chronic misdemeanor offender arrest and detention allowed in lieu of citation and release.

HF97 (Skoglund) Controlled substance crime sale amount aggregation authorized.

HF96 (Skoglund) Methcathinone classified as a schedule II controlled substance.

**State Government Finance Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Budget reviews: Military Order of the Purple Heart; Governor's Office; Secretary of State; and Minnesota Planning Agency.

**12:30 p.m.**

**Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY**

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

**Agenda:** HF695 (Entenza) Child support enforcement provisions modified, financial institution data match system established, and civil penalties provided.

HF1013 (Biernat) Relating to marriage; changing visitation dispute resolution procedures.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

**Agenda:** HF763 (Tunheim) Norman County Zion Lutheran Church and cemetery designated as a historic place.

HF582 (Hausman) Humanities commission teacher training institute building rental permitted.

HF599 (Skare) Bemidji railroad depot purchase and conversion to historical museum provided, and money appropriated.

HF692 (Tingelstad) Andover contaminated land cleanup funded, and money appropriated.

**TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**2:30 p.m.**

**Subcommittee on Gaming/  
REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Delmont

**Agenda:** HF700 (Delmont) Lawful gambling gross profit expenditure provisions modified, gambling control board rules modified, and paddleticket and bingo limits and restrictions modified.

**Subcommittee on Land Sales/  
ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Hausman

**Agenda:** HF190 (Hasskamp) Crow Wing county tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF115 (Kinkel) Cass County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF424 (Koppendrayner) Mille Lacs County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF975 (Hilty) Aitkin County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

**4:30 p.m.**

**State Government Finance Division/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Continuation of 10:30 a.m. meeting agenda

HF518 (Entenza) Sign language interpreters provided for meetings with legislators.

HF256 (Slawik) State department earnings report submission, cash flow resources advancement, and litigation and settlement money use provisions modified, and rulemaking exemptions renewed.

HF401 (Greiling) State employee parking fee provisions modified.

**7 p.m.**

**Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY**

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

**Agenda:** Continuation of 12:30 p.m. meeting agenda.

**7:30 p.m.**

**Legislative Commission on  
Pensions and Retirement**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Richard Jefferson

**Agenda:** Election of officers. 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.

**THURSDAY, March 6**

**8 a.m.**

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

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

**Agenda:** Budget hearing: Department of Trade and Economic Development.

**Subcommittee on  
Education Planning & Transitions/  
EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Ruth Johnson,

Rep. David Tomassoni

**Agenda:** Report from Vocational High School Planning Council.

**Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/  
EDUCATION**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza

**Agenda:** HF643 (Olson, E.) Pine Point school provided permanent status.

HF239 (Tuma) Independent School District No. 721, New Prague, permitted to begin school year prior to Labor Day.

HF557 (Tuma) School districts authorized to hire nonlicensed teachers without board of teaching approval, and nonlicensed teacher background checks provided.

HF720 (Westfall) Independent School District Nos. 21, Audubon, and 24, Lake Park authorized to begin the school year prior to Labor Day.

HF911 (Koppendrayner) Independent School District No. 473, Isle, permitted to begin school year prior to labor day.

HF543 (Entenza) Child and family program outcome accountability mechanism established and working group established, report required, and money appropriated.

Other bills may be added.



**Judiciary Finance Division/  
JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Continuation of March 4 agenda. Agency budget presentations: Public Defense Board, Rep. Thomas Pugh, Rep. Doug Swenson. Department of Corrections - Institutions, members report on individual institutions.

**8:30 a.m.**

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

**Agenda:** Budget hearing: Pollution Control Agency.

**Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**10 a.m.**

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:**

HF747 (Kahn) State high school league governing board appointing authority provisions modified.

HF182 (Greiling) Legislative Coordinating Commission assigned responsibility for review of legislative rules.

HF197 (Leppik) Administrative Procedure Act rulemaking procedures modified.

Bills referred under Rule 5.10.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

**Agenda:** HF159 (Jennings) Welfare reform; human services and public assistance programs and eligibility requirements modified, and money appropriated.

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

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** HF889 (Evans) Mobile home park owner rights modified.

HF834 (Clark) Youthbuild grant funding limit eliminated, and money appropriated.

**12:30 p.m.**

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Presentation by developers on Department of Revenue building.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM  
& CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** HF890 (Entenza) Relating to motor vehicles; requiring persons to obtain a license to engage in certain business practices.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** HF483 (Olson, E.) Municipal emergency service fee establishment authorized.

HF507 (Olson, E.) Partition fence cost share apportioned to the state and counties.

HF564 (Olson, E.) Becker County economic development authority established.

HF601 (Wenzel) Municipal boundary commissions established.

HF637 (Abrams) Minnetonka housing development account established and expenditures authorized.

HF656 (Holsten) Washington County property taxpayer personal information use restricted.

HF658 (Marko) Washington County recorder and auditor/treasurer appointment permitted.

HF685 (Rest) Local government innovation and efficiency program established, and money appropriated.

**REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Jennings) Conforms definitions with the Federal Communications Act; eliminates rate of return for local telephone companies.

**2 p.m.**

**Working Group on Technology/  
K-12 Education Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. Alice Johnson,  
Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** School district testimony on technology proposals.

**2:30 p.m.**

**Subcommittee on  
Information Technology Policy/  
WAYS & MEANS**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Overview of new technology. Discuss base cost for each division. Estimate of tails.

**7 p.m.**

**Joint**

**Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY/  
Senate JUDICIARY**

123 State Capitol  
Chrs. Rep. Andy Dawkins,  
Sen. Jane Ranum

**Agenda:** Tort law education forum.

**FRIDAY, March 7**

**8 a.m.**

**Higher Education  
Finance Division/EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

**Agenda:** Higher Education Services Office (HESO) budget.

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

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

**Agenda:** Overview of governor's budget recommendations-Article 7, Education Excellence.

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

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** Continuation of March 4 agenda.

**10 a.m.**

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

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** Continuation of March 5 agenda.

**Subcommittee on Data Practices/  
JUDICIARY**

400N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**Subcommittee on DWI/  
JUDICIARY**

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Satveer Chaudhary

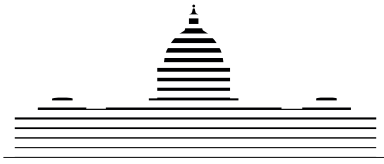
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**1 p.m.**

**Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY**

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

**Agenda:** To be announced.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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# MINNESOTA INDEX

## Juvenile courts and crime

Age that children could be punished “precisely like adults” in the United States, 1801 .....	7
Public institutions for wayward children, nationwide, 1801 .....	1
Year that Minnesota enacted its first juvenile court law .....	1905
Year that the Minnesota’s “mothers’ pension law” was enacted, to allow juvenile court judges to pay abandoned or widowed mothers with county funds to help raise the kids .....	1913
Residential facilities for juveniles licensed by the Department of Corrections .....	13
Bed capacity of those facilities .....	800
Additional facilities (mostly private) licensed by the Department of Human Services .....	40
Bed capacity of those facilities .....	1,200
Number of Department of Corrections and Department of Human Services licensed “secure,” or locked treatment facilities for juveniles .....	9
Total number of beds in those facilities .....	193
Average length of stay at Bar None Residential Treatment Center, longest of the nine secure facilities, in months .....	9.9
Number of residents sent to secure facilities between January and July 1996 .....	448
Average age of residents sent to facilities between January and July, 1996, in years .....	16.2
Individuals placed for assault, most common offense .....	80
Individuals placed for felony offenses .....	127
Individuals placed with 15-18 prior offenses .....	5
Amount appropriated by the 1994 Legislature for construction of new secure juvenile detention facilities (and secured beds), in millions .....	\$20
Additional secure beds added since .....	24
Kids under 18 murdered in the United States, 1980-1994 .....	30,200
As a percent of all murders during that time period .....	9
Percent of all juveniles murdered by a stranger .....	11
Juveniles murdered nationwide, per day, 1980 .....	5
in 1994 .....	7
Juveniles killed by a juvenile offender, 1994 .....	1 in 5
Juveniles arrested for violent crimes who were female, 1994 .....	1 in 7

Sources: *The Origin and Development of the Minnesota Juvenile Court*, Edward F. Waite; *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1996 Update on Violence*, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice; *Residential Facilities for Juvenile Offenders*, Office of the Legislative Auditor; *Secure Treatment Facilities for Juveniles*, Minnesota Department of Corrections.

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